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## Cut Christmas tree purchase and care tips

es,  
3) when bent between your fingers, fresh needles do not break,  
4) the trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and  
5) when the trunk of a tree is bounced on the ground, a shower of falling needles shows that tree is too dry. The fresher the tree, the longer it will retain its needles. The freshest trees are locally grown.

In order to keep your cut Christmas tree looking good longer and decrease needle drop, consider the following tips. After you get the tree home, remove another 1 or 2 inches of the cut end of the stem to allow the sap to flow.

Place the tree in a bucket of warm water (the heat will help get the sap flowing and open the water conducting channels in the wood) until you're ready to move it into the house. Select a spot in the home away from any heat sources - stoves, registers, fireplaces, etc. Limit the hours that electric lights are lit on the tree because each light is a hot spot on the needles.

Keep the cut tree watered. Use the following solution: 1 cup of corn syrup and 3 tablespoons of liquid bleach added to 1 gallon of water (The bleach tends to thin out the sticky pitch from the tree's water conducting channels and allows wa-

ter to get into the tree. The corn syrup provides the tree with a source of simple carbohydrates for food.) Continue adding the solution to the reservoir as long as the tree remains in the house.

A listing of Kentucky Christmas tree farms is at the website [kychristmastreefarms.com](http://kychristmastreefarms.com). If you have questions, contact the Estill County Extension at 723-4557. Our Extension office staff wish each of you a joyous holiday season!

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When purchasing a cut Christmas tree, remember the following points:  
1) a fresh tree is green, although some growers may spray dyes on their trees to tint them and reduce water loss,  
2) fresh needles are hard to pull from branch-



### Gift ideas for gardeners

- Compost bin
- Herb-drying rack
- Seed-starting kit
- Grow-light kit
- High-quality gloves
- Planting boxes

- Potting station
- Self-watering planter
- Gardening tool belt
- Plant markers
- Gardening clogs
- Gardening hat
- Rainwater collection system



Source: [morningchores.com](http://morningchores.com)

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### The Humble Tree

Holiday trees don't have to cost a lot to decorate. Decide on a theme, and go to your favorite craft store to find the items you need. Bird-related items are very easy to find. Having a tree filled with lights in your home can be very peaceful. Enjoy!

E-mail: [birdingbits@cfl.rr.com](mailto:birdingbits@cfl.rr.com)  
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## Wishing Well®

6	4	8	2	8	4	2	6	4	8	4	8	4
C	M	J	N	O	O	E	O	R	B	E	S	G
5	4	5	6	8	7	3	2	7	3	5	8	6
F	I	O	N	E	F	E	W	R	T	R	C	F
2	5	6	7	2	5	4	7	6	4	5	8	4
A	G	I	E	C	I	V	E	D	E	V	U	A
2	6	2	8	5	2	3	6	7	4	6	7	8
Q	E	U	R	E	A	E	N	C	N	C	H	I
2	8	7	5	2	7	3	8	4	2	3	2	5
I	T	O	O	N	I	R	Y	D	T	N	A	T
4	2	6	2	6	7	5	3	2	7	4	3	4
T	N	E	C	S	C	H	A	E	E	A	L	K
3	7	4	6	3	6	3	6	3	5	6	5	5
L	S	E	O	A	V	R	E	E	S	R	S	

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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## CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: Y equals T

WFKJZS WMBBTXJN ACPJXYCPB

YDKY FKW RCXMY YI DIML

YPKSW IA YITTBL VPKVZBPW:

K VKJKT B RBL.

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## CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

DE AFR EDKV ZFBWFKW AFR

CFTW DK AFRY CDEW, XMWK

MSKL FK XF XMSX CFTW.

— IYDKUWZZ VDSKS

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## Farming News

Friday & Saturday, January 24th & 25th

### UK Equine Showcase in January

University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs will host the 9th annual UK Equine Showcase, Friday & Saturday, January 24-25 at the Fayette County Extension office, 1140 Harry Sykes Way in Lexington.

The event will highlight the university's equine programs and relevant industry findings with an emphasis on the foal, from birth to weaning. The event will span two days: Friday, Jan. 24 from 12:30 to 5 p.m. with a networking happy hour following Friday's event and Saturday, Jan. 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with lunch provided.

Topics for the showcase include epidemiology and diagnostics, infectious disease, immunology and parasitology, nutrition, musculoskeletal issues, genetics and economics.

"This is a unique and special outreach event. The purpose is to 'showcase' some of what is happening at the University of Kentucky in terms of scientific discovery and service efforts relevant to young foals," said James MacLeod, director of UK Ag Equine

Programs and the John S. & Elizabeth A. Knight Chair within the Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center. "Attendees will hopefully gain new information they can apply to their programs, but importantly also a greater appreciation for some of the critical questions being addressed at UK, why these issues are important and where the cutting edge of research is on a number of very interesting topics."

The UK Equine Showcase is open to veterinarians, owners and managers of all horse breeds or anyone with an interest in learning more about foals and horse management. The cost to attend is \$80 until the early-bird registration deadline of Jan. 13. After that date, the cost will be \$100. Those prices are discounted to \$70 for early bird or \$90 for regular registration if two of more people from the same organization register. There are a limited amount of discounted tickets available for students who are interested in attending. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/9th-annual-uk-equine-showcase-tickets-79577962829>. Contact [equine@uky.edu](mailto:equine@uky.edu) with questions about the event or to register as a student.

Continuing education credit for veterinarians and veterinary technicians is pending approval by the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners.

## Farming News

Monday, December 16th at 6:30pm

### Beef Quality Care Assurance Training

Attention cattle producers! A Beef Quality Care Assurance (BQCA) training is scheduled for Monday, December 16th, 6:30 p.m., at the Extension office.

Participants will have a comprehensive training including proper cattle handling techniques, proper nutrition, animal health procedures, health disorders, handling facilities and hauling, and more. Everyone will take short written exams per module and those passing will receive a manual, chute-side procedural sheet, and a trailering bumper sticker. The cost for the certification is \$5 which is payable by check to the Kentucky Beef Network. There is an option to receive a barn sign for an additional \$5 fee.

For more information or to pre-register, contact us at 723-4557.

## Americanisms



"He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree."  
— Roy L. Smith

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## Stickeler's Puzzle



Below is a scrambled, 16-letter word known to all. See how long it takes you to unscramble it.

T	U	J	O
O	L	I	S
H	T	P	A
R	O	S	N

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 11

## Puzzle Answers

December 11, 2019

### Puzzles4Kids

Answer  
REFERS R FREES  
POISON I SNOOP  
BRACES B RACES  
TABLES B TALES  
COMBOS O COMBS  
HASTEN N HATES

THINKS H KNITS  
GROUSE O SURGE  
TENSOR O STERN  
CARTED D REACT

### Letter Box

Solution

L	D	C	O	R	E	T	P	A
E	T	O	P	D	A	L	R	C
P	R	A	T	L	C	E	D	O
T	E	L	D	C	O	R	A	P
C	A	P	R	T	L	D	O	E
D	O	R	A	E	P	C	T	L
A	C	T	E	P	D	O	L	R
O	L	D	C	A	R	P	E	T
R	P	E	L	O	T	A	C	D

### TOLKIEN CHARACTERS

G	A	N	D	A	L	F
S	R	I		E		
O	A	F		A		
E	X	K	H	G	L	N
M	K	N	O	O		
E	U	E	R	G	L	G
M	R	W	B	N	N	U
U	R	N	I	P	P	I
A	Y					
				F		M
				O	B	L
				I	B	S

### CryptoQuip

answer  
Swanky sleeping furniture that was built to hold trays of topped crackers: a canape bed.

### CryptoQuote

answer  
If you find someone you love in your life, then hang on to that love.  
— Princess Diana

### FEAR & KNIGHT

answer  
U M B R A S  
O U T U  
U C H A R  
T A E M U  
R H O M B I I  
E R T  
O M E L E T

### Even Exchange

- answers
- Bench, Beach
  - Scroll, Stroll
  - Hurdle, Curdle
  - Daily, Doily
  - Flake, Flare
  - Attach, Attack
  - Twice, Twine
  - Hatter, Halter
  - Moose, Mouse
  - Crest, Crust

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer  
1 8 6 4 7 2 5 9 3  
2 7 4 9 5 3 1 6 8  
5 3 9 1 8 6 2 4 7  
4 9 2 5 6 7 8 3 1  
7 6 3 8 1 4 9 5 2  
8 1 5 3 2 9 6 7 4  
9 2 7 6 4 8 3 1 5  
3 4 1 2 9 5 7 8 6  
6 5 8 7 3 1 4 2 9

### King Crossword

Answers  
Solution time: 27 mins.  
P A L L O R D S I D E  
A N Y A C N E T O O T  
S T R A W H A T O U C H  
T I E D Y E R E O  
O E R O L D H A T  
S T A R R J I M O D E  
C O T E G U T D Y A N  
A D O J O G B E A R D  
T O P H A T C O N  
E G O H A S S L E  
A L O T W H I T E H A T  
B E A U A O N E E T C  
C A R P R E A D S H H

Bible Trivia Answers  
Now available by Wilson Casey! 2017 Bible Trivia box calendar loaded with daily teasers.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

...There were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. L.K. 2:8-11