

StrikeForce Initiative Expands Into Kentucky

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack joined Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear and Congressman Hal Rogers to announce the expansion of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's StrikeForce Initiative into four additional states: Kentucky, Louisiana, Tennessee and West Virginia.

"The StrikeForce strategy of partnering public resources with local expertise is helping to grow rural economies and create jobs in persistent poverty communities," said Vilsack. "This is a strategy that is working in rural America and I am pleased that we continue to build on these efforts to bring assistance to areas that need it the most."

Vilsack also noted that the StrikeForce strategy is having concrete results in communities across the country.

Since 2010, through StrikeForce, USDA has partnered with over 400 community organizations, businesses, foundations, universities and other groups to support 80,300 projects and ushered more than \$9.7 billion in investments into rural America, including:

- The Farm Service Agency saw a 14 percent increase in the total direct farm loan applications received in StrikeForce areas since the beginning of the initiative.

- In fiscal year (FY) 2013, the Farm Service Agency provided nearly \$9.3 million to fund microloans in StrikeForce areas. Approximately 84 percent of the loans were provided to socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers.

- Last year, the number of landowners applying for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs in StrikeForce areas increased by 82 percent over the previous year.

- In FY 2013, the Rural Housing Community Facilities Program obligated a total of \$68 million to fund hospitals, libraries and other projects in StrikeForce areas—a 4.5 percent increase over 2012.

- Between 2012 and 2013, the Food and Nutrition Service doubled the redemption of SNAP benefits at farmers markets from \$2 million to over \$4 million in StrikeForce states—a more than 100 percent increase.

- In 2012, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service increased the number of children in StrikeForce states receiving free or reduced price school breakfasts by 7.4 percent.

"Through StrikeForce, we are able to reach people in new ways and bring resources to them directly," said Vilsack. "We are learning better ways to help communities leverage their assets and bring opportunity to their resi-

dents." This expansion brings StrikeForce attention to more than 700 rural counties, parishes, boroughs, tribal reservations, and Colonias in 20 states, including Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and West Virginia.

USDA identifies census tracts with over 20 percent poverty (according to American Community Survey data) to identify sub-county pockets of poverty. As areas of persistent poverty are identified, USDA staff work with state, local and community officials to increase awareness of USDA programs and help build program participation through intensive community outreach.

StrikeForce is part of the Administration's commitment to addressing persistent poverty across America. Last week, President Obama announced the first five of twenty Promise Zones, including one in southeastern Kentucky, that target federal resources to cities, rural areas and Tribal communities suffering the worst poverty.

Visit www.fsa.usda.gov/StrikeForce to learn more.

Wishing Well®

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

TKGB PDPKWWA RFGBD EF

EYFDB CYF KMB EYVSJVSJL

KOFPE DFGBEYVSL BWDB.

— FWVUBM CBSZBWW

YFWGBD

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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: S equals T

PLWU XRT CBVW B IZRCOHW

POSL UR OUSWUSORU SR VWWI

OS, O PRTEK HBX SLBS'H B

LXIRJZOSOJBE RBLSL.

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Puzzle Answers

January 29, 2014

Puzzles4Kids

Answer

S	O	P	U	A	R	D	S	W
N	E	P	O	L	E	V	N	E
O	G	R	S	I	V	T	W	E
I	E	I	M	T	A	T	A	L
T	V	S	E	L	R	A	L	T
A	N	S	N	O	A	S	H	E
R	G	O	M	A	N	C	E	A
A	N	G	A	D	M	I	R	E
C	G	E	M	S	P	I	L	U

Riddle Answer: Give it a valen-shine.

Letter Box

Solution

E	O	V	G	I	L	B	T	R
T	L	R	E	O	B	I	V	G
B	I	G	T	V	R	O	L	E
O	E	T	I	B	V	G	R	L
G	R	I	L	T	O	V	E	B
L	V	B	R	E	G	T	O	I
I	G	E	V	L	T	R	B	O
R	T	O	B	G	E	L	I	V
V	B	L	O	R	I	E	G	T

ALL ABOUT ME : SELF —

M	T
I	B
L	U
L	O
A	M
E	E
T	S
E	D
A	M
D	D
D	I
S	C
I	P
L	I
N	E
E	G
A	M
I	E
R	U
G	D
P	A
E	S
R	O
C	W
R	E
T	R
A	C
T	S

CryptoQuote

answer

Fame usually comes to those who are thinking about something else. — Oliver Wendell Holmes

CryptoQuip

answer

When you make a promise with no intention to keep it, I would say that's a hypocritical oath.

FEAR & KNIT

answer

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

Even Exchange

answers

- Barry, Berry
- Course, Coarse
- Allot, Allow
- Dance, Lance
- Scrimp, Shrimp
- Mason, Macon
- Crane, Crate
- Hanger, Hunger
- Moose, Moore
- Fickle, Pickle

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

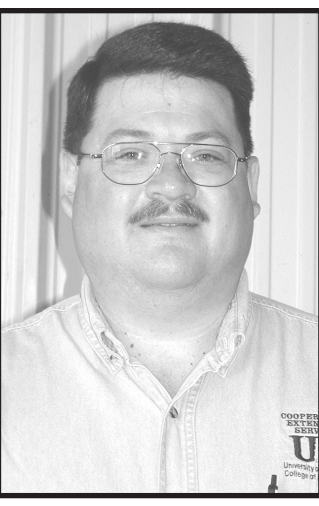
Answers

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

Bible Trivia Answers

Casey's trivia book "Know It? ... or Not?" is available from BearManorMedia.com

Vashti: (5) Silver; (6) 7
Sisera: (3) Solomon; (4)
ANSWERS: (1) Old; (2)



Eric Baker
Estill County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources

When winter weather has us cooped up in the house,

Plan For An Early Vegetable Garden

thinking about springtime and vegetable gardening sure helps pass the time. According to UK horticulture specialists, you don't need to wait for warm weather to start a vegetable garden. Did you know there are several types of vegetables you can start as early as March? Radishes, spinach, cabbage, broccoli, lettuce, onions and many more vegetables are all quite frost tolerant, and can be seeded or transplanted into the garden from mid-March to early April.

If you want to get an even earlier start, you could try covering an area with clear

plastic film to create a mini greenhouse where plants will thrive. To try this season-extending technique first work up the soil for your plot and stretch some black plastic over the area for a couple of weeks. This will help warm the soil and give seeds and transplants an added boost.

After a couple weeks under black plastic, the soil will have warmed a few degrees, and you can prepare the bed for planting and transplanting. Once planted, you should install a wooden or metal frame over the bed and cover it with clear polyethylene film. Anchor the film at the base with boards, bricks or soil, but remember that occasionally you will have to remove the poly to tend to the plants and to harvest the crop.

For this reason, it's best if you don't permanently attach the plastic to the frame. It will also be necessary to open sections of the covering for ventilation on warm sunny days. You can easily accomplish this by designing the ends of the covering so you can easily open or remove them during warm weather.

With a little planning, you can have fresh vegetables quicker than you think. For more information on early spring gardening techniques or other gardening topics, contact the Estill County Cooperative Extension Service at 723-4557.

Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability or national origin.



Birding BITS BY Cindy Brook
Perfect Food
Be sure to include unsalted peanuts in your birdseed mix. Peanuts are loaded with fat and high in protein, two things birds need to carry them through the winter. Woodpeckers, wrens, titmice, jays, catbirds, chickadees, cardinals and many more will fly to any feeder that has peanuts.
E-mail: birdingbits@flrr.com
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Agriculture Events

Tomorrow, Thursday, January 30th @ 6pm

Estill County Agriculture Update

The Estill County Extension Service will host an Agriculture Update meeting on Thursday, January 30th, 6:00 p.m. Participating agencies include the UK Agriculture Economics Department, Madison-Estill USDA Farm Service Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service and Estill County Conservation District, and Cooperative Extension. Information presented will include 2014 agriculture economic outlook, cost share information, educational efforts, and various services of interest to farmers.

We encourage all farmers to attend. A meal will be provided. If you plan to attend, please pre-register by calling 723-4557.

Through March 21, 2014

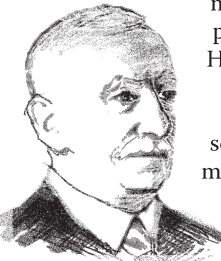
Apple Rootstock, Strawberries & More

The Estill County Cooperative Extension Service will be taking orders for reasonably priced and good quality strawberry, blackberry, blueberry, raspberry, asparagus, and Candy onion plants through March 21st. Orders must be prepaid with delivery expected early April. If you are interested or need more information, call 606-723-4557.

Food Court Applications

Food Court applications for the 2014 Mountain Mushroom Festival are now available at Irvine City Hall located at 101 Chestnut St. Food vendors must carry vendor liability insurance. Application, fees and proof of liability insurance must be submitted by deadline date of Friday, January 31, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. Mailed applications must be post-marked by the deadline date. No late entries will be accepted. The application fee is \$150 per food booth space plus a \$75.00 Early Departure/Closing fee if applicable. For more information, you may call Kim Williams at 723-4235. The 2014 festival dates are Saturday, April 26th & Sunday, April 27th.

The Garden Bug



Sir Albert Howard (1873-1947) is often referred to as the father of modern organic agriculture. In 1905 he began work as agricultural advisor in Indore, India, where he observed the cultivation methods of the local farmers, such as composting, that returned nutrients to the soil. He documented and developed these farming techniques. His work influenced and inspired many farmers and agricultural scientists who furthered the organic movement. His 1940 book *An Agricultural Testament* is a classic organic farming text.
Source: www.ifoam.org - Brenda Weaver

The Garden Bug



Ants come inside our homes looking for dry, warm shelter, food and water. To remove them, follow these steps:
• Vacuum up any ants inside.
• Find their entry point, and sprinkle boric acid powder there.
• Remove any infested items such as food containers, houseplants, dishes or garbage cans.
• Clean any areas where you saw ants by washing the area with hot, soapy water; this removes the scent trails.
• Seal the entrance area with caulk.

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 - (Hot, Medium or Mild)
 - Cured Ham . \$3⁵⁰/Lb.
 - (Whole or Sliced)
 - Ham Steak . \$3⁵⁰/Lb.
 - Ham Cutlets . \$3⁵⁰/Lb.
 - (Similar to cube steak, only ham)
 - Bacon . \$4⁰⁰/Lb.
 - Joint Bacon . \$3⁵⁰/Lb.
 - Pork Tenderloin . \$4⁰⁰/Lb.
 - Pork Chops . \$3⁵⁰/Lb.
 - Spare Ribs . \$3⁵⁰/Lb.
 - Country Style Ribs . \$3⁵⁰/Lb.
 - Baby Back Pork Ribs . \$3⁰⁰/Lb.
 - Pork Burgers . \$3⁵⁰/Lb.
 - (Ground, pattied pork with no seasoning)
 - Bratwursts . \$3⁵⁰/Lb.
- Bundle Packages**
- 1/4 Processed Hog . \$115⁰⁰
 - 1/2 Processed Hog . \$210⁰⁰
 - Whole Processed Hog . \$400⁰⁰