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# Alfalfa Management for Fall

Farmers know that alfalfa needs a rest period during the fall to get ready for winter. To provide for this rest, the last summer cutting usually occurs before September 15. After the first hard freeze (24 degrees Fahrenheit or lower), or November 1, a final harvest can be made. This final harvest will not hurt the alfalfa and may reduce pest problems.

According to UK Extension forage specialists, cutting alfalfa stands during the critical fall rest period affects the plant response in the following year. In the very least, it will reduce the speed of regrowth in the spring and may reduce the yield of the first cutting. In the worst case, stands may be thinned significantly.

However, there are situations where the risks of stand damage or future yield reduction from harvesting between September 15 and November 1 are reduced. If (a) the stand is in bloom at the time of the fall cut, or (b) it has been at least 45 days since the last harvest, or (c) the stand is old and will be plowed under for another crop anyway, the value of the forage may be great enough to risk stand damage. Conditions where the risks associated with cutting during September 15 and November 1 are greatest are: (a) The stand is less than one year old; or (b) The field of alfalfa has been stressed during the past year by late frosts, disease, excessive insects, or weed pressure, etc.; or (c) The alfalfa field has not been adequately top-dressed with phosphorus, potassium, and boron; or (d) the variety lacks multi-pest resistance.

In general, it would be better to cut an older stand rather than a younger stand during the fall rest period. Older stands have already allowed the costs of establishment to be recovered and by defini-

tion have few productive years remaining. Younger stands have more of their productive years ahead of them and as such should not be abused by being cut between September 15 and November 1.

Deciding whether to cut an alfalfa field in late September or early to mid-October is an individual judgment that should be based on the benefits of the extra yield and quality outweighing the risks of yield and stand loss the following year. Keep in mind that you will never hurt the stand by not cutting during the traditional fall rest period. Also keep in mind that fall cutting will affect next year's production. If you do cut during the fall and want to get a few more years of production from the field, make sure that soil fertility needs are taken care of by liberally top-dressing during the late fall or winter and using a dormant herbicide spray to control the growth of winter weeds such as henbit and chickweed.

If the alfalfa is to be removed by grazing, don't leave livestock on it too long and don't let them

graze when the soil is muddy to prevent damage to the stand. Grazing of alfalfa is becoming more popular in Kentucky. Grazing must be done on a rotational basis to maintain thick productive stands. Stocking rates should be high enough to remove the forage in 7-10 days. Allow enough time between grazing (4-5 weeks) for alfalfa to reach the bud-to-early-flower stage.

Take precautions to prevent bloat in grazing animals. Do not graze alfalfa for three days following a killing frost (below 28 degrees Fahrenheit). The harder the frost the greater the risk for bloat. Including a cool-season grass with alfalfa will help to reduce the chances of bloat. Other recommendations for grazing alfalfa include feeding a bloat preventative and not turning hungry animals out onto alfalfa, especially lush alfalfa that is wet with rain or dew.

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## Wishing Well®

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

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: P equals R

MAB EDE SAFE ZHTTO QMPAYXM

QMLQ HLPXT TLPQMGYLUT?

D ZYOOAZT MT BLZ ZMLUTF,

SYQ FAQ ZQDPTE!

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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.

VPMOEK AG NBPH KZO TMH

MQQFPTAMEP KZOFGPJC. NBPH

KZO JZYP KZOFGPJC, EBME'G

NBPH KZO'FP LZGE VPMOEAJO.

— SZP IFMYAES

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## Plant-inspired baby names

Ainsley	Ilana	Sakura
Ash	Koru	Sorrel
Aster	Linden	Sylvan
Birch	Madara	Terra
Cerise	Marwa	Timothy
Clover	Orrin	Valli
Elowen	Pepper	Wilder
Florian	Reed	Yvette
Heath	Rowan	Zinnia

Source: www.house-plant-hobbyist.com

- Brenda Weaver

Wood sorrel (1902, Field Book of American Wild Flowers)



### Butterfly Bath

Bring more butterflies into your yard by filling a shallow dish with water and placing large stones on the bottom for butterflies to perch on. Put the dish directly on the ground, and soon you will have more things with wings to gaze upon. Isn't nature grand?

E-mail: birdingbits@cfl.rr.com  
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# Register Now for Beef Bash 2020!

Beef Bash is an event that we always look forward to hosting. It is a chance to learn, network, and socialize with beef producers from across the state. Although we will not be able to host the field day in-person, UK Extension beef specialists are excited to deliver the program virtually and will be broadcasting live from Princeton, KY.

In this virtual field day of Beef Bash, Beef Extension Specialists and researchers from the University of Kentucky will share their current research projects and "how-to" demonstrations from the field. We will

also take a virtual tour of the new University of Kentucky Research and Education Center in Princeton, KY. After each virtual session, each speaker will be available for a Q/A discussion.

The program schedule for the Virtual Field Day is being finalized and we have a great set of speakers joining us. The program will take place virtually through the Zoom meeting platform and as always, there is no cost to attend. However, preregistration will be required. To register for the virtual field day and view the program schedule and sponsors, please visit online at <http://afs.ca.uky.edu/beef/irm>. Join us (from the comfort of your homes) for the first ever Beef Bash as a Virtual Field Day, on October 1st, 2020 at 9 AM EST.

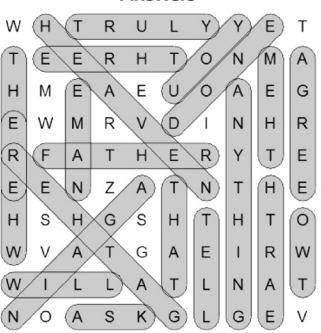
## Rinse & Return Program offered to farmers Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>

The Rinse and Return Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program will be offered once again in Estill County this fall. This Kentucky Department of Agriculture program collects triple-rinsed, plastic pesticide containers for recycling. All farmers are encouraged to participate. Please remember, pesticide containers must be triple-rinsed, label packets removed, and no lids should be present. All containers received will be inspected.

The 2020 Rinse and Return collection date is Tuesday, September 8th, 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Estill County Extension Office, 76 Golden Court (off Stacy Lane) in Irvine. For more information, call 723-4557.

## Puzzle Answers

### BIBLE WORD SEARCH



Bible Word Search on Page 7

### Cryptoquote

Beauty is when you can appreciate yourself. When you love yourself, that's when you're most beautiful. — Zoe Kravitz

## Stickeler's Answer

Stickelers Answer

The answer is C) 5/36.

The probability of getting a six is 1/6. The probability of not getting a six is 5/6. So the probability of getting one six in two tosses will be 1/6 x 5/6 = 5/36.

Stickeler's Puzzle on Page 7

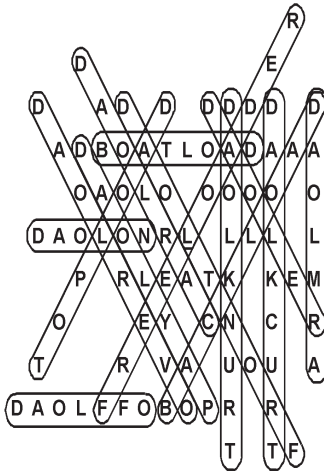
## Puzzles4Kids

Answer

What do you get when you cross a dog and a calculator?

A friend you can count on.

### LOAD-BEARING WORDS



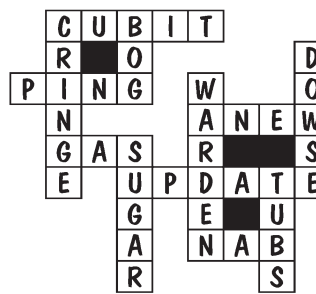
## Letter Box

Solution

A	F	P	T	U	N	E	K	O
T	K	E	O	P	F	A	U	N
U	N	O	K	E	A	T	F	P
K	P	T	F	O	E	U	N	A
F	E	U	A	N	P	O	T	K
O	A	N	U	K	T	P	E	F
P	O	K	E	F	U	N	A	T
E	T	F	N	A	O	K	P	U
N	U	A	P	T	K	F	O	E

## FEAR & KNIGHT

answer



### Even Exchange

- answers
- Chore, Chose
  - Barney, Barley
  - Manor, Major
  - Utter, Otter
  - Jingle, Jungle
  - Saint, Faint
  - Danger, Dancer
  - Pouch, Porch
  - Heart, Heard
  - Expert, Export

### King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.



### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

## Bible Trivia Answers

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in bookstores and online.

ANSWERS (1) Neither; (2) Blessed; (3) Gift; (4) Talk; (5) Hands; (6) Six

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