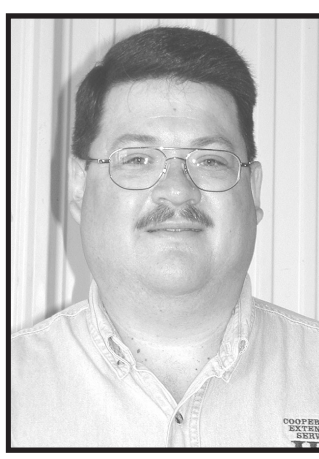


Lawn Mower Safety Reminders



Eric Baker
Estill County Extension
Agent for Agriculture &
Natural Resources

John Hopkins researchers analyzed emergency room visits due to lawn mowers accidents from the past eight years. They found that 6,394 Americans are injured in lawn mower accidents each year. Lacerations are the most common injuries followed by fractures and amputations. People most often injure their hands and wrists compared to their toes and feet.

- Never allow extra passengers on a riding lawn mower. It is a good idea to have children and pets in the house while you are mowing.

- Understand your mower and its safety features. Do not start an unfamiliar mower without first familiarizing

yourself with it by reading the owner's manual or having someone show you how to operate it. Most push mowers have a clutch handle that will quickly shut off the engine and the blade when you take your hands off it. Most riding lawn mowers are equipped with a kill switch located under the seat. This turns off the blade and the mower's engine when the rider leaves the seat. Riding mowers will not start unless the operator disengages the blade first. Large mowers will have rollover protection structures to prevent rollovers. If your mower has a seat belt, wear it. All of these are important safety features that you should not disable.

- Before mowing, make sure your yard is clear of branches or rocks that could become dangerous projectiles if hit by a mower.

- Wear the proper clothing including closed-toe, non-skid shoes, long-sleeve shirts and snug pants without strings that could get caught in the mower, eye and ear protection and a hat to protect your head from the sun. If you have long hair, put it in a ponytail.

Do not mow in reverse, as you may not be able to see obstacles behind you.

Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

Wishing Well®

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

©2021 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

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: R equals S

JP Y FYO ISZBM ISFT VS Y ISRVZFT
AYUVQ MUTRRTM YR Y DOJPT, XT'M
BSSD UTYBBQ RXYUA.

©2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

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.

IOKIP ZRIQT VKRRQOV NZOQ
MD IPQ PQGI ZR AIV
CQRQTCQOV IPGT ROZN IPQ
GOJKNQTIV ZR AIV ZYYZVQOV.
— HASSAGN YQTT

©2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

Puzzle Answers

April 7, 2021

Basics of on-farm animal mortality composting

by Eric Baker
Estill Extension Agent

Despite adequate care and management, animal mortalities occasionally occur on farms. When they do, Kentucky livestock producers have few options to safely dispose of the carcass. On-farm composting is a low-cost, effective way to dispose of dead animals without contaminating waterways or causing a smelly nuisance.

According to Steve Higgins, director of environmental compliance for the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station, two materials are needed for composting: the carcass and a bulking agent. Bulking agents are things like sawdust, wood shavings, and wood mulch. These materials provide a source of carbon to offset the nitrogen from the carcass. They soak up liquid produced during decomposition, regulate airflow through the pile and keep scavengers away. Usually, producers will layer 2 feet of bulking agent on the bottom, the carcass and at least another 2 feet of the bulking material on top of and

on the sides of the carcass. A front-end loader is helpful to transport the carcass and bulking agent and create the pile.

Ideally, you will have an enclosed composting facility. A roof keeps the pile from getting too wet and prevents runoff. Sidewalls or fences can protect the decomposing carcass from scavengers and pests. Concrete floors keep compost from entering ground water. The size of the pile will depend on the type of facility size and the type of bulking agent and equipment you use. A typical pile for a large animal (more than 1,000 pounds) should have a height of approximately 6 feet.

Moisture and temperature control is critical to proper composting. If the material is too wet, it could pollute surface or ground water. You can check the moisture by squeezing material in your hand. If it drips, it is too wet. If your palm does not get wet when squeezed, the material is too dry. Temperatures inside the compost pile need to be between 140-160 degrees F. You can purchase a long-stemmed

compost thermometer to make sure the pile is reaching the right temperature.

The compost should not emit foul odors at any point in the process. If it starts to smell bad, then something is wrong. You will need to check the pile's moisture content, temperature, airflow, carbon-to-nitrogen ratio and the amount of material covering the carcass to determine the problem and resolve the issue.

If done correctly, the carcass should decompose within three to six months. You can apply the compost to cropland as fertilizer or reuse it to compost other livestock mortalities.

More information on on-farm dead animal composting is available in the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service publication ID 166: On-farm composting of Animal Mortalities. It is available online at https://afs.ca.uky.edu/files/on-farm_composting_of_animal_mortalities.pdf or by contacting the Estill County Extension office.

Birds use plants

Birds forage among plants for seeds, flower nectar, berries, fruit, nuts and grains. They collect dried grass, pine needles, lichen, moss, twigs, small plant roots, plant down, plant stems, sticks and weeds to use in building their nests. Their favorite places for shelter are in a thorny hedge, spiky plants or trees, in high tree canopy, in densely foliated trees such as conifers, in the cavities of tree trunks or branches, flowering shrubs or in dense ground cover. — Brenda Weaver

Sources: www.vandusengarden.org, www.allaboutbirds.org

Birding BITS

BY Cindy Brook

Easy Clean
When I purchase a bird feeder, it's important that it can be easily cleaned, meaning it shouldn't have a zillion pieces to take apart and put back together. Right now, my favorites are tray feeders. I just hose them off and air dry. Simple! And birds love tray feeders!

E-mail: birdingbits@cflrr.com
© 2014 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Puzzles4Kids

Answer

What book does a sweet potato like to read?
Green Eggs and Yam.

SMOOTHIE INGREDIENTS

FEAR KN&T

answer

Even Exchange answers

1. Fright, Flight
2. Chase, Chose
3. Level, Lever
4. Sample, Simple
5. Paste, Passe
6. Bonus, Bones
7. Reader, Reader
8. Treat, Great
9. Crest, Crust
10. Tables, Tablet

King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

UK Horticulture Webinar Wednesdays Continue

Eric Baker, Estill County Extension

The free Horticulture Webinar Wednesdays continue on Zoom each Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. ET/11:30 p.m. CT. University of Kentucky extension specialists and horticulture agents teach the 45- to 60-minute sessions, covering a variety of topics that will be of interest to those tending large or small gardens or landscapes, no matter their expertise level.

Topics for April and May include: Using Native Plants in the Landscape - April 7, Companion Planting - April 14, How to Start a Community Garden - April 21, Common Vegetable Diseases - April 28, From My Head Toma Toes - May 5, Japanese Art of Kokedama - May 12, Begonias - May 19, and Summer and Fall Lawn Care - May 26.

Those interested in joining the webinars should register for one or more of the sessions at <https://tinyurl.com/UKYHortWebWed21>. Last year's webinars are available for viewing at <https://kentuckyhortnews.com/horticulture-webinar-wednesdays/season-one/>.

Stickeler's Answer

Stickelers Answer

- 1) boon DOCK hand
- 2) clearing HOUSE clean
- 3) snow DRIFT wood
- 4) round HOUSE plant

Stickeler's Puzzle on Page 7

Puzzle Answers

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Answers

CryptoQuote

Truth often suffers more by the heat of its defenders than from the arguments of its opposers. — William Penn

CryptoQuip

If a man could come to a costume party dressed as a knife, he'd look really sharp.

Bible Trivia Answers

ANSWERS (1) Old; (2) 700; (3) Peter; (4) Stephen; (5) Sister; (6) Nahum

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