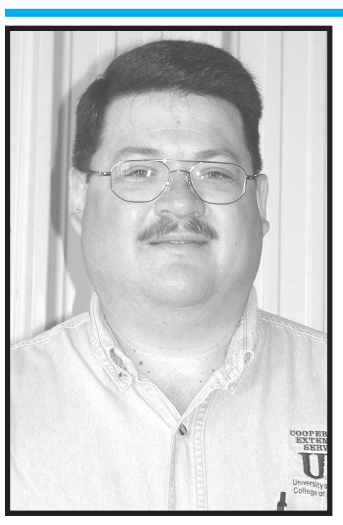
Farm & Home Safety Tips for Stormy Weather



Eric Baker
Estill County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources

It's that time of year when we get more thunderstorms. Weather patterns are more active, and storms thrive with the moisture and rapidly rising warm air that is very common during the transition to warmer seasons.

According to UK meteorologist Tom Priddy, stormy conditions also increase the potential for lightning to strike people at work or play outdoors and, possibly, while they're inside a building. Although thunderstorms are more common during the spring and summer, they can take place all year long and at all hours.

All thunderstorms produce lightning. Sometimes called "nature's fireworks," lightning is produced by the buildup and discharge of electrical energy between negatively and positively charged areas. An average lightning charge can provide enough energy to keep a 100-watt light bulb burning for more than three months.

Other dangers associated with thunderstorms are heavy rains that lead to flash floods, strong winds, hail and tornadoes. These weather conditions can injure or kill people and pets, as well as cause billions of dollars in crop and property damage.

Thunder is the result of a shock wave caused by rapid heating and cooling of air near the lightning channel.

If you want to estimate the miles between yourself and a lightning flash, simply count seconds between lightning and thunder and divide this time by five. Sound travels about a mile every five seconds. So if you count 30 seconds between lightning and thunder, lightning has flashed within six miles of you. This puts you within lightning striking distance, according to scientific research.

The most important thunderstorm safety precaution is simply to be aware of an approaching thunderstorm and move to a safe shelter before the storm arrives in your area. If you see lightning, hear thunder, observe dark clouds, or your hair stands on end, immediately go inside a sturdy, completely enclosed building, home or a hard-top vehicle with closed windows. Avoid picnic shelters, sports dugouts, covered patios, carports and open garages. Small wooden, vinyl or metal sheds provide little to no protection.

Since metal conducts lightning, don't touch metal inside or outdoors; drop metal backpacks; release golf clubs, tennis rackets, fishing gear and tools, and get off bicycles and motorcycles.

Lightning can strike water and travel a long distance in it. So standing in water, even in rubber boots, isn't safe during a thunderstorm. It's also unsafe to go swimming, wading, snorkeling and scuba diving if lightning is present. If you're in a small boat during a storm, crouch in the middle and stay away from metal items and surfaces.

Crouch down in an open, exposed area and stay away from tall objects, such as trees. Remember to stay away from clotheslines, fences, exposed sheds and other elevated items that can conduct lightning.

If you're indoors, remember lightning can enter buildings as a direct strike, through pipes and wires extending outside, or through the ground. Telephone use is a leading cause of indoor lightning injuries in America, because the charges can travel a long way in telephone and electrical wires, especially in rural areas.

Windows and doors provide a direct path for lightning to enter a building; so avoid them. During a thunderstorm, stay away from laundry appliances as they are connected to plumbing and electrical systems. Dryer vents offer a direct electrical pathway outdoors.

On the farm, ungrounded wire fences can put livestock at risk when lightning strikes. Surprisingly, lightning can travel almost two miles along an ungrounded fence. According to the National Ag Safety Database, you can ground wooden or steel posts that are set in concrete by driving ½-inch or ¾ inch steel rods or pipes next to fence posts at least 5 feet into the ground, at intervals of no more than 150 feet along the fence. You should securely fasten the grounding rods so that all the fence wires come into contact with them. You can also substitute galvanized steel fence posts for wooden posts at intervals of no more than 150 feet. You should not however, ground electric fences in this manner, because they have a direct path to the ground in their circuitry. More tips for lightning protection on the farm are available on the National Ag Safety Database website, http://nasdonline.org/1882/d001825/lightning-protection-for-farms.html .

Also remember pet safety. Lightning can easily strike animals chained to a tree or wire runner. Doghouses generally aren't protected against lightning strikes.

For more information, contact the Estill County Cooperative Extension Service at 723-4557.

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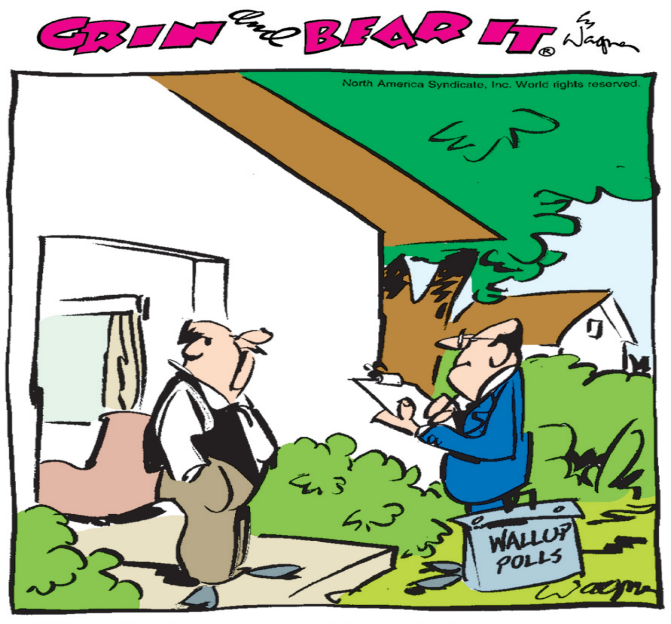
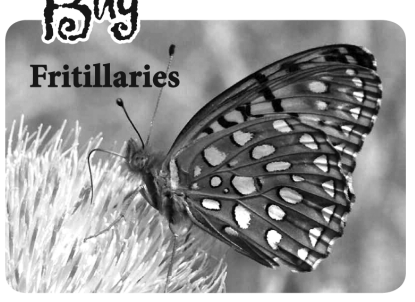


"My wife is gone, and I don't form opinions on my own."

LAFF - A - DAY

"You can forget the tip, sir. I ate a slice."

The Garden Bug



The caterpillars of fritillary butterflies hatch in the fall, go dormant right away without feeding, and sleep through the winter. They awaken in the spring at the same time as violet plants, their only food, begin to grow. It is feared that global warming may disrupt this delicate and important synchronization and cause extinction of fritillary butterflies.

- Brenda Weaver

Source: www.fs.fed.us

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Wishing Well®

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

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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: **T** equals **F**

XT KNGZ TIXGKW MOLVODZK OJZ IZTY KXYYXLE NHY TNJ FOWK, X JZVDNL WNH'F EZY KNHJ VJZMZK.

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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.

EDWCC JBBJHFMIXFXVE WHV JQFVI FYV ZVSXIIXIS JQ SHVWF VIFVHBHXEVE. — PVDJEFYVIVE

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Stickeler's Puzzle

STICKELERS [sic]. by Terry Stickels

Below is a scrambled quote from legendary basketball coach John Wooden. See how long it takes you to put the words in the right order.

"To to failing fail preparing prepare is."

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 11

Puzzle Answers

June 1, 2016

Puzzles4Kids

Answer

Why did the kids take butter to the beach?

Because they heard it was toasty there.

FEAR KNOT answer

	P	A	S					
	R	■	T	R	I	B	E	
B	I	E	R	■	■	O		
	Z	■	I	■	S	A	G	E
	E	■	P	■	A	■	U	
		Z	E	S	T	■	E	
		A	■	■	I	■	S	
		G	A	R	N	E	T	
					G			

Letter Box

Solution

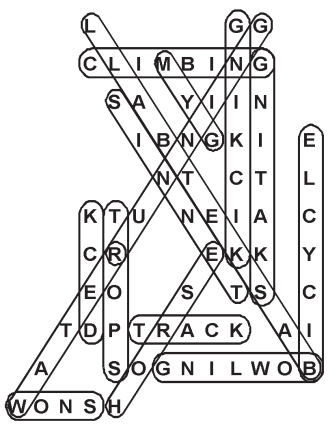
R	S	U	D	C	H	P	A	E
A	C	D	E	P	S	U	R	H
H	P	E	R	A	U	D	S	C
C	A	H	S	E	D	R	P	U
P	U	R	C	H	A	S	E	D
D	E	S	U	R	P	H	C	A
E	R	P	H	U	C	A	D	S
U	D	C	A	S	R	E	H	P
S	H	A	P	D	E	C	U	R

Even Exchange

answers

1. Diver, Diner
2. Bonnet, Sonnet
3. Cater, Caper
4. Martin, Margin
5. Stork, Stock
6. Farmer, Former
7. Minus, Menus
8. Bunch, Bench
9. Flame, Flake
10. Junker, Junket

— SHOE : SPORTS —



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

CryptoQuip

answer

If some flimsy pancakes are left sitting out for days, I reckon you'd get sour crepes.

CryptoQuote

answer

Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises. — Demosthenes

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Bible Trivia Answers

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

ANSWERS (1 New; 2) Liberty; 3) Truth; 4) 0; 5) Romans; 6) Paul

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