

Eric Baker
Estill County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources

Record keeping may not be every farmer's favorite activity, and probably not the reason you got into farming as a career. With time, patience and a commitment to get it done, it can make your financial life a lot less worrisome.

According to UK Agriculture Economist Steve Isaacs, record keeping doesn't have to be stressful. It's a way to discover things about your farm

Make farm record keeping a priority in 2018

that will help you make better long-term decisions. You can use a ledger book or a computer—whatever helps you maintain consistency. Software programs can make your data more meaningful.

Software has become more user-friendly over time, and while it may not make the record keeping process fun, it could help you see the overall picture of your operation. Some programs track purchases of inputs and how you use the input on a particular enterprise or field. You'll be able to keep track of repair and maintenance records for specific farm equipment and produce balance sheets, income statements and cash flow budgets.

For many livestock operations, a good time to start keeping records is when the veterinarian comes to check the herd. Vets usually charge per head, so

that data can help you develop a list of animals that need attention. You can use the same data to develop health histories of your animals, which will lead to more informed exams and diagnosis in the future.

Make record keeping a team effort for your family. Sit down and work on the records and budget together. Perhaps one person can read the information while another person types it into the software program or writes it in the ledger book. Also, if you do a little bit each day and don't save it all up for the end of the year, you won't become overwhelmed.

If you've done the work throughout the year, year-end procedures can feel more satisfying. You can generate year-end reports with a few simple clicks and not have to sort through stacks of bills lying around the home or office.

The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Department of Agricultural Economics has several tools online that could help with budgeting and decision making. Visit <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/AgEcon/extbudgets.php> to see what is available.

If you prefer to keep records on paper, we have the Kentucky Farm Record Book available for \$6 each. The record book format allows you to transfer numbers to the "IRS Schedule F" easily.

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

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Wishing Well®

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

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: F equals C

YV B TEMOYMP FBHORM PEG
CAHA CYSW BJREO FTRFRSBOA
FBMWG, CRESW TA JA MBQAW
ASQAH VEWPA?

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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.

SKTP UJAT JC Z VTZGSJQGU
ZIZMSBTCS YATMUYXJCE
SKT MTCS.
— RYGMOT YVROGMT

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Farming News

from Extension Agent Eric Baker

Thursday, January 18

Cattle Producer Meeting

Estill County Cooperative Extension and Estill County Cattlemen's Association will host a cattle producers meeting on Thursday, January 18th, 6:00 p.m. at the Estill County Extension office.

Our guest speaker will be UK Beef Extension specialist Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler who will discuss cow/calf nutrition and stocker cattle care. The Estill County Cattlemen Association will have their business meeting afterward. Bluegrass Stockyards of Richmond is sponsoring the catered meal, so please pre-register by calling 723-4557 on or before January 12th. For more information, contact the Estill County Cooperative Extension Service at 723-4557.

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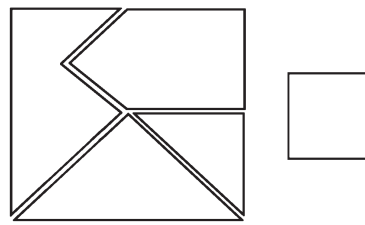
Apple Rootstock Orders

The Estill County Cooperative Extension Service will be ordering apple and pear rootstocks in January. If you want to propagate a favorite apple or pear, grafting is one of the easiest ways to preserve that cultivar. We typically order Malling7 (55% of standard size) and/or MM.111 (80% of standard) semi-dwarf apple rootstock and a pear rootstock. Please pre-pay your order by January 19th. The rootstocks usually arrive in late February. For more information, contact the Estill County Extension office at 723-4557.

Stickeler's Puzzle

STICKELERS
by Terry Stickels

Believe it or not, the 5 pieces below can be reassembled to form a new square. See how long it takes you to come up with the solution.



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Stickeler's Answer on Page 11

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Then He turned to His disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it."

LUKE 10:23,24



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The Garden Bug Know your zone

The USDA maintains a website that provides plant hardiness zone information for all regions of the U.S.: planthardiness.ars.usda.gov

Data was taken from over 7,900 weather stations and bureaus and incorporated into maps available on the site. The map zones reflect the average lowest winter temperatures for each geographic area.

Source: United States Department of Agriculture

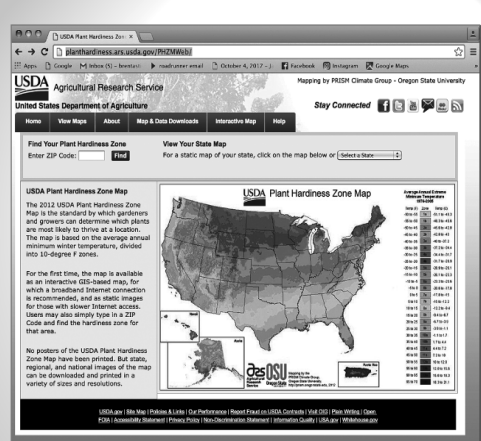
- Brenda Weaver

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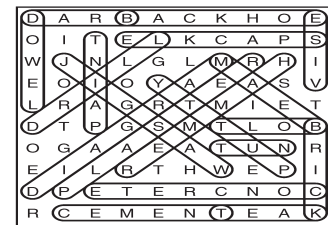
Birding BITS BY Cindy Brook

Rockin' Robins
The largest member of the thrush family, American robins are easy to identify with their orange breast and cheerful song. They spend much of the winter digging for worms and eating fruit. Attract them to your yard with orange halves on platform feeders and fresh water in birdbaths.

E-mail: birdingbits@cflrr.com
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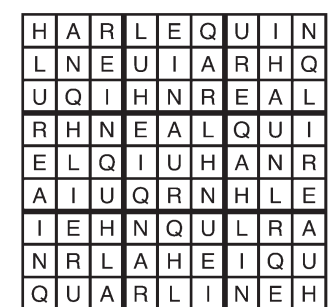


Puzzles4Kids Answer

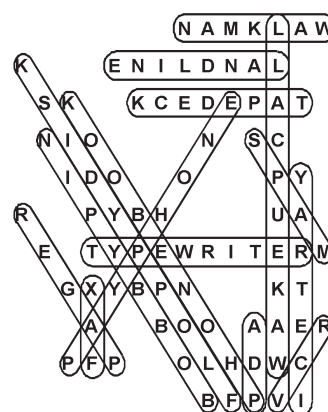


Riddle Answer:
Igloos it together.

Letter Box Solution



NOT USED MUCH ANYMORE



CryptoQuip answer

If a hunting cartoon guy were wild about chocolate candy, would he be named Elmer Fudge?

CryptoQuote answer

They live in a beautiful apartment overlooking the rent.
— Source Obscure

FEAR & KNIGHT answer



Even Exchange answers

1. Crease, Create
2. White, Write
3. Teller, Taller
4. Linen, Linner
5. Branch, Blanch
6. Linger, Longer
7. Quill, Quilt
8. Chaps, Chaos
9. Roost, Roast
10. Devour, Devout

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

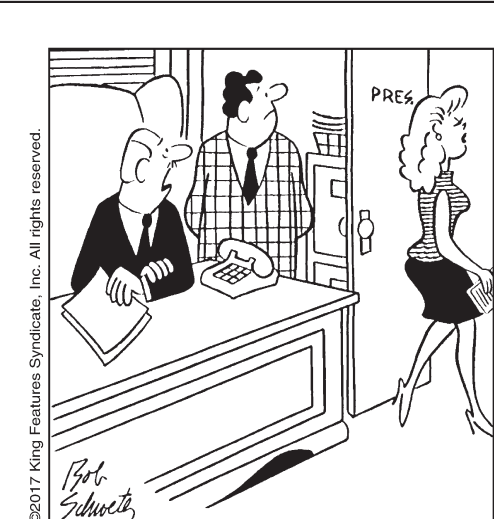
Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Bible Trivia Answers

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

ANSWERS 1) Neither; 2) Ephesians, Esther, Exodus, Creation; 3) 6 (Ecclesiastes); 4) 11 (Leviticus); 5) 2



"Does all this equal rights stuff mean I can't laugh at her anymore?"

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Bash

MINGAL

Extra

PEARS

Meld

LEMING

Sniff

HEALIN

TODAY'S WORD
