

**Eric Baker**  
Estill County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources

Broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus* L.) is a native warm-season grass that can dominate poorly managed pastures and hayfields. While it has little value as a forage, it does provide good nesting habitat for birds such as turkey and quail. However, as a forage crop it definitely falls short. When it is found in pastures and hayfields it is often an indication that something is not quite right. In most cases it is related low soil fertility and poor grazing management.

According to Chris Teutsch, UK Extension forage specialist, there are various approaches to reducing broomsedge and promote desirable forages for livestock.

First, you can soil test and adjust the fertility. Many people say that

# Reclaiming Broomsedge Infested Fields

broomsedge infested pastures need lime. This may be true in some cases, but they are more commonly low in phosphorus. Soil testing is the only way to tell what amendments you need to apply.

You can manage grazing and clipping to favor desirable forage species. In many cases, there are desirable forage species in broomsedge infested pastures. By adjusting soil fertility and managing grazing to favor these species we can make them more competitive. Normally these species are cool-season grasses. So not grazing them closely and frequently during the summer months will get them ready to grow in late summer and fall when temperature and moisture conditions are ideal.

Another option is clipping broomsedge in late summer or early fall once just before it produces seed can reduce shading of desirable forage species, making them more competitive in the stand.

You can apply nitrogen fertilizer in early fall. After we clip pastures in late summer, applying 60 lbs. nitrogen per acre can stimulate desirable cool-season grasses help-

ing to shift the botanical composition away from broomsedge.

If you feed hay on broomsedge infested pastures, it is a low input way of increasing soil fertility over time. Each ton of hay contains approximately 50 lbs. of nitrogen, 15 lbs. of phosphorus, and 60 lbs. of potassium. It is important to remember that although feeding hay does bring nutrients into a grazing system, it is a much slower way to build fertility than applying commercial fertilizer or even broiler litter. Make sure to move feeding points around the pasture to get a more even nutrient distribution.

Some may ask if you can burn broomsedge infested pastures. Not the best idea, because native warm-season grasses evolved under burning. This means that burning can actually enhance broomsedge stands.

You may be tempted to apply nitrogen in late spring or early summer and graze broomsedge. The idea here is make the broomsedge more palatable and graze it during the summer months. The problem with this approach is that desirable forage species will tend to

be overgrazed during the summer, putting them at a disadvantage. This approach may actually make your broomsedge problem worse over time.

Lastly, one of the more extreme approaches is to kill the existing the pasture with nonselective herbicide and reestablish it. Although this is viable approach to controlling broomsedge, without proper soil fertility and grazing management, the broomsedge will come back. In addition, this is by far the most time consuming and expensive approach.

Controlling broomsedge in pastures and hayfields will require a sustained effort of improving both soil fertility and grazing management. So make a plan, implement it, and over time you will see reduction broomsedge as your desirable forage species become more competitive. Contact the Estill County Extension office at 723-4557 for more information.

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## Wishing Well®

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

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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: Q equals T

MH O FUDOWQMP PUBYVN HFUD  
JOFAOJ NWR BY LNQQMWL  
ANYOFOQNR, XUB DMLKQ AOX  
QKNX OFN YUVNA OYOFQ.

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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.

DL ECJJNY HX ULQY XLLO  
HV OYU LY HJ'V LHFU, HJ'V  
VQYN JL FLLP KNJJNY IZND  
MFCGNO LD C OLHFU.  
— YLD KCYYNJJ

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# Puzzle Answers

March 7, 2018

## Puzzles4Kids

Answer

What is big and gray and protects you from the rain?

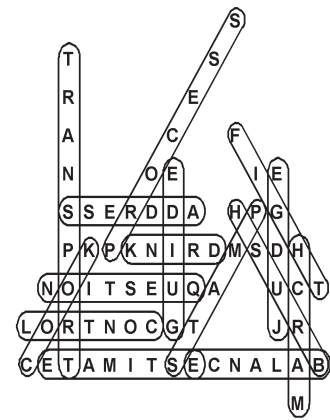
An umbrella-phamt.

## Letter Box

Solution

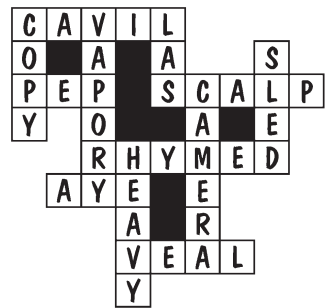
N	I	G	H	T	M	A	R	E
E	M	A	G	N	R	T	I	H
R	T	H	I	E	A	N	G	M
I	A	N	R	H	G	M	E	T
H	G	E	T	M	I	R	N	A
T	R	M	N	A	E	G	H	I
A	H	I	M	G	N	E	T	R
G	E	R	A	I	T	H	M	N
M	N	T	E	R	H	I	A	G

CAN BE A NOUN OR A VERB



## FEAR & KNIGHT

answer



## Even Exchange

answers

1. Fellow, Follow
2. Glove, Globe
3. Honey, Money
4. Invent, Invest
5. Maize, Maine
6. Robin, Rosin
7. Monkey, Donkey
8. Spine, Shine
9. Parson, Person
10. Rhine, Rhone

## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

## Bible Trivia Answers

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

ANSWERS 1 Old; 2 H; 3 Revelation; 4 On don- Key; 5 Isalah; 6 Brother

## The Garden Bug

### Spring garden prep

As day lengths increase, plants begin new growth. Repot rootbound plants, moving them to containers 2 inches larger in diameter than their current pot. Check for insect activity and apply controls as needed. Leggy plants may be pruned now. Summer and fall blooming perennials should be divided in spring.

— Brenda Weaver

Source: www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

## Birding BITS

BY Cindy Brook

### Weed Watch

I keep my backyard in a very natural state and do not use pesticides. What may look like an ugly weed really is not to the bees that come to my yard. I love to watch them climb in and out of flowers drinking the nectar. Nature has it all figured out!

E-mail: birdingbits@cfl.rr.com  
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## UK COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

University of Kentucky – College of Agriculture

### Estill County

#### 4-H Youth Development

**Isaac L. Hollon**  
Estill County Extension Office

**Saturday, March 10th - 8am-2pm**

### Estill County 4-H Teen Club Fundraiser

The 4-H Teen Club will be having a yard sale on Saturday, March 10th from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. This fundraiser is to help raise money for leadership trips planned for this Spring and Summer. The location will be at the Estill County Extension Office located at 76 Golden Court, off of Stacy Lane. Some of the things our Teens will be using the money they raise for include: Washington DC Ag Policy trip, Teen Leadership Conference, Teen Leadership Summit, Southern Regional Leadership Conference, and Kentucky Issues Conference. We will have anything and everything you can think of. Can't wait to see you all there!!!

**Thursday-Saturday, March 22nd-24th**

### Hunters Education Class (orange card)

There will be a Hunter's Education Class (orange card) at the Estill County Extension Office. The 3-day class will be Thursday and Friday, March 22nd & 23rd from 6-9 p.m., and Saturday, March 24th starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Estill Co. Sportsmen's Club. You must attend all 3 classes to obtain your orange card. Ages 9 and older (as of March 24). Effective March 1, 2014, KY Dept. of Fish & Wildlife requires online pre-registration for all hunter education courses statewide. Following is the registration link for the Estill Co. class: <http://www.register-ed.com/events/view/117617>

For more information, call the Estill County Extension Office at 606-723-4557.

# Farming News

from Extension Agent Eric Baker

**Thursday, March 15th @ 5pm**

## Extension Fruit Trees & More Pruning Workshop and Plant Orders

If you are interested in knowing how to prune your fruit trees and other common fruiting plants, come to the Extension Fruit Trees & More Pruning Workshop on Thursday, March 15th, 5:00 p.m. We will have the workshop at Earl Blackwell's residence, 242 Kirkland Avenue (State Highway 1645) in Irvine. If you are coming, please let us know by calling 723-4557.

In addition, Estill County Extension is still taking orders for low-cost strawberry, blackberry, blueberry, raspberry, asparagus, and Candy onion plants. Orders will be delivered in early April. If you are interested or have questions, call our office at 723-4557 or visit our Facebook page by searching for "Estill County KY Cooperative Extension". Plant orders must be prepaid by March 14th so contact us soon.

## Stickeler's Puzzle

by Terry Stickels

Adam had more baseball cards than his friend Bob in a ratio of 7:5. Adam then gave Bob 12 of his cards and with those twelve Bob now had the same number of cards as Adam.

How many did each have before Adam gave Bob the 12 cards?

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 11