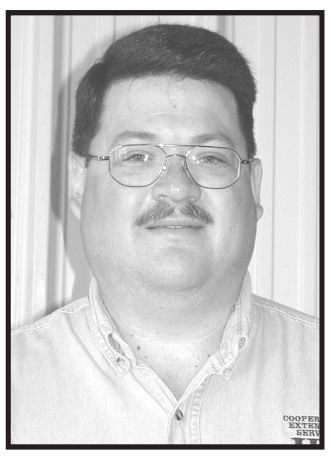
Points to consider with backyard chicken flocks



Eric Baker
Estill County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources

Backyard chicken flocks are popular in all areas of Kentucky. If you want to have a successful flock and produce your own eggs, preparation and education are essential.

Not everyone is suited for keeping a poultry flock. Make sure you check that your local city and county ordinances allow backyard flocks. Some ordinances require a minimum amount of land, and some subdivisions even have their own rules.

According to Jacquie Jacob, UK Extension poultry project manager, chickens require daily care. You must feed them, provide clean water and collect eggs every day. It is a good opportunity to teach children responsibility, but make sure they can fit it into their daily routine and that you supervise them. Keep in mind that chickens can get sick and very few veterinarians will provide care for them. Anyone handling chickens needs to make sure to wash their hands before and after caring for them. Also, don't bring chickens into the house and don't use your kitchen sink to wash equipment associated with your flock.

Chickens make noise. While it's true only roosters crow, hens are not always quiet and they can make a lot of noise to let everyone know they just laid an egg.

Keep in mind that chickens eat a lot. You probably can't produce eggs cheaper than you can buy them in the store, but you'll have the satisfaction of knowing from where they came. Hens use about 60% of the feed they consume; they excrete the rest as manure. Make sure you have a plan for what you'll do with all the manure your flock produces. You could compost the manure to produce a valuable, odor-free fertilizer for your garden.

To complicate things, chickens stop producing eggs at some point and they live longer than that window, sometimes a lot longer. You need to have a plan for what you'll do with hens once they stop producing eggs. If you keep them because they are pets, you'll have to be willing to continue paying for food while they are no longer earning their keep. Another thing to consider is that chickens can destroy gardens. Chickens scratch when they forage and if you let the hens run free, you may need to put a fence around your garden to prevent them from damaging your plants.

As for housing your flock, you'll need a chicken house that provides shelter from the weather, nest boxes where your hens will lay eggs and perches for hens to roost at night. Housing needs to be easy to clean out and provide protection from predators. You'll need to have an open run for hens to get into the open air. It's important to keep your chicken house clean and dry to prevent odor and flies. Manage any bedding well to prevent rodents from making your chicken house their home.

It can be difficult to obtain ready-to-lay pullets, so you'll probably need to raise your hens from chicks. You can buy online and have them shipped to your home, but some hatcheries require a minimum purchase of 25 chicks for safe shipping. You can also buy chicks and local farm stores, but Kentucky state regulations require a minimum purchase of six chicks. If you only want three, you could go in with a friend or neighbor to meet the minimum requirement. You will need to provide chicks with a heat source, such as a heat lamp, for the first six weeks.

For more information on small or backyard poultry flocks, contact the Estill County Extension office at 723-4557. You can find UK Extension poultry publications online at https://afs.ca.uky.edu/poultry/poultry-publications .

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Wishing Well®

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

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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: **M** equals **T**

HIVC OA KPPJI QVLDDA HLCMR RPOVMIYCS LJJPOKDYRIVN, IV SPVR LM YM HYMI NPSSVN NVMVQOYCLMYPC.

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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.

YA EIM UAWOALA YNIR YA ENVVBA. YA IDA IMBYADIUWA PVD YNIR YA ENVVBA RV UAWOALA.

— TVNM NAMDX MAYKIM

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The Garden Bug

California poppies

Poppies give your gardens eye-catching color, and provide strong accents to darker shades. Fan-like petals of orange, red and yellow flowers, atop 12-inch stems with wispy, fern-like foliage, begin their vibrant show in May and continue through summer. They are drought-tolerant and do well in full sun. Gardeners can enjoy them in containers, mixed beds, rock gardens and xeriscapes, and they are easy to maintain. - *Brenda Weaver*

Source: homeguides.sfgate.com, www.planetnatural.com

Birding BITS by Cindy Brook

Feed Those Babies!

Baby birds are everywhere this time of year, and high-protein foods are a must if they are to grow healthy. Some foods that you can put on tray feeders or toss on the ground are:

1. Suet nuggets (any flavor).
2. Whole grain bread with peanut butter.
3. Sunflower chips and safflower seed.
4. Peanuts (no salt!).

E-mail: birdingbits@cfl.rr.com

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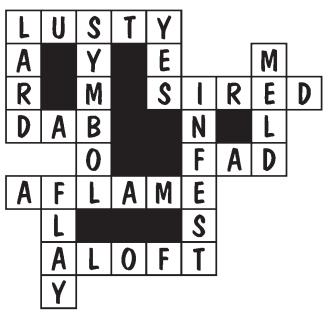
Puzzle Answers

May 8, 2019

Puzzles4Kids

Answer

FEAR NOT™ answer

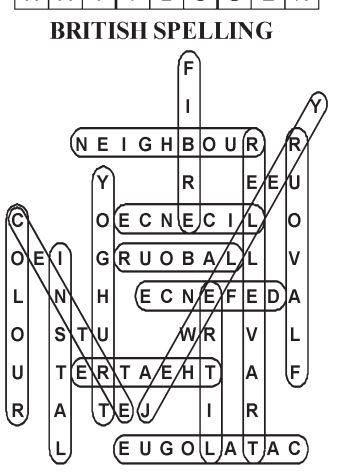


Letter Box

Solution

A	C	I	E	N	L	T	S	R
T	N	R	C	S	I	L	A	E
L	S	E	A	T	R	C	N	I
E	T	N	L	C	S	I	R	A
C	L	A	R	I	N	E	T	S
I	R	S	T	E	A	N	C	L
N	I	C	S	R	E	A	L	T
S	E	L	N	A	T	R	I	C
R	A	T	I	L	C	S	E	N

BRITISH SPELLING



Even Exchange

answers

1. Freeze, Breeze
2. Ditch, Dutch
3. Peony, Phony
4. Absent, Assent
5. Basin, Basil
6. Rusty, Dusty
7. Outlaw, Outlay
8. Quick, Quirk
9. Coach, Couch
10. Dreary, Dreamy

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

CryptoQuip

answer

When my pooch really wants something accomplished, he goes at it with dogged determination.

CryptoQuote

answer

We can believe what we choose. We are answerable for what we choose to believe.

— John Henry Newman

Bible Trivia Answers

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

ANSWER: 1) New; 2) Simeon; 3) Ecclesiastes; 4) Rainbow; 5) A snare; 6) Pharaoh

Farming News

UK Equine Farm and Facilities Expo

University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs will host its annual Farm and Facilities Expo from 3:30 - 8 p.m. EDT Thursday, May 30, at Olive Hill Sporthorses, 4746 Huffman Mill Pike, Lexington. The event is free and open to the public. A meal will be provided for those in attendance.

Farm managers and horse owners alike will have the opportunity to explore visitor booths and see displays for every aspect of horse farm management. Speakers will provide educational talks about harnessing on-farm solar potential, overseeding damaged pasture, weed control on horse farms and utilizing hay feeders to reduce waste.

"With all of the rain in 2018, pastures are likely to be thin and damaged. Part of this program will be focused on what horse owners and managers can do to help pastures recover and prevent that type of damage in the future," said Ray Smith, forage extension specialist with UK's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

While not required, an RSVP is appreciated for food planning purposes. Please email DL_CES_Fayette@email.uky.edu or call the Fayette County Extension office at 859-257-5582 to register.

top ten

Mothers in the Bible

1. Mary
2. Elizabeth
3. Hannah
4. Naomi
5. Samson's mother
6. Jochebed
7. Rachel/Leah
8. Rebekah
9. Hagar
10. Sarah

Source: Catholic Online

Americanisms

"It's not easy being a mother. If it were easy, fathers would do it."
— *Betty White (Dorothy, "The Golden Girls")*

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Stickeler's Puzzle

STICKELERS [sic]. by Terry Stickels

If one bag of dog food feeds 8 puppies or 6 dogs, then 8 bags of the same dog food will feed 20 puppies and how many dogs?

A) 24
B) 30
C) 33
D) 40
E) 53

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 11