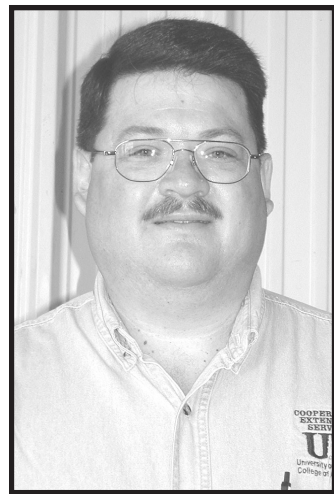


# Get A Jump Start On Farm Equipment Maintenance



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

It may feel like spring will never truly arrive, but it will. According to UK agricultural engineer Tim Stombaugh, it is a good idea to go ahead and get started on your farm equipment maintenance. Doing the repairs now can save time and aggravation later.

If you need to order parts, go ahead and do it to reduce the likelihood of delays during the critical spring days ahead. When you check equipment, pay particular attention to rubber components, as these will sometimes become brittle and cracked during the winter.

Check implements for broken, missing or worn parts you may need to replace. Go over the machinery and tighten bolts, nuts and cap screws. Pump fresh grease into fittings to remove any condensation that may have formed in the winter. Apply touch up paint to any rusted or scratched areas.

On planters make sure moveable parts are not stuck. Also check for wear and replace any overly worn parts.

Electrical problems can lead to time-consuming breakdowns. Now is the time to check for loose connections, frayed or broken wires

and repair broken gauges, lights and switches.

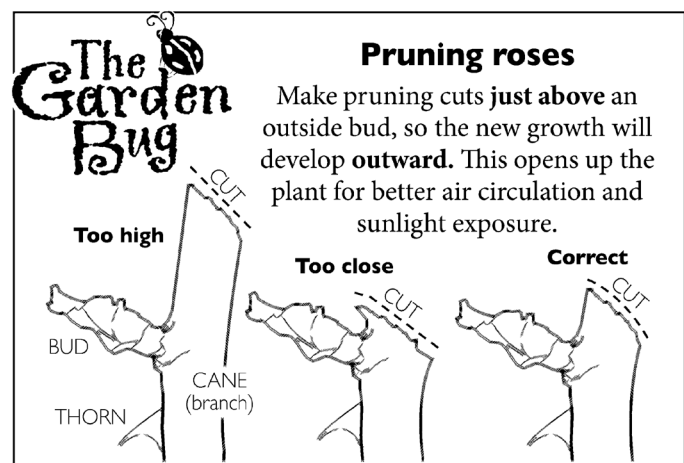
Remember to include sprayer maintenance in your late-winter cleaning tasks, ensuring that your spray equipment is ready for the planting season; it could save you time and money. If you take care of sprayer maintenance prior to the hectic growing season, it can prevent time-consuming equipment breakdowns, higher chemical costs, reduced pesticide effectiveness and potential crop damage. Rinse out the sprayer to remove any dirt that accumulated over the winter. Check the pump and nozzles for excessive wear and be sure the pump is operating at full capacity. Inspect sprayer lines for leaks. Clean filter screens and

replace worn ones in the sprayer and in tractors. You'll need to ensure they are not restricting air flow. Replace fuel filters as they age and become clogged.

Be sure to consult your operator's manual on tractors and other equipment for additional maintenance instructions.

For more information on farm maintenance practices, contact the Estill County Cooperative Extension Service at 723-4557. Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

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## Farm News

**Must be prepaid by March 20th**

### Extension Service Taking Plant Orders

As another service to our community, the Estill County Extension Service will be taking orders for strawberry, blackberry, blueberry, raspberry, Candy onion slips, and asparagus plants. They are quality plants at reasonable prices. Delivery will be in early April. If you are interested, call us at 723-4557. Orders must be prepaid by March 20th.

**Monday, March 16th @ 7pm**

### Private Pesticide Applicator Training

A private applicator pesticide certification meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 16th, 7:00 p.m. at the Estill County Extension Office, 76 Golden Court in Irvine. The training will educate participants on the proper handling and use of pesticides. Certified private pesticide applicators must be recertified every three years. Farmers must be certified to purchase restricted-use pesticides. If you need further information or to pre-register, please call 723-4557.

## FARM SERVICE AGENCY AGRICULTURE NEWS

Richmond FSA Service Center  
1024 Ival James Blvd., Ste A-2  
Call 888-758-6909

### USDA Provides One-Time Extension of Deadline to Update Base Acres or Yield History for ARC/PLC Programs

Farmers Now Have Until March 31 to Update Yields and Reallocate Base Acres; Deadline for Choosing Between ARC and PLC also Remains March 31  
Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that a one-time extension will be provided to producers for the new safety-net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC). The final day to update yield history or reallocate base acres has been extended one additional month, from Feb. 27, 2015 until March 31, 2015. The final day for farm owners and producers to choose ARC or PLC coverage also remains March 31, 2015.

"This is an important decision for producers, because these programs provide financial protection against unexpected changes in the marketplace. Producers are working to make the best decision they can. And we're working to ensure that they've got the time, the information, and the opportunities to have those final conversations, review their data, and to visit the Farm Service Agency to make those decisions," said Vilsack.

If no changes are made to yield history or base acres by March 31, 2015, the farm's current yield and base will be used. A program choice of ARC or PLC coverage also must be made by March 31, 2015, or there will be no 2014 payments for the farm and the farm will default to PLC coverage through the 2018 crop year.

"These are complex decisions, which is why we launched a strong education and outreach campaign back in September. Now we're providing a one-time extension of an additional month so that every producer is fully prepared to enroll in this program," said Vilsack.

Nationwide, more than 2.9 million educational post-cards, in English and Spanish, have been sent to producers, and over 4,100 training sessions have been conducted on the new safety-net programs. The online tools, available at [www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc), allow producers to explore projections on how ARC or PLC coverage will affect their operation under possible future scenarios.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity.

To learn more, farmers can contact their local Farm Service Agency county office. To find your local office visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

The Farm Bill builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Since enactment, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit [www.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.usda.gov/farmbill).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

### Starting seeds indoors

You'll need:

- Containers - purchased pots, flats or saved egg cartons, yogurt cups, etc. Soak used pots in 1 part bleach to 10 parts water to disinfect.
- Potting mix
- Seeds
- Labels or markers to remember which seeds are where
- Plastic bags or covers, to trap moisture
- Light source - a bright window, or a fluorescent light

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## Stickeler's Puzzle

STICKELERS by Terry Stickels

Each figure contained within the largest square is also a square.

What are the sizes of the squares lettered A, B, C and D?

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### Stickeler's Answer on Page 11

## PAINTED ROOFING METAL

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## Wishing Well®

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

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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## 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.

FX ERBBMORRQ, NBB  
LNGGFNUZT NGZ ENCCM.  
FI'T IGMFXU IR BFWZ  
IRUZIEZG NDIZGONGQT IENI  
ANYTZT IEZ CGRSBZLT.  
— TEZBBM OFXIZGT

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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: J equals R

LVQC AKB'JQ MAECO KC AKBJ  
ZXKTUV KC D ZLQMXQJECO  
ZBTTQJ WDA, DJQ AKB WKECO  
IDUS-IDSECO LKJS?

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## Puzzle Answers March 11, 2015

### Puzzles4Kids Answer

ARENAS	A	SNARE
RACKET	K	CARET
BEIRUT	I	BRUTE
ESCORT	T	CORES
LATEST	T	STEAL
BARLEY	Y	BLARE
LARIAT	L	TIARA
DANISH	I	HANDS
WHITEN	T	WHINE
ARREST	T	REARS
ANGELS	E	SLANG
BALDER	R	BLADE
WADERS	E	DRAWS
SEARCH	R	CHASE

### FEAR & A KNIGHT answer

### 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

### Even Exchange answers

1. Flour, Floor
2. Athena, Athens
3. Verge, Merge
4. Place, Plate
5. Blanch, Branch
6. Patch, Parch
7. Score, Scare
8. Galley, Valley
9. Relax, Relay
10. Paddle, Puddle

### MEAT

### Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

### CryptoQuip answer

When you're lying on your stomach on a sweltering summer day, are you doing back-baking work?

### King Crossword Answer

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

### Bible Trivia Answers

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

(4) TImbrel; (5) 3; (6) Saul  
(2) Fig; (3) Unbelievers;  
ANSWERS (1) Netter;