

AGRICULTURE ADVENTURES

FOR FAMILIES

2023: The Year of the Rabbit

2023 is the Year of the Rabbit in the Chinese zodiac. The Chinese zodiac assigns an animal and its attributes to each year in a repeating 12-year cycle. Since the Chinese zodiac is based upon the lunar calendar, people born in January and February refer not only to their birth year, but also their birth date. This year, Chinese New Year falls on Sunday, January 22. The sign of rabbit is a symbol of longevity, peace, and prosperity in Chinese culture.



DID YOU KNOW?

RED is often worn and used for decorations for Chinese New Year. Red is the color of joy and good fortune in Chinese culture.

- “恭喜发财,” pronounced “Gung hay fat choy,” is how Cantonese speakers wish you a happy new year. The saying literally means, “Wishing you great happiness and prosperity.”
- Historians believe that fireworks were invented in China in 200 A.D. after bamboo stalks were thrown into a fire. Bamboo’s hollow air pockets inflate and burst with a loud sound when heated. It is believed that fireworks originated in China during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C. to 220 A.D.) to frighten and ward off evil spirits.

Sources:
<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/lunar-new-year>
<https://historyplex.com/ancient-chinese-fireworks-invention-history>

RABBITS are more than cute and fluffy pets or backyard visitors; they are also important to agriculture. Here are just a few ways rabbits are used agriculturally:

- For their meat:** Rabbits are a great source of nutrition. Rabbit meat is a lean protein, low in fat and calories, and high in protein and iron. Rabbit meat can often be found in pet food for dogs and cats.
- For their wool:** Angora rabbits produce coats in a variety of colors, including white, tan, gray, brown, and black. They produce 1 to 4 pounds of wool a year. Some breeds are sheared four times a year, others’ wool can easily be plucked off. Angora rabbits’ soft wool is used to make scarves, socks, and sweaters.
- For their manure:** Rabbit manure is full of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and minerals. According to the Michigan State University Extension, it has four times as many nutrients as cow or horse manure and twice as many nutrients as chicken manure.



Choose Your Prize: January Word Search

Choices include a \$25 Beggar’s Pizza Gift Card, a \$25 Home Run Inn Gift Card, OR *3 AMC Movie Tickets *AMC Yellow tickets not valid in California, New York & New Jersey.

Complete the Word Search puzzle for your chance to win! Winners will be contacted by mail.

MAIL TO:
Cook Co. Farm Bureau
Ag Adventures Word Search
6438 Joliet Rd
Countryside, IL 60525

FAX TO: 708-579-6056

EMAIL TO: FBcooperator@gmail.com

Complete and submit an entry every month all in 2023 and your name is automatically entered into an “End of Year” drawing for a gift basket full of ag themed goodies.

Deadline is the 20th of each month. **GOOD LUCK!**

RAT:
1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020

HORSE:
1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014, 2026

OX:
1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021

GOAT:
1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015, 2027

TIGER:
1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010, 2022

MONKEY:
1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016, 2028

RABBIT:
1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023

ROOSTER:
1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017, 2029

DRAGON:
1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012, 2024

DOG:
1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018, 2030

SNAKE:
1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013, 2025

PIG:
1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019, 2031

January Word Search

Last Month’s Winner:
Dave Winchell

Animals
Bamboo
Calendar
Coats
Decorations
Fireworks
Happiness
Joy
Manure
Minerals
Nutrients
Peace
Rabbit
Red
Scarves
Symbol

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

Name _____

Phone # _____

Membership # _____

Choose Your Prize Preference for If You Win:
If a choice is not made, movie tickets will be sent

☐ Beggar’s Pizza Gift Card ☐ 3 Movie Tickets

☐ Home Run Inn Gift Card (Choose one option only)

Located on front of paper