

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

bellwether banter (bantering) bilk(ed)(ing) buttress deign(ed) deleterious  
demur (demurred) denigrate(d) derision derogate(d) desultory diatribe

- 1} Farmer Tune \_\_\_\_\_ Farmer Tice out of \$20 by selling him a rain maker during the draught.
- 2} Farmer Tice accepted the judge's 30 days sentence without \_\_\_\_\_, because it was the harvest season, & he didn't want to pick apples.
- 3} Farmer Tice is the \_\_\_\_\_ of misfortune and bad luck.
- 4} At best, Farmer Tice will do only a few \_\_\_\_\_ chores.
- 5} The Reverend Muler \_\_\_\_\_ all of the members of the Swine Lodge for showing up at church sleepy & blurry eyed.
- 6} Judge Krudd carried on a long \_\_\_\_\_ that could be heard all the way down the hall of the courthouse over Farmer Tice's terrible choices.
- 7} The men at Dillon's Packing House sat around \_\_\_\_\_ back and forth about Farmer Tice's latest screw-ups and predicting what he's might do next.
- 8} All Farmer Tice could do as the \_\_\_\_\_ of his defence was to tell the judge "Sorry about that, Your Highness.. I didn't mean to do it."
- 9} Farmer Tice avoided doing chores as though they were \_\_\_\_\_ to his health. As for napping & fishing, they were salubrious activities to him.
- 10} Because she thought of herself as a queen, Honeybunch rarely \_\_\_\_\_ to do much housework let alone any farmwork whatsoever.
- 11} When Farmer Tice got married, he automatically assumed that he was going to be lord & master of his farm, Tice Acres, but his very stern wife, Honeybunch, without hesitation, \_\_\_\_\_ his status to the level of serf and presented him with a long list of menial chores that needed to be done. All he could do was to say *dang that woman!*
- 12} After the Farmer Tice Root Beer fiasco in which nearly everyone became intoxicated, Farmer Tice became the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Teetotalers Club.

**Farmer Tice's Vocabulary Puzzle**

**College Level Words #14**

More fun than a barrel of hillbillies !!© by  
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1. **bellwether** (n) (n adjunct) A leading indicator of a trend or the leader of a trend; originally, the leading sheep of a flock (with a bell around its neck). *The bellwether state in U.S. elections often predicts the winner of the presidency.* (2 adj) *Keep your eye on Nvidia (NVDA), as it's a bellwether stock for the entire AI industry.*

2. **banter** Playful, friendly, and light-hearted teasing or joking conversation. Instead of using "said," you can use bantered to instantly show the playful tone of the speaker. *The friends engaged in witty banter throughout the dinner party.* (2) *"That's because it happened to be Friday the 13th!" he bantered.*

3. **bilk** (bilked) To cheat or defraud someone, especially by not paying what is owed. *The contractor tried to bilk the homeowners by charging for work he never completed.* (2) *Bernie Madoff bilked 4,800 of his investors out of \$64.8 billion with a Ponzi scheme in 2008. He died in prison in 2021.*

4. **buttress**(v) To support, strengthen, or reinforce something. (n) A structure built against a wall for support. (1v) *New evidence buttressed her argument and made it much more convincing.* (2v) *The defense attorney presented three new pieces of forensic evidence to buttress her client's alibi.* (3n) *My father was my emotional buttress through some of my toughest years.* (4n) *The ancient castle walls were reinforced with heavy stone buttresses to withstand artillery fire.*

5. **deign** {dane} (v) To do something considered beneath one's dignity; to condescend. When someone deigns to do something, they are condescending to do it. It carries a heavy tone of arrogance, pride, or reluctant superiority. Because it implies that the person doing the action thinks they are "too good" for the task or the people around them, it is almost always used with a touch of sarcasm, disapproval, or irony. *She finally deigned to reply to his email after ignoring him for weeks.* (2v) *The elite chef deigned to cook simple comfort food like burgers and fries.*

6. **deleterious** (adj) Causing harm or damage; injurious. *Smoking has a deleterious effect on lung health.*

7. **demur** (v) To raise an objection or show reluctance. (n) An objection. (v) *She demurred when asked to speak in front of the large crowd.* (2n) *The defendant paid the fine without a single demur.*

8. \* **denigrate** (v) To criticize, often unfairly; to disparage or belittle someone/something. *The rival candidate tried to denigrate his opponent's achievements during the debate.* (2) *Uncle Sid denigrates atonal music because he thinks it's nothing but a lot of noise even though it actually isn't.*

9. **derision** deh-RIZH-uhn (n) (**deride** is the verb) Scornful ridicule or mockery. *His outlandish suggestion was met with derision by the rest of the team.* (2) *His ambitious proposal met with widespread derision.* (3) *The team's sloppy performance drew the derision of their own fans.* (4) *He's an object of derision in the neighborhood.*

10.\* **derogate** (v) To detract from or diminish the value or importance of something; to disparage. *His comments seemed to derogate the hard work of the entire department.* (2) *Even though Abraham Lincoln saved the Union, democrats derogated everything he did.*

11. **desultory** (adj) Lacking enthusiasm, purpose, or enthusiasm; random and disconnected. *She made a few desultory attempts at studying before giving up and watching TV.* (2) *She made a desultory attempt to clean the garage, but gave up after sorting through a single box.*

12. **diatribe** (n) A bitter, harshly critical, and lengthy verbal attack or rant. *The coach went on a long diatribe against the team's lack of effort.* (2) *Democrats love carrying on bitter diatribes against President Trump during Congressional hearings.*

\* **Denigrate** is an attack on reputation (insulting or blackening someone's name), while **derogate** is an attack on value or authority (detracting from, weakening, or taking away worth).

## **ANSWERS TO FARMER TICE'S COLLEGE VOCABULARY #14**

1. bilked

2. demur

3. bellwether

4. desultory

5. denigrated

6. diatribe

7. bantering

8. buttress

9. deleterious

10. deigned

11. derogated

12. derision