The Anagram Sudoku is a new type of word puzzle that I invented recently. It officially makes its debut in this issue of Word Ways, and will later appear, with others, in my work-in-progress book, 101 Enigmatic Puzzles.

In an Anagram Sudoku, each square contains one letter instead of a number, and every row, column, and smaller square (within the darker lines) contains letters that can be anagrammed into a word. Unlike its numerical cousin, however, where the numbers 1 through 9 are used repeated in every row, column, and 3×3 square, all 27 words used in a 9×9 Anagram Sudoku are different. For example, here is a small, 4×4 grid, complete with a word list for the puzzle:

Words used in the puzzle:
beam  game
beat  gate
debt  rods
team  sale
four  sled
fuel  urge

In the 9×9 puzzle, every row, column, and 3×3 square contains nine letters that can be anagrammed into a word. No word can be used twice, and all the words are of the Scrabble-legal variety (no proper names, hyphenated words, acronyms, and so forth). As in numerical Sudoku, several letters have been entered in the grid to limit the possibilities to a single solution.