

Reader Recipes

We're looking for unusual, innovative, or just plain good-tasting recipes. If you have a favorite you'd like to share, send to: Reader Recipes, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or E-mail: Recipes@farmshow.com

Easy Potato Soup

3-4 potatoes, diced
3-4 slices bacon, diced
milk

1 tsp flour
salt, pepper, celery salt
to taste

Cook diced potatoes in salted water until tender. Drain. Add enough milk to cover. Add seasonings. Heat. In frying pan, brown the diced bacon. Drain off grease but leave about 1 tbsp. Add flour to bacon and grease after you take the pan off the heat. Stir. Add to potato soup. Stir until creamy.
Serves 2 - 4.

Johnny Cake Corn Bread

2 eggs
2/3 cup sugar
4 tsp baking powder
2 tsp salt
5 tbsp melted butter
2 cups sour milk
2 cups flour
2 cups yellow corn meal
1 tsp soda

Beat eggs and sour milk in bowl. In another bowl, combine dry ingredients. Add to first mixture. Beat. Add melted butter. Beat. Bake in greased 9 x 13 pan at 400° for 22 min.
Serves 8.

Taco Soup

2 lbs. hamburger
1 med. green pepper, chopped
2 pkgs. taco seasoning (hot or mild)
2 cans tomatoes, chopped
1 med. onion, chopped
2 cans chili beans
1 qt. V-8 tomato juice
Brown hamburger, onion and green pepper. Add chili beans, taco seasoning (hot or mild), V-8 tomato juice and 2 cans of tomatoes. Simmer 45 min. to 1 hr. Serve in bread bowls or soup bowls. Crush corn chips into bowl, add sour cream and cheddar cheese, then add soup.

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"Classic" coffins are built with oak, pine and even plywood sides and tops.

"Classic" Coffin Cuts Costs

With common steel caskets costing thousands of dollars, Milton Lampe decided to offer grieving families an alternative. He builds classic wood coffins with oak, pine and even plywood sides and tops. They look nice and are priced under \$1,000.

"All too often when a person dies, the mortician talks the loved ones into spending \$6,000 to \$7,000 on a casket," says Lampe.

A furniture maker and wood craftsman by trade, Lampe started building caskets at the request of native Americans in Oklahoma. "They didn't have the money for expensive caskets, and they wanted something that would break down faster and return their bodies to the earth," he explains. "They just wanted a plain pine box so they could line it with their own blankets and quilts."

Lampe suggests that people interested in wood caskets check on laws in their state as well as rules of the cemetery association where they wish to be buried.

A full-size oak casket runs \$850. A pine casket sells for \$600. All are available stained or in a natural finish. They have carpet-covered styrofoam padding, wood handles and are held together with brass screws. All caskets, including smaller child and baby-size units, are made with half doors.

Lampe also makes wooden caskets for pets. A friend planning to be cremated asked for one the size of a tissue box.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Milton Lampe, Lampe Wood Caskets & Crafts, 250 Birch St., Saint Francis, Kan. 67756 (ph 785 332-3119; email: mlampe@kans.com).



Leihgeber pours hot water into pvc pipe (see arrow) which is buried at root-level and runs the full length of elevated tomato bed. Since taking this photo, he has removed the cattle panels. He uses wood crossbars instead.

Raised Heated Tomato Bed

When "Tomato Man Joe" of Williamsburg, Ohio – also known as Joe Leihgeber – plants his tomato plants, he gets started early. "I start my seeds in the greenhouse March 15th and by April 15th, the plants are ready to transplant," he says.

He then moves the plants into a homemade heated tomato bed he set up on top of a pea gravel base.

The bed frame consists of a 3 by 16-ft. base made from 2 by 8's, with 2 by 4 cross pieces underneath to keep it from sinking downward.

There are 6-ft. long 2 by 4 uprights at either end and at the middle with boards on top to hold everything together.

Inside the base frame, Leihgeber laid down 2 pieces of 3 in. dia. plastic pipe that run the length of the bed and are joined by elbows at the end, forming a big loop. Then he put an upright fill pipe at one end and a drain hole at the other. "Every night I pour hot water in the pipes and leave it in all night. Then, the next morning, I drain the water out and refill it with hot water again. I do this till the weather warms up. This helps them get off to a healthy start," he says.

The bed is filled with a mix of compost and dirt and wood crossbars are attached around the outside for the tomatoes to grow on.

He wraps the whole bed with plastic if the weather gets bad.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joe Leihgeber, 1815 Bardwell West, Williamsburg, Ohio 45176 (ph 937 444-4835; email: Josephql2@aol.com).

FARM SHOW®

New Products Especially For Women And The Farm, Ranch Home

"Lazy Man's" Fishing Pole

"It catches the fish for you. All you have to do is reel it in," says Robert Leaders, Neola, Iowa, about his new "lazy man's" fishing pole holder.

The "Lazy Fisherman" works on much the same principle as a spring-loaded mouse trap and can be used for both bank fishing and ice fishing. It keeps your fishing rod secure in a horizontal position. Once a fish bites, the rod snaps upward to almost a vertical position.

The unit consists of a metal bracket equipped with a pair of stakes that you poke into the ground or ice. The fishing pole rests in a metal tube. The line is threaded out through a pressure-sensitive trigger and a lever flips down across the rod. When a fish pulls on the line, the trigger flips the lever up out of the way and a built-in spring snaps the fishing rod up to a near-vertical position, setting the hook.

"It really works neat," says Leaders. "I use it all summer long on my property, where I have a cabin that's about 100 yards from a pond. I can look out the window and see when I've caught a fish. A fish can pull on the spring-loaded rod all night long without breaking the line or pulling the rod out of the holder. The spring can be set at three different tensions depending on the size of fish you're going after."

Leaders also likes to ice fish. "I use a cordless drill with a 1/2-in. dia. bit to drill two holes in the ice, then set everything up just like I would when bank fishing," he notes. Sells for \$39.95 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Leaders, 25625 295th St., Neola, Iowa 51559 (ph 712 566-2045; email: rclhomes@msn.com).



"Lazy Fisherman" keeps your fishing rod secure in a horizontal position.



Once a fish bites, rod snaps upward to almost a vertical position.

Bungee Jump Squirrel Feeder

Love 'em or hate 'em, you'll like this new feeder that makes squirrels "work" for their food while entertaining you at the same time.

Called a Squegee, it's a bungee-type spring-loaded metal cable that you attach to a tree or bird feeder pole. Two corn cobs screw to eye hooks at the end of the cable. When squirrels jump on the corn, they bounce up and down and swing back and forth as they eat.

Scott Shultz, the Eagan, Minn. inventor, says the feeder keeps squirrels away from bird feeders. "I always say to put them about 10 ft. away from the bird feeders. They can't resist it," he says.

While exhibiting at the Minnesota State Fair last fall, someone asked him how to keep the bluejays off the squirrel feeder. He didn't know. "It's one thing to get the squirrels off your bird feeder but another to get the birds off your squirrel feeder," he jokes.

Sells for \$16.95 plus S&H. Shultz also sells a video cassette of five choreographed musical segments with "Squegee Squirrels" that repeats throughout the 30-min. tape for \$4.95.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, BellSong Products, 3432 Denmark Ave. #45, Eagan, Minn. 55123 (ph 651 699-6500; email: bellsong1@msn.com; website: www.squegee.bigstep.com).



Squirrels bounce up and down and swing back and forth as they eat.