

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.

Corn Soup

6 ears sweet corn, uncooked
1 tsp tapioca
1 qt milk
1 hard-boiled egg
1 tbsp butter

Grate corn. Mix with tapioca. Add a bit of water and boil for 1/2 hr. Add milk and butter. Put in serving bowl and add egg, chopped fine.

Facial Scrub Cleanser

2 tbsp uncooked oats
2 drops lavender oil
Water

Grind oats in clean coffee grinder. In palm of your hand, add water, little by little to make paste, adding essential oil at the end. Gently apply to face in an upward motion to clean and exfoliate skin, avoiding eyes. Rinse with water.

Tomato Pie

2 cups Bisquick
2/3 cup milk
1 cup mayo
Tomatoes
Basil
Oregano
Parmesan cheese.

Mix Bisquick and milk to make crust. Spread evenly in greased casserole dish. Slice tomatoes and put one layer on crust. Sprinkle with basil, oregano and cheese. Repeat layers as desired. Spread mayo on top. Bake 45 min. at 350°.

Cheesecake Dip

3 oz. cream cheese
2 tbsp sugar
3 tbsp milk
2 cups Cool Whip
1 tsp vanilla

Beat cheese, sugar and milk until smooth. Fold in Cool Whip and vanilla. Use to dip fruit.

Kentucky Potatoes

2 cups thin-sliced potatoes
3/4 tsp salt
1/8 tsp pepper
1 1/4 cup milk
3 tbsp butter

Let potatoes stand in chilled water for 1/2 hr. Drain well and place in casserole dish. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Add milk and bake at 350° for 1 hr. Turn into a serving dish and dot with butter.

Leaf Spring Garden Trowel

"Over the years I've made dozens of these tools for family and friends. They're virtually indestructible," says James Olds, Pleasant Hill, Tenn., who recently sent FARM SHOW photos of garden trowels he makes out of automotive leaf springs.

He starts with a leaf spring that has a slight arc to it and tapers down to a sharp edge to serve as the trowel's blade. He cuts a few inches off the end of the spring and then welds a water pipe onto it to form a handle. He flattens the last inch of the pipe, and then welds both the front and back sides of the pipe where it overlaps the spring. If the pipe isn't already threaded he cuts threads into one end, then slides a foam handle grip over the pipe and screws on an end cap to make the tool more comfortable on the hand.

"I came up with the idea because my wife is an avid gardener, and over the years I bought her a variety of the best trowels I could find. However, she always ended up bending or breaking them. I decided to make her a trowel that would last," says Olds. "She uses the trowel to dig holes when planting flowers and to dig out any plants that she wants to move. She also uses it to remove weeds, to edge around flower beds, and to pry out stones, stumps, and roots. She hasn't bent or broken one of my trowels yet."

The foam grip tended to slide down the handle. To solve the problem he paints the handle, slides the grip on, and then lets the paint dry.

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Leaf spring trowels have water pipe "handles" welded to them.



Low-cost "chair fence" is made using the U-shaped frames off old aluminum lawn chairs.

Garden Fence Made From Lawn Chairs

"I wanted a garden fence to keep out critters, but I didn't want to spend a lot of money. So I made a fence out of old aluminum lawn chairs that are easy to remove in sections to get into the garden," says Bernie Coulthurst, Amherst, Wis. He recently sent FARM SHOW photos of his 20 by 40-ft. "chair fence."

"I get the chairs free from relatives or at local rummage sales," says Coulthurst. He uses a sawzall to cut the chairs apart and keeps just the U-shaped frames, which he covers with chicken wire. After hammering tent pegs into the open ends of the frames he sticks them into the ground, then uses wire ties to connect the frames together.

"It isn't quite as pretty as a new commercial fence, but it cost almost nothing and it works," says Coulthurst. "I've used this idea for more than 10 years, and each year I add a few more frames to the fence. The chicken wire I use comes in rolls 24 in. wide, and if the chair frames are narrower than that, I simply splice them together. The frames can stand on their own, but I find that tying them together gives the entire wall more strength. I use short lengths of wire to attach the chicken wire to the frames. Every individual frame can be used as a gate. I just remove the ties and pull out the frame."

Coulthurst says he came up with the idea because he always had a problem keeping critters, especially rabbits, out of his garden. "Every year they would eat my beets, cauliflower, cabbage, melons, etc. I could have put up a semi-permanent fence, but they're expensive and it would be difficult to pull out weeds from along the fence. I can pull out one frame at a time and pull out the weeds, and then put the frame back."

Coulthurst has another use for the frames. "In the fall, I put the frames around my carrot patch and add leaves about 2 ft. deep to keep the carrots from freezing. The leaves keep the ground from freezing, so whenever my wife needs fresh carrots during the winter I just go out and dig some up. The portable fence not only tells me where to dig, but also keeps the leaves from blowing around. The carrots that I dig up during the winter are sweet and juicy, much better than the ones in the store."

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Rusty Davidson carves tables, chairs and sinks out of solid stone.

He Specializes In Carved Stone Furniture

Looking for a little different décor? How about these tables, chairs and sinks carved out of solid stone.

The pieces are hand-carved on the Indonesian island of Java and imported to North America by Rusty Davidson at Black Diamond Gallery in Alberta. "My prices for sinks start at around \$450 while chairs or tables start at \$1,900," says Davidson.

Due to the weight of the merchandise, Davidson says customers must pick up orders.

His gallery is actually more well-known for intricately-carved teak wood tables, chairs, benches and other carvings, which he also imports in larger volumes from Indonesia. For example, some of the teak carvings such as horse statues can take up to ten months to carve.

"All the pieces, including both the stone furniture and the teak wood can be put outside on the deck, gardens, around the yard. They're also functional to use in the house along with being nice art work for your home," Davidson says. "Teak doesn't rot and if it's buried in the ground, it would, after thousands of years, eventually turn into petrified wood, which is like stone."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Black Diamond Gallery, Rusty Davidson, P.O. Box 970, Black Diamond, Alta., Canada T0L 0H0 (ph 403 933-5356; cell ph 208 265-9985; rustyteakroots@hotmail.com; www.blackdiamondgallery.com).

Baby's Corn Suit

Baby Jack Wenzelbach is the apple of his family's eye and the corn cob bunting bag in his wardrobe, knit by his mom, really gives away his farming roots. Parents Emily Metcalf and Spencer Wenzelbach, Bowmanville, Ont. enjoyed dressing Jack as a baby-sized "ear of corn" for Halloween.

Emily got the free pattern from the Lionbrand Yarn website (www.lionbrand.com) and used sportweight yarns, knit with a popcorn stitch for the yellow (creating the corn kernel texture), and a vertical pattern combining the knit and pearl stitches to make the green husk.

