

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

Tasty Catsup

2 cups vinegar
1 peck tomatoes
4 large onions
3 tbs salt
3 cups sugar
2 tbs ground mustard
1 tbs allspice
1 tbs cinnamon
1 tbs paprika
1 tbs red pepper

Tie spices in a cloth. Put ripe tomatoes through blender and strain through a sieve. Add vinegar and spices and boil until thick.

Grandma Hanchett

Chocolate Soap

16 oz. unscented soap base, such as shea butter soap
6 oz. dark chocolate, melted
2 tbs chocolate extract
Seeds of 1 vanilla bean

Put soap base in a microwave-safe bowl. Melt until liquid. Stir in chocolate, chocolate extract, and vanilla bean seeds. Mix until all ingredients are combined. Pour mixture into soap molds or 9-in. cake pan and allow soap to set to room temperature. Then break into pieces or cut out shapes with cookie cutter, and wrap individually. "Chocolate Bliss", by *Susie Morris*

Coffee Pudding

1 1/2 qts. milk
1 cup sugar
3 tsp instant coffee
1 cup clear gel thickener
1 tbs vanilla
1 tbs butter
8 oz. Cool Whip

Bring milk and sugar to a boil. Do not stir. Add remaining ingredients and stir in with a wire whisk. Turn heat off and add vanilla and butter. Cool, do not stir while cooling. After cooled, add Cool Whip. Delicious and easy to make.

Nancy Hoover

Sausage Cake

1 lb. bulk sausage
1 cup chopped dates
2 cups sugar
1 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp allspice
1 tsp nutmeg

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Hall's 4-wheeled steel hose reel is chain-driven by add-on gear reduction motor.

Powered Garden Hose Reel

"I had owned two factory-made plastic power reels but both kept failing because of stripped gears. They were too small to handle my 175 ft. of garden hose. So I decided to build my own powered garden hose reel," says Kenneth Hall, Purvy, Mo.

He bought a 4-wheeled steel hose reel unit from Northern Tool and a gear reduction motor from Surplus Center (www.surpluscenter.com). He made a metal bracket to mount the motor at one end of the reel and mounted a sprocket on the motor. Then he removed the reel's original crank handle and mounted another sprocket on it.

"The motor chain-drives the reel at about 60 rpm's and handles the 175 ft. of hose very well," says Hall.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kenneth Hall, 9245 Farm Road 2060, Purvy, Mo. 65734 (ph 417 442-3843).



A sprocket mounts in place of reel's original crank handle.

Post-Mounted Garden Hose Reel

C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill., clamped his plastic garden hose reel to a pair of steel posts, which are set in the ground next to a water hydrant.

"The hose reel was originally designed to be mounted on a flat base. But mounting the reel vertically raises the hose crank to waist level, where it's much easier to operate," says Marley. "And if I want I can easily move the hose reel to another water hydrant on our farm."

Clamping the hose reel to the posts was a simple job. He set the posts a few in. apart in the ground, then drilled a couple holes through two 1-in. boards and ran threaded bolts through the base of the hose reel and also through the holes. The reel's base is clamped to the "bumpy" side of the post, which helps it stay put.

"The plastic base was showing signs of fatigue and would have eventually failed. To prevent that from happening I added a metal strap across the top of the base," says Marley.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, C.F. Marley, 26288 Oconee Ave., Nokomis, Ill. 62075 (ph 217 563-2588).



Marley's son-in-law Doug Tarrant demonstrates hose reel setup.

Hillside Winch Mower

"I came up with a method of attaching a 22-in. push mower to the side of my garden tractor to cut grass on steep hillsides. It does the job and entertains the neighbors at the same time," says Fred Will, Merrill, Wis.

Will bolted a boat winch onto the rear fender of his Simplicity 14 hp garden tractor and bolted a seat belt anchor to each side of the push mower. Then he made up a 15-in. long chain with a hook at each end, and attached one end to the anchor on the mower and the other end to the winch.

"I drive the garden tractor along the top of the hillside so that the mower follows along below me. When I reach the other end I make a U turn to bring the mower back up. Then I get off the tractor and hook the chain up to the anchor on the opposite side of the mower. I also crank the winch again to lower the mower so I can make another pass. It takes about three turns of the winch crank to lower the mower far enough to cover a new swath.

"I came up with the idea because we have a 20-ft. steep hill in front of our house, and I didn't want anyone trying to mow it and get hurt."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fred A. Will, W4889 Pope Road, Merrill, Wis. 54452 (ph 715 536-8940).

FARM SHOW®

New
Products
For The
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"Side Threading" Sewing Needle

Threading a needle is easy with the new Spiral Eye needle, even if your eyesight is shot. The new sewing needle has a slot on the side of the eye.

You simply drape the thread over the shaft of the needle and pinch the thread to form a snug loop around the shaft. Then move your fingers, holding the thread slowly along the needle toward the eye. Stop when you feel the thread "catch" in the slot, and then tug the thread into the groove. Move the thread toward the point and then back around the "tongue" and into the eye.

Various sizes of the needle are available.

A set of four popular sized needles in a book cover/case sells for \$25.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, PST Innovations, Creator of the Spiral Eye Needle, P.O. Box 49605, Blaine, Minn. 55449 (ph 952 240-6531; www.spiralneedles.com).



Sewing needle has slot on side of eye, making it easier to thread.

Waterproof Nylon Overalls

"They are great for calving; you don't get all sticky and wet," says Cheryl Mohn, inventor of Udder Tech waterproof overalls that can be washed and dried like regular clothing. She knows about calving and other chores, because she and her husband, Bruce, own a dairy farm.

In 1994, she made a towel tote for herself to hold towels and dip to prep cows for milking, and she soon discovered others were also interested in her products. Since then the former home economics teacher has developed a whole line of agricultural clothing, including the waterproof bibbed overalls, pants and jackets. She contracts to have them sewn by local seamstresses.

Made of Taslan nylon, the clothing has a waterproof coating that keeps moisture from penetrating. Farmers like to slip on the roomy overalls for calving, powerwashing the parlor and farm machinery, and other chores where they get wet and dirty. In colder weather, they slip the overalls over insulated outerwear because it's easier to wash the overalls. Her overalls' design includes an inside zippered cell phone pocket. Adjustable straps allow people of all heights to wear the overalls, which have a zipper fly.

Mohn also sells children's overalls.

"They are great for kids washing their animals at the fair," she says, as well as playing outside when it's muddy.

Her biggest seller is her waterproof apron, usually worn by men and women who milk cows. Milking sleeves are also popular.

Besides farmers, Udder Tech sells to veterinarians, hoof trimmers, farriers and others in agriculture-related industries including hog operations.

Adult bibbed overalls range from \$42 to \$53; children's cost from \$22 to \$42. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Udder Tech, Inc., 27605 Pillsbury Avenue, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 888 438-8683 or 952 461-2890; www.uddertechinc.com).



Waterproof overalls can be washed and dried like regular clothing.