

## Reader Recipes

### Hashbrown Potato Soup

1 bag (30 to 32 oz.) hashbrowns  
16 oz. cream cheese  
6 cups water  
7 tsp chicken bouillon  
1/2 cup onion  
2 cups ham chopped  
1 tsp garlic powder  
1 tsp dillweed

Mix all together in crockpot and cook on high for 4 to 5 hrs.

*Eileen Athey  
Chokio, Minn.*

### Saltine Cracker Cookies

2 sticks butter  
1 cup sugar  
1 tsp vanilla  
12 oz. package chocolate chips  
Walnuts, cashews, or peanuts - whichever you prefer  
Saltine crackers

Stir butter and sugar together, cook to syrup consistency (not too long. Just until it's a tan color.) Add 1 tsp vanilla to syrup. Line jelly roll pan with foil and coat with butter. Lay saltine crackers flat in bottom of pan. One sleeve of crackers should cover pan. Spread syrup over crackers. Bake in 350° oven about 5 min. Sprinkle chocolate chips over top. Spread over top of crackers with spatula. Top with nuts. Press nuts into chocolate. Refrigerate 1 hr.

### Fruit Pie

2 cups rhubarb  
1 cup blueberries  
1 cup raspberries  
1 1/2 tsp clear jel  
3 tbsp flour  
1 1/4 cups sugar  
2 tbsp lemon juice  
Pie crust for top and bottom of pie

Combine all ingredients and pour into crust. Bake at 450° for 15 min. then at 375° for 50 min. Cool well before you cut. We like this pie so much I freeze fruit in pre-measured quantities so it's easy to make in winter.

*Leona Matz,  
Galeton, Penn.*

### Beer Batter

2 cups flour  
1 tsp salt  
2 eggs (slightly beaten)  
1/2 cup salad oil  
2 tsp baking powder  
1 tsp garlic salt  
2 cups beer

Mix all together, let batter sit for a minute or two. Coat fish, onion rings, or mushrooms with flour and dip in batter, then fry.

## Ford Parts Used To Create "Man's Bathroom"

The sign by the door says "Office" but the half moon in the frosted glass of the storm door is the real indication of what's inside. Auto mechanic and Ford fanatic Dave Rakers took his work and sense of humor home when he created his "Man's Bathroom" complete with a bumper and grill off an early 1990's Ford F-150 pickup.

"My wife said I could do whatever I wanted with it," he says of his space in the couple's laundry/mud room. "I had limited space so I couldn't put in a regular sink."

He made the best of the narrow area by installing a stainless steel bowl on a bumper attached to the wall on brackets he built and lag screwed into the wall studs. He cut a hole in the bowl and hooked up a drain. The grill over the sink adds to the ambience and serves as a shelf. A rear view mirror adds the final touch amid auto decals and signs decorating the walls.

Rakers had all the auto parts and only had to purchase the faucets and plumbing parts to complete the bathroom.

"I used my father-in-law's old license plates to make my wife happy," Rakers says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Rakers, 107 Main St., Ohlman, Ill. 62076 (ph 217 622-4918).



Auto mechanic and Ford fanatic Dave Rakers created this "Man's Bathroom" complete with a bumper and grill off an early 1990's Ford F-150 pickup.



Metal jar lid with hole cut into it is nailed over bird house entrance.

## Squirrel-Proof A Bird House

"Pesky squirrels often take over bird houses regardless of how the houses are mounted or hung. They chew the 1 1/2-in. dia. entrance hole larger and then move in," says Wayne Beggs, Lincolnton, Ga.

To solve the problem, he used tin snips to cut a 1 1/2-in. dia. hole in a used Kerr ball jar lid and then nailed the lid over the bird house entrance using 5/8-in. brads.

"Most any metal jar lid will work. The hardest part is cutting the lid because it's so thin. The edge that's cut should be smoothed out with a small rat tail file in order to prevent injury to birds," notes Beggs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wayne A. Beggs, 3378 Augusta Hwy., Lincolnton, Ga. 30817 (ph 706 359-1240).



One-piece Cima ladder is made from a carbon fiber composite and weighs less than 2 1/2 lbs., making it easy to transport.

## Revolutionary New Ladder Design

This might be the first redesign of the ladder since it first came on the scene thousands of years ago.

Barcelona, Spain-based designers Sergio Mahler and George Papadogiannis developed the Cima Ladder, a one-piece ladder made from a carbon fiber composite.

Weighing less than 2 1/2 lbs., the ladder is easy to transport and strong enough to support your weight. The ladder probably won't be practical for painting or doing other work, though, as you can never have both feet at the same level — one leg will always be lower than the other. How fun would it be to paint your whole house with support for just one foot?

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, (www.cimaladder.com).

# FARM SHOW®

## New Products For The Farm, Ranch Home

### "Dam" Keeps Sliced Pie Fresh

Freshly sliced pies tend to ooze after you make that first cut. This new pie dam slips into place when you cut the first piece of pie, containing the soft filling and keeping the sliced edge fresh.

It consists of a pair of hinged, 4-in. silicone "wings" that easily adjust to any angle and open to 8 in. Also works great for tarts, casseroles and other baked goods.

Dishwasher safe, the tool fits most 8 and 9-in. pans.

A set of 2 pie dams sells for \$8.95 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, King Arthur Flour, 135 U.S. Route 5 South, Norwich, Vt. 05055 (ph 800 827-6836 or 802 649-3361; www.kingarthurfour.com).



Adjustable, hinged "wings" on pie dam contain pie's soft filling and keep the sliced edges fresh.



Stress Crack Tape works great for fixing drywall cracks, as it flexes with the crack and stays intact.

## Tape Offers Quick, Easy Drywall Fix

Stress Crack Tape is a simple way to fix drywall cracks. Simply clean the surface, smooth the tape over the crack or imperfection and paint. Or, for a more finished look, skim the tape edge lightly with drywall joint compound.

"The material is very thin, but tough and strong. You can't punch your thumb through it," says former painter Jerry Brower, who developed the tape for contractors and do-it-yourselfers. The feathered edges help it blend in, especially on textured walls. The patented, U.S.-made material flexes with the crack and stays intact.

Stress Crack Tape comes in rolls: \$21.68 (including shipping) for a 50-ft. roll of 2-in. tape (textured or smooth) that can be used on inside and outside corners, \$29.76 for 100 ft. of narrower 1 1/2-in. wide tape, and other lengths and widths. A variety of packages of strips and patches are also available to cover bad cuts around things such as switch plates and cable connections as well as holes up to 3 in. in diameter.

Brower noted that customers come up with other uses for the tape as well. Someone ordered rolls to cover paneling seams so that he could paint over it and have a level surface.

Stress Crack Tape is available through Brower's StepSaver Products website, at Home Depot and through Sherman Williams retailers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, StepSaver Products, 6401 Northwest Lincoln Ave., Vancouver, Wash. 98663 (ph 888 778-4537; www.stepsavers.com).