Reader **Recipes**

Easy Corn Pudding

2 cups whole kernel 1 tbsp flour 2 eggs 3/4 cup milk 3 tbsp sugar

3/4 tsp salt 1/2 stick margarine

Place all ingredients in blender. Mix 10 sec. on high speed. Pour into a well-greased baking dish. Bake for 45 min. at 375°. If doubling recipe, cook for 55 to 60 min. Sandra Tyndall, Delmar, Md.

Carrot Bread

2 eggs

1/2 cup vegetable oil 1 cup carrots, grated

1 cup sugar 1 tsp baking powder

1 tsp soda

1 tsp cinnamon

1/4 tsp nutmeg

1/2 cup nuts, chopped 1/2 cup raisins, optional Pinch of salt

1 1/2 cups flour

In a large mixing bowl, beat eggs, oil and carrots. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Pour into greased 9 by 5 or 8 by 4 pan. Bake at 350° for 45 min. to 1 hr., or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool on rack for 10 min. then remove from pan to finish cooling. Serve with softened cream cheese. Shirley Ross. Alexandria, Minn.

Peach Meatloaf

1 lb. ground beef 1 egg

1/2 cup milk

1/4 cup chopped onion

1 cup soft bread crumbs 1 tsp salt

1 pinch pepper

2 peaches, pealed and sliced

1 tbsp vinegar

1 tbsp ketchup

1/4 cup brown sugar

Preheat oven to 350°. In a medium bowl, mix together the ground beef, egg, milk, onion, bread crumbs, salt and pepper. Press into a 9-in. pie pan like a pie crust. Prick meat all over using a fork. Bake for 25 to 30 min. Remove from oven and pour off excess fat. Arrange the sliced peaches over the beef. Mix together vinegar, ketchup, brown sugar and spoon over top of peaches. Bake for an additional 20 min. Let stand for 10 min. before serving.

Tool Cleans Dryer Vent Pipe

"Our clothes dryer was running longer and longer and not getting my jeans dry," says Kenny Ranta. "I figured the vent pipe was plugged but I needed a way to clean out the 21-ft. long, 4-in. dia. pipe."

He decided to attach welding rods to the end of a pvc pipe. "I drilled 3 holes in the end of the pipe, slipped the rods in and twisted the ends back so the rounded rod would hit the sides of the dryer vent pipe," says Ranta. "At first they twisted to the side, so I used a hot glue gun to fix them in place."

The welding rod scrubber worked great as Ranta twisted it inside the vent pipe. However, his wrists soon tired. He then discovered that simply rubbing the pvc pipe shaft back and forth between his hands provided sufficient cleaning without the pain.

"It was like a blue snowstorm of jean lint coming out of the vent pipe," recalls Ranta.

He notes that the heat from the dryer gradually softened the glue. Once the scrubber was pulled out of the pipe, the glue quickly firmed up again.

"I started with a 10-ft. length of pvc pipe

and added a coupling and a second 10-ft. length to scrub out the entire length of the vent pipe," says Ranta. "I drilled a hole through the coupling and the second pipe and used a bolt to hold them together. It's easy to take them apart when I finish."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kenneth Ranta, 1711 Wornall Rd., Excelsior Springs, Mo. 64024 (ph 816 536-6320; kiranta1@yahoo.com).



GreenJeans chaps have built-in knee pads with restraining straps that are worn loosely to avoid cutting off circulation in the back of the leg.

Garden Chaps Have Built-In Knee Pads

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

Thanks to Dan Vorhis' farm and garden chaps, I no longer have to bash my knees on rocks, concrete, and hard wood floors. They're light, comfortable and made of amazing material that looks like it'll last forever.

"With standard knee pads, you have to cinch them tight to the leg above and below the knee," says Vorhis, Muscle and Arm Farm, a fruit and vegetable farm. "When you bend the knee, they cut off circulation in the back of the $leg.\,My\,Green Jeans\,chaps\,have\,restraining\,straps, but\,they\,are\,worn\,loosely."$

Vorhis got the idea for his chaps while on his knees in his garlic plot. Frustrated with standard knee pads, he first thought about hanging knee pads from his belt. From there he went to attaching them to fabric hanging from his belt.

"I realized I was reinventing chaps with knee pads," says Vorhis.

Vorhis has invented and markets multiple products, not always to the market he expected. "We designed the chaps for gardeners and landscapers, but they've been adopted by builders, electricians, drywall installers, painters and more, anyone who works on their knees," says Vorhis.

Formerly a product developer with outdoor retailer REI, Vorhis had worked with many different types of fabric. He selected 1,000-denier textured nylon as being most abrasion resistant with superior wear properties. He says it is 50 to 90 times more abrasion resistant than heavy denim. Edges are double stitched and reinforced at stretch points.

"We could have made them into pants, but with this material, they would have been too hot," says Vorhis. "The chaps allow plenty of airflow. They are quick on and off over pants and boots and let you leave collected dirt at the door, not on the floor."

The pads are 1-in. thick, closed cell polyethylene (PE) foam. PE foam is impervious to mildew, mold and bacteria and is chemical and grease resistant.

The chaps do have restraints above and below the knee. However, they are not tight and do not restrict blood flow in any way. In fact, until you kneel in the garden chaps, the pads hang slightly below the kneecap. It is





Joe McHale's starter kit makes it easy to get started making your

"Make Your Own" Maple Syrup

Ever thought about tapping a couple maple trees in your yard, but didn't know how? You might want to check out www.tapmytrees.com. Joe McHale, owner of the website, makes it easy to get started with simple online tutorials, a book, and a do-it-vourself kit.

"I liken it to the beer brewing kits. This will get you started. If you like it, you can grow and add to it," McHale explains.

The website is the culmination of his own experience starting eight years ago - learning about gathering sap and boiling it down to make maple syrup with his children.

"When I did it and told others, they wanted to do it," he says. "It's a fun thing to get people out of the house in late winter."

McHale's first tip is to start small with just 3 trees, which is enough to produce about a gallon of syrup from 40 gal. of sap.

"My second piece of advice is to plan to boil the sap outside," he says.

There is lots of information at the website in 4 tutorials and McHale also wrote a book that is included with the starter kits he sells. The buckets, stainless steel taps, and other items start at \$87. To encourage teachers to tap trees, McHale offers a less expensive kit for \$75.

"I'm really trying to get the home schooling community involved. So many lessons apply - science, math, history of Native Americans gathering sap, cooking. It's the perfect thing for homeschooling," he says.

McHale has only made maple syrup in the Connecticut area, but the kits and lessons apply to gathering birch and walnut sap as well.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joe McHale, Tap My Trees LLC, 268 Simpaug Turnpike, Suite 125, Redding, Conn. 06896 (ph 888 990-9948; www. tapmytrees.com; info@tapmytrees.com).

only when you kneel that they rise up and into place to protect the knee.

The tough material should come in handy when working in woodlots and brambles as well. This coming summer, I expect to give them a real trial.

Vorhis has clear instructions on his website for how to match legs and waist to the 4 sizes of chaps offered. He sized mine over the phone with a measurement

We have sizes that fit about 90 percent of our customers," says Vorhis. "However, if we don't, I'll modify one that will fit."

Vorhis sells his GreenJeans chaps for \$59.95 with free shipping in the continental

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Muscle and Arm Farm, 21910 State Route 525, Freeland, Wash. 98249 (ph 360 331-5242 or toll free 800 443-2607; dvorhis@ whidbey.com; www.MuscleAndArmFarm.com).