

Reader Recipes

Easy Mint Ice Cream

14-oz. can sweetened condensed milk
1 tsp peppermint extract
2 cups heavy cream
6 oz. semisweet chocolate, chopped
2 York peppermint patties, chopped

Combine condensed milk and peppermint extract in bowl. In a separate mixing bowl, use a mixer to beat cream on high until stiff peaks form. Gently fold whipped cream into milk mixture. Sprinkle in chocolate and peppermint patty pieces. Smooth into 4 1/2 by 8 1/2-in. loaf pan and freeze until firm.

Rachel Johnson
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Dirt Salad

1/2 stick butter
3 1/4 cups milk
1 cup powdered sugar
16 oz. Cool Whip
8 oz. cream cheese
1 16-oz. package Oreo cookies, crushed
2 small pkgs. instant vanilla pudding

Beat butter, sugar and cream cheese together until smooth. Whisk pudding and milk together for 2 min. in a large bowl and let stand 2 min. or until soft-set. Gradually stir into cream cheese mixture and fold in whipped topping. Spread 1 1/3 cups of crushed cookies into ungreased 9 by 13 dish. Layer with half of pudding mixture and repeat layers. Refrigerate for at least 1 hr.

Pickled Eggs

12 hard-boiled eggs
3 cups white vinegar
2 tsp sugar
1 tsp salt
1/2 tsp mustard seed
4 whole cloves
2 bay leaves

Put shelled eggs in wide-mouth glass jar. Boil other ingredients. Cool mixture slightly, then pour over eggs. Place jar in refrigerator and eat after a week.

Baked Olives

1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
3 tbsp butter, softened
1/2 cup flour
1 small jar green olives
Mix cheese, butter and flour together and wrap around green olives that have been drained. Bake at 350° for 15 min.



Jeff Hoard used scrap plywood and a used plastic protein tub to make this self-feeder for his 3 dogs.

Self-Feeder For Dogs

Tired of multiple dog dishes, twice a day feeding and occasional spills that attracted birds and other pests, Jeff Hoard made a self-feeder for his 3 dogs. Now his dogs decide when and how much to eat with virtually no waste.

"I saw a self feeder for dogs at a neighboring farm years ago and finally decided to build one," says Hoard. "I used scrap plywood and a used plastic protein tub."

Hoard cut the plywood to match the top of the tub with a 1-in. overhang on the access side. He then cut the plywood in half, added hinges to the 2 sides, and screwed the smaller half to the rim of the tub.

"The plywood needs to be lightweight, 3/8-in. is about right," says Hoard. "I added a strip of stiff plastic to the access side and overlapped the fixed side. It provides just enough resistance to keep the lid from flipping clear over when dogs get a little overzealous opening the lid."

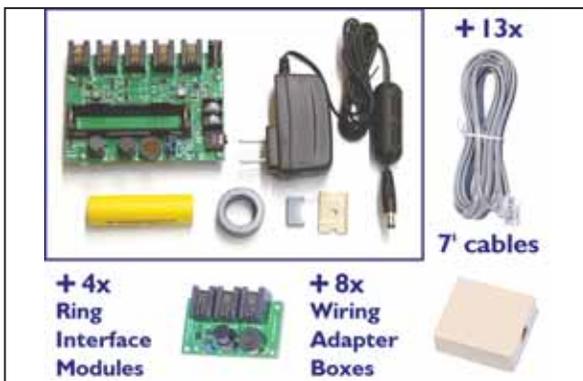
While the whole project only took about 45 min., teaching the dogs to use it took more than a week. For the first few days, the lid was left open so they learned the food was in the tub. Hoard then used a small piece of 4 by 4 to keep the door partly open. After a few days he replaced the 4 by 4 with a 2 by 2. A few days later it was removed, and the dogs began to push the lid open on their own.

"Our 3-year old caught on right away, soon followed by the 5-year old," says Hoard. "The last dog, an 8-year old, seemed like a real 'cement head', but finally caught on. After watching their behavior, my wife Karen and I both agreed that the older dog wasn't dumber than the other two, just more stubborn."

Hoard says the food stays much cleaner than in an open dog dish, as rodents and birds can't get to it. The feeder holds a lot of dog food so it doesn't have to be filled as often, and the dogs eat a little whenever they are hungry.

Hoard shares his creative scrounging ideas and projects on his DVD titled Hillbilly Heaven, available on his website.

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Self-contained, private phone system comes with a control base with battery, and one or more ringers to be used with standard landline phone handsets.

How To Set Up Your Own Private Phone System

If you want to ensure privacy when talking to family members or co-workers on the farm, talk to Tom Baugh. He can fix you up with everything you need to set up your own self-contained, private phone system.

"You can wire a phone system between buildings or neighbors if you wish," says Baugh. "I've even had customers set them up between a hunting cabin and tree stands."

Baugh explains that phone company systems operate around a central exchange system. He offers a control base with a battery and one or more ringers to be used with standard landline phone handsets.

"The host module provides the power and generates the calls," says Baugh. "It can work across quarter mile distances with the battery charged by solar panels, wall outlets or other sources. The ring interface module lets you connect



New Products For The Farm, Ranch Home



Electric motor shaft-drives impeller at bottom of corn planter hopper, allowing food to drop through attached plastic tube and into tray.



Fromelt built a wood box for an electronic timer and installed a 15-watt light bulb inside it to keep timer from freezing.

Automatic Outdoor Cat Feeder

Herbie Fromelt, Royalton, Minn., came up with an automatic outdoor cat feeder that allows his family to leave the family's 3 cats for days, and eliminates the need to feed the cats when they're home. It plugs into an electronic timer connected to a small electric motor.

"It's raccoon-proof. They can't get food out of it and they can't damage it," says Fromelt. "I built it because I couldn't find an outdoor model with enough capacity for 3 cats for several days. It holds enough food for one feeding a day for almost 3 weeks. When the cats hear the motor start up, they come running."

The food is stored in a discarded fiberglass insecticide hopper off an old corn planter, which mounts on an angle iron stand. An electric motor shaft-drives an impeller at the bottom of the hopper, allowing the food to drop into an attached 20-in. long, 4-in. dia. plastic tube off a Toro leaf blower-vac. The food falls into a tray on the floor.

The electronic timer releases the food at the same time every day. Fromelt built a wood box for the timer and installed a 15-watt light bulb inside it to keep the timer from freezing. "I lined the inside of the box with metal to make it fire-proof," he says.

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any handset to the other end of the line."

The host module sells for \$79. A starter package includes the host module, ring module, battery and one handset for \$149. This would allow a conversation between 2 wired points. However, up to 4 ringers at \$12 each can be tied into that system. Low cost off-the-shelf phones can be used with the ringers.

Baugh says the system is simple to install and even simpler to use.

"We've had interest from mining companies for mine rescue as well as people who want to live off grid," says Baugh. "Options include setting up the ringers with flashing lights and quiet buzzers. It offers a very simple ring through. Just pick it up and talk."

Check out a video of the system at FARMSHOW.com.

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