

Reader Recipes

Dandelion Jam

4 cups dandelions
4 cups water
3 cups white sugar
Juice of one lemon
1 package of Sure-Jell

Harvest dandelions. Separate the yellow petals from the green stems. Grab the green stem and twist to remove the yellow flowers. Repeat for all dandelions until you have 2 cups of petals. Make dandelion tea by bringing 4 cups of water to a boil. Divide the dandelions between two quart sized Mason jars. When the water is ready, pour evenly into the jars. Screw on the lids and let sit for up to 24 hrs. Using a cheesecloth, strain the liquid from the tea into a large saucepan. Squeeze to extract all liquid. Add lemon juice to the saucepan with dandelion tea. Measure sugar into a bowl, then remove 1/4 cup sugar and mix in a separate bowl with Sure-Jell. Add the 1/4 cup sugar and Sure-Jell to the dandelion tea saucepan on high heat, stirring to dissolve. Bring the mixture to a rolling boil, then add remaining sugar, stirring constantly. Boil for another minute, then remove from heat. If jam is foaming, add a small slice of butter to reduce foam. In hot, prepared canning jars, evenly scoop jam into jars. Recipe makes 12 quarter-pint-sized jars. Clean off the rim of the jars before closing. After all jars are filled and closed, cover them with a towel to let them set. Jam may take anywhere from a few hours or days to set.

Dill Pickle Salad

For the salad:
1 cucumber, diced
1 yellow bell pepper, diced
1/2 red onion, minced
3-4 dill pickles, diced
1-2 tablespoons freshly chopped dill
1 15.5-ounce can white beans, drained and rinsed
2/3 cups feta cheese
For the dressing:
3/4 to 1 cup light mayonnaise
1 tablespoon ranch seasoning mix
Juice from 1 lemon
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
Salt and pepper, to taste

Add all salad ingredients to a bowl and mix. In a separate bowl, mix dressing ingredients. Add dressing to salad ingredients and mix until well combined.



“Bucket Buddy stabilizes whatever you may be hauling in 5-gal. buckets, in whatever you choose to transport it in,” says Whisler.

‘Bucket Buddy’ Keeps Feed Buckets Upright

The Bucket Buddy system makes it easy to transport feed in 5-gal. buckets without spillage or waste.

“Like many a cattle producer, I use buckets to transport feed to my cow-calf herd as needed, either in a side-by-side or a pickup (box or flatbed),” says creator Mark Whisler.

He runs a manufacturing business in south-central Iowa that specializes in unique products for livestock producers.

“I raise and breed virgin heifers for resale,” Whisler says. “Each year, I buy these heifers from a ranch in western Nebraska. Then, throughout the summer, I feed them a specific amount of daily feed so they reach a target weight by the time they’re marketed as bred animals.”

The farm is 10 miles away, so Whisler must drive his side-by-side down the road to reach their paddock.

“Most days, several, if not all, of the buckets would be dumped over, leaving me to try and scoop the feed back into the bucket by hand, a nearly impossible endeavor.”

This spillage prevented cattle from getting their precise daily feed amount. Whisler aimed to build an attachment that could stabilize six buckets at once and pivot easily between modes of transportation.

“My first prototype was made out of sheet metal in my school shop (Centerville Community Schools), where I’m an Industrial Arts instructor,” he says.

After several rounds of modifications, Whisler felt confident the attachment worked as intended.

“I began working with a patent attorney and filed a patent in January 2025. Now I’m currently marketing the product (patent pending) through our website.”

Today, each Bucket Buddy system is made from 100% USA-made materials and assembled in the heartland.

“I purchase sheets of HDPE (high-density polyethylene, used for Rubbermaid-brand stock tanks) from a supplier in Grimes, Iowa. It’s extremely durable and lightweight. Our 6-bucket model weighs under 32 lbs. I have a manufacturer in Indianola, Iowa, that cuts the tops and bottoms, and a machine shop in Centerville, Iowa, that machines the pillars that separate the tops and bottoms.”

He finishes each Buddy with corrosion-resistant stainless-steel bolts.

He also offers a 3-bucket model that attaches to the front or rear racks of an ATV.

“The people who’ve purchased our products have been very impressed with how well it works.”

The MSRP for the standard 6-bucket Bucket Buddy is \$440. A Freon holder costs \$380, and the 4-wheeler 3-bucket system is priced at \$307. Whisler encourages people to visit the website, as special pricing offers are always available.

“The Bucket Buddy stabilizes whatever you may be hauling in 5-gal. buckets, in whatever you choose to transport it in,” says Whisler. “It isn’t fancy, flashy or technological. It just works.”

There’s little installation required beyond placing it in the back of any side-by-side, pickup or other vehicle.

“Load the buckets and roll.”

He enjoys it when customers challenge the ease of use.

“At this year’s Iowa Ag Expo, an individual walking through the exhibitor booths told me he was certain he could tip those buckets in his side-by-side. I just laughed and said, ‘Maybe so, but I guarantee your rig won’t be sitting on its wheels if you do.’”

Whisler is adamant that each Bucket Buddy lasts a lifetime.

“When my patent attorney asked why I’m so focused on making this product so durable, I explained that the older I get, the harder it is to buy things that last. If I’m lucky enough to make a product someone wants to purchase, I want them to be happy with its effectiveness. A happy customer will become my best salesperson.”

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**FARM
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New Products For The Farm, Ranch Home



Cart’s wheel size and heavy-duty frame handle steps, allowing users to move wood to a fireplace without lifting it.

Rugged Helper For Bulky Loads

The Firewood/Log Cart (model 9978) is a compact firewood cart that can move sizable loads with what reviewers describe as steady ease.

Designed with a focus on portability and rough-terrain performance, it’s a good choice for firewood, chores or fieldwork where wheel traction is helpful.

The cart can move up to 200 lbs of wood or other bulky material, saving time. Its large wheels handle snow, uneven ground and other challenging surfaces more easily than smaller utility carts.

Its wheel size and heavy-duty frame also help the cart handle steps, a useful feature for moving wood from an entryway to a living space or a workshop without resorting to awkward lifting.

Constructed from rust-proof aluminum, the cart balances weight across the wheels, helping keep the load stable when pushed or pulled.

A bottom tray is included to catch bark, wood chips and dirt that would otherwise fall during transport, a small feature that can reduce cleanup afterward.

The cart is 48 1/2 in. tall and 20 in. wide. It weighs roughly 33 lbs, making it sturdy yet manageable and able to fit through standard doorways.

Users mention that assembly is required.

Available at Sporty’s Tool Shop for \$120 plus shipping, it’s also listed on other retail sites, including Amazon.

“I’m getting older with some health issues, and this cart allows me to bring wood in right up to the stove. The big tires work well in mud or a little snow,” says Frances W.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup: Sporty’s Tool Shop, 2001 Sporty’s Dr., Batavia, Ohio 45103 (ph 800-776-7897; toolshop@sportys.com; www.sportystoolshop.com).