

Homemakers meeting offers Christmas crafts

This flock of colorful calico chickens was but one of a myriad of ideas for holiday decorating presented by Mrs. Jessie Myers.



Especially popular this year, notes Mrs. Myers, are bells. A very simple to make swag included in her exhibit featured three graduated-size wicker bells wired to an evergreen bough, finished with a large bright red bow.

Calico fabric is another important design accessory incorporated by the arranger in her creations. The colorful print was shown in gingerbread boys hung by elastic thread under an evergreen mobile-type swag, a favorite of children because of the dancing movement of the figures. There was also a calico hen hiding a vase of pine greens, and a molded plaster rooster dressed in glued-on calico scraps. Ribbons from the brightly-colored fabric lend an old-fashioned appearance to swags, wreaths, and centerpieces.



Looks good enough to eat - but it's not recommended. This colorful and long lasting fruit is made from styrofoam balls, wrapped with strips of crepe paper, then dipped in warm paraffin to seal.

By JOYCE BUPP
Staff correspondent
BAIR - "I get my ideas from everywhere," admits Jessie Myers, a talented floral arranger, craftsman, and nationally accredited flower show judge. Mrs. Myers, of Creston Road in York, shared her Christmas season decorating ideas during the afternoon program at York County's annual homemakers' holiday meeting, recently.

Now studying for her master's degree in floral design, Mrs. Myers has served as craft director for both the York Recreation Commission and the Girls' Clubs.

Many of her ideas on display for the homemakers incorporated pinecones and greens, topped off with colorful ribbons. By wiring the cones, nuts, dried seeds,

assorted dried grains, and glycerized leaves to metal hardware cloth, the creations become permanent items that can be used for many years. Fastening the assembled dried materials to a backing of fresh greens, and tying on a festive bow created an instant holiday door swag.

When glycerizing leaves, a frequent addition to holiday designs, the arranging expert recommends a solution of 1/2 part glycerine and 3/4 parts water. Lay leaves to be preserved in the solution and let them soak until they've turned brown and leathery.

Dried materials and cones can also be arranged and fastened to hardware cloth for use as centerpieces, distributed atop evergreen boughs for inexpensive holiday touches. Mrs. Myers

especially recommends this idea for large banquet-type dinners, where there are many tables to be decorated. "Many of these natural materials can be had for almost nothing," she reminded her audience.

One unusual craft demonstrated by Mrs. Myers was the creation of artificial fruit from assorted sizes of styrofoam balls. Other materials needed are packets of crepe paper, pipe cleaners, and paraffin.

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