

Home on the Range

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SWEDISH CHRISTMAS COOKIES

- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 3/4 cup molasses
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon cloves
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 cup butter
- 1 egg
- 5 cups flour, approximate granulated sugar for topping

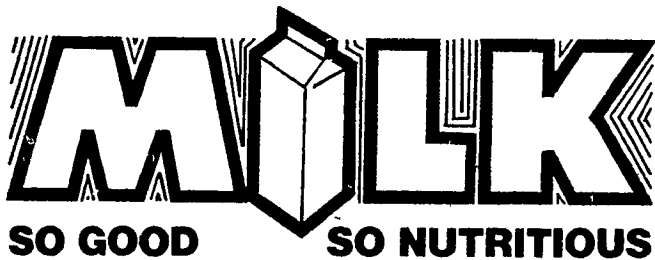
Heat butter and molasses to boiling point. Add baking soda and pour over butter in large mixing bowl. Stir until butter melts. Add egg and sifted flour, enough to make a stiff, workable dough. Divide dough into small, flat portions, about six inches in diameter, 3/4 of an inch thick. Wrap each portion in waxed paper until ready to use. Roll out on lightly floured board or pastry cloth. Dough may be chilled before rolling if necessary. Cut with cookie cutters and bake on greased baking sheet at 325 Degrees F. for eight to ten minutes.

Note: The cookies are best rolled very thin. They may be sprinkled with sugar before baking or decorated after with white icing made from one cup confectioners sugar and one egg white.

SPICE PEAR BARS

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 cup quick cooking rolled oats
- 1 cup flaked coconut
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup butter
- 4 medium pears, peeled, cored, and chopped, (2 cups)
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 3 tablespoons butter

In bowl stir together flour, oats, coconut, brown sugar, baking soda, and 1/4 teaspoon salt; cut in one cup butter until mixture is crumbly. Pat half of the mixture into a greased 15 1/2 x 10 1/2 x 2 inch pan. Cover with pears. Combine nuts, granulated sugar, and spices; sprinkle over fruit. Dot with three tablespoons butter. Pat remaining oat mixture over all. Bake at 375 Degrees F. for 45 to 60 minutes. Cut into bars while still warm. Makes four dozen.



On being a farm wife

—And other hazards

By JOYCE BUPP

Voices. Crying in the wilderness.

Does anyone hear? Or care?

The voices are those of young farm families, struggling to grasp hold of a way of life, watching as that chance slips from their fingertips and is lost in the wilderness.

The wilderness? It's a jungle of sky-high land prices, fast-growing machinery costs, interest rates with a stranglehold that threatens to choke the existence of agriculture credit.

I listened to the voices of frustrated young farmers, pleading for help in finding a way through the financial jungle maze during a Young

Farmer Forum, sponsored recently by the Baltimore District of the nationwide Farm Credit system.

Farm Credit includes the Production Credit Association and the Federal Land Bank Association, a self-supporting agriculture credit cooperation, owned and operated by the farmer-members which it serves.

Although the federal government loaned seed money in 1916 to get Farm Credit off and running, those funds have been paid back for ten years. Today, we obtain our lending funds through the money markets of the world.

And, you know what shape our dollar is in on the world market. And, it's going to

cost each one of us more just to plant and harvest the food supply.

These young farmers aren't asking for a handout. For public assistance. For a tax-free grant. All they seek is the chance to borrow capital, to raise their families on the land, to prove themselves.

Maybe a hundred acres of productive ground, with a barn and a house on it. The beginnings of a herd of income-sustaining livestock. Enough basic machinery to plow, plant and gather.

Grandpa paid \$200 an acre for land and probably thought he'd been taken. Today, a buyer counts his blessings if the price stops at \$2,000.

Grandpa paid \$100 for a good milk cow. Today, you might get a decent grade Holstein - not a purebred with registry - for \$1,000.

Grandpa had a tractor too. It probably cost him

\$2,000. Today, you won't touch a new one for \$20,000.

Grandpa's prices are gone. Grandpa's financing methods have got to go, too.

We must have dependable "borrow power", available when needed, at reasonable rates and payback times.

Understanding and knowledgeable agriculture lenders and financing boards were never needed more than they are right now, whether they be through the Farm Credit system or through commercial banking.

Many young farmers need Farm Credit to survive. Without the support of those same young people, in a few years, Farm Credit won't survive.

After all, isn't that what cooperatives are all about?



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