

Cook's Question Corner

If you are looking for a recipe but can't seem to find it anywhere, send your recipe request to Cook's Question Corner, care of Lancaster Farming, P.O. Box 366, Lititz, Pa. 17543. There's no need to send a SASE. If we receive an answer to your question, we will publish it as soon as possible.

Answers to recipe requests should be sent to the same address.

QUESTION - Grace Ikeler, Bloomsburg, would like a recipe for Kielbasa (one with smoke and one without)

QUESTION - Doris Grube, New Providence, would like a recipe for a cherry pie that you pour into the pie plate and forms its own crust

QUESTION - Marie A Cairns, Honey Brook, would like a recipe for a sweet yeast dough that is cut, deep fried and has an apple butter filling. Can anyone help?

QUESTION - Dwayne Roland, Westover, would like a recipe for canning mushroom soup

QUESTION - Raymond Schreyer, Boyertown, is looking for a good rattlesnake recipe

QUESTION - Mildred Sickler, Falls, would like a nut roll recipe that makes four to six rolls

ANSWER - Mrs Charles Emerich, Summit Station, requested a recipe for Lepp cookies. Thanks go to Hilda M Blatt, Jonestown, for the following recipe, and to all the other readers who shared Lepp cookie recipes.

Lepp Cookies

2 cups brown sugar ¼ cup butter
¼ cup lard

Add:

1 egg 1 cup buttermilk
½ teaspoon baking soda 1 teaspoon baking powder
3 cups flour

Drop on greased sheet, brush with beaten egg and sprinkle with nuts or colored sugar. Bake at 350°F. for about 10 minutes.

On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp



What's the difference between a convenience and a necessity?

Personal opinion, it would seem.

For instance, out teenagers seem to think that any worthwhile life must have a red Porsche racing through it somewhere. A Porsche might be classy, but when it comes to filling up at the self-serve, I'll settle for my Iacocca K-car.

On the other hand, one of my necessities, the microwave, might be considered a mere convenience to others. Given the odd eating schedules of planting, harvest and Farm Show seasons, M-I-C-R-O-W-A-V-E is simply another way to spell "sanity."

It was with interest that I recently clipped a Roper Reports survey on items once introduced as conveniences, but now viewed as necessities by poll respondents.

Number one was Scotch tape, followed by a tie between no-iron and aluminum foil. On down in order were drip-dry fabrics, panty hose, plastic wrap, T-shirts and instant coffee. Obviously no one sees an iron as a necessity any longer—and praises be for that.

True, on any given day you're likely to find those items at use on your average farm. But if a similar survey focused only on farms, I'll betcha the results would tell a different tale.

Undisputed number one

necessity on that list would have to be—you guessed it—baling twine.

Baling twine is one of rural America's greatest resources.

Legendary are the lovely, lacy, dust-brushed works of art which secure gaps in pens and fences rent by heifers seeking their fortune in the great world beyond the posts and wire mesh.

But the renown of twine goes light-years beyond that: from staking tomatoes and living room Christmas trees, to fastening barn doors open for ventilation, to tying a truck door shut, and once as a belt substitute for a toddler son whose britches wouldn't stay in place as he tagged along at a cow show.

Threatening twine's place at the top of the necessity list is a relative newcomer to the farm scene: duct tape. This wide, gray, sticky-fabric-like tape is far more widely used on this farm than the favored Scotch tape on the other survey.

Duct tape, as I recall, made its appearance here a number of years ago with some sort of bin, used for sealing the edges between layers of metal. This was before duct tape could be brought everywhere from the grocery to the five-and-dime, and the leftovers on that roll became a revered possession.

In its versatility, duct tape hereabouts mends everything

from barn record book bindings to trash cans to milkers. (That an expensive milker needs such taped assistance is another story.) Calves born with slightly deformed legs, curling backwards, have been tenderly splinted with our favorite tape. Cracked barn windows hang together a bit longer and cole breezes are kept out of the gaps between window glass layers at the house.

Tractor seats find new life taped back in shape, as do fork handles with life threatening fractures or fields of finger-splinter areas, and swimming season innertubes with slow air leaks.

For years, I have coveted a roll of duct tape for my household tool box, eliminating the need to scrounge from barn desk to machinery shed to heifer pens for the prized repair material.

"Ah, I'm going to get myself a roll of that," I muttered recently while shopping in a store with a display of duct tape on sale, oblivious to the sidelong glances of other shoppers eyeing this female pushing a cart and talking to herself.

My mistake was in not hiding it instantly the moment I got in the door.

"That's just what I need," proclaimed the farmer, spying the precious gray roll. Back to the baling twine.

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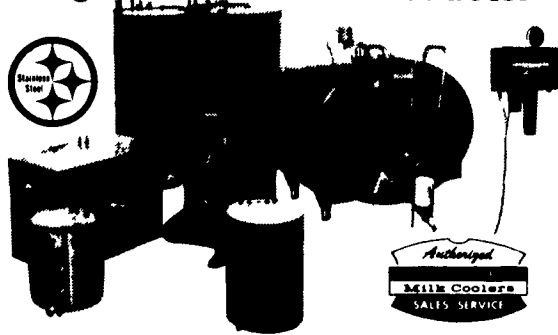
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