From Lebanon County Extension Workshops

Ideas For Holiday Eating, Decorating, Gift-Making

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff

PRESCOTT (Lebanon Co.) — Just in time for holiday preparation, 'the Lebanon County Penn State Cooperative Extension presented workshops on "I Can Do That!"

More than 1,200 attended the workshops presented November 5, 6, and 7 to learn how to make decorations, gifts, and holiday food.

"Ticked" ideas

Dressed in jumpers, cuffed shirts, earrings, and necklaces made from ticking, Christenna Stamm and Hetty Wengert demonstrated using ticking material to make grocery sacks, angels and bears used to decorate the tree, a Christmas tree skirt, napkins, aprons, lined baskets, and more.

Here are directions for a Ticked Recycled Bear.

Using recycled foam meat trays, cut out the bear pattern on this page. Paint bear with two coats of Gesso and two coats water-based paints in color you prefer. Be sure each coat of paint is dry before topping with the next coat. Dip sponge the top color and dab onto the bear to obtain a furry look.

Draw a face on the bear. Spray with clear acrylic paint.

Dress the bear with the simple pattern show on this page.

Rob Wood of Spoutwood Farm in Glen Rock showed participants how to use dried materials to make swags, wreaths, and garlands. Wood, who grows 85 varieties of herbs and flowers on his 26-acre farm, suggests wiring cranberries in shape desired to attach to wreaths, swags, and garlands.

To make a garland:

Use baling twine or roping in the length desired for a garland. Form smalls bouquet of dried flowers. Use 22-gauge florists' spool wire to wired the bouquets in an overlapping manner until you come to the end of the rope.

Wire the last bunch in reverse direction, spreading apart the previously wired bunch and inserting stems into the opeing.

Fill gaps with small sprigs of dried material by using a glue gun or florist's tape if necessary.

Winifred McGee, extension agent, told participants how to make a profit when holding craft shows and holiday bazaars.

Letie Schadler, home economist, shared ideas for family fun and recipes that will appear in future editions of *Lancaster Farming*.

Holiday evergreens:

Lilly Hershey encouraged participants to combine a wide variety of evergreens in holiday decorations. Holly, boxwood, bayberry, Oregon grape holly, English Ivy, magnolia, and rhododendrons can be combined with evergreens.

After the greens are cut, make sure they are kept moist and cool. Keep the cuttings in a plastic bag or standing in water. Store outside in the shade or in an unheated garage.

If the greens are for indoor decorations and are expected to last for a period of two weeks or more, dip or spay the greens with an antidessican to minimize moisture loss and act as a flame retardant. Sprays and dips are available from garden centers or can be made at home with the following ingredients:

Mixture 1
¼ cup boric acid
9 tablespoon borax
2 quarts water
1 teaspoon dish soap

Mixture 2
¼ cup Epson salts
5 tablespoons borax
2 quarts water
1 teaspoon dish soap
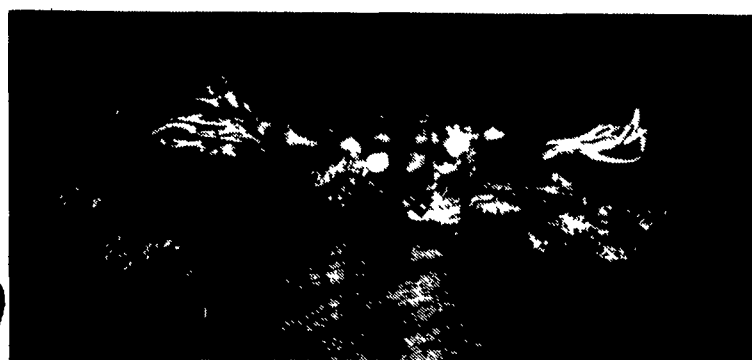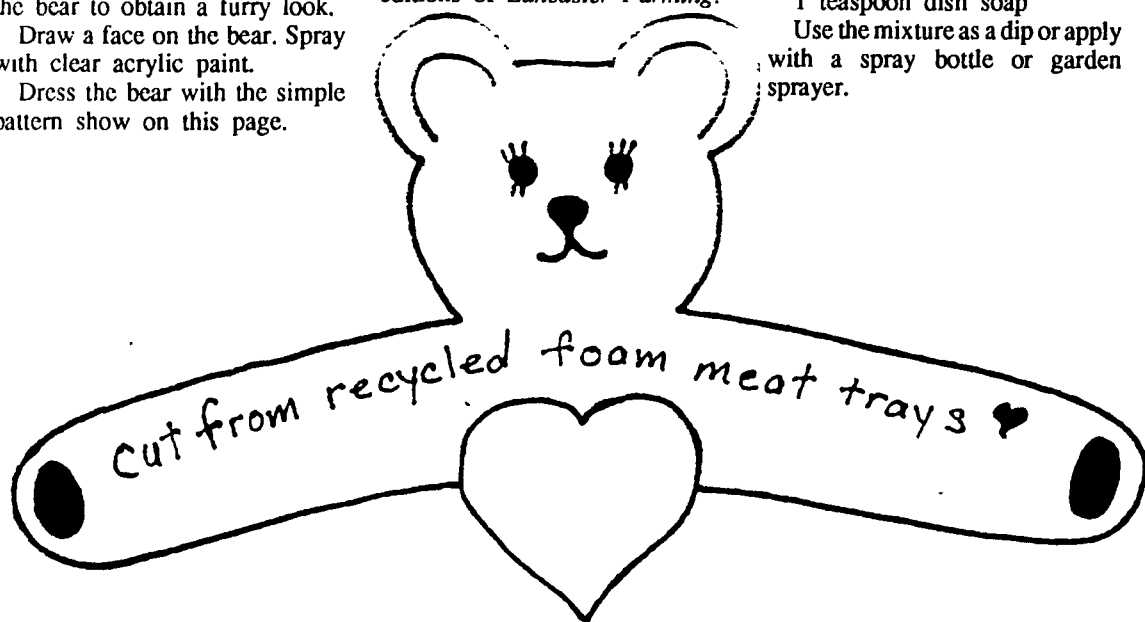Use the mixture as a dip or apply with a spray bottle or garden sprayer.

Pinecones interspersed with dried materials adds a delightful touch to your decorating scheme.
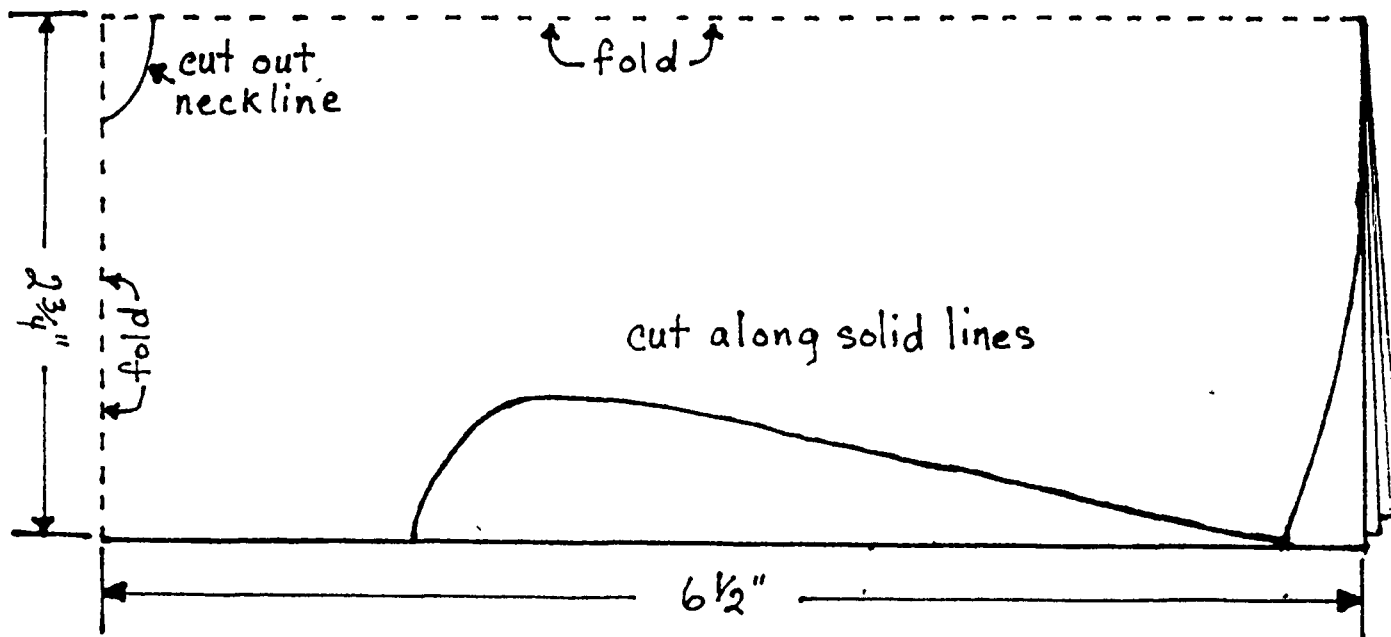
Wreath with German statice:

Start by using a straw wreath. Wire small bunches of statice to straw wreath with florists's spool wire by overlapping previous wiring. Fill in any gaps by gluing in sprigs of statice. Decorate by gluing dried flowers into the pattern.

Sherry Kalbach, the dryer lint lady, was back with ideas for getting the children involved in decorating.
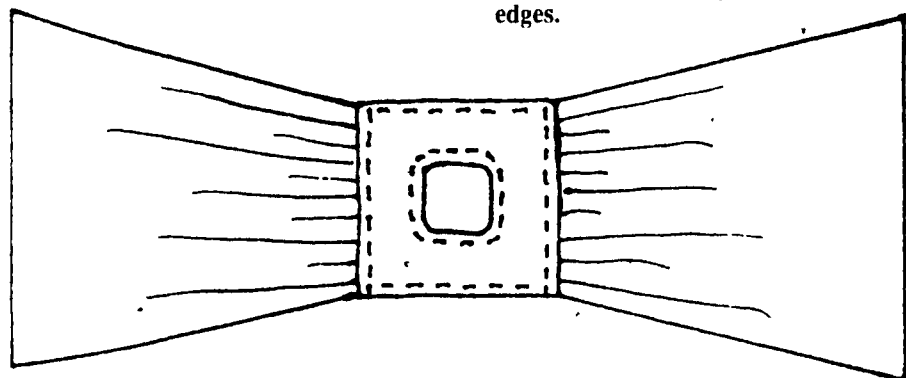

This swag uses a variety of greens, dried and dried materials to make a delightful decoration to hang above doorways, on windowsills, over mantels and other places.

Make a swag

Starting with dried materials such as Sweet Annie, caspia, or golden rod, place two bunches with ends together in center and wire. Decorate by gluing or inserting dried flowers of your choice Place bow in center to cover ends and wire in place.

Cut from recycled foam meat trays ♥

cut out neckline

fold

34"

fold

cut along solid lines

6½"

Pinafore: Cut a 3¼-inch square of muslin for the yoke. Cut two pieces 4x6¼-inch for the skirt.

Cut a 1¼-inch square out of the center of the yoke. Gather 4x6¼-inch piece and attach with running stitch to yoke. Hem edges.

Cranberries can be wired and formed into the shape desired then placed on dried or evergreen wreaths for a holiday touch.

This spice broom was decorated by Lilly Hershey.