



Letie Schadler shows off an impressive array of foods for holiday entertaining.

# Celebrate At The Table

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LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — Perhaps you think it's too early to think about the holidays. But Thanksgiving is less than two weeks away!

Some forethought and preparation can go a long way in eliminating last-minute stress when the house is filling up with guests.

Ideas for tablesettings, centerpieces, menus, and home decor abounded at the holiday workshop sponsored by the Penn State Cooperative Extension last week at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center. About 1,070 people attended the day-long program repeated three days.

One of the first things to decide is whether you want a formal sit-down dinner or a buffet.

Regardless of what you decide, here are some ideas to incorporate into your plans.



Hetty Wengert prepares a luncheon with a quilter's touch. The quilted tablecloth has a complementing fabric flower centerpiece and handmade napkin holders.



Get a head start on holiday entertaining by preparing make-ahead foods and freezing until ready to use.



Marian Hummel, center, instructs guests how to set the table for a formal sit-down Thanksgiving dinner.

### CLOTH NAPKINS

Cloth napkins lend an air of luxury to table settings. But you don't need to spend a fortune on napkins.

An easy and economical way to make napkins is to buy cotton tea-towels. Cut in half and hem the raw edge. Or you can purchase material by the yard, cut out, and either hem the edges or, if you have a serger, use it to serge a finished edge.

Use a square tablecloth or piece of fabric or lace and place diagonally on top of a tablecloth. Or use a cloth runner that either matches or coordinates with cloth napkins.

If you need a long tablecloth, make one. Double knit and drapery fabric come in wide widths. Use a quilt or quilted fabric.

Rent a tablecloth. In fact, everything imaginable can be rented nowadays. In addition to typical rent-it companies, check with flower shops and those that cater to weddings.

At the program, a silk floral design shop called Expressions displayed numerous items that they rent. Expressions is located two miles north of Myerstown on Rt. 501 or 4 miles south of I-78 Bethel on Rt. 501.

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Use Depression glassware and other heirloom pieces with your china. You can mix different patterns of china and glassware if they are of the same style or period.