Celebrating Holiday Baking Traditions

ARDEN HILLS, Minn. Ringing in the holidays with scrumptious, seasonal treats is a time-honored tradition. This year, with the millennium approaching and hectic holiday schedules, people don't have time to mull over a recipe or make baking mistakes. Getting help with holiday baking is fast and easy with the Land O'Lakes Holiday Bakeline, a toll-free hotline that opens for the 10th consecutive year, just as holiday baking season begins.

Toll-Free Tips

From Nov. 1 through Dec. 24, the Bakeline's trained home economists will be available to assist callers from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (CST), seven days a week. By dialing 1-800-782-9606, consumers can speak with one of the 27 Land O'Lakes baking experts, request recipes and get great baking tips and advice. In addition, 1999 brings a sprinkling of new Bakeline features including a special gift offer, a festive recipe leaflet and an extended online contest with great prizes.

"The Bakeline has become a tradition for thousands of Americans. Whether callers have baking stories to share or need help making a batch of cookies, our experts are here for them," said Lydia Botham, director of consumer affairs and the Land O'Lakes Test Kitchens. "Last year was a record year for the Bakeline, with more than 65,000 calls, and this year, given millennium celebrations and people's busier-than-ever schedules, we anticipate even more calls.

Brand New Recipe Leaflet

In honor of the many traditions of the season. Land O'Lakes offers "Baking Traditions to Last a Lifetime," a new leaflet chock-full of time-saving tips and traditional recipes such as Santa's Sandwich Cookies and Festive Triangle Tarts. All Bakeline callers will receive a free copy of this colorful leaflet, which also can be downloaded from www.landolakes.com.

Online Baking Fun

Baking up excitement on the Web, Land O'Lakes is hosting a 10-day, national online contest, "Baking Advice to Last a Life-From Nov. 1 through Nov. 10, consumers can visit www.landolakes.com to e-mail in their contest entries. To enter, contestants simply need to answer, in 50 words or less, "What's the best baking advice you've received?" and "Who gave it to you?

Entries will be judged on originality and the importance of their baking advice. One winner will be selected at the end of each day, for a total of 10 winners. The prize packages include a 19-piece ultimate bakeware set containing a variety of premium pans and utensils, \$100 cash for baking supplies and coupons for 10-pounds of Land O'Lakes Butter. For more information, please see enclosed contest rules sheet.

The Land O'Lakes Web site also is an excellent resource for holiday baking information, offering seasonal recipes and baking tips. Visitors to the site can email baking questions to the experts at the Bakeline, and receive a response within 48 hours.

Land O'Lakes Cookbook

In addition, Land O'Lakes is coming out with a special new cookbook which features 10 years of Bakeline recipes, along with dozens of other holiday favorites and baking tips. The books will be available for \$14.95 by calling the Holiday Bakeline, through our Web site www.landolakes.com or in fine bookstores everywhere.

Land O'Lakes: The Baking

Land O'Lakes has been helping families bake delicious treats since 1921. This year, the company celebrates the 10th anniversary of its Holiday Bakeline. This toll-free hotline has helped over a quarter of a million callers through the past nine holiday baking seasons.

For great baking advice and



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Layer ingredients in order given in a quart wide-mouth canning jar. Mix flour together with baking powder. Press each layer firmly in place, it will be a tight fit. Attach directions to jar:

Trail Mix Cookies

Empty jar of cookie mix into large mixing bowl. Use your hands to thoroughly blend mix. Add:

½ cup butter, softened 1 egg, slightly beaten

1 teaspoon vanilla

Mix until completely blended. You need to finish mixing with your hands. festive holiday recipes, call the Land O'Lakes Holiday Bakeline, 1-800-782-9606, now through Dec. 24, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (CST). Expert home economists are available seven days a week to answer questions. Consumers also may visit the Web site at www.landolakes.com to e-mail

questions to the baking experts. All callers will receive a free recipe leaflet filled with easy, scrumptious holiday recipes. Bakeline headquarters is located in Arden Hills, Minn.

Recipe Topics

If you have recipes for topics listed below, please share them with us. We welcome your recipes, but ask that you include accurate measurements, a complete list of ingredients, and clear instructions with each recipe you submit. Be sure to include your name and address. Recipes should reach our office one week before the publishing date listed below.

Send your recipes to Lou Ann Good, Lancaster Farming, P.O. Box 609, Ephrata, PA 17522.

December

23 - Christmas Dinner

30 - New Year's Celebration

6 - Cooking With Oats

13 - Soups And Stews

Shape into walnut-size balls and place 2 inches apart on sprayed cookie sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 12-14 minutes until edges are lightly browned. Cool 5 minutes on baking sheet. Remove cookies to racks to finish cooling. Makes 2½ dozen cookies.

Brownies In A Jar

21/4 cups granulated sugar

3/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder

½ cup chopped pecans 11/4 cups all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

1 teaspoon sait

Pour sugar into a clean and dry one-quart jar. Press down firmly. Add cocoa powder and press

down firmly. Pour in chopped pecans, making sure pecans are evenly layered in the jar. Combine flour, baking powder, and salt. Pour into jar and seal.

Attach the following directions to the jar: Empty mix into large bowl. Use your hands to mix thoroughly. Add 3/4 cup butter and 4 slightly beaten eggs. Mix until completely blended. Spread batter into a lightly greased or sprayed 9x13-inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until done. Cool in pan. Cut into 2-inch squares. Makes 2 dozen cookies.



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