

## Reader Recipes

### Crescent Bacon Crack

10 slices hickory bacon  
1/4 cup maple syrup  
1 tube crescent rolls  
3/4 cup light brown sugar  
cooking spray, white pepper, chipotle pepper, and paprika to taste

On medium heat brown bacon; drain on paper towels. On a parchment-lined baking sheet, spray lightly with cooking spray. Roll out crescent rolls, pinching seams together. Brush pastry with 1/8 cup syrup, covering entire surface. Sprinkle very lightly with white pepper, paprika, chipotle pepper (use as much as you like, but go very easy or leave off completely). Coat with brown sugar to cover completely. Chop cooled bacon; sprinkle on top; drizzle with remaining syrup. Bake 10 minutes at 350 degrees F. Turn and bake 10-15 more minutes, until golden brown. Remove from oven, cool completely.

### Cocoa Bread

5 1/2 cups flour  
1 cake compressed yeast or 1 cake dry yeast  
2 cups milk, scalded and cooled  
1/2 tsp salt  
1/2 cup cocoa  
1/4 cup shortening  
2 eggs, well beaten  
1/2 cup sugar

Soften yeast and dissolve 1 Tbsp sugar in lukewarm milk. Add 3 cups flour and beat until smooth. Cover and set aside to rise in a warm place until light. Add shortening and sugar, which have been creamed together, eggs, cocoa, salt, and remainder of flour or enough to make a soft dough. Knead lightly and place in a well-oiled bowl. Cover and set in a warm place until doubled in bulk - about 2 hours. Form into loaves. Place in well-oiled bread pans, filling them 1/2 full. Cover and let rise again until doubled in bulk. Bake in oven at 425 degrees F for 40-50 minutes. (Makes 2 loaves).

## Mailbox Signs Made To Last

Folks looking for a durable mailbox sign can appreciate the poly signs that David Ropp sells for manufacturer Clearview Routing in Shipshewana, Ind.

"The company laminates three colors together so the center color stands out where the CNC router cuts out the letters," says Ropp, owner of Dropp Plastics in Kalona, Iowa. "Black and white is most common because it stands out, but we have 18 color options."

The 16-in. wide by 6 or 10-in. tall signs are 1/2-in. thick and bolt to the top of a mailbox, fence or wherever the customer chooses.

Sign shapes include a flat top, arced top and custom top with prices ranging from \$35 to \$55.

"We do large signs as well for businesses and do custom work," Ropp adds. For example, customers have ordered signs with a horse silhouette on the top.

Because they're plastic, they won't rot or rust. Selling the signs fits in with Ropp's business making a variety of items out of plastic such as watering tubs for livestock, sinks for milk parlors and whelping boxes for dog breeders.

To order a sign leave a message and phone number and Ropp will get back to you.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dropp Plastics, 1965 Johnson Washington Rd., Kalona, Iowa 52247 (ph 319-656-2896). Clearview Routing, 7205 N. 675 W., Shipshewana, Ind. 46565 (ph 260-350-3506).



Poly mailbox signs are laminated and cut with a CNC router to stand up to the elements.

## Powdered Butter

Ever heard of Lehman's Powdered Butter? It comes in a can and can be stored for 10 years or more at temps between 55 and 70 degrees.

When you're ready to use it, just mix it with water at a rate of 1/2 to 1 tsp. of water per 1 tbsp of powder. If you're baking, you can add it to your recipe without mixing it up first.

There are 51 tablespoons per 12-oz. can. The company says it's great for the pantry at an off-grid cabin without worrying about refrigeration, or for anyone building up an emergency food supply. Sells for \$17.99 per can.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lehman's, Kidron, Ohio (ph 800-438-5346; www.lehmans.com).



Powdered butter can be useful when refrigeration is a concern.

## Paint Like A Pro With The Perfect Edger

When home improvement celebrity Bob Vila selected the Perfect Paint Edger as the best edger on the market, Dan Kay knew he had invented a good tool. For more than 20 years, the professional Michigan painter has been "cutting in" paint where walls, ceilings and corners meet.

It's usually the part of painting that challenges DIY painters. Using tape helps, but often has mixed results. With that in mind, Kay focused on creating an edger anyone can use.

"It has an ambidextrous guard, so it works if you are righthanded or lefthanded," Kay says, adding it is also helpful for going around trim and cabinets. The stainless-steel guard moves to both sides and is spring-loaded so it can be pulled out of the way when putting paint on the pad.

"I always tell people that every pass you make with the edger, check the face and wipe off any paint first," he emphasizes.

The edger has boar hair bristles inside aluminum channels on the ABS plastic that touches the wall to paint precisely on the edge. Kay also uses dense 2 1/2-in. square pads that can be removed to clean for reuse.

The Perfect Paint Edger sells for \$22 plus \$7.50 S&H and can be purchased directly from Kay or on Amazon.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dan Kay, Portage, Mich. (dank@perfectpaintedger.com; www.perfectpaintedger.com).



The edger has boar hair bristles inside aluminum channels on the ABS plastic that touches the wall to paint precisely on the edge.



## New Products For The Farm, Ranch Home



The grip rests between your thumb and index finger, but you don't grip it like a pistol. The other four fingers stretch out straight toward the end of the paintbrush.

## A Paintbrush That Grips Your Hand

"I was painting on some property I had and redoing my house. I wound up getting carpal tunnel. A traditional grip causes your hands to cramp and ache, plus it tenses all the muscles in your arm," says Greg Freuler, who came up with a new way of painting called the FreeForm Brush.

"I wanted to design a brush with a grip that would hold me instead of the other way around," he says. "It took a lot of hours to come up with the final design."

To the untrained eye, it looks like a paintbrush with a pistol grip, but Freuler says it's "anything but that." While there are pistol-grip brushes on the market, he says they put even more stress on the painter.

"Our design rests on top of your hand," he says. "The grip rests between your thumb and index finger, but you don't grip it like a pistol. The other four fingers stretch out straight toward the end of the paintbrush."

"As you paint, it locks into your hand because it matches the curve of your fingers," Freuler says. "With a conventional brush, you have to grip it tighter as you push it against the wall. As you push against the wall with the FreeForm Brush, it pushes further into your hand with no extra grip required."

While there are three different sizes of the FreeForm Brush, each grip is one size fits all. It comes in 1 1/2 in. and 2-in. sizes for detail work in smaller areas. The 2 1/2 and 3-in. sizes are for the broader strokes in larger areas.

"The exterior brushes are meant to hold either water or oil-based paints. The interior and all-purpose are meant for water-based only."

Prices for the FreeForm Brush range from \$8.99 to \$13.99, depending on the model.

There are numerous ways to get a FreeForm Brush, including the company website, Amazon, and approximately 2,100 Walmart stores.

Contact FARM SHOW Followup, Greg Freuler, FreeForm Brush, 200 W Sahara Avenue, Unit 2410, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89102 (ph 503-998-6200; gregf@freeformbrush.com; www.freeformbrush.com).

## Holiday Decorated Ironing Board

Tom Gogerty restored his mother's antique wooden ironing board, applying two coats of white latex.

He then sketched a winter scene and sprayed a coat of polyurethane over the painted surface. He then attached family photos to the board.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom Gogerty, 216 E 21st Street, Madrid, Iowa 50156 (ph 515-372-0241).

An antique wooden ironing board can be painted and decorated for holidays.

