Co-Operator December 2021 Cook County Farm Bureau®

Agriculture Adventures for Families



December makes us think of sweet treats that are available due to farmers across the USA and the world. It's truly an "Ag Adventure" to consider how our farmers grow the sugar, flour, chocolate, peppermint and tall the things we've explored in 2021. We hope you've enjoyed this year's adventures and look forward to having along for the ride in 2022!



HOT Chocolar

Homemade hot chocolate is infinitely better than boxed mix. And our recipe is extra decadent, thanks to the cup of actual chocolate (not just cocoa powder). For a perfect cup of cocoa every time, here's what to remember.

Whole milk is preferable. When you're drinking hot cocoa, you're most likely trying to be festive and cozy, not healthy. Go all out with whole milk. Remember, fat = flavor. If you only have skim or low-fat, don't worry. This recipe will still totally work.

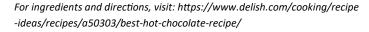
Watch the milk! If you walk away as it's coming to a simmer on the stovetop, it will likely boil over. Trust us, this has happened to us too many times to count.

> Use your favorite kind of chocolate. We're partial to semi-sweet (60% cocoa) or bittersweet (70%). But if you like your cocoa a little bit sweeter and creamier, feel free to use milk chocolate. We usually use chocolate chips because they're always in our pantry. But if you want to splurge on

Have fun with the toppings. Homemade whipped

a nice bar of chocolate, go for it. It'll be worth it!

cream is classic and always a good idea. But ice cream (to make hot cocoa floats!) is really amazing too.





Attention Cook County Teachers...

If you are a Cook County teacher looking for a virtual presentation for your primary classroom on Keeping Warm, visit https://bit.ly/Agbooking to inquire.

Cookie cutters are also known as "biscuit cutters": while molds, rather than cutters, were used from 2000 BC for

shaping dough, and these were used by Ancient Egyptians and later adopted by people in Greece, Rome, and Western Europe. In the 1500s, the Germans

stared baking molds with intricate designs, out of which emerged oodles of gingerbread people,

houses, trees, mountains, and whatnot. By the 1800s, American tinsmiths had built cookie cutters and introduced them into the market for sale. There are cookie cutter museums, collectors and clubs throughout the world. Some of the most popular shapes include gingerbread men, hearts, letters, numbers, and dog bones.

Source: https://www.gourmet-cookie-bouquets.com/design/most-popular-cookie-cutter-shapes/

A holiday tradition, candy canes have been around for more than 350 years. The popular peppermint flavor of the candy is made possible by the farmers that work year-round to produce the mint oil. Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Indiana, California and Wisconsin

are the top peppermint producing states while Washington, Oregon Indiana, Idaho and Michigan are the top spearmint producing states.



Source: https://blog.aghires.com/u-s-produces-70-worlds-mint/

Q. How do you make a gingerbread man's bed?



A. With a cookie sheet!





December Word Search

Y M E OMΕ Ε Q Z ROMFM H C TMZOML G R K

Baking
Chocolate
Classic
Cocoa
Cookie
Cozy
Cutter
Dough

Gingerbread Holiday Homemade Milk **Peppermint** Recipe Shape Sugar

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Name:
Phone #:
Membership #:
(Membership # is located on front of paper)

If you were to win, check your preference: _Beggar's Pizza GC ___HRI GC ___3 Movie Tix (If a choice is not made, movie tickets will be sent)

Deadline is the 20th of each month.

Choose your prize:

Choices include a \$25 Beggar's Pizza Gift Card, a \$25 Home Run Inn Gift Card, OR *3 AMC Movie Tickets *AMC Yellow tickets not valid in California, New York & New Jersey.

Complete the Word Search puzzle for your chance to win! Winners will be contacted by mail.

Mail to: Cook Co. Farm Bureau

Ag Adventures Word Search

6438 Joliet Rd

Countryside, IL 60525

Fax to: 708-579-6056

Email to: FBCooperator@gmail.com

Complete and submit an entry every month all in 2021 and your name is automatically entered into an "End of Year" drawing for a gift basket full of ag themed goodies.

Good luck!

Last Month's Word Search Winner Is..

Miran Albrecht