

HAPPY HOPPIN'



Easter Eggs Are Poppin'

Put a spin on a classic popcorn treat to create something colorful for your Easter table. We've added sugar-free gelatin to our basic popcorn ball recipe for an egg-citing array of flavors and olors. Try two or three of your favorite flavors, mix in a handful of jellybeans and you're in for a tasty, eye-popping treat. You won't want to hide these eggs!

POPCORN EASTER EGGS

Yield: 16 eggs

- 10 cups freshly popped popcorn
- 1 cup pastel colored jelly beans
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 1 package (10 1/2 oz.) miniature marshmallows
- 1 package (3 oz.) blueberry, strawberry or lemon gelatin

Combine popcorn and jelly beans in large bowl; set aside.

Microwave butter and marshmallows in large glass bowl on HIGH for 2 minutes or until marshmallows are puffed.

Stir in gelatin. Pour marshmallow mixture over popcorn and jelly beans.

Mix lightly until coated.

Shape into 16 (2-inch) eggs with greased hands.

Make it a family project. Get creative with this hands-on sweet treat. Kids love the feeling of slippery, buttery hands, which you will need to prevent the popcorn from sticking to your hands. Unlike food coloring, the color of the gelatin does not come off on your hands. Choose a solid color and form into an egg shape. Decorate with jellybeans if desired. Or, take a small amount of popcorn from each colored batch and mix together to create vivid masterpieces.

The nutritional bonus: Popcorn is a whole grain food and is a great way to add fiber to your diet. The gelatin in this recipe is a source of protein.

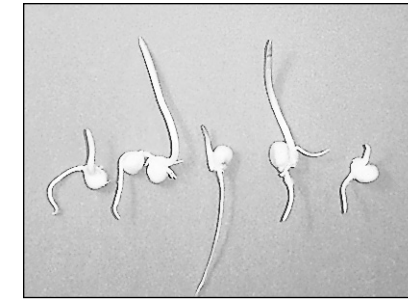
FOR MORE POPCORN HINTS VISIT, WWW.POPCORN.ORG
PHOTOS AND RECIPES COURTESY OF THE POPCORN BOARD

How To Grow Popcorn

You'll need popcorn kernels which can be purchased from most seed catalogs for home gardeners. You might also have luck growing popcorn from your local supermarket, but pick the plain popcorn kernels; microwave popcorn will not work. You'll also need a plastic bag or glass jar, paper towels, water and soil.

Soak a few paper towels in water and place them in a plastic bag or glass jar. Then place a few kernels in the bag or jar so they sit on top of the paper towels. Place the bag/jar where it can get plenty of sunlight—at least 6 hours a day—and where it can be kept reasonably warm at all times.

The kernels should sprout and grow over the next few weeks. If the towels get too dry, water them again. Once you see the popcorn seeds sprouting, plant them in a pot with soil. Keep the soil moist.



GROWING POPCORN

Once all threat of late spring frosts is gone and the soil is thoroughly warmed you can transplant your seedlings to the garden (wait at least 10-14 days after the last spring frost). The popcorn kernels will need roughly 90 days to mature. Since popcorn can cross-pollinate with other varieties of corn (sweet and field) care must be taken to plant them far enough apart, either by physical space or time of plantings. Corn varieties should be planted 250 feet apart or, for those of us with normal size gardens, plant them at least 14 days apart.

Leave popcorn in the garden until the stalks and husks are brown and dry. When you can no longer leave a mark on the kernel with your fingernail, it's time to harvest. Twist and snap each ear from the stalk. Do this before the frost hits. To prepare popcorn for indoor curing, carefully strip away the dried husk from each ear. The kernels will be partially dried or "cured," a necessity for long-term storage.

Besides drying on the stalks, popcorn requires another four to six weeks of thorough drying in a warm,

well-ventilated place. Place the ears in mesh bags or spread them out in an area where they'll have warm air circulating around them. You can also hang mesh bags full of popcorn ears in your garage for about four weeks. After curing, hang the bags of corn in a cool, dry place. The corn can keep for years in the cool, dry, dark conditions.

After a month of curing, the kernels can be taken off the ears and stored in airtight jars. Whether you're removing the kernels before storage or just before popping, there's no real trick to it. Simply grasp the ear firmly in both hands and twist until the kernels drop out.

Photos and Story courtesy of the Popcorn Board. www.popcorn.org

Tips On Preparing For Flooding

BY SHARON GUTHMILLER
Extension Educator

Floods are a common natural disaster. All floods are not alike. Regardless of the cause of flooding, disaster planning and preparation will mitigate the impact and enhance response and recovery. There are several simple steps an individual or family can take to plan and prepare for flooding.

1. Get a kit. Regardless of the disaster, every individual and family should have a disaster kit. In case of flooding, the kits should be portable and waterproof, should evacuation be necessary. For detailed information see Get a Kit-Ready. America web site to learn how to prepare a kit. Be sure to have all legal documents kept at home secured in one place, should evacuation be necessary. Have cash on hand and plan for financial needs as well as physical needs for food and water.

2. Make a plan. Where will you and your family be when a disaster strikes? Or, if separated, where will you reunite? Take time to make a plan. The best way to do this is to hold a family meeting to prepare a communication plan.

3. Be informed. Preparing an emergency kit and developing a communication plan are the same for natural and man-made disasters. Need for shelter would be the variable, depending on type of disaster.

There are key steps one can take to reduce the risk of flood damage. Those steps include knowing the flood risk. Call your local emergency management office, building department or floodplain management office for information about flooding. Ask to see a flood map of your community. There may be a projected flood elevation for your neighborhood. This information may be found on a community web site. This information will help you determine required preparation.

The following information will help begin a check list for preparing for flooding. Check the sump pump. Clean the sump pump and pit. Test the pump by pouring water into the pit. Consider having a spare submersible sump pump. Be certain the discharge hose delivers the water several feet away from the house to a well-drained area that slopes away from the house. If the hose outlet is too close the house foundation or on flat ground, the water may simply recycle down through the house drain tile. Do not run sump pump water into a rural septic system because the water may



SHARON GUTHMILLER

saturate the drain field. Within a city, discharging sump pump water into the sanitary system may overload the system, cause sewage backup, and may be illegal.

Move valuable items to higher locations. Move items such as irreplaceable family photo albums, high school yearbooks, personal videotapes, tax records, insurance policies and household inventories to high shelves or an attic. Make copies and store them in another location not likely to flood.

Sewer backup often occurs when storm water enters the sanitary sewer and causes an overload of water in the system. The overloaded system begins to backflow into household lines, causing sewer water to enter basements. One way to prevent sewer backup in your home is to plug or cap all sewer openings in the basement. This includes floor drains, toilets, sinks, showers, etc. After lifting toilets and removing sink traps, openings can be capped with wooden plugs, expandable plugs or by other methods. Most washing machines and basement sinks

have drain connections about three feet above the floor and may not overflow if the water doesn't get that high. If necessary, these drains can be disconnected, capped or plugged with expandable plugs or braced rubber balls. For protection against shallow flood waters, the washer and dryer can sometimes be elevated on masonry or lumber at least twelve inches above the flood elevation to keep the motors above the water level. Be sure appliances are shut off at the fuse box or breaker panel. If high water is imminent and large appliances cannot be moved, wrap them in polyethylene film, tying the film in place with cord or rope. The water will still get in, but most of the silt will not making clean-up easier.

Even if floodwaters do not reach electrical outlets, the risk of electrical shock to someone working in a flooded basement is high. Electric motors are housed in the furnace, freezer, washer, dryer and other appliances. Shut off all electrical breakers or unplug fuses. Do not stand in water while turning off electrical switches. Stand instead on a block of wood or a plastic crate that doesn't conduct electricity. Teach adults and older children where electric fuse boxes, water service mains and natural gas mains are and how to turn them off.

In some instances, flooding

may be so sudden or severe that substantial property damage cannot be avoided. However, taking time to being informed and prepared can help ease response time and recovery. For more complete information regarding Flooding: Planning and Preparation and Flooding: Response and Recovery access Extension information through the eXtension web site www.extension.org/pages/Floods

Thought: Swallowing angry words is always easier than eating them.

Sharon Guthmiller is a Yankton County Extension educator specializing in family and consumer sciences.

Bietz-Auch



Jenna Bietz and Brandon Auch were united in marriage Saturday, August 15, 2009, at the Resurrection Lutheran Church in Mitchell, SD, with Rev. John Hansen officiating.

Parents of the couple are Francis and Karen Froehlich and Jerry Bietz, Tripp, SD, and Steve and Kathy Auch, Lesterville, SD. Grandparents are Marie Froehlich, Hartford, SD, Idella Bietz, Tripp, SD, Glenn and Joan Szama, Osmond, NE.

Maid of honor was Sarah Permann. Bridesmaids included Nikki Jarabek, Sara Coyle, Raquel Bietz and Brittany Auch.

Best man was Jeremy Syrovatka. Groomsmen included Aaron Auch, Bryan Bietz, Chad Bietz and Ryan Auch. Honorary ring bearer was Ashton Bietz.

Ushers were Brett Maag and Casey Permann. Personal attendants were Brittany Maag and Emma Coyle.

The reception and dance were held at the Highland Conference Center in Mitchell, SD.

Jenna is a 2009 graduate of Dakota Wesleyan University with an Associates degree in Nursing. She will graduate from DWU this May with her Bachelor's degree in Nursing. She currently works as a Registered Nurse at Avera Brady Health and Rehab in Mitchell, SD.

Brandon is a 2009 graduate of Mitchell Technical Institute with a degree in Electrical Construction and Maintenance. He currently works for Muth Electric in Mitchell, SD. The couple resides near Mitchell, SD.



Koller-Smith

Brandy Kay Koller and Brett Arthur Smith were united in marriage on the 17th of October 2009.

The couple was married during an outdoor ceremony on Lake Herman at Camp Lakoda in Madison, South Dakota, with Larry Thranum officiating.

The parents of the bride are Mike and Holly Eisenmenger and the late Robert Koller.

The parents of the groom are Jerry and Sharon Smith.

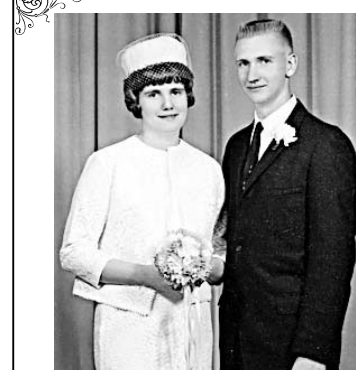
The couple lives and works in Yankton, South Dakota.

Mr. & Mrs. Stelling

Arnold and Shirley (Damme) Stelling will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary on Friday, March 19, 2010.

The couple's family requests a card shower. Greetings may be sent to: 121 Dayton Lane, Tabor, SD 57063.

The couple has two children: Troy (Kristen) Stelling and Amy (John) Olson and two grandchildren: Zachary and Micah Stelling.



March 19, 1965 - March 19, 2010
45th Anniversary

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