

A Taste of Scurry County Extension

*Scurry County Family & Consumer Science
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Sharing our Blessings During the Holidays

The holidays are a wonderful time of year. Spending time with family and friends and remembering the blessings we have been given.

Thanksgiving was a great time to reflect on what we have and show our appreciation to others. However, we shouldn't only be thankful and share our blessings only one time a year. As Thanksgiving has come to a close and we begin to prepare for the Christmas season, we have many opportunities to share our blessings with others.

There are many organizations in Scurry County that strive to assist those that may be in need. As we celebrate this holiday season and prepare for new year, I challenge you to consider giving to a local organization to give back to our fellow community members.

Whether you choose to donate your time or support them through monetary donations, you are helping to improve the lives of others.

I am so thankful for the life God has blessed me with. He has blessed me with a wonderful family, friends, community to live in and all of my needs are met. I am also thankful that I am able to serve as your Family and Consumer Science Extension Agent. In November I reached my one year anniversary as the FCS Extension Agent in Scurry County. It has been a blessing and privilege to work with the Scurry County Community.

We have a wonderful community that actively supports community involvement and is always

ready to help those in need.

I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!! If I can ever be of assistance to you please contact me at our extension office at 325-573-5423. Merry Christmas!!!

Merry

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Crock Pot Christmas

Holiday Entertaining Made Easy

The holiday season is a joyful time of year. It can also be a hectic time of year as our calendars can quickly fill up with parties and celebrations. There are many ways to make your days a little less hectic and still enjoy home cooked goodies with your family and friends. The use of a crock pot can help you this holiday season. It can free up your oven and stovetop AND your time. Recipes for candy, hot cocoa, dips and even breakfast for Christmas morning can all be prepared using a crock pot. I hope you enjoy these recipes and the time saved in the kitchen so you can spend more time with family and friends.

Breakfast Casserole

12 eggs
1 bag frozen hash browns
16 oz. breakfast sausage
16 oz cheddar cheese, shredded
1 c. milk
Salt and pepper to taste

Line Crock Pot with a crock pot liner and spray with vegetable spray. Cook breakfast sausage until done and drain the grease. Layer hash browns on the bottom of the crock pot. Whisk together eggs, milk and salt and pepper. Place sausage on top of the hash browns, then follow with cheese and top with the egg mixture. Cook for 6-8 hours on low.

Best Ever Creamy Crockpot Cocoa

1-1/2 c. heavy whipping cream
14 oz. sweetened condensed milk
6 c. milk
1-1/2 t. vanilla
2 c. chocolate chips (milk chocolate or semi-sweet)

Combine all ingredients in a mixing bowl and whisk together until combined. Pour in crockpot and cook on low for 2 hours, stirring occasionally, until mixture is hot and chocolate chips are melted. Whisk before serving. Garnish as desired.



Courtesy of Pinterest : One good Thing

Crockpot Christmas Crack

16 oz. peanuts, unsalted
16 oz. peanuts, salted
12 oz. semi-sweet chocolate chips
12 oz. milk chocolate chips
20 oz. peanut butter chips
2 lbs. white almond bark or vanilla chips

Layer all ingredients in a large crockpot starting with peanuts. Turn the pot on low, cover with lid, and leave sitting for 2 hours. Remove the lid and stir to combine. Replace lid and leave sitting for another 30 minutes. Stir again and then spoon mixture on a wax paper or non-stick aluminum foil. Allow to harden for at least 1 hour.

Courtesy of Pinterest:
Just a Pinch Recipes

Christmas Cinnamon Vanilla Scent

Spread a little holiday cheer with scents of the season!

2 oranges
1 c. fresh cranberries
1 cinnamon stick
1 small handful whole cloves
1 t. vanilla
Water

Cut up oranges into eight pieces and place in small 2-4 quart slow cooker. Add remaining ingredients and cover with water. Cover and cook on high for 2 hours. Remove lid and continue cooking for as long as you desire. Add water as needed to cover mixture.

Courtesy of Pinterest,
The Crockin Girls



Scurry County Charitable Organizations

Blessings In A Bag

Supported by the Ministerial Alliance and operated by volunteers at Snyder and community members.

Provides supplemental food to students in need for K-12 grades in the Snyder School District.

100% Funded by monetary donations and food items.

Items Needed: Individually wrapped packages of macaroni and cheese, granola bars, pudding cups, rice cups, fruit, cereal, ramen noodles and other items.

To make a donation contact: lbutler@snyderisd.net or call 574-8800 Ext.8347

Snyder Food Cupboard

Ministry of the Scurry County Ministerial Alliance.

Provides food to qualifying community residents.

Open Every Tuesday from 9:00a.m. —12:00 p.m.

Accepts food and monetary donations.

Scurry Community Services

Snyder Child Day Care Center, Scurry County Early Head Start and Head Start. Volunteers for reading, classroom assistance and monetary donations are welcome. Call 573-7403 or visit www.scurrycommunityservices.com for more

Scurry County United Way

Organizations that receive support from United Way:

Snyder We Care
Cancer Services Network
Scurry County Food Cupboard
Gateway Family Services
Snyder Child Day Care Center
Snyder Volunteer Fire Department
Boys Scouts
Girl Scouts
West Texas Children Advocacy Center

To make an online donation go to <http://scurrycountyunitedway.org>
Or they may be mailed to Scurry County United Way, P.O. Box 1411, Snyder, TX 79550. For more information contact Scurry County United Way at 573-5311.

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Christmas Tree Safety

Decorating for Christmas is a fun tradition that can be enjoyed with family and wonderful memories can be made. As you string the lights and hang the ornaments be sure to keep fire safety in mind. Small fires can spread to a Christmas tree and grow large very quickly. Make sure to take steps to prevent a home fire and protect your loved ones. Even if you have already completed your holiday "decking of the halls" there are still steps you can take to ensure a safe Holiday Season. The NFPA.org gives some great tips to keep your Christmas tree and lights in check.

After the Tree has been set:

- * Make sure the tree is at least 3 feet away from any heat source.
- * Avoid putting it by fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- * Make sure the tree does not block an exit.
- * For fresh trees add water daily.

Tree Lighting

- * Make sure the proper lights are used. Some lights are only used for indoor or outdoor use.
- * Inspect string of lights for worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- * Never use lit candles to decorate a tree.

- * Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

- * Get rid of fresh trees after Christmas. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.
- * Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

Facts

- 1 of every three home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.

A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly one in every four of the fires.

Although Christmas tree fires are not common, they are more likely to be serious.

