



### Freezing Pies & Pie Fillings Saves Time During Holiday Rush

The holidays just aren't the same without Great-grandma Mary's famous fruit pies. But as we all know, the holiday season is hectic and sometimes there just isn't time to make some of our favorite family recipes.

Fortunately, you can make those favorite pies in advance and freeze them. This will save valuable time when you're in a holiday rush, but still get that long-time family favorite pie on the table, said Barbara Brown, Oklahoma State University Extension food specialist.

"You have a couple of options when it comes to freezing fruit pies. First, you can make the pie and freeze it. It's best to freeze an unbaked pie to help ensure it has a fresher fruit flavor," Brown said. "Another option is to freeze the filling and crust separately to prevent fruit juice from penetrating and softening the lower crust during freezing. Freezing the unbaked pie will take up more space in your freezer and ties up that pie pan."

When freezing the filling and crust separately, put the pre-measured fruit filling for one pie in a large freezer bag and squeeze out all of the air. Cooks also can put the bag of cooled filling into a foil-lined pie pan, shaping it to fit the pan. When it's frozen, simply remove the filling and the pan is ready for other uses in the kitchen. When the holidays arrive, simply put the frozen filling in a fresh crust. Allow an extra 20 or so minutes for cooking.

Brown said freezing pie dough also can be a time saver during the holiday season. Roll the dough into circles and freeze on lined cardboard separated with pieces of parchment paper. You also can freeze unbaked dough in pie pans by stacking the pastry-filled pans with two layers of freezer paper between them. Place in a freezer bag to help ensure freshness.

"Go ahead and prick pastry that will be baked unfilled, but don't prick dough that will be filled before baking," she said. "Dough shaped in pans before freezing doesn't need to be thawed before baking."

Some bakers choose to freeze the whole pie first, whether baked or unbaked, then wrap them after they are frozen solid. If you choose this option, do not cut vents in the top crust of an unbaked pie before freezing. This can be done just before baking. A baked pie that has been frozen can be served without reheating. Keep in mind food safety and thaw a baked pie in the refrigerator.

Bake frozen pies in the lower third of the oven at 425 degrees Fahrenheit for 25 minutes, then reduce heat to 350 degrees and move the pie to the center of the oven to finish baking. Be sure to place the pies on a cookie sheet or drip pan to help catch juices that may overflow.

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# Payne County Home & Community Education DECEMBER 2020



Payne County Home & Community Education, Inc. News is published monthly by the Payne County OSU Cooperative Extension Center Family & Consumer Sciences Program, 315 W. 6th, Suite #103, Stillwater, OK 74074. To subscribe: call 405-747-8320. Subscriptions are \$7.50 as a part of the dues of the Payne County Home & Community Education.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1	2	3	4	5
6		7 Elm Grove	8	9 Floral Valley Lunch Bunch Rising Star	10	11	12
13 Cimarron Valley Pine Vale		14	15	16 Cherokee	17	18	19
20		21	22	23 Christmas Eve—Office Closed	24 Merry Christmas Office Closed	25	26
27		28	29	30	31		

### FREE YEAST PACKETS

At the county fair each year Red Star sends packets of Platinum Baking Yeast to give out to fair goers. Since we didn't have the fair, I have yeast packets here at the office. I have almost enough for each OHCE member to have one packet. If you would like, you are welcome to stop by the office and pick up a packet of yeast. Just tell the Extension staff person that you would like to get your FREE YEAST! It will be perfect for your holiday baking! Enjoy!



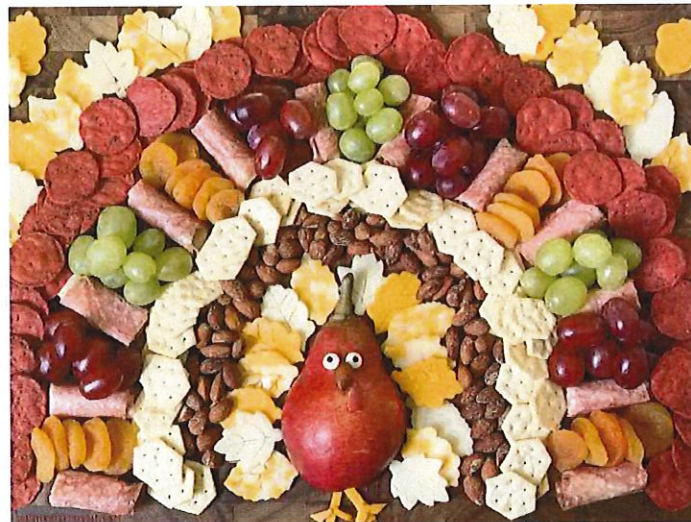
# Make a Turkey Charcuterie Board for Thanksgiving



<https://www.foodnetwork.com/thanksgiving/thanksgiving-entertaining/5-turkey-themed-platters-for-your-thanksgiving-feast>



<https://lilluna.com/turkey-veggie-tray/>



<https://homeiswheretheboatis.net/2019/11/11/turkey-snack-board-for-thanksgiving/>



<https://thebakermama.com/recipes/turkey-snack-board/>



<https://healthyfamilyproject.com/recipes/holiday-charcuterie-board/>



# Pledge Your Support for the 2020 Dine In and FCS Day!



[www.aafcs.org/FCSday](http://www.aafcs.org/FCSday)  #FCSday #FCSsuccess

I hope you will join in on FCS Day and "Dine In" on Thursday, December 3rd in honor of Ellen Swallow Richards. Can't dine in on 12/3/20? Choose a date in or around FCS day!

Since 2014, nearly half a million people have committed to **"Dining In" on Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) Day!** AAFCS honors Founder [Ellen Swallow Richards](#) by celebrating FCS Day on her birthday. The pandemic isn't going to stop FCS professionals across the country from celebrating FCS Day with the "Dine in Day" initiative in 2020! The theme this year is ***Dining in for FCSsuccess.***

It's the perfect time to tell our story about the value of family and consumer sciences, to extension groups, secondary and higher education students, parents, principals, school administrators, government officials, decision makers, media, family and friends.

Be creative! It is easy to gather a virtual group on Zoom or other platform *on or around* FCS Day for a "bring your own" breakfast, lunch, or dinner event.

## **HOLIDAY PIES (CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE):**

To help maintain color in frozen pies, add one-half teaspoon of ascorbic acid or commercial color preserver with the sugar when preparing peach, pear or apple pies. Also, consider adding an extra tablespoon of flour or tapioca or one-half tablespoon of cornstarch or modified food starch to unbaked fruit pies. This will help keep them from bubbling over when baking.

Freezing causes liquids thickened with flour or cornstarch to separate a bit, so fillings thickened with tapioca or modified food starch will maintain their consistency better.

"The holiday season can be extremely hectic, and you don't want to be stuck in the kitchen cooking the whole time," Brown said. "Preparing your favorite family fruit pies ahead of schedule will help ensure you get to spend more time with your family."







# PAYNE COUNTY OHCE NEWS



## 2021 OHCE LESSONS

**(leader lesson locations & delivery methods are subject to change)**

- ◆ **January:** "A Meeting in a Nutshell" - This lesson will be mailed out and taught via Zoom
- ◆ **February:** "Sheet Pan Meals" - This lesson will be mailed out and taught via Zoom
- ◆ **March:** "DNA: You are from Where?" - Tuesday, February 23rd, 5:30 p.m., prior to Family Night, Expo
- ◆ **April:** "Enjoying Hummingbirds" - Tuesday, March 23rd, 2:00 p.m., Extension Office
- ◆ **May:** "5 Financial Behaviors to Increase Savings or Decrease Spending" - Tuesday, April 27th, 5:30 p.m., prior to Spring Meeting, Expo Center
- ◆ **June:** District Lesson Tuesday, May 18th, 2:00 p.m., Extension Office
- ◆ **July:** Group Choice
- ◆ **August:** "Steps in Quilting" - Tuesday, July 27th, 5:30 p.m. prior to Summer Meeting, Expo Center
- ◆ **September:** State Lesson Tuesday, August 10th, 2:00 p.m., Extension Office
- ◆ **October:** "Clothing Repair & Mending" - Tuesday, September 7th, 2:00 p.m., Extension Office
- ◆ **November:** "Cast Iron Cooking" - Tuesday, October 19th, following Fall Meeting, Expo Center
- ◆ **December:** Group Choice

**The Meeting Place & Lesson forms will be mailed to club Secretaries. Please try to fill them out and return them to me by Monday, January 4th. Thank you!**

## **Get Your Credit Report for FREE**

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/05/credit-reports-are-now-free-every-week>

If you're feeling anxious about your financial health during these uncertain times, you're not alone. That's why the three national credit reporting agencies are giving people weekly access to monitor their credit report — ***for free.***

This is some helpful news, because staying on top of your [credit report](#) is one important tool to help manage your financial data. Your credit report has information about your credit history and payment history — information that lenders, creditors, and other businesses use when giving you loans or credit.

Now it's easier than ever to check your credit more often. That's because everyone is eligible to get free weekly credit reports from the three national credit reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian, and Transunion. To get your free reports, go to [AnnualCreditReport.com](https://www.annualcreditreport.com). The credit reporting agencies are making these reports free for the next year.

If you are struggling to pay your bills right now because of the Coronavirus crisis, here's what you can do: **Contact the companies you owe money to.** Ask if they can postpone your payment, put you on a payment plan, or give you a temporary forbearance.

**Check your credit report regularly** to make sure it's correct — especially any new payment arrangements or temporary forbearance. The recently passed CARES Act generally requires your creditors to report these accounts as current.

**Fix any errors or mistakes** that you spot on your credit report. Notify the credit reporting agencies directly. You can find out more by reading [Disputing Errors on Credit Reports](#).



### *Gloria Hesser Memorial 4-H Scholarship Fund Donations*

The end of the year is a good time to make donations to worthwhile causes and there is just such a cause in Payne County OHCE. As you know, a scholarship fund in memory of Gloria Hesser was established and the \$1500 scholarship is awarded each year to an outstanding Payne County 4-H Senior member. Groups or individuals can make donations to the scholarship fund at the Extension Office. Please make checks payable to "Gloria Hesser Memorial 4-H Scholarship". All donations are tax-deductible. The fourth \$1500 scholarship was awarded to 4-H Member Raphael Wall, an outstanding Perkins Senior 4-H member.

## **OHCE ACHIEVEMENT DAY PLANS CANCELLED**

### **OHCE Achievement Day has been cancelled for this year due to COVID-19.**

Even though we won't have Achievement Day, you are still encouraged to submit awards for District and State competition.

## **2020! How are we going to do awards for this year?!?!**

The Executive Council has decided that this is the best way to handle applying for 2020 awards.

\*Group participation forms will not be turned in this year but your local group is encouraged to keep track of everything your group did so you have a record of it and we may feature some of your activities in upcoming newsletters. I'll mail the form if you want to use it for reference.

\*Perfect Attendance will not be recognized on the county level for 2020. No member will be penalized for not attending 2020 local group meetings if your group had meetings. You can keep track of 2020 perfect attendance on the local level if you want to.

**\*\*\*In light of COVID-19, we know that many members and groups have not had the opportunity to participate in many things; therefore, it may be difficult to have award entries for 2020. However, we encourage your local groups to nominate members for outstanding member awards (member, rookie, young and heart of OHCE) and have those members complete those applications and get them to the office by January 4, 2021.**

**We also encourage you to turn in life story entries and photography entries if you have them. Just remember that while you think you haven't done anything, other OHCE members and groups are also in the same situation. While entries may be very low this year, you all deserve to be recognized for what you WERE able to do! (ex.: masks!)**

## **MANY THINGS ARE DUE ON MONDAY, JANUARY 4th, 2021!**

**Due on Monday, January 4th by 5:00 p.m. are:**

- ⇒ Secretary's book (there are no state report forms so you have to tell *everything your club did in the summary pages in the back of the book*)—please submit your Secretary books with the information for the months that you did meet reporting what your local group members did.
- ⇒ All award forms & reports, Life Stories & Photography entries
- ⇒ 50, 60, 70 year members' names
- ⇒ Memorials for members who passed away in 2020

Refer to last month's newsletter, state handbook or contact me if you need information or help with your award entries and forms. Outstanding member forms and award information has been mailed out.



### Save Money on Utilities



The average consumer household pays around \$250-350 a month for utilities including electricity, gas, water and sewer/trash pickup with half that amount going to electricity. Any money saved on utilities can be spent for something else. Here are some great ways to save some money on utilities:

Change out furnace filters regularly.

Turn off unused lights, and change lightbulbs to CFL or LED bulbs.

Check windows and doors for air leaks and seal them.

Keep doors and windows shut especially when running air conditioner or heater.

Program the thermostat to adjust itself. Set the temperature a little lower in the winter and wear a sweater inside.

Don't run dishwasher or washing machine unless full.

Use a smart energy bar for electronics so they don't drain energy when not in use.

Adjust the refrigerator temperature to 38 degrees.

Lower the hot water temperature.

Seal leaky ductwork.

Replace shower head to low flow and take shorter showers.

Have your electric company do an energy audit on your home to find out how you can save money.

Ask the utility company about discounts and incentives.



This information comes from [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)

## Don't Fall for Scams!

Criminals, thieves and con artists use many types of scams to target unsuspecting people who have access to money. Consumer scams happen on the phone, through the mail, e-mail, or over the internet. They can occur in person, at home, or at a business.



Here are some tips to protect yourself from scams:

**Don't share numbers** or passwords for accounts, credit cards, or Social Security.

**Never pay up front** for a promised prize. It's a scam if you are told that you must pay fees or taxes to receive a prize or other financial windfall.

After hearing a sales pitch, **take time to compare prices**. Ask for information in writing and read it carefully.

Too good to be true? Ask yourself why someone is trying so hard to give you a "great deal. **If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.**

Watch out for deals that are only "good today" and that pressure you to act quickly. **Walk away from high-pressure sales tactics** that don't allow you time to read a contract or get legal advice before signing. Also, don't fall for the sales pitch that says you need to pay immediately, for example by wiring the money or sending it by courier.

**Put your number on the National Do Not Call Registry.** Go to [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or call (888) 382-1222.



This information comes from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

[www.cfpb.gov](http://www.cfpb.gov)