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Foodways A 4-H Folkpatterns Project – Kitchen Equipment/Family Foodways Keepsake Exhibit

Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service

4-H Club Bulletin

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Food Preparation

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## Kitchen Equipment

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- PURPOSE:** To learn more about historical and contemporary food preparation
- YOU'LL NEED:** Pencil and paper
- TIME:** Two or more meetings
- HOW TO DO IT:** Make arrangements with a museum curator or private collector to view his/her collection of antique kitchen implements. Ask how these tools were used and what the modern versions of these tools are. Then go on a field trip to a store which specializes in kitchen equipment. Note the various utensils available for specific uses with food. Which were also available in your grandparent's time? Reproductions of old store catalogs (such as Sears) can also be used to view kitchen tools.
- NOW WHAT?**
1. Do a display of modern and antique implements. (You may not be allowed to borrow antiques, but find out if you may take pictures of them.) Show the antique next to its modern version. Describe how they work and whether or not the modern tool is a timesaver compared to the old one. You may be surprised to learn that some modern appliances do not save any more time than their antique counterparts!
  2. Locate someone who uses a woodstove for cooking and someone who uses a microwave oven for cooking. Prepare a cornbread recipe (preferably the *same* recipe) in each oven. Have a taste test and decide which one tastes better.
  3. The Michigan 4-H — Youth Programs has a display called "Cooking Tools of Yesteryear." Contact your county Extension office to find out how to borrow the display. The display features a game called "Guess What This Was Used For?" that you could use at your next meeting.

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# Family Foodways Keepsake Exhibit

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Food Preparation

**PURPOSE:** To become aware of what foodways traditions have been handed down in your family and where they came from

**YOU'LL NEED:** Pen or pencil  
Index cards (3x5) or lined paper

**TIME:** One or more meetings

**HOW TO DO IT:** *Step 1.* Locate old objects your family has used for gathering, cooking, or serving food (for example, cookbooks, serving dishes, aprons, linens, kitchen utensils, fishing or trapping gear, garden tools, recipe files, etc.).

*Step 2.* For each object, fill out a card or paper with the following information:

**OBJECT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

What is it made of? \_\_\_\_\_

Who made it/bought it? \_\_\_\_\_

When was it made? \_\_\_\_\_

What was it used for? \_\_\_\_\_

Who has owned it? \_\_\_\_\_

What is it used for now? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there are special stories about it? \_\_\_\_\_

## NOW WHAT?

1. Attach the tags to each object and put them on display at school or a fair. (**IMPORTANT:** Make sure you have permission to borrow any items for display!) People will be very interested in your exhibit. Encourage them to talk about similar objects in *their* families. How do their memories differ from the information you have about similar objects? Why do you suppose this is so?
2. Go to a local museum and locate similar objects. What information does the museum have? Add this extra information to your tags.