

Reader Recipes

Corncob Jelly

12 corncobs
7 cups water
1 3/4-oz. powdered fruit pectin
3 1/2 cups sugar
2 drops yellow food coloring

Remove corn kernels from cobs and save for another recipe. In a large pot, drop corncobs in 7 cups of water and bring to a boil. Boil uncovered for 10 mins. Throw away the cobs and strain the liquid. Reserve 3 1/2 cups of corncob water and pour into a large pot. Stir in the pectin and bring to a strong boil. Add the sugar and bring back to a boil. Skim the foam off the top and add a few drops of yellow food coloring. Ladle the liquid into jelly jars, leaving about 1/2 to 1-in. headspace. Place the seal and rings on the jar and process in a water bath for 10-15 mins. Remove and set aside. If jars do not seal, refrigerate and use.

Frosted Banana Cake

For the cake:
2 medium ripe bananas
1/2 cup butter, softened
1 1/2 cups sugar
2 eggs
1 cup sour cream
1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
non-stick cooking spray
For the frosting:
1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup butter, softened
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
3 cups powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 350 F. Peel, slice, and mash ripened bananas; set aside. In a large bowl, beat butter and sugar until fluffy. Add eggs, sour cream, and vanilla, blend well. Gradually add in flour. Stir in bananas. Add baking soda, and salt, mix well. Prepare 9x13 baking pan with nonstick cooking spray. Pour batter into baking pan. Bake 20-25 mins., or until toothpick inserted into center of cake comes out clean. Let cool. To make frosting: in a large bowl, beat cream cheese, butter, and vanilla extract until fluffy. Gradually add powdered sugar. Mix until well combined. Frost cake. Store in refrigerator until ready to serve.

Where To Get Your Water Tested

Clean drinking water is something we often take for granted - until something changes. Smell, color, local reports of water issues, or moving to a new home can all trigger the need to test water. Tap Score, a California business, helps customers sort out which tests and labs are best for them.

"We provide kits and lab testing logistics for 175 labs nationwide," explains Kate Wisialowski, Chief Operations Officer for Tap Score.

Tap Score offers more than 100 unique testing kits, all with free shipping both ways and customer support. Options range from core testing kits to specialized tests based on local risk factors. There are core water testing kits for wells, rainwater, and spring water supplies, each containing baseline analyses like E. coli, hardness, pH, heavy metals, minerals, and nitrates.

"It's vital to test your water before you purchase filtration or treatment technology - otherwise you will waste money buying the wrong filtration product or treatment chemicals," Wisialowski says.

For clients with their own wells, the Essential Well Water Test is a common choice, she says. It tests for 52 "parameters" (aka contaminants) including hardness minerals, metals and microbiology like E. coli. It's ideal for wells that are near septic tanks, and for people concerned about runoff from agricultural inputs or have children or vulnerable people in the home. The cost is \$195, and Tap Score mails a package with containers and directions on how to collect a sample.

Once the sample is mailed back to the lab, technicians run analyses for 3 to 5 days and produce a comprehensive Tap Score lab report. The report includes details on every test method, result, health concern, plumbing concern, and aesthetic concern and includes unbiased filtration and treatment advice - suggesting technologies that are best suited for your water. (Tap Score does not sell or promote any filtration products.)

In addition to the Essential Well test, there are Advanced and Extended Core water tests, along with specialized tests for pesticides, herbicides, radioactive particles, asbestos, various microbiological species, PFAS and more.

Tap Score ships tests to the U.S. and Canada, where it has partnered with labs for services there.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tap Score, (ph 510-697-1614, hello@gosimplelab.com; www.mytapscore.com).



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Phone app scans negatives to photos using just a cell phone camera.

Scan Negatives With Phone App

If you wonder what treasures may exist in that box of negatives you've saved, the app for FilmBox by Photomyne turns your smartphone into an easy-to-use scanner. There are both free and subscription versions.

The free version was all that Maddie Kammerer needed when her family went through negatives preparing for her grandfather's funeral.

"We found some really good photos of Grandpa and his brother when he was two or three next to a car," she says.

After scanning a few negatives, she had the option to continue with the free version with ads or pay for a subscription. She chose the free version.

The process is fast. According to Photomyne, 100 photos can be scanned in 10 mins. The app rotates, inverts, enhances, and crops the image.

For the best results, darken the room and hold the negative vertically about 2 in. in front of a computer's white screen using the link on the app (www.photomyne.com/backlight). Hold the phone so that the holes on the negative sides show and press the capture button for 3 seconds or say "go" if voice control is enabled. The image will appear and can be saved and shared.

For customers who want to eliminate ads and preserve unlimited images, FilmBox offers subscriptions for \$8/month, \$30/year, or \$40 for 2 years.

"FilmBox by Photomyne offers a game-changing way to preserve and relive timeless memories," says Mickey Atrir, CMO of the Israel-based international company. "The app's smart AI algorithms ensure a speedy process, making it faster and easier than traditional scanning services. It offers a cost-efficient solution for preserving cherished memories. The AI-powered colorization feature adds vibrancy to black and white photos instantly."

Subscriptions also include unlimited photo backup with access from computers and mobile devices as well as photo restoration and enhancements.

The FilmBox by Photomyne app can be downloaded from the iPhone app store or Google Play store.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, (support@photomyne.com; www.photomyne.com).



New Products For The Farm, Ranch Home



When the app signals use, the user holds it against the bite, and the affected area is briefly heated to between 117 and 126 degrees F.

Cellphone Used To Stop Bug Bite Itch

You can take the itch out of mosquito bites and other bug bites with Heat It from Kamedi GmbH. Smaller than a little fingernail, the Heat It device and app make bug bite scratching and discomfort a thing of the past.

"I was 25 when I was introduced to the idea that applying a heated spoon to a bug bite took away the discomfort," says Lukas Liedtke, Heat It. "I tried it, and it worked amazingly well. I thought there should be a way to provide the treatment anywhere."

Liedtke needed a device that would provide instant heat. He took his idea to a 2017 student competition at the Technologiefabrik of Karlsruhe, Germany. Initial concepts were clunky and inflexible, but they showed the heat treatment did work.

By 2019 he and his co-founders had a device that worked, using a cell phone as a power source. An app for the cell phone was developed to control the device.

"We have more than 250,000 satisfied customers in 14 countries, with more than three million treatments," says Liedtke. "Just plug it into your cell phone, which is the user interface. Choose the time and temperature of the treatment, depending on the sensitivity of the individual or the area of the body."

Once the app has been downloaded to the phone and the device plugged in, the user can select the preferred treatment of 4, 7 or 9 seconds. The affected area is briefly heated to between 117 and 126 degrees F.

"You can set the duration of treatment and the temperature," says Liedtke.

This FARM SHOW writer and his wife tried out the Heat It device. It's as simple to operate as promised, and it works just as well. A momentary sensation of heat replaces the discomfort of the bug bite. It quickly disappears, taking the bite discomfort with it.

Current research suggests the nerves in the skin react to the heat impulse, reducing the bite stimulation. Once the itching signal can no longer be transmitted to the brain, the desire to scratch goes away.

Heat It is available for both Android and Apple smartphones. It's priced at \$69. The company offers a 100-day extended return policy to test it out.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Heat It US, 1007 N. Orange St., Wilmington, Del. 19801 or Kamedi GmbH, Haid-und-Neu-Str. 7, 76131 Karlsruhe, Germany (ph 49 721 47044004; www.just-heat-it.com).