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Message to 4-H Members

Baking I is to help first-year baking members learn baking basics — nutrition, measuring and kitchen safety. The project is organized to cover one topic or food at each club meeting.

You will learn the basics of baking by making quick breads and cookies.

You will learn:
• About “MyPlate” and the importance of grain foods in your daily diet
• How to measure dry and liquid ingredients accurately
• Definitions of basic baking terms
• Basic kitchen and food safety practices
• How to make:
  Biscuits
  Muffins and muffin variations
  Pancakes
  Cookies: sugar, chocolate chip, chocolate drop, oatmeal and peanut butter
• How to judge the quality of each food product
• About jobs and careers in food preparation

You should:
• Learn to judge the quality of each food product
• Attend 4-H club meetings and baking project meetings as available in your county
• Give a demonstration, teaching others baking basics
• Keep a record of your work on this project
• Participate in leadership and citizenship activities

Suggested Exhibits
• Three biscuits
• Three plain muffins
• Three chocolate chip cookies
• Three sugar cookies – round, plain, without icing
• Three chocolate drop cookies
• Three oatmeal cookies
• Three peanut butter cookies

Acknowledgments

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Eating Well

MyPlate
“MyPyramid” has been rebuilt and it’s now a plate! Here’s what the colors stand for:

- orange - grains
- green - vegetables
- red - fruits
- blue - dairy foods
- purple - protein foods

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) wanted an easier way to remind people to eat healthfully. MyPlate shows the five food groups using a familiar picture: a place setting with a plate, cup and fork.

MyPlate Speaks
Let’s look at some of the other messages this new symbol is trying to send:

Balancing Calories
- Enjoy your food, but eat less.
- Avoid oversized portions.

Foods to Increase
- Make half your plate fruits and vegetables.
- Make at least half your grains whole grains.
- Switch to fat-free or low-fat (1%) milk.

Foods to Reduce
- Compare sodium in foods such as soup, bread and frozen meals. Choose foods with lower numbers.
- Drink water instead of sugary drinks.

ChooseMyPlate.gov
Make it personal.
Through the USDA's MyPlate website, you can get personalized recommendations about the mix of foods you need to eat and how much you should be eating.

How Much Do I Need to Eat?
Everyone wants to know how much he or she should eat to stay healthy. That's a tricky question, though. It depends on your age, whether you're a girl or boy, and how active you are. Kids who are more active burn more calories, so they need more calories.

Grains
Grains are measured in ounce equivalents. What are they? Ounce equivalents are just another way of showing a serving size.

Here are ounce equivalents for common grain foods. An ounce equivalent equals:
- 1 piece of bread
- ½ cup of cooked cereal, such as oatmeal
- ½ cup of rice or pasta
- 1 cup of cold cereal

- 4- to 8-year-olds need 4 to 5 ounce equivalents each day.
- 9- to 13-year-old girls need 5 ounce equivalents each day.
- 9- to 13-year-old boys need 6 ounce equivalents each day.

And one last thing about grains: Make at least half your grain food choices whole grains, such as 100 percent wheat bread, brown rice and oatmeal.

Vegetables
Of course, you need your vegetables, especially those dark green and orange ones. But how much is enough? Vegetable servings are measured in cups.

- 4- to 8-year-olds need 1½ cups of veggies each day.
- 9- to 13-year-old girls need 2 cups of veggies each day.
- 9- to 13-year-old boys need 2½ cups of veggies each day.

Fruits
Sweet, juicy fruit definitely is part of a healthy diet. Here's how much you need:
- 4- to 8-year-olds need 1 cup to 1½ cups of fruit each day.
- 9- to 13-year-old girls need 1½ cups of fruit each day.
- 9- to 13-year-old boys need 1½ cups of fruit each day.

Dairy
Dairy foods are rich in calcium to build strong bones to last a lifetime.

- 4- to 8-year-olds need 1 to 2 cups of milk (or other calcium-rich food) each day.
- 9- to 13-year-old girls need 3 cups of milk (or other calcium-rich foods) each day.
- 9- to 13-year-old boys need 3 cups of milk (or other calcium-rich foods) each day.

If you want something other than milk, you can substitute yogurt, cheese or calcium-fortified orange juice — just to name a few.

Protein Foods
These foods contain iron and lots of other important nutrients. Like grains, these foods are measured in ounce equivalents.

An ounce equivalent of this group would be:
- 1 ounce of meat, poultry or fish
- ¼ cup cooked dry beans
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon of peanut butter
- a small handful of nuts or seeds

- 4- to 8-year-olds need 3 to 4 ounce equivalents each day.
- 9- to 13-year-old girls need 5 ounce equivalents each day.
- 9- to 13-year-old boys need 5 ounce equivalents each day.

Whoa! That's a lot to swallow. The good news is that your mom, dad and the other grownups in your life will help you eat what you need to stay healthy. Here's more good news: You don’t have to become a perfect eater overnight.

Adapted with permission from http://kidshealth.org/kid/stay_healthy/food/pyramid.html
enjoy your food, but eat less

You can enjoy your meals while making small adjustments to the amounts of food on your plate. Healthy meals start with more fruits, vegetables, grains, protein foods, and dairy. Drink and eat less sodium, saturated fat, and added sugars.

1. get to know the foods you eat
   Use the SuperTracker to find out what kinds of foods and how much to eat and to get tips and support for making better food choices.

2. take your time
   Be mindful to eat slowly, enjoy the taste and textures, and pay attention to how you feel. Use hunger and fullness cues to recognize when to eat and when you’ve had enough.

3. use a smaller plate
   Use a smaller plate at meals to help with portion control. That way you can finish your entire plate and feel satisfied without overeating.

4. if you eat out, choose healthier options
   Check and compare nutrition information about the foods you are eating. Preparing food at home makes it easier to control what is in your meals.

5. satisfy your sweet tooth in a healthy way
   Indulge in a naturally sweet dessert dish—fruit! Serve a fresh fruit cocktail or a fruit parfait made with yogurt. For a hot dessert, bake apples and top with cinnamon.

6. choose to eat some foods more or less often
   Choose more vegetables, fruits, whole grains, and fat-free or 1% milk and dairy products. Cut back on foods high in solid fats, added sugars, and salt.

7. find out what you need
   Get your personalized plan by using the SuperTracker to identify your food group targets. Compare the foods you eat to the foods you need to eat.

8. sip smarter
   Drink water or other calorie-free beverages, 100% juice, or fat-free milk when you are thirsty. Soda and other sugar-sweetened beverages contain added sugar and are high in calories.

9. compare foods
   Check out the Food-A-Pedia to look up and compare nutrition information for more than 8,000 foods.

10. make treats “treats,” not everyday foods
    Treats are great once in a while. Just don’t make treat foods an everyday choice. Limit sweet treats to special occasions.
Whole grains are important sources of nutrients such as zinc, magnesium, B vitamins, and fiber. There are many choices available to make half your grains whole grains. But whole-grain foods should be handled with care. Over time and if not properly stored, oils in whole grains can cause spoilage. Consider these tips to select whole-grain products and keep them fresh and safe to eat.

1. Search the label
   Whole grains can be an easy choice when preparing meals. Choose whole-grain breads, breakfast cereals, and pastas. Look at the Nutrition Facts labels and ingredients lists to find choices lower in sodium, saturated (solid) fat, and added sugars.

2. Look for the word “whole” at the beginning of the ingredients list
   Some whole-grain ingredients include whole oats, whole-wheat flour, whole-grain corn, whole-grain brown rice, and whole rye. Foods that say “multi-grain,” “100% wheat,” “high fiber,” or are brown in color may not be a whole-grain product.

3. Kids can choose whole grains
   Your kids can choose whole grains at school. Encourage healthier choices at home by adding whole grains into their favorite recipes, meals, and snacks.

4. Find the fiber on label
   If the product provides at least 3 grams of fiber per serving, it is a good source of fiber. If it contains 5 or more grams of fiber per serving, it is an excellent source of fiber.

5. Is gluten in whole grains?
   People who can’t eat wheat gluten can eat whole grains if they choose carefully. There are many whole-grain products, such as buckwheat, certified gluten-free oats or oatmeal, popcorn, brown rice, wild rice, and quinoa that fit gluten-free diet needs.

6. Check for freshness
   Buy whole-grain products that are tightly packaged and well sealed. Grains should always look and smell fresh. Also, check the expiration date and storage guidelines on the package.

7. Keep a lid on it
   When storing whole grains from bulk bins, use containers with tight-fitting lids and keep in a cool, dry location. A sealed container is important for maintaining freshness and reducing bug infestations.

8. Buy what you need
   Purchase smaller quantities of whole-grain products to reduce spoilage. Most grains in sealed packaging can be kept in the freezer.

9. Wrap it up
   Whole-grain bread is best stored at room temperature in its original packaging, tightly closed with a quick-lock or twist tie. The refrigerator will cause bread to lose moisture quickly and become stale. Properly wrapped bread will store well in the freezer.

10. What’s the shelf life?
    Since the oil in various whole-grain flours differs, the shelf life varies too. Most whole-grain flours keep well in the refrigerator for 2 to 3 months and in the freezer for 6 to 8 months. Cooked brown rice can be refrigerated 3 to 5 days and can be frozen up to 6 months.
Why Do We Eat?

We know everyone needs food to live. But why?

Food gives you two things:
• Energy to move and to do things
• Stuff to help you grow and stay healthy

Just like a car needs fuel to run, your body needs food for energy. Without energy, you couldn’t run or play.

Besides giving you energy, food helps you grow and heal. When you skin a knee or an elbow, your body needs to fix or replace the skin you scraped off. If you get sick, your body needs to fight the infection, rebuild weak body parts and get well. Your body also keeps you from getting too hot or cold. Nutrients are the things in food that help your body perform all these functions. So your body doesn’t need just the food, it needs the nutrients in the food.

Nutrients — Who Needs Them?

Nutrients are chemical substances that your body gets from the food you eat. Each nutrient has a different job to do. They all are necessary in specific amounts, but your body knows how to handle it all! You’re an amazing machine!

• Vitamin A helps you see in the dark.
• Water regulates body temperature.
• Calcium builds strong bones and teeth.
• Fat gives you energy and carries some vitamins to where the body needs them.
• Iron helps your blood carry oxygen to all parts of your body — even your toes!
• Protein builds and repairs muscles and other parts of your body.
• Vitamin C helps heal cuts.
• Carbohydrates give you energy to grow, move and do things.
Getting Ready to Bake

Before you begin to prepare food, you need to follow a few rules:
- Read the entire recipe, including mixing and baking instructions, before you begin.
- Assemble the ingredients and equipment.
- Use fresh ingredients when preparing baked products.
- Learn how to use the equipment safely.
- Follow the recipe directions.
- Measure accurately.
- Use a potholder or oven mitt when lifting pans from a burner or the oven.
- Pull the oven rack out using a potholder instead of reaching into the oven.

Food Safety Basics
- Wipe up spills as soon as they happen.
- Wash hands with soap under warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Pull hair back neatly.
- Use clean towels and dishcloths.
- Raw cookie dough may have salmonella bacteria, which can cause food poisoning, so never taste raw cookie dough.
- Never put a spoon in your mouth, then back in the food.
- Don’t lick your fingers.
- Keep all cooking surfaces clean.
- Thoroughly clean all dishes, equipment and utensils with hot, soapy water after use.
- Leave the kitchen clean.

Measure for Success
To be successful in baking, one of the first things to learn is to measure accurately. All recipes in this project book have been tested with the correct proportions based on standard measurements. When you add a little more sugar or a little less baking powder, your products just aren’t as good. All measurements are level unless the recipe states that they are rounded or heaping. Using standard measuring cups and measuring spoons is best.

Using measuring cups: Measure liquids with glass cups that have headspace. Measure dry ingredients with cups that come in a nesting set of 1 cup, ½ cup, ¼ cup and ¼ cup. Metal or glass measuring cups and spoons are better than plastic, which can crack or bend out of shape.

Using measuring spoons: When you measure liquid ingredients, pour them carefully to avoid spilling. When you measure dry ingredients, level them as you would with measuring cups. Don’t hold measuring spoons over your other ingredients while you are putting ingredients into them.

Kitchen Safety
Having fun while you cook is OK. After all, that’s what it’s all about! But accidents can happen when you’re:
- In a hurry
- Messy and not cleaning up spills
- Not paying attention to what you’re doing
- Using machines you don’t know how to use
- Working in the kitchen without permission

What kind of accidents happen most often?
- burns
- cuts
- falls
**Flour**

Cooks make more errors in measuring flour than any other ingredient. You can put as much as 50 percent more flour into a cup if it is packed rather than sifted. Not all standard recipes are written for sifted flour, but if you choose, you can sift flour for a lighter product. Sift a little more flour than you need onto a sheet of waxed paper. Spoon the flour into the measuring cup until it’s full to the top. Pile a little extra flour on top, but be careful not to pack it. Then level the top with a straight knife or spatula. Any flour left on the paper can be returned to the canister.

**Baking Powder**

Use double-acting baking powder for recipes in this book. Stir the baking powder before measuring it to activate the ingredients.

**Shortening**

- Pack firmly into a dry measuring cup with a rubber spatula.
- Level with the straight edge of a knife or metal spatula.
- Remove with a rubber spatula.

**Brown Sugar**

- Break up any lumps by squeezing or rolling.
- Spoon into a dry measuring cup.
- Pack it down firmly with the back of a spoon so that it keeps the shape of the cup when turned over.
- Level with the straight edge of a metal spatula or knife.

**Liquids**

- Place the liquid measuring cup on a flat counter or table.
- Fill to the mark for the amount of liquid you need.
- Bend down to check that the bottom of the liquid line is at the mark for the amount you need.
- Use measuring spoons to measure less than ¼ cup.
- Remove sticky liquids such as molasses, corn syrup and oil with a rubber spatula.

**Sugar**

- Spoon sugar into dry measuring cup.
- Use the straight edge of a knife or a metal spatula to level off the top.

**Margarine or Butter (sticks)**

Cut using measurement marks on the wrapper as a guide.

**Liquid Extracts and Juices**

- Pour the amount needed into the appropriate measuring spoon.
- Never measure over the mixing bowl or pan. Hold it over a small cup.

**Oven Temperatures**

If baked goods are of poor quality, underbaked or overbaked, use an oven thermometer to check the oven for accuracy.

**Equivalents**

If you want to increase or decrease the size of a recipe (or if your measuring utensils are not the same as those given in the recipe), you will need to know the proper equivalents. Here are a few of the most common ones:

- 3 teaspoons = 1 tablespoon
- 2 cups = 1 pint
- 16 tablespoons (dry) = 1 cup
- 4 cups = 1 quart
- 16 ounces = 1 pound
Basic Kitchen Equipment

Cookie cutters .......... To cut cookies or biscuits from rolled dough.

Kitchen fork .............. To lift or turn small food.

Grater ..................... To grate food into tiny pieces.

Dry measuring cups .... To measure dry and solid ingredients.
They usually come in a set of four nesting cups: 1/4 cup, 1/3 cup, 1/2 cup and 1 cup.

Liquid measuring cup . Comes in clear plastic or glass. Has a
1/4-inch headspace so it can carry liquids
without spilling. Has pouring spout.
Some have English measures on one side
and metric measures on the other.

Mixing bowls ............ Made of pottery, glass, metal or plastic.
Come in different sizes.

Pastry blender ........... To cut flour and shortening when making
pastry and biscuits.

Potholders ................. To protect hands when working with
hot pans. Made of quilted cotton cloth.

Rolling pin and cover .. To roll dough for pie crusts, biscuits
or cookies. The cover keeps dough from
sticking to rolling pin.

Rubber spatula .......... To remove food from spoons, sides of
bowls and pans.

Sifter ........................ To incorporate air into flour and other
dry ingredients. To mix dry ingredients.

Spatula ........................ To level dry or solid ingredients when
measuring. To loosen baked goods from
pans.

Turner ........................ To lift foods such as biscuits and cookies
from baking sheet. To lift and turn foods
such as pancakes.

Wire cooling rack ....... To hold hot food such as cakes, breads
and cookies for cooling.

Wire whisk ................. To beat and blend, especially egg-white
mixtures.

Baking sheets ............. Flat, shiny baking pans on which to
bake biscuits and cookies.
Baking Terms

Bake .................. To cook in an oven.
Batter .................. An uncooked mixture of flour, liquid and other ingredients, as for a cake or pancakes.
Beat .................. To mix ingredients rapidly with a mixer, spoon or fork.
Blend .................. To mix two or more ingredients thoroughly, usually with a spoon.
Brown .................. To cook until brown in color.
Cool .................. To let hot food stand until it feels cool.
Cream .................. To combine ingredients with a spoon or mixer until soft, smooth and creamy.
Flour .................. To sprinkle a greased baking pan with a little flour, then shake until the flour lightly covers the pan. Pour off any extra flour.
Fold .................. To mix gently by lifting from bottom to top, then folding over.
Grease ................. To coat a baking pan with a small amount of butter or shortening. Use clean fingers or a crumpled piece of waxed paper.
Measure .............. To put the amount called for in a recipe into a measuring cup or spoon.
Melt .................. To heat a solid food, such as butter or chocolate, until it turns liquid.
Mix .................. To stir ingredients together, usually with a spoon.
Mixture ............. A combination of ingredients.
Preheat .............. To heat the oven to the temperature called for in the recipe before putting the food in to roast or bake.
Sift .................. To put dry ingredients, such as flour, through a sifter or strainer.
Soften ............... To leave butter or cream cheese at room temperature for 15 to 30 minutes so that it becomes soft and easy to use.
Stir .................. To mix ingredients gently with a spoon in a circular motion.

Abbreviations

Abbreviations are not used in this booklet, but other recipes often use them, so it is a good idea to know what they are. The following are some of the most commonly used abbreviations.

Tbsp. or T. = Tablespoon tsp. or t. = teaspoon
c. = cup lb. = pound
oz. = ounce pt. = pint
qt. = quart
# Let’s Bake Biscuits!

Good biscuits are very light. When baked, they are about twice the volume as unbaked. They should rise evenly into almost perfect cylinders, with vertical sides and level tops. The tops should be fairly smooth and covered with a tender, brown crust. The inside of the biscuit is creamy white, free from all yellow spots, light and fluffy. A good biscuit should be flaky, which you can demonstrate by peeling off layers in thin sheets.

---

## Baking Powder Biscuits

### Ingredients

| 2 cups sifted all-purpose flour | Measuring cup, dry |
| ½ teaspoon salt | Waxed paper |
| 2 teaspoons baking powder | Knife |
| ¼ cup shortening | Mixing bowl |
| ¼ cup milk | Flour sifter |
| ½ cup milk | Rolling pin |
| ¼ cup shortening | Biscuit cutter |

### Equipment

| Measuring cup, liquid |
| Measuring spoons |
| Baking sheet |
| Pastry blender |
| Spatula |
| Canvas pastry set or bread board |
| Potholders |

### Procedure

1. Assemble all the equipment and ingredients. Lightly flour bread board or pastry canvas and rolling pin.
2. Preheat oven to 450 F.
3. Sift flour onto waxed paper. Measure the flour by spooning lightly into the measuring cup, then leveling with the back of a knife. Measure salt and baking powder; add to flour. Sift again to distribute thoroughly through flour.
4. Measure shortening.
5. Cut shortening into flour mixture using either two knives or a pastry blender. Cut together until mixture resembles coarse cornmeal. Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients.
6. Measure the milk.
7. Pour milk into the center of the dry mixture. Stir through liquid and dry mixture using a fork (20 to 25 strokes). Do not overmix. Dough will be smoothed out during the kneading process.
8. Turn out the dough on a lightly floured bread board or pastry canvas. Knead gently 15 to 20 strokes. This will help smooth the dough while it develops a delicate gluten structure.
9. Roll lightly, working rolling pin from center of dough to the outer edges. Dough should be about ½ inch thick.
10. Cut dough with floured biscuit cutter. Do not twist cutter — cut straight down and lift straight up.
11. Using a spatula or wide-bladed knife, transfer biscuits to ungreased baking sheet. Place biscuits ½ inch apart. Place sheet on center rack in preheated oven.
12. Bake at 450 F for 10 to 12 minutes, or until golden brown.

*Makes about 10 to 12 biscuits.*
Standards of Quality for Baking Powder Biscuits

Good baking powder biscuits have:
• Fairly symmetrical shape
• Evenly browned, tender crust
• Tender crumb and creamy color
• Good flavor — pleasing, well blended, no off flavor from leavening

Incorrect proportions or inaccurate measurement can cause biscuits to be:
• Misshapen
• Floury
• Undersized
• Tough
• Coarse

Improper handling can cause biscuits to be:
• Uneven in shape
• Undersized
• Compact
• Uneven in texture

Incorrect placement in oven can cause biscuits to be:
• Uneven
• Too crusty
• Burned on bottom
• Underdone in center
• Coarse textured
• Pale on top and sides
• Too brown at edges

Incorrect time and temperature can cause biscuits to be:
• Too brown and crusty
• Too pale
• Undersized
• Compact
• Coarse textured
How to Judge Baked Products: Biscuits

What qualities make a good biscuit? Here is a simple checklist so you can be your own judge. Don’t forget that judges will sample your baked products, so taste is as important as appearance. You may make copies of this score sheet to use each time you bake biscuits.

Product:
Date:

**Compare three biscuits**

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<th>Good</th>
<th>Needs Improvement</th>
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<td>Flaky (peels off in thin sheets)</td>
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<td>No off flavor</td>
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</table>
Let’s Bake Muffins

Making a good muffin is the first step in learning to make a good cake. A good muffin should be very light. The outside should be a golden brown, and the top should be rounded with no knobs or peaks. However, the crust should be pebbled rather than smooth. The inside should show round holes — not narrow, long holes pushing to the center, called tunnels. The most important thing to remember in making muffins is to barely dampen the dry ingredients. The difference between success and failure in muffins may be only a few extra strokes with a spoon. The batter should have lumps in it when you spoon it into the muffin tins.

Plain Muffins

**Ingredients**
- 2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1 Tablespoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 cup milk
- ¼ cup vegetable oil

**Equipment**
- Measuring cup, dry
- Measuring cup, liquid
- Measuring spoons
- Large mixing bowl
- Wood spoon for mixing
- Egg beater or whisk
- Flour sifter
- Large metal spoon
- Spatula or knife
- Wax paper
- Muffin pan

**Procedure**
1. Assemble ingredients and equipment.
2. Preheat oven to 425 F.
3. Sift flour onto waxed paper. Measure carefully without packing, then sift again with baking powder, salt and sugar into large mixing bowl.
4. In small mixing bowl, beat together egg, milk and vegetable oil.
5. Add liquids to dry ingredients, stirring only until flour is moistened.
6. Fill greased muffin cups about two-thirds full. A metal spoon is better for this than a wooden spoon because it has a thinner edge and can cut through the batter more easily.
7. Bake at 425 F for about 20 minutes, or until light brown.
8. Remove the muffins from the tins and serve at once.

Makes about 12 medium (2-inch) muffins.

**Muffin Variations**

- **Cheese Muffins**: Add ¾ cup shredded cheddar cheese to batter. Increase milk to 1¼ cups. Follow directions for muffins.
- **Pecan Muffins**: Add ¼ cup brown sugar to the liquid. Add ½ cup chopped pecans to the batter. Follow directions for muffins.
- **Mystery Muffins**: Fill prepared muffin cups half full. Drop 1 teaspoon of jam or jelly into the center of each muffin. Add more batter to fill muffin cups two-thirds full. After baking, carefully remove from pan as soon as you take them out of the oven so they won’t get soggy.

Make another batch of muffins but this time “forget” to add the baking powder. What happened? Compare these muffins with the good ones you made.
**Cornmeal Muffins**

**Ingredients**

- 1 1/2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1 Tablespoon baking powder
- 2 Tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup cornmeal
- 1 beaten egg
- 1 cup milk plus 1 Tablespoon
- 3 Tablespoons vegetable oil

**Equipment**

- Measuring cup, dry
- Measuring cup, liquid
- Measuring spoons
- Large mixing bowl
- Small mixing bowl
- Wooden spoon for mixing
- Flour sifter
- Large metal spoon
- Spatula or knife
- Waxed paper
- Muffin pan
- Potholders

**Procedure**

1. Assemble ingredients and equipment.
2. Preheat oven to 425 F.
3. Sift flour onto waxed paper. Measure carefully without packing, then sift again with baking powder, sugar, salt and cornmeal into large mixing bowl.
4. In small mixing bowl, beat together egg, milk and vegetable oil.
5. Add liquids to dry ingredients, stirring only until flour is moistened.
6. Fill greased muffin cups about one-third full. A metal spoon is better for this than a wooden spoon because it has a thinner edge and can cut through the batter more easily.
7. Bake at 425 F for about 20 minutes, or until light brown.
8. Remove the muffins from the tins and serve at once.

Makes about 12 medium (2-inch) muffins.

**Exhibit Tips for Muffins**

- Don’t bake your muffins on the day of judging. Muffins are best if they are baked the day before.
- Paper cups are not recommended for muffins. Seeing the crust is part of judging.
- To make more even muffins, use a small measuring cup and measure the batter.
- If you overgrease your pan, it causes darker sides. Wipe off the excess grease with a paper towel.
- Cool completely before wrapping and storing.
- If bread has been frozen, allow time for it to thaw.
Standards of Quality for Muffins

Muffins come in many types. Each has special characteristics. Plain muffins, sweet muffins, cereal muffins, fruit muffins and nut muffins differ in appearance, texture and flavor.

When setting standards for muffins, take the type into consideration. For instance, a bran muffin will differ from a plain muffin, yet you can apply general standards for quality to all types.

**Good muffins will have:**
- Symmetrical shape
- Good color
- Even, tender grain
- Tender crust
- Good flavor
- Slightly rounded top

**Incorrect proportions or inaccurate measurements** can cause muffins to be:
- Peaked
- Tough
- Coarse
- Tunneled
- Soggy
- Crumbly

**Improper mixing can cause muffins to be:**
- Undersized
- Tunneled
- Uneven
- Heavy, tough

**Wrong size pans can cause muffins to be:**
- Pale on top
- Cracked
- Coarse textured
- Peaked
- Too dark on bottom
- Tough

**Incorrect time and temperature can cause muffins to be:**
- Too light in color
- Compact
- Dry
- Too dark in color
- Doughy
# How to Judge Baked Products: Muffins

What qualities make a good muffin? Here is a simple checklist so you can be your own judge. Don’t forget that judges will sample your baked products, so taste is as important as appearance. You may make copies of this score sheet to use each time you bake muffins.

**Product:**

**Date:**

## Compare three muffins

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Needs Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outside characteristics</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color: Golden-brown crust with a somewhat pebbled surface</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shape: Well-rounded top, no knobs or peaks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Size</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform size across samples</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tender crust</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inside characteristics</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moist, tender crumb; neither soggy nor too dry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine, round, even cells or holes; no tunnels</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Flavor</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-blended, characteristic of ingredients</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No off flavor from fat, leavening, flour, nuts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weight</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very light</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Comments</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Let’s Make Pancakes!

Pancakes are simple to make because they contain so few ingredients. They are delicious when served for breakfast with butter and syrup, honey, jam or fresh fruit.

**Pancakes**

**Ingredients**
- 1¼ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder
- 1 Tablespoon sugar
- 1¼ cups milk
- 1 beaten egg
- 2 Tablespoons vegetable oil

**Equipment**
- Egg beater or whisk
- Mixing bowl
- Measuring cups, dry
- Flour sifter
- Measuring spoons
- Griddle
- Measuring cup, liquid
- Pancake turner or spatula

**Procedure**
1. Assemble the ingredients and the equipment.
2. Heat griddle.
3. In mixing bowl, combine flour, salt, baking powder and sugar.
4. Add the beaten egg and vegetable oil to milk and beat until smooth. Add to dry ingredients.
5. To find out if the griddle is hot enough, sprinkle a few drops of cold water onto the surface. They should dance lively.
6. Drop batter from spoon onto hot griddle and cook until the top is bubbly and the underside is nicely browned. Turn pancake only once.
7. Serve on hot plates with melted butter, syrup or fruit.

Makes 16 4-inch pancakes.
Standards of Quality for Pancakes

Good pancakes have:
• Symmetrical shape
• Tender crust
• Even browning
• Good flavor
• Tender, slightly moist crumb

Incorrect proportions or inaccurate measurements can cause pancakes to be:
• Too brown  • Unevenly browned
• Tough  • Poor in flavor
• Too pale  • Soggy
• Heavy

Improper mixing can cause pancakes to be:
• Heavy  • Tough

Incorrect cooking technique can cause pancakes to be:
• Pale  • Unevenly browned
• Too dark  • Not thoroughly cooked
• Tough  • Irregular in shape

Peanut Butter Pancakes

Ingredients
1¼ cups all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon salt
2½ teaspoons baking powder
2 Tablespoons sugar
1¼ cups milk
1 egg
¼ cup peanut butter
Cooking spray

Equipment
Egg beater or whisk
Mixing bowl
Measuring cups, dry
Flour sifter
Measuring spoons
Griddle
Measuring cup, liquid
Pancake turner or spatula

Procedure
1. Assemble the ingredients and the equipment.
2. Heat griddle.
3. In mixing bowl, combine flour, salt, baking powder and sugar.
4. Beat milk with egg and peanut butter until smooth. Add to dry ingredients and beat just until well moistened.
5. Lightly spray hot griddle.
6. Spoon by ¼ cupfuls onto hot griddle. Cook until golden brown on both sides.
7. Serve with strawberry jam or syrup.
Serves five.
Let’s Bake Cookies

Why not plan to keep your family’s cookie jar full of your favorite cookies? Making delicious cookies is easy. They can be used with fruit or puddings as a dessert for any meal. They also are good for lunches and snacks. Two of the many kinds of cookies are drop cookies and rolled cookies. Drop cookies are dropped from a teaspoon onto a baking sheet. Rolled cookies are rolled out like biscuits and cut with a cookie cutter.

Sugar Cookies

Ingredients

- 2½ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup shortening
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 eggs, well beaten
- 1 Tablespoon milk
- 1 Tablespoon vanilla

Equipment

- Measuring cups, dry
- Flour sifter
- Straight-edged knife or spatula
- Measuring spoons
- Waxed paper
- Large mixing bowl
- Electric mixer or mixing spoon
- Wire whisk or fork
- Small bowl
- Bread board
- Rolling pin
- Cookie cutter, round
- Baking sheet
- Metal spatula
- Cooling rack
- Potholder

Procedure

1. Assemble ingredients and equipment.
2. Preheat oven to 400 F.
3. Sift and measure flour. Place measured flour in sifter and add baking powder and salt, sifting together onto a square of waxed paper; set aside.
4. In a large mixing bowl, cream shortening; gradually add sugar, blending well.
5. Add eggs to creamed mixture; mix thoroughly.
6. Add vanilla and milk to creamed mixture; mix thoroughly.
7. Gradually add dry ingredients, mixing well until dough is stiff.
8. Wrap dough in waxed paper and chill in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes to make rolling easier.
10. Place cookies on lightly greased baking sheet. Sprinkle lightly with sugar and bake 12 minutes or until lightly browned.
12. Gather remaining trimmings. Finish rolling and cutting dough as in steps 9 and 10.

Makes about 40 cookies.
Chocolate Chip Cookies

**Ingredients**

- ½ cup shortening
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1½ cups flour*
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup chopped nuts (optional)
- 1 6-ounce package semisweet chocolate chips

* At altitudes above 3,500 feet, try adding 2 to 3 tablespoons of flour for a firmer dough.

**Equipment**

- Measuring cups, dry
- Measuring spoons
- Large mixing bowl
- Electric mixer or mixing spoon
- Wax paper
- Flour sifter
- Straight-edged knife or spatula
- 2 teaspoons
- Baking sheet
- Metal spatula
- Cooling rack
- Potholders

**Procedure**

1. Assemble ingredients and equipment.
2. Preheat oven to 375 F.
3. Cream shortening, sugars, egg and vanilla in a large bowl.
4. Sift and measure flour. Place measured flour in sifter and add baking soda and salt, sifting together onto a square of waxed paper.
5. Add dry ingredients to creamed mixture, mixing thoroughly.
6. Stir in nuts and semisweet chocolate chips.
7. Use two teaspoons to drop dough by teaspoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheet.
8. Bake for eight to 10 minutes or until lightly browned.
9. Cool slightly on baking sheet before removing with spatula onto cooling racks.

*Makes three to four dozen cookies.*

**Baking Tips for Cookies**

- Space unbaked batter carefully to avoid unattractive run-togethers.
- Use shiny baking sheets for evenly browned cookies.
- Cool baking sheets between baking times to prevent cookie batter from spreading before baking.
- Cool pans of bar cookies on a wire cooling rack.
- Cool cookies on parchment, waxed paper, paper toweling or cooling rack.
Chocolate Drop Cookies

**Ingredients**
- 1¼ cups sifted all-purpose flour
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup shortening
- 1 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1 egg
- 2 squares (1 ounce each) unsweetened baking chocolate
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ½ cup buttermilk
- 1 cup chopped nuts (optional)

**Equipment**
- Measuring cups, dry
- Measuring spoons
- Flour sifter
- Waxed paper
- Straight-edged knife or spatula
- Large mixing bowl
- Electric mixer or mixing spoon
- Custard cup or small bowl
- Glass measuring cup
- 2 teaspoons
- Baking sheets
- Metal spatula
- Cooling rack
- Potholders

**Procedure**
1. Assemble ingredients and equipment.
2. Preheat oven to 350 F.
3. Sift and measure the flour. Place measured flour in sifter and add baking soda and salt; sift together onto a square of waxed paper. Set aside.
4. Cream shortening in large mixing bowl. Add sugar gradually and mix until fluffy.
5. Add egg to creamed mixture and mix well.
6. Place chocolate squares in a small custard cup or bowl and microwave on low just until melted, or place cup in a saucepan containing 1 inch of hot water and heat on low. Cool slightly before adding to creamed mixture. Mix well.
7. Combine vanilla and buttermilk in glass measuring cup. Add to creamed mixture; mixing well.
8. Add dry ingredients and mix well. Stir in the chopped nuts, if desired.
9. Use two teaspoons to drop dough by teaspoonfuls onto an ungreased baking sheet.
10. Bake 15 to 17 minutes.
11. Bake 15 to 17 minutes.
12. Remove from baking sheet with metal spatula and cool on cooling rack.

Makes about three dozen cookies.

**Freezing Tips for Cookies**

*After the cookies have cooled:*
- Place them in a container designed for freezing — one that is moisture- and vapor-resistant (does not let moisture or flavor escape).
- Place foil, wax or freezer paper between each layer of cookies.
- Label with name, number of cookies and the date.
- Place in freezer for no longer than six months. (Don’t freeze meringue cookies.)

*Thawing Tips for Cookies*
- Crispy cookies should be thawed in wrapping for 15 to 20 minutes. They will be less crisp than cookies baked from frozen dough.
- Place soft cookies on a plate to thaw.
Oatmeal Cookies

Ingredients  Equipment
1 cup shortening Measuring cups, dry
1 cup brown sugar, packed Measuring spoons
1 cup granulated sugar Large mixing bowl
2 eggs Straight-edged knife or spatula
1 teaspoon vanilla Electric mixer or mixing spoon
1½ cups flour* Flour sifter
1 teaspoon baking soda Waxed paper
1 teaspoon salt 2 teaspoons
3 cups oats Baking sheet
½ cup chopped nuts (optional) Metal spatula
½ cup raisins (optional) Cooling rack

* At altitudes above 3,500 feet, try adding 2 to 3 tablespoons of flour for a firmer dough.

Procedure
1. Assemble all ingredients and equipment.
2. Preheat oven to 350 F.
3. In a large bowl, cream shortening and sugars together until light and fluffy.
4. Add eggs and vanilla, mixing well.
5. Sift and measure flour. Place measured flour in sifter and add baking soda and salt, sifting together onto a square of waxed paper.
6. Add dry ingredients to creamed mixture and mix thoroughly.
7. Stir in oats, nuts and raisins.
8. Use two teaspoons to drop dough by teaspoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheet.
9. Bake 10 minutes or until lightly browned.
10. Remove from baking sheet with metal spatula and cool on cooling rack.

Makes four dozen cookies.

Tips for Cookie Exhibits
• Don’t bake cookies on the morning of judging.
• To make more evenly shaped cookies, use a melon scoop for drop-shaped cookies.
• Freeze five cookies: three to exhibit, one to drop and one to eat.
• Exhibit cookies on a clean foam or paper plate before judging. Cover them with plastic wrap or place plate in a resealable plastic bag.
Peanut Butter Cookies

Ingredients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>¾ cup peanut butter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ cup shortening</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1¼ cups light brown sugar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Tablespoons milk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Tablespoon vanilla</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 egg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1¾ cups all-purpose flour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¾ teaspoon salt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¾ teaspoon baking soda</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large mixing bowl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measuring cups, dry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measuring spoons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric mixer or mixing spoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straight-edged knife or spatula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waxed paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flour sifter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baking sheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal spatula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooling rack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potholders</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Procedure

1. Assemble the ingredients and the equipment.
2. Preheat oven to 375 F.
3. Cream peanut butter, shortening, brown sugar, milk and vanilla in a large mixing bowl.
4. Add egg to creamed mixture. Mix until well blended.
5. Sift and measure flour. Place measured flour in sifter and add salt and baking soda, sifting together onto a square of waxed paper.
6. Add dry ingredients to creamed mixture and mix until just blended.
7. Make small balls of dough and place them 2 inches apart on an ungreased baking sheet. Flatten slightly with a fork, making a crisscross pattern on top of each cookie.
8. Bake for seven to eight minutes or until set and just beginning to brown.
9. Cool two minutes on baking sheet. Remove from baking sheet with metal spatula and cool on cooling rack.

Makes about three dozen cookies.
Standards of Quality for Cookies
The two types of cookies in this project are rolled and dropped cookies. Rolled cookies are made from a rather stiff dough and rolled on a lightly floured board to the desired thickness, then cut into various shapes. Dropped cookies are made from a soft dough and are dropped from a spoon onto a cookie sheet. They may or may not be flattened. Prepared and baked with care, all types of cookies can easily meet high standards.

Good cookies have:
• Uniform shape (typical of kind)
• Uniform color
• Texture true to type (soft or crisp)
• Tender crumb (though a few varieties are crisp)
• Good flavor

Incorrect proportions or inaccurate measurements can cause cookies to be:
• Streaked with flour
• Tough
• Too rich
• Dry
• Crumbly
• Too soft

Poor baking techniques can cause cookies to be:
• Uneven
• Poorly browned
• Doughy
• Too pale
• Too hard
• Too soft
• Run together
• Too dry
• Too brown

Poor mixing techniques can cause cookies to be:
• Streaked with flour
• Hard
• Dry
• Crumbly
How to Judge Baked Products: Cookies

What qualities make a good cookie? Here is a simple checklist so you can be your own judge. Don't forget that judges will sample your baked products, so taste is as important as appearance. You may make copies of this score sheet to use each time you bake cookies.

Product:
Date:

**Compare three cookies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Needs Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outside characteristics</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color: typical of its kind</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>symmetrical shape and size</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform shape and size across samples</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inside characteristics</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moist, neither soggy nor too dry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crisp, chewy, or soft according to kind</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tender</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Even cells or holes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flavor</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-blended, characteristic of ingredients</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not too much spice, flavoring, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No off flavor from fat, oil, leavening, nuts, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Comments</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Cook’s Match-up

Play this game to help you learn the meaning of words used in recipes. The column on the left is a list of words used in cooking. The column on the right has their meanings. Match the word and its meaning by placing the correct number in the space in front of each meaning. The first one has been done for you.

1. Bake
2. Beat
3. Brown
4. Chop
5. Cookie sheet
6. Cream
7. Grease
8. Knead
9. Melt
10. Stir

   ____ a. To cook until the food is evenly browned in color.
   ____ b. Gently mix ingredients together.
   ____ c. To heat a solid food until it turns to liquid.
   ____ d. Combine ingredients with spoon or mixer until mixture is smooth, soft and creamy.
   ____ e. Work dough with hands by repeating a folding motion, pressing forward and turning.
   1  f. Cook in the oven.
   ____ g. Cut food into small pieces using a sharp knife on a cutting board.
   ____ h. Mix ingredients rapidly with a mixer, spoon, beater or fork.
   ____ i. Rub the sides and bottom of a pan with shortening.
   ____ j. A flat baking pan with no or very low sides.

Answers on page 30.
**Other Activities**

**Demonstrations**
Give a demonstration to teach others how to bake. You may show how to make one of the foods in this book or demonstrate a technique such as how to measure accurately. For tips on how to plan your demonstration, look at the 4-H Cooperative Curriculum’s Communications – Express Yourself “Putting It Together.”

**Citizenship**
Gifts of delicious homemade food products are welcome gifts. When you wrap a gift of food, think of these things:
- Plan a wrapping to keep the food fresh and clean.
- Show the beauty of the food.
- Wrap the food so it is easy to open.
- Include a simple note.
- Call ahead of time to arrange a convenient time to deliver your gift.
Don’t stay long. Ask a member of your family to go with you.

**Leadership**
- Help your baking leader prepare for the project meeting.
- Lead the other members in cleaning the kitchen.
- Help call members about meetings and activities.
- Help start a food drive that your club, school or church sponsors.

**Career Exploration**
Tour a bakery or restaurant. Learn how it bakes large amounts of food. Learn what bakers do on the job. Ask about other jobs related to the business.

**Recordkeeping**
Keep a record of all your 4-H activities. Use the record form in this project.

**Answers to The Cook’s Match-up:**
a. 3, b. 10, c. 9, d. 6, e. 8, f. 1, g. 4, h. 2, i. 7, j. 5
# Beginning Baking 1 Record Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name ___________________________</th>
<th>Age ______</th>
<th>Number of years in 4-H ______</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Years in baking projects _________</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project meetings held _______</td>
<td>Number attended _______</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Products prepared</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Comments (Excellent, Good, Fair)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___________________________</td>
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(Add pages if needed.)

What new skills did you learn? Which skills were improved?

________________________________________________________________________
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**Activities**

Tours taken related to this project: ________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Judging experience(s): ________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Demonstration: ________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Citizenship: ____________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Leadership: __________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

### Exhibits

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<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Where exhibited</th>
<th>Placing</th>
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Leader, helper, or parents’ comments: ____________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Member signature                                           Parent signature

____________________________________________________________________

Project leader signature

(Add pages as needed.)