

Holiday Baking

Hints To Help You Make The Holidays Even Sweeter

(NAPSA)—For many families, baking holiday treats together is one of the most delightful traditions of the season.

One way to make family holiday memories even sweeter may be to substitute honey for sugar, according to the Sioux Honey Association Co-op.

There are many reasons, including the way baking with honey produces a golden crust, a distinctive flavor and a moister texture. Honey also provides healthful benefits. For example, honey contains more complex sugars, producing smaller fluctuations in blood sugar and insulin levels. Another benefit is you can use less honey to achieve the same amount of sweetness.

Honey-Substituting Suggestions

Here's how:

- For each cup of sugar, use 1/2 to 2/3 cup of honey. You can use a 1:1 ratio for most yeast breads, muffins and pancakes.

- For each cup of honey, subtract 1/4 cup of other liquids. Honey is about 20 percent water, and you need to reduce the total amount of liquid in the recipe.

- Add 1/4 teaspoon of baking soda for every 1 cup of honey. Add it even if the recipe doesn't call for it. Honey is naturally acidic, and baking soda helps baked goods with honey properly rise.

- Reduce the temperature of the oven by 25° F. The higher sugar content in honey caramelizes and burns faster than sugar.

You may also care to try these two holiday honey recipes.

Holiday Honey Cookies

- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 3/4 cup butter
- 1/4 cup Sue Bee Honey
- 1 tsp vanilla

Combine flour and butter in mixer until fine. Drizzle in honey and vanilla while pulsing until mixture pulls together. Roll out and cut into desired shapes with cookie cutters. Bake at 300° F for 10-15 minutes.

Honey Chocolate-Covered Pretzels

- 3/4 cup Sue Bee Honey per 12 ounces of chocolate chips
- 12 ounces semisweet chocolate chips



Celebrate the holidays with sweet, home-baked treats.

- 12 ounces white chocolate chips
- 1/4-1/3 cup evaporated milk per 12 ounces of chocolate chips
- 24 pretzel rods
- 1 bottle of red sprinkles
- 1 bottle of green sprinkles

In separate, microwave-safe bowls, microwave white and dark chocolate chips 1 minute and stir with a spatula. Once melted, mix in honey. Then add evaporated milk until chocolate reaches dipping consistency. Dip one pretzel rod in chocolate; spread chocolate halfway up the rod with a knife and let excess run off. Over a piece of waxed paper, drizzle sprinkles onto the pretzel; then move to another piece of waxed paper to cool. Do the same with the white chocolate and repeat until all pretzels are covered; half dark chocolate, half white chocolate. Place the pretzel on waxed paper in the refrigerator for 2 hours to cool and dry completely. After completely dry, store in an airtight container and enjoy.

Adding to their goodness, these treats are made with honey from the Sioux Honey Association Co-op. Established in 1921, it now includes over 290 independent beekeepers across America.

Learn More

You can find many more holiday treats and dinner recipes at <https://siouxhoney.com/featured>.

Time Saving Tips

Meals Made Easier

(NAPSA)—Finding time to cook a healthy dinner for the whole family to enjoy can be a challenge.

With a little planning and advance prep, however, making a family dinner can be a cinch. Here are six ways to get ahead of the curve:

- Create a weekly menu.
- Keep it simple with easy-to-prepare meals that can be made quickly or in advance.

- Write up your grocery list and do the shopping all at once rather than making numerous trips to the grocery store throughout the week.

- As you're unloading the groceries, wash and dry the fruit and veggies and store in resealable bags.

- Prep dinner early in the morning before the day gets hectic.

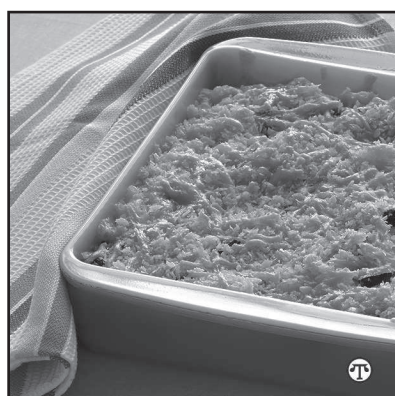
- Keep your pantry well stocked with items such as canned tuna, canned tomatoes, and Lindsay olives, capers and peppers, so you can throw together a quick and tasty pasta or a dinner salad.

Then try these no-fuss, easy-to-make dinner ideas:

- Combine bone-in chicken breasts with equal parts water, chicken stock and canned tomatoes in your slow cooker. Add chopped carrots, onions and celery. Cook low and slow all day. About an hour before dinner, remove chicken from slow cooker and add one package of frozen corn and one can of pinto beans. While the corn and beans are heating, shred the chicken using two forks and return to the soup. Serve soup in warmed bowls and garnish with green and black olives, cilantro, avocado, green onions, wedges of lime and shredded jack cheese. Serve with a simple green salad.

- Assemble a quick sheet pan dinner by creating a flavorful base using a good amount of green and black olives, halved cherry tomatoes, and a small handful or two of capers. Drizzle with a good glug of Lindsay Buttery California Extra Virgin Olive Oil, season lightly with salt and black pepper, and toss so veggies are well coated. Lay a flaky white fish fillet of your choice on top of the veggies and drizzle with more olive oil and salt and pepper. Scatter a few sprigs of thyme on top. Store in the fridge until dinner time, then bake until fish is done. Serve with a tossed green salad and crusty French bread.

- Then there's the popular, the ultimate make-ahead meal: bubbly, gooey, creamy, comfy casseroles, whether it's baked ziti, tuna casserole, turkey tetrazzini—the options are nearly endless and you're sure to please just about everyone. Throw in a green salad and you've got a delicious dinner.



A hot and hearty one-dish meal is easy to make and delicious to share with the family.

Here's a protein-packed version of the classic mac and cheese:

Baked Chicken And Cheese

- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 Anaheim chili peppers, diced
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 1/4 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 2 1/2 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 (1-lb.) box macaroni pasta, cooked
- 8 ounces grilled chicken breast, diced
- 1 (6-oz.) can Lindsay Ripe Pitted Olives
- 1/2 cup Japanese-style panko breadcrumbs
- 1/8 teaspoon paprika

Heat butter in a large saucepan over medium heat until melted and foamy. Stir in peppers and garlic and cook for 2 minutes. Whisk in flour and cook for 1-2 more minutes until smooth and golden. Whisk in chicken broth, a half cup at a time, until smooth and bring to a boil. Turn heat down to simmer and cook for 3-4 minutes. Stir in cheese and remove from heat. Add pasta, chicken and olives and pour into a lightly greased 9-inch by 13-inch baking dish. Top with breadcrumbs, sprinkle with paprika and bake in a 400° F oven for 15-20 minutes.

Learn More

For other delicious recipes, tips and ideas, go to www.ilovelindsay.com/recipes. For more information about Lindsay, go to www.ilovelindsay.com.

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