

# More ways to cook corn than boiling

When I grew up, my Grandma cooked sweet corn in a pot of boiling water on the stove. I always thought it was delicious, but I'm thankful that when it comes to cookin' sweet corn now, there are other flavorful techniques.

**Microwave** – This is my favorite FAST option if we need just a few ears of corn for a quick meal.

A single ear in the microwave requires a zap on full power for 4 minutes; for each additional ear, add one minute of cooking time. The key here is not to overload the micro by cooking more than three to four ears at a time. Be sure to turn the ears over half-way through the cooking time.

## Seed with mosaic can be used

With wheat streak mosaic posing a severe problem on some wheat fields in 2011, some producers may be wondering if seed from that wheat can be used this fall or if the wheat streak mosaic virus can be carried over into the following season from the seed.

Kansas State University plant pathologist, Bill Bockus, said that viruses in general are mobile within the wheat plant, but they have a hard time getting through the barrier formed between the developing kernel and the rachis and making it into the seed.

"Australian scientists, however reported in a 2005 issue of the journal "Plant Disease, seed transmission by wheat streak mosaic virus," Bockus said.

"They reported seed transmission rates of 0.5 to 1.5 percent from infected genotypes. I don't recall that seed transmission has been reported in the U.S. However, based on the Australian research, one has to assume the potential exists to introduce the virus into new areas via seed to a very small degree."

Obviously, without the mite vector, the virus will not spread from the 0.5 to 1.5 percent infected plants that develop from the seed, he said.

If the mite is present, it most likely will already be a vector of the wheat streak mosaic virus, so the impact of seed transmission with an individual field seems very small.

With regards to using the grain from the field with wheat streak mosaic virus for seed, the major problem will probably be that it will be shriveled, Bockus said.

"All else being equal, small seed often produces less vigorous plants than large seed. A producer who uses small seed and plants according to bushels per acre will plant more seeds per acre than someone who uses large seed," he said.

"If the germination rate of the small seed is still high, that tends to compensate for the less vigorous plants that come from small seed compared to large seed, according to my data.

"The key is whether the seed has high germination and good seedling vigor."



### Who's Cookin' Now?

It's important to microwave your corn in the husk - this ensures those kernels will be moist and tender. Once the ears are fully cooked, all that corn silk and the husk will literally "sweep" right off as you pull it away, using your hot pads to handle.

**In the Oven** – A great way to cook

a "boat load" of corn, IF you don't mind turning on your oven this time of year!

Lay the ears of corn, in the husks, across a baking sheet. Go ahead and make a couple layers – it works fine. Just remember to rotate the ears from top to bottom, turning each one over as well, half way through

the cooking time.

Place the loaded baking sheet into a preheated 350 degree F. oven and cook for 35-40 minutes.

**On the Grill** – This way is the most fun, and definitely the most flavorful due to the delicious, smoky, charring. No matter which way you grill the corn (in the husk or with it removed) preheat your grill to medium high heat.

In the husk: Peel the husks back, but leave intact. De-silk each ear by using a clean, moist cloth, gently rubbing the length of each ear. Spread butter over each ear, then pull the husks back up and over. Grill the corn, uncovered, for 25-30 minutes, turning every once in

awhile.

Out of the husk: Pull away all husks and de-silk each ear as directed above with a damp cloth. Grill for 15-20 minutes or until kernels are nicely charred.

**Better Buttering:** My family discovered that placing a big pat of butter on a slice of bread is the way to go. Simply run the ear of corn up and down the bread – works like a charm because the bread holds the butter in place and by the time you've buttered all your ears of corn, that pat of butter is softened and ready to spread.

For added fun this summer, try a flavored butter. Below is one of my all-time favorites – enjoy!

**Chef Alli's Lime and Curry Butter**

½ teaspoon chicken base paste  
1/2 cup unsalted butter  
1 teaspoon dried dill  
Zest of 1 lime  
1 teaspoon curry powder  
½ teaspoon Kosher salt  
Freshly ground black pepper,

to taste  
Place all ingredients into a small saucepan over low heat and whisk together as butter melts. Keep warm until corn is ready. Use a good silicone basting brush to slather over your ears of corn.

Now You're Cookin',  
Chef Alli

## Boot race at the fair



At the boot race at the Howdy Rowdy Rodeo on Monday night kids took off their shoes and they were placed in a pile. Then the kids were taken to the start line. They had to race to the pile, find

their shoes, put them on and run back to the start line.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

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