Cooking Equipment

The recipes and activities in this guide may be prepared with everyday kitchen equipment and materials, much of which can be borrowed from home or from the school cafeteria. Try to choose sizes appropriate for a large family. Remember that 20 children is the maximum number of students that is recommended for a safe and quality cooking experience.

If you have the resources for a more permanent set-up, a rolling cart equipped with all the necessary cooking equipment can be a wonderful asset for the school. Properly cared for, it can be used by many classes over many years.

The following kitchen kit includes all the equipment and materials needed for a class of 20 students to perform all the recipes in this guide except those involving an oven. All equipment and materials listed are available at most large drugstores, department stores, or discount stores. The cost of the kit will depend on the quality of materials but may range from $450 to $700. Better-quality equipment will last longer and give more satisfactory results; it is often well worth the added expense. A portable convection oven will add about $250 to the cost.

This equipment will allow a class to prepare every recipe in this book. As all resourceful teachers and classroom volunteers know, a few pieces of equipment will suffice for many of the recipes. Equipment may be obtained through donations or at thrift stores. For assistance with funding, contact your school’s parent-teacher association for information. See also Appendix B, “Farm to School Resources.”

Class Equipment
- 2 electric hot plates
- 2 large (12- to 14-inch) nonstick frying pans or skillets
- 1 blender
- Assorted sizes of pots with lids
- 1 steamer insert for saucepan
- 1 chef’s knife
- 2 large wooden spoons
- 2 spatulas
- 1 set of tongs
- 3 whisks, assorted sizes
- 1 egg beater
- 3 mixing bowls, assorted sizes
- 1 colander
- 1 ladle
- 1 slotted spoon
- 1 potato masher
- 1 can opener
- 1 salad spinner
- 2 large plastic tubs
- 5 sponges with rough side
- 1 bottle of dishwashing liquid
- 4 kitchen towels
- 4 pot holders
- 2 baking sheets
- 2 large baking pans or dishes
- 2 canisters for salt and pepper
- 1 food mill
- 1 rolling cart
- 3 large plastic containers to store equipment
- first aid kit

Additional Optional Equipment
- electric skillet
- food processor

Student Equipment
- 10 small plastic cutting boards
- 10 serrated knives with rounded ends
- 5 vegetable peelers
- 5 sets of measuring spoons
- 5 sets of measuring cups
- 5 box graters
- 5 small citrus juicers
- 5 medium whisks
- 20 spoons
- 20 plastic bowls
- 20 plastic plates