



**COOKIE BAKING THEME**  
**Installation of Club Officers/New Member Welcome**  
Shared by Michelle Thacker  
Good Hope 4-H Leader



**Flour, Eggs, Baking Powder, Salt, Sugar, Vanilla,  
Shortening**

Would anyone like to taste any of the foods I've brought with me tonight? Probably not! By itself, each item is not very tasty, and not very useful. But when these ingredients are blended together in the right proportions and prepared under the right conditions, they become something wonderful.

Our 4-H club is a lot like that. A 4-H officer can't accomplish very much by himself, but when all the officers blend their talents together, their club can become something wonderful too.

Just like a cookie, 4-H clubs come in different sizes, shapes and flavors. The 'ingredients' in the club, or the people in the club, make that club special. What are the special ingredients in the Good Hope 4-H club?

**FLOUR:** In a cookie recipe the flour is the ingredient in the largest amount. It provides the structure for the baked product. In a 4-H club, the president is a lot like that. The president has the most visibility in a club meeting and the president's leadership sets the structure for the rest of the club activities.

**SUGAR:** The sugar is the ingredient in the second largest amount. It adds flavor and sweetness to the cookie dough. The program, presided over by the vice-president, adds sweetness to monthly club meetings.

**EGGS:** Eggs help to bind together all of the ingredients in the cookie dough. Secretaries-your job is much like the job of these eggs. The minutes you keep so carefully hold together all the details of your club business from month to month. Your minutes also form the permanent record of your club, binding your current members to all of the young people who have ever belonged to your club in the past, or who will ever join in the future.

**SHORTENING:** Cookies just would not be cookies without shortening. It provides richness and tenderness. In a 4-H club, the treasurer of course, is the officer responsible for managing the clubs riches.

**SALT:** Salt is an interesting ingredient. When it is added to the cookie dough, its flavor can't be detected. But without it, the cookies taste flat and unappealing. The parliamentarian may be like that. Parliamentarian procedure, when properly blended into the club business meeting is not too noticeable on its own. But leave out the parliamentary procedure and the meetings are unorganized, difficult to manage and unappealing.

**VANILLA:** Vanilla adds flavor and aroma to the cookies. That rich, sweet aroma lets everyone know that cookies are baking. The 4-H reporter and historian might be like the aroma of the vanilla. They let everyone know what their club is doing now and record what it has done in the past.

**BAKING POWDER:** The baking powder is the leavening agent in the cookie dough. We add leavening to lighten the texture of the cookies. On their own, leaveners bubble and sputter, but really don't accomplish anything. They must be combined with the other ingredients to do their job properly. The recreation leaders are the leavening agents for the club. Your job is to lighten the mood of the meeting. Games by themselves don't accomplish much, but when added to a 4-H club meeting, they help members get acquainted and enjoy each others company, and they help to make meetings fun.

It takes all of the officers working together to make a successful 4-H club, just as it takes all these ingredients blended together to make a delicious recipe. We have officers who help run meetings. These offices help us lean leadership and teamwork. We have parents who help by answering questions. Parents are important because they help us discover our talents. In order to have a successful 4-H club, we must carefully mix these ingredients together. Patience, caring, creativity and a willingness to work as a team are also sprinkled in. However, or recipe is still not complete. 4-H members' are the most important ingredient in the club recipe. **(New member come forward)** You make our club unique. New members have new ideas to share. Before you know it the club recipe has been changed. Now the club recipe is more delicious than before! We would like you to have this cookie as a reminder that you are an important 'ingredient' in the Good Hope 4-H club. We could not be a successful 4-H club without your talents. Welcome to Ellis County 4-H. **(have all members come forward to receive a cookie and return to their seats)**

Now as we call each office, please come forward to accept a memento of our confidence in you. Even though none of these ingredients taste good by themselves, I think you will agree that together they are very satisfying!

**Good Hope 4-H Club Ceremony  
January 2011**