

## RASPBERRY PRETZEL JELL-O SALAD:

In *Second Chance Ranch*, Book 1 in the bestselling Three Rivers Ranch Romance series, Kelly goes out to the ranch to have a picnic with her almost-boyfriend Squire. His mother is a fantastic cook, and he takes some of her raspberry pretzel Jell-O salad for Kelly to try.

It's one word: mind-blowing.

### Ingredients:

2 c. crushed pretzels  
¾ c. melted butter  
2 T. powdered sugar  
1 (8 oz) cream cheese, softened  
8 oz. Cool Whip, softened  
1 c. powdered sugar  
1 large box raspberry jello  
2 pkg. frozen raspberries

### Directions:

1. Mix together the pretzels, melted butter and 2 T. powdered sugar. Press into a 9x13-inch pan.
2. Bake at 350 for 10 minutes.
3. Mix cream cheese, Cool Whip, and 1 c. powdered sugar.
4. Pour over pretzel crust, spreading to the edges to seal the pretzels underneath.
5. Dissolve the raspberry jello in 2 c. boiling water. Add the frozen raspberries (don't drain them first) and stir to incorporate.
6. Pour jello/raspberries over cream cheese.
7. Chill for 3 hours, or overnight.

## ALMOND PUNCH:

In *The Patient Cowboy* and *The Restless Cowboy*, oh, and *The Mistletoe Cowboy*, there's some "famous almond punch" mentioned. It's Rae's mother's recipe, and no one gets it until the very end of the series.

I love this stuff. We serve it at wedding receptions and other big events, like when my son earned his Eagle Scout award.

Now you've got the "famous secret" recipe too!

### Ingredients:

1 12 oz. can orange juice concentrate  
1 12 oz. can lemonade concentrate  
1 c. sugar  
1 t. vanilla  
1 t. almond extract

### Directions:

Add enough water to make one gallon. Can be partially frozen and served as a slush.

## SLOPPY JOES:

In *The First Lady of Three Rivers Ranch*, Book 8 in the Three Rivers Ranch Romance series, Heidi goes out to the ranch and creates a family out of the cowboys. And how does she do that? With food, of course!

One of the first recipes she serves to all the boys—and which steals Frank Ackerman's heart—is sloppy Joes. Now we all have our favorite sloppy Joe recipe, and this one's mine! I can whip this up in under 20 minutes on a busy night and everyone's happy.

### Ingredients:

1 lb. ground beef, browned (can use turkey or chicken)  
1 can tomato soup  
2 T. brown sugar  
2 T. mustard  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  c. ketchup  
1 T. cider vinegar  
salt and pepper to taste

### Directions:

1. Brown the ground beef.
2. Add everything else, combine well, and simmer for 5 minutes.
3. Serve with buns, fruit, veggies, or whatever you like!

## OVEN PANCAKES:

In *Christmas in Three Rivers*, as well as *Third Time's the Charm*, both Three Rivers Ranch Romances, I mention pancakes.

They're a staple at our house. We love to make them for both breakfast and dinner, and I'm including one of my favorite family recipes—which I don't think I've put in a book yet!

But here's the oven pancakes we love.

### Ingredients:

6 eggs  
1 c. flour  
1 t. salt  
1 c. milk  
4 T. butter

### Directions:

1. Mix all ingredients and pour into a baking pan that's been well greased.
2. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes.
3. Pour melted butter and sprinkle sugar over hot pancakes.