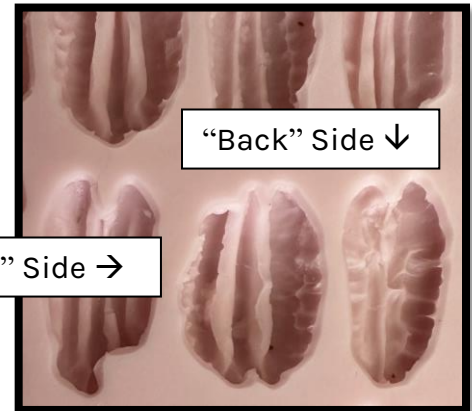


Create pecan-inspired penants and beads to celebrate the 2024 National Ag Week! Instructions for two methods are listed below. The materials needed vary based on the method used, and are listed in bold within the instructions. Quantities needed will depend on the audience size.

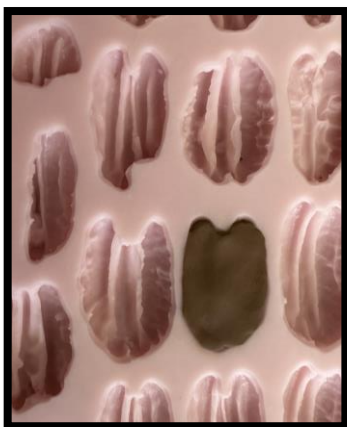
For both methods, you'll need to purchase a **silicon pecan mold**. These can be bought from specialty craft and bakery shops or online retailers, like Etsy. Some shops offer food-grade molds, but that is not important for the craft. The color of the mold does not matter. You may want to ensure the mold has impressions of the "front" and "back" side of a pecan.

Additionally, you'll want to purchase a variety of **string and beads** to create the necklaces and bracelets. Many craft stores offer a variety of string types (cord, stretchy plastic, etc.) as well as beads. You could consider purchasing alphabet letter beads to spell out 'pecan' or other fun messages. You will also need **scissors**.



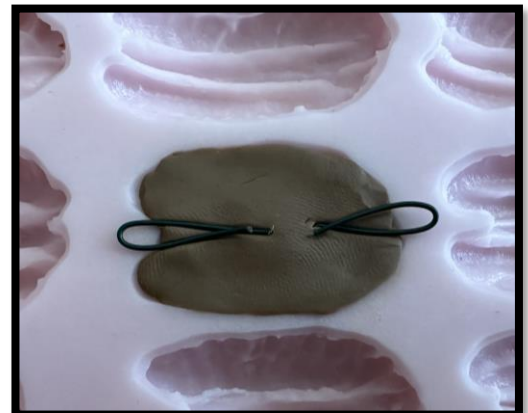
Oven-Baked Clay:

(1.) Use **brown oven-baked clay** (like Sculpy) and press into the pecan mold.

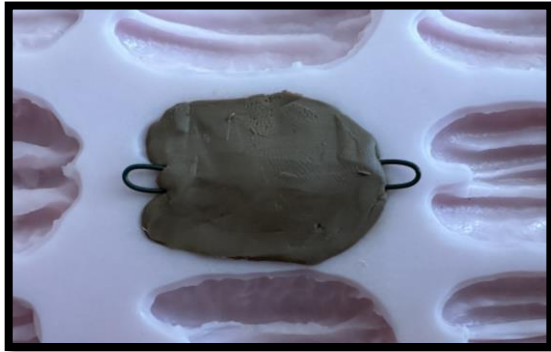


(2.) For a pecan bead (where the string will go through both sides), cut two small pieces of **wire** (can be found in the jewelry or floral section of craft stores). Create a small loop with the wire by wrapping it around a pencil point. Press into the clay. Repeat with the second piece of wire. Ensure the wires are on the opposite sides of the pecan for beads.

For a penant (to hang from a necklace), you will only create one wire loop.

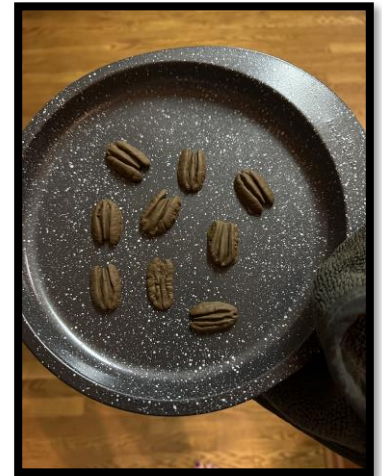


(3.) Use a small amount of brown clay and cover up the ends of the wire, so only the loop is exposed.



(4.) Bake the clay according to the instructions on the package.

The pecans will be hot after they are removed from the oven. Allow them to cool before assembling bracelets and necklaces.



Note: Oven-baked clay can be baked in a toaster oven, so a regular-sized oven is not needed. It is recommended to allocate at least 30 minutes for baking and cooling. This is a great after-school activity when there is enough time for youth to mold and bake their own pecan.

Air-Dry Clay:

Although air-dry clay does not require an oven, this method does take longer because (depending on the brand) it could take anywhere from 8-72 hours for the pecans to dry and be able to be removed from the molds.

(1.) Wash your hands before handling the clay. Since it's soft and white, it tends to pick up and dust or dirt.

(2.) Similar to the oven-baked clay, you'll first want to press the **air-dry clay** into the mold. With air-dry clay, you usually have to "warm it up" and stretch it before pressing it into the mold.

Depending on the brand, some air-dry clay will be ready to be removed from the molds after sitting overnight. Other brands can only be removed 24-72 hours after being pressed into the molds.



(3.) If desired, paint the pecans using **paint** and a **paintbrush**.



(4.) Cut a small piece of **wire** and create a small loop by wrapping it around a pencil.

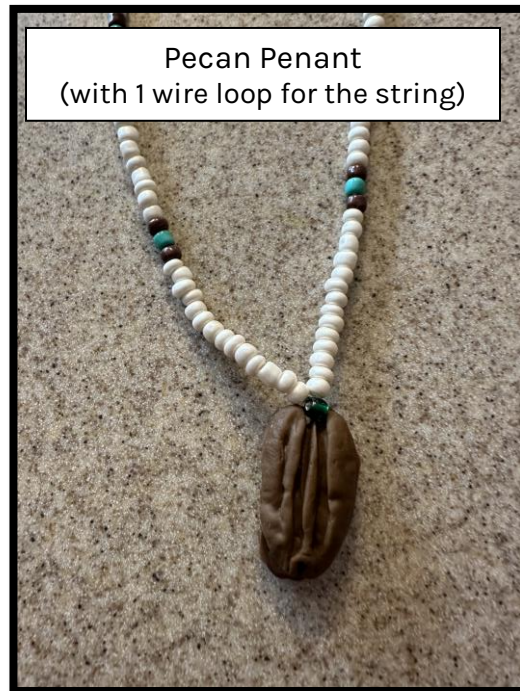
(5.) Insert the wire into the pecan and secure using **hot glue**. If you are creating a penant, use 1 wire loop. If you are creating a bead, use two wire loops, one from each end.



Assembling the Jewelry:

Assemble your bracelet or necklace using the pecan beads/penants, string, and additional decorative beads. You may consider adding the “back” of the pecan to the bead/penant by hot gluing it.

Have fun wearing your new ag-inspired jewelry!



Questions about these resources can be directed to:

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Updated February 19, 2024



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