Chicago Tribune LIFE + TRAVEL

Style | Relationships | Home

A Thanksgiving flowchart for the undecided cook

Plus

INSIDE: Recipes for gravy to the max, magic mashed potatoes, Rhode Island clam chowder, berry swirl cheesecake and more.

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE: Whether you turn out to be a traditional or modern cook, for all your Thanksgiving needs go online to our sister publication, The Daily Meal, at thedailymeal.com/undecided

By Marissa Conrad

The Internet is an unrelenting stream of recipes for turkey and stuffing, potatoes and pie. Let this flowchart be your dam. Follow it through to land on the Thanksgiving approach that's right for you.

START

Did you watch "Emily in Paris"?

Yes

Was it a hate watch?

Yes

No, I loved it!

No

Are you more "Radiolab" or "Dope Labs"?

"Radiolab"

My Twitter name is ...

My Name

I'm not on Twitter

Something pithy and culturally relevant

"Dope Labs"

Be my life coach?

No.

Ok

Moving on...

My quarantine comfort is ...

Watching Jamelle Bouie eat cereal

Which jigsaw puzzle?

Original art

Baking sourdough

Flowers in a field

All hail breakfast carbonara!

Huh?

Breakfast bolognese?

Yes, I surrender

Ask Polly or Ask Jeeves?

Team Jeeves

Does the random pot shoved in your back closet give you joy?

Heather Havrilesky is a goddess

Yes

No

I want yogurt

TRADITIONAL

MODERN

I'm cooking for ...

How about this one?

Toss it!

I feel better

MODERN

Pineapple at Thanksgiving?

My family. Some friends. I think a guy from the dog park said he'd stop by.

I need it for the cranberry sauce

No

Yeah.

TRADITIONAL

Start now and it will be ready for Thanksgiving 2023.

TRADITIONAL

Great. Did you know you can regrow a pineapple by planting its crown?

Yes

Great!

Error. Please try again.

My pod

No

Well, now you know

Cool

MODERN

BOB FILA, BILL HOGAN, ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ, ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE; GETTY/ISTOCKPHOTO; ANDY KROPA/INVISION; NETFLIX PHOTOS

JAY JONES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

TRAVEL

Early hunting

People with disabilities can hunt for deer in the Wisconsin woods before the regular season begins.

THE GOODS

Great winter coats that won't set you back $1,000

AMAZON

E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

BALANCING ACT

Pie and kindness

Pie It Forward Challenge: This year has taught us the need for flexibility and resourcefulness.