Merry (Cherry) Cheescake Bars

(Makes 25)

Crust

1/3 cup butter, softened

1/3 cup firmly packed brown sugar

1 cup all-purpose flour

1/2 cup pecans, chopped

Combine all crumb mixture ingredients in small bowl. Beat at low speed, scraping bowl often, until well mixed about 2-3 minutes.

Reserve 1/2 cup crumb mixture.

Press remaining crumb mixture onto bottom of ungreased

8-inch square baking pan. Bake at 350°F for 10 to 12 minutes or until lightly browned.



Filling

1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened

1/4 cup sugar

1 egg

2 tablespoons lemon juice

2 tablespoons milk

1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Combine all filling ingredients in small bowl.

Beat at medium speed until smooth.

Spread filling over crust.

Sprinkle with reserved crumb mixture.

Continue baking for 18 to 20 minutes or until filling is set.

Cut into bars while warm.

Cover; store refrigerated.



For the Holidays

1/4 cup chopped green candied cherries

1/4 cup chopped red candied cherries

Stir cherries into filling batter by hand before spreading over crust.



From the Kitchen of ...

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Nutrition Facts (per bar)

Calories: 110

Fat: 6g

Cholesterol: 25mg

Sodium: 60mg

Carbohydrates: 12g Dietary Fiber: 0g

Protein: 1g