

CORN COB DOLL

TRAILS AND RAILS MUSEUM at KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

8" or 9" shelled corn cob

1 ½" x 33" strip of muslin (to cover cob)

6" x 12" calico fabric (dress)

5" x 3" muslin rectangle (bonnet)

2 2" x 4" pieces of cheese cloth (apron)

4 small rubber bands

2 9" pieces of string or twine

Small amount of dried corn silk (hair) if desired

- ① Take long strip of muslin and start at the bottom of the cob, pulling tightly and at an angle, all the way to the top of the cob. Place small rubber band near "ankle" of doll and another small band near the "neck" of the doll.
- ② Place the "neck" of the doll on the top edge of the calico fabric. Take gathering folds around the cob, holding as much as possible with all available fingers! Secure the gathered folds with another small rubber band.
- ③ Lay the 2" x 4" cheesecloth pieces for the apron across the front of the doll dress. Slide a 9" piece of string under the backside of the doll and bring it around to the front of the dress....where her waist would be. Tie it and knot it. You can cut the string to desired length or leave it as it is.
- ④ To make the bonnet: lay the 5" x 3" muslin on the table above the doll's "head". Fold the fabric over 1/3 to make a finished front edge to the bonnet. If hair is desired, place a small clump of corn silk on top of the corn cob, letting some of the silk frame the edge of the "face". Place the folded edge on top of the cob and hold down the sides of the bonnet to each side of the doll's head. At the same time, bring the rest of the rectangle down the backside of the head, making folds or tucks as needed to make it look like a bonnet. Temporarily fasten the bonnet down with the last of the small rubber bands. (This will be snipped of at the end.) Using the second piece of string, tie it around the area that would be the neck or under the dolls's "chin". Knot it. Adjust as needed. Now you can carefully snip away the 4th little band that was holding the bonnet in place. **If the 3rd little rubber band is still visible where the gathered tucks were held in place, you can carefully snip it away at this time also. **Do Not** snip the bands that held the muslin strip to the feet and head area!
- ⑤ If desired, use a fine point permanent marker to make 2 dots for eyes. Mouth can be added by making a small straight line with the marker. No nose is needed. It was not uncommon to omit both nose and mouth and have only eyes on the face. Now name your new doll and give her lots of love!