

# Backyard Cooks Encouraged to Prepare Early as BBQ Season Approaches

*The weather finally turns nice, BBQ's get uncovered, and backyard cooks rush to figure things out at the last minute. Read here how to get started early!*

ELKTON, KY, UNITED STATES, January 8, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- As warmer weather approaches, backyard cooks across the country are beginning to

prepare for the upcoming BBQ season. While many associate grilling with late spring and summer, experienced outdoor cooks emphasize that preparation well ahead of the season plays a key role in better results, smoother cooks, and more enjoyable outdoor meals.

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Preparing your BBQ now gives you options — and options are always better than panic buying.”

*Eddie van Aken*

According to cooking educators and BBQ-focused resources, early preparation helps reduce common mistakes that occur when grills are pulled out after months of inactivity. Rushed equipment purchases, unfamiliar grill setups, and limited understanding of heat control often lead to inconsistent cooking and unnecessary frustration during peak grilling months.

One online resource addressing this issue is [The Grilling Dutchman](#), a BBQ-focused website built around practical outdoor cooking education, equipment testing, and technique-based guidance. The site encourages backyard cooks to prepare early by focusing on foundational skills and understanding their equipment before the busiest part of the season begins.

Industry observers note that many backyard cooks overlook the importance of fundamentals, often prioritizing recipes or new equipment without understanding how heat, timing, and fire management affect cooking outcomes. Resources centered on [BBQ basics](#) aim to close that gap by helping cooks develop repeatable skills that apply across different grills and cooking styles.

“Preparation is often the difference between a stressful cook and a confident one,” said Eddie van Aken, founder of The Grilling Dutchman. “When cooks understand their grill and the basics of temperature control ahead of time, the entire BBQ season becomes more enjoyable.”



The Grilling Dutchman

In addition to cooking techniques, early-season preparation also includes evaluating equipment. Each grill behaves differently, and learning those characteristics during peak cooking weekends can lead to inconsistent results. This has increased interest in independent [grill reviews](#) that focus on real-world performance rather than manufacturer specifications.

Analysts within the outdoor cooking space point out that researching equipment early allows consumers to make informed decisions before inventory becomes limited and prices fluctuate during peak demand. Reviewing grills, thermometers, and accessories ahead of the season helps backyard cooks avoid rushed purchases and mismatched gear.



Eddie van Aken

Beyond equipment, preparation also includes understanding cook times, meat selection, and workflow planning. These elements help reduce common issues such as overcooking, temperature swings, and timing problems during gatherings. Early preparation allows cooks to focus on the experience rather than troubleshooting during live cooks.

The Grilling Dutchman positions itself as a year-round educational resource, recognizing that outdoor cooking is not limited to a single season. While grilling activity increases during warmer months, learning and preparation can take place at any time. This approach aligns with a growing number of backyard cooks who grill throughout the year or plan ahead to maximize seasonal enjoyment.

“As interest in outdoor cooking continues to grow, practical education and experience-based guidance are becoming more valuable,” van Aken added. “Helping cooks prepare early leads to better food and more confidence once the grills are fired up.”

With BBQ season approaching, cooking educators emphasize that preparation does not require major changes or expensive upgrades. Instead, focusing on fundamentals, understanding equipment, and making informed choices early can significantly improve the overall cooking experience.

As grills begin to reappear in backyards across the country, the message from experienced cooks remains consistent: preparation beats last-minute decisions, and it is never too early to start cooking smarter.

The Grilling Dutchman

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eddie@thegrillingdutchman.com

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