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THE MARKET BASKET
by
Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture

FAMILY FOOD GUIDE TO LOW COST BALANCED DIET
Every meal -- Milk for children, bread for all

Every day --
Cereal in porridge or pudding Potatoes
Tomatoes (or oranges) for children
A green or yellov: vegetable
A fruit or additional vegetable Milk for all

Two to four times a week -Tomatoes for all
Dried beans and peas or peanuts Eggs (especially for chiliren)
Lean meat, fish, or poultry, or cheese

THE BEST BUY IN PROTEIN FOODS
When you must economize on food, says the Bureau of Home Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the only safe way is to choose first for nutritive value and then buy the nutritive values at as small a price as possible. You can't go wrong if you follow that rule, because it happens, fortunately, that some of the cheapest foods are just as nutritious, of ten more so, than the most expensive foods in the same class.

But keep the emphasis on that word class. Milk and milk products are one class; vegetables and fruits another; bread and cereals another. Meats, fish, and eggs are in one class; fats and sugars in another. The thing you can't afford to do is to try to live on one or two classes of food -- just bread and meat, for instance; or just vegetables and sweets; or just corn bread, fat meat, and molasses.



For such a diet you are bound to pay a high price sooner or later because it lacks certain food substances which your body requires. Better buy something from each class of foods, say the nutritionists, even if you have to buy less of each food, for to promote good health variety is as necessary as quantity.

But within each class of foods you find some costing more than others, and there you can economize by choosing the cheapest. Take the meat class for example, or better say the protein class.

The choices here are very numerous, and the prices run from very low to very high. There are all the djfferent cuts of beef, veal, lamb, and pork. There is liver of these same kinds. There is fish and also povitry, and sometimes game. There are eggs and there is cheese. These different foods are listed in the meat group because they serve the same general purpose in the diet. They are all rich sources of protein, which is one of the substances we aepend upon for body building and energy. They have other food values besides, but we ore considering them for their protein now.

The most nutritious of all meats is liver, and this is true whether you buy pig liver, which is usually cheapest, lamb liver, beef liver, or the calf-liver which is considered such a delicacy. And because there is so little waste to liver, the price actually compares favorably with other kinds of meat. Remembering that liver is the very best source of iron we have, and a source of the important vitamins $A, B, D$, and $G$ besides, you can depend upon liver as a bargain always, if you know how to cook the cheaper kinds and serve them in appetizing ways. Of such ways there are plenty.

Stem beef or lamb are just as good for nutritive value as are the choice steaks, chops, or roasts. And the cheaper pieces of pork compare in the same way with the choice hams and loin roasts or chops. Of poultry, again, you can choose by the price, depending upon skill in the kitchen to make a dish the family will enjoy.

Fish of different kinds differ scmewhat in food value, but all are good protein foods, fully equal to meat or poultry, and some fish have other important food values. Some of the common market kinds of fish have very little waste, and often cost less than meat. Most canned fish, especially canned salmon, has no Waste at all, and is exceptional in its food values.

So there are the choices of flesh, fish, and fowl. If you choose the cheapest you will fare as well in protein value as if you had bought the most expensive.

When it comes to eggs, we get all the food values of meat and more, but nowadays the price is up, as usual at this time of year. The children in the family, however, should have egg two or three times a week, and because eggs are so rich in protein, an egg dish for the whole family now and then may be a good buy in the place of meat or fish.

Cheese is composed largely of milk protein, with many other nutritive values of milk, especially a great deal of calcium. Cheese is often a good buy for a main dish, because you can use less of it and get good protein values cheaper than in any other way perhaps, unless in liver and eggs. The common American cheese, which is a cheddar cheese, made of whole milk, is our cheapest cheese. Macaroni and cheese, or rice and cheese, or any of these bland foods with cheese and tomatoes, make a very cheap and nutritious main dish, and you would not want certainly you would not need -- another protein dish at that same meal.

And now we come back to the cook. On meats, especially, she must use her skill and make them tender if they are not naturally tender. Long, slow cooking in the presence of moisture will do this - as for a pot roast, or swiss steak, or braised liver. Or the cook can grind or chop or cut the meat in small pieces for a stew, for meat balls, or for creaming.

As to fish, there are many cheap rays to serve it, because the flavor can so easily be extended. A pound will make a chowder for four on five people. Fish balls, made of flaked fish and potatoes; creamed fish with vegetables, or a fish pie, made like a shepherd's pie, with mashed potatoes, are other good ways to make a cheap meal with fish.

A cheap egg dish, even when eggs are high, is egg Milanese -- hard-cooked eggs sliced and spread over a bed of spaghetti and tomatoes -- a whole meal in one dish. A few eggs would go far on such a dish, or on a dish of greens, for eggs are so rich in protein, besides their other food values.

Cheese, too, can be used in comparatively small guantities and yet provide all the protein you need for the day. Cream it in white sauce, for example; make a rabbit of it with tomatoes; or an English monkey, which is cheese, milk and breadcrumbs; or cook it with macaroni or rice; or grate it on a toasted slice of bread in onion soup. In any of these ways you get enough protein for your meal in very cheap form.

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DO YOU GET RMOUGH IRON?
Only a scientist can think about food in quantities as small as a milligran. The rest of us stop short somewhere in fractions of an ounce, at best. But the books tell us our meals should be planned to provide at least 15 milligrams of iron for each of us in our fond evory day. Fifteen milligrans translates into one two-thousandth of an ounce.

That ought to be easy, you say. Surely there would be that much iron in almost any sort of c meel.

But it is not so simple as all that, says the Bureau of Fome Economics of the U. S. Departnent of Agriculture. Iron is found in most foods -- that is true. But in some of them you get only fractions of a milligram of iron to the ordinary



serving of the food. You really can not get your quota of iron from any one food in the quantity you would normally eat of that fond at meal. Of baked beans, which are one of the chenpest $\ddagger 00$, as well as one of the richest sources of iron, you would have to eat more than a pound to give you your day's quota of iron. Of cooked spinach, you would have to eat $2 \frac{1}{3}$ cups. Of esg yolrs it mould tako a dozen or more. Of lean beef, more than a pound.

So there is nother problom for the housekeeper. How is she to make sure the meals she plans are iurnishing enough iron for the family? That is important, for iron is a blood builder, and a certain amount of it is absolutely essential to good inealth. The only practical may to be sure of enowgh iron day by day is to have enough difforent kinds of food to yield a little iron here and a little there, until you have enough all told.

That, however, is owo way of saying that it is not hard to get enough iron if you have an all-round good diet in other respects. So the iron problem, like the generol food problem, is a question if providing the necessary variety of foods within your limits of cost.

Meats, eggs, some vegetables, some fruits, some cereals and some sweets are the good sources of iron -- ennugh different kinds of food to give us a very good choice. But some ments are botter than others. The very best of all food sources of iron are the liver, kinieys, brain and heart of meat animals. The lean muscle of beef, veal, lanb, poik and the dark meat of poultry are very good, also. So are eg y yolks. So ore oysters und shrimps. Not even those iron-rich foods, however, will furnish, in the usunl serving, the full iror quota for the day. You must pick up some more here and there, in several other kinds of food.

That brings you first to greens -- particularly turnip and beet tops, chard, dandelion and mustard greens, watercress and spinacin, also kale. In fact, any thin green leaf is a rich source of iron.

Whole grain flours and cereals furnish iron, particularly whole whcot. barley, rye and oats. But white flour, and otiner reifned cereals contain barely a trace. Beans and peas, fresh or dried, are rich in jron, and the best of these are limas, lentils, cmmon or kidncy beans, cowneas, or common peas.

Dried fruits furnish iron -- particularly apricots, peaches, currants, and dates, figs, prunes and raisins.

Suppose, then, we plun some iran-rich meals, to see how they compare with our customary meals, both for iron and for general satisfaction. Here are suggestions for thrce separate days -- any days -- using only low-cost foods and not counting beverages.

Breakfost
(1) Oatmenl with raisins, Top milk Toast
(2) Cracked wheat porridge Top milk Fried apples Toust

Dinner
Braised liver rith tomatoes Bered potatoes Graham muffins

Baked beans Turnip greens Stewed prines
Whole whent bread
Pot rocst of beef Buttered cabbage Grape tapioca pudding

Supper
Split pea soup Crackers
Applesauce Molasses cookies

Fried tomatoes Cottage cheese Hot biscuits Blackberry jolly

Potatoes boiled in skins
Gravy (from dinner) Sliced tomatoes or cucumbers of cold slaw Trole wheat biscuit

In planning those menls, wo have picked out, from our list of iron-rich foods, combinations that make those sample doy?s menus unusunlly rich in iron. But the menls turn out to be all-round grod. meals, from the standpoint of nutritive value and balance. Adding the recomended quartity of milk per day (a quart per doy for each child and a pint for cach adult), and with generous quantities of breads and cereals, those meals would furnish proteins and minerals and vitamins and also the energy values required for good health. They would be cheap meals, too'-- as you can prove to yourself by trying them.

You notice, however, that they include a good deal of whole wheat bread, whole wheat cereal and oatmeal, as well as plenty of white bread. This would not be important if you had plenty of $\begin{aligned} & \text { reen } \\ & \text { vegotables and plenty of meats day in and }\end{aligned}$ day out, but winere you have to plan for rock-bottom cost, every bit of food value is important. The breadstuffs and cereals are energy foods, and because they must be plentiful in low-cost meals, the thrifty thing to do is to make them count for all they are worth in other wajs, tou. Since the whole grains are good sources of iron, one of the cheapest wars to build up the iron content of your meals is to use plenty of whole grain cereals, dark flours, and dark breads.

And then keep in mind, when you want swoets, that dates and figs and raisins are rich in iron.

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COLCERITING CAIORIES AND CEFEALS
If you are trying to plan meals by the best rules of diet, and at tine same time be most thrift̀y about it, you want to know how much food the family really needs ... which nay be more or may be less than some members of the family actually want. So you turn, cerhops, to the books, where you find tiat a moderatem Iy active man, for example, needs food enough to furnish about 3,000 calories a day. Now a calorie is a unit of measure which is not very easy to define. It measures fuel for a kind of eregine-in this case the human body. That body needs Eucl to furnish the energy necessary for keeoine alive, for digesting food, and for doing the day's work. The more work we do, the more energy and consequently the more food do we need. So the scientist, finding that a man uses up each day a certain amount of energy if he lives a moderately active life, and more if he is rery active, measures the fuel required to produce that energy, and tells us it vakes about 3,000 calories in one case, and more, up to about 4,000 calories,
in the other. A womon neecs less fuelmabout 2,500 to 3,000 calori.es. Children need varying amounts, according to their sex and age.

All foods have :some fuel value, but some have much more than othersm-so much more that they are classed as fuel foods, or energy foods. Their value in calories is high because they contain unusual amoints of the best fucl substances, which are carbohydrates, or starch and sugar, and fats.

Breadstuffs and cereals--that is, wheat, flour, corn meal, hominy, oatmeal, barley, rice and the rest of the grains--are our most important fuel foods. Their fuel value is high chiefly because they contain so much starch. They are plentiful, and they are cheap. Therefore, says the Eureau of Home Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, when we have to make a very little money go a long way, we can do it by using enough bread and cereals to supply rather more then a third, or even as much as 40 percent of our total calories for the day.

More than a third, or even as much as 40 percent. And why not more than that? If high-calorie $\hat{\mathrm{I}}$ oods are cheap, why not use more of them, or even get all your calories from a fow foods that would furnish the most calories for the money? As a matter of $f$ fact, such a diet might be the cheapest you could find, but it would be a very bad one. Fuel foods are not the only kinds you need. You must have the kinds that furnish plenty of material to build bone and blood and muscle, and keep your body in good running order. To get enough of those substances, you need mill, vegetables and fruits, and meat or fish or egss or cheese, besides plenty of bread and cereals.

In fact, these bodymuildins and health-protective foods are so important the Burear of Home Economics suggests that you provide them first and then add your fuel foods. In milk, vegetables and fruits, and in lean meat or fish or eggs or cheese, you get fuel values, too, along with the other value. for which yoix need these foods. So you might plan this way:

Count in first all the milk and vegetailes and fruit for the day--a quart of mill: per child, a pint for each adult, to be used either as a drink or in souo or gravy or sauce or custard or some other way. Then count for everybody in the femiIy at least one medium-size potato, a good serving of greens or salad vegetables and fruit, also some meat or fish or eges or cheese, os you may be able to afford. In cooking you will have used some fat, and you will get some fat in the meat. In all those foods you should be able to provide nearly two thirds of your calories.

Then count in bread for the day, cereal for breakfast, rice or macaroni or noodles or dumplings for at least one other meal, and perhaps pie or cake or cookies, too. There you have the other third or more of your calories.

The calories count up fast in bread and cereals. You get, for instance, about 100 calories in two thin slices of the ordinary loaf of bakers' bread, and during the day you probably eat several times that. You get 100 calories in a $4 \frac{1}{2}$ inch griddle cake, in a murfin, or an average biscuit. In three-fourths of a cup of cooked oatmeal, or of cooked macaroni, or cooked rice, you get 100 calories.

But now we meet another problem-a very practical problem for the cook. With such a large pronortion of bland, starchy foods, how can you make the meals

## interesting?

Toast and breakfast cereal, hotbiswits, muffins, griddle cekes, corn pone, coffee bread, cakes, and cookies will doubtless be on your bill of fare during the week. Rice, hominy, hominy grits, dumplings, macaroni, and noodles will come in place, and you can vary those surprisingly. The Bast Indian, for example, seasons his rice with curry powder, and we copy him in our curry of rice. The Turks and other peoples of the Near East have their pilaf, which is rice or ground wheat boiled in mutton broth, and served of tentimes with meat or vesetables or both. The Italians add cheese to their rice, as well as to their macaroni, the Spaniards and l.exicans add tomatoes and peppers, to make several interesting dishes.

As for corn products, you can provide a change from the everyday fare by making tamale pie as the Mexicans do--a filling of chopped meat, onions, tomatoes and peppers, and topped with corn meal mush. Or, for dessert, you can make a date pudding with hominy grits, or use other fruit with the grits if you prefer.

Of oatmeal, if you are Scotch, you will have your "bannocks" maybe--thich cakes of coarse oatmeal. The Bureau of Home Econonics offers an oatmeal recipe for a meat loaf which you may like to try.

Thole wheat chowder, and several other whole wheat dishes may well be on your list if you have a wheat crop, or if you can visit a feed store somewhere and get a peck or so of clean whole wheat.

## EECIPES

Oetmeal and Meat Loaf

1 cup rolled oats 2 cups water $1 \frac{1}{2}$ pounds ground beef $\frac{1}{2}$ pound erround porix

2 to 3 teblespoons chopped onion
$2 \frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons salt
$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon celery seed
1/8 teaspoon pepper

Cook the rolled oats in the usual way in the 2 cups of water. Mix all the ingredients. Form into a loaf on a piece of heavy paper on a rack in an open roasting pan. Bake about 10 minutes in a hot oven (about 400 degrees $F_{0}$ ), reduce the temperature to moderate ( 350 degrees $F$. ), and continue to cook for $1 \frac{1}{2}$ hours. Serve hot or cold.

1/2 pound canned iish 1 quart canned tomatoes 1/2 cup chopped celery

Whole Wheat. Fish, and Tomato

Drain the Iish, reserve the liquid and flake the fish into small pieces. Cook tomatoes, celery and fish liquid until the mixture is fairly thick. Add the seasonins, wheat, and fish, cook a few minutes longer, stir to blend well.

Hominy Date Pudding

5 cups milk
l cup hominy grits
1 teaspoon salt

1 cup dates, seeded and chopped
1/4. cup sugar
1 teaspoon venilla.

Add the salt and hominy grits to the milk and cook in a double boiler at least 1 hour. Add the dates, sugar, and vanilla, and mix well. Serve with milk or custard.

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## USING APPLES AT THEIR BEST

Our pilgrim ancestors would be surprised, of course, at many things on this earth now, and one of those things would be our apple crop and what we do with it. They had apples, to be sure -- most of the world has had apples, apparently, from Adam and झve on down. But the early New Englanders didn't think much of them, except for cider-making. There were plenty of cider mills in those days.

But now apples are our staple fruit. We still use some of them for cider but only some. They are much more important to us as just plain "eating apples", or "dessert apples", if you prefer the more dignified official expression which moans the same thing. We also cook them in a score of ways, for any meal, and for any course in the meal. We dry them, can them, use them in jellies, marmalade, butters and precerves. There is no other fruit that serves so many purposes.

And apples do more then just please the taste, as the Bureau of Home Econonomics of the U. S. Department of Africulture points out, though they do not worle such miracles as jou may have heard. The sayins that "An apple a day lieeps the doctor awayt: does not quite hold up under the searchlight of science. But apples have an important place, largely because we use so many that their nutritive values count up to a bigger total in certain respects than is furnished by some of the less common and more expensive foods.

Apples furnish a mild roughage and they are "base-forming"; which is to say they help to offset the acid-forming foods we eat, such as bread and meat. They have some mineral and vitamin values, and we get the most of those values when we eat apples raw, slzins and all. We count apples as $c$ source of vitomin C, for exanple, because they are so commonly eaten raw. This vitamin is of ten lost in cooking.

The apple crop will be short this year, in New York and New England especially, where thousands and thousands of apple trees were killed or damaged by the cold last winter. Orchards in the Ozark region suffered from drought last summer, so there will be fewer apples there than last year. The Potomac-CumberlandShenandoah region has a lighter crop, along with Cinio and the rest of the Central States east of the Mississippi. The great apple country of the Northwest, on the other hand, in Washington and Oregon especially, and the nearer Mountain States, have a crop equal to last year. But we may have to pay a little more now for the apples we buy. That we must be prepared for, says the Department of Agriculture, and at the same time romember that better prices are good for the apple grower, the apple seller, and in the lon run for everybody else as well.

The varieties of aples grown in this country are almost more than you can count, and each has its own best uses. Even the apple expert, however, refuses to try to judge the quality of an apple by its looks alone. The gorgeous beauty that jakes to perfection, or one that makes a brigit clear jelly, may be the poorest sort of an eating apple. The apple that is best for sauce or pie may not be good for isking or for jelly. ITaturally the housewife doesn't want to waste her time, her apples, or her money makins poor apple pie or trying to make jelly that will not jell. Sut how is she to choose?

If you have your own apple trees, you can, of course, do your own experimenting and be sure which apples to use for which purpose. But if you are buying your apples, try to find out the kinds on your local market, and where they come from. There are some varieties, like the Jonathan, or the Winesap, or the Stayman, that are more of less standard, general-purpose apples wherever you find them. But most varieties are at their best in certain regions and when used in just the right way for them.

Let us see then what some of the State apple experts have found out, by experiment with their own apples. Take first the two biggest producing regions for comparison, namely New York and the Nortlwest (Washington and Oregon). The New York State College of Agriculture rates New York winter apples, the Oregon Agricultural College and Northwestern apple growers rate their own winter apple varieties, as follows:

## For eating apples

New York gives first place ("excellent") to the Spitzenburg apple, and then lists Jonathan, Northern Spy, McIntosh, Snow, and Yellow Newtown as "very good." Many others are "good."

The Northwesterners recomend as eating apples their Spitzenburgs, Delicious, Grimes Golden, Jonathan, McIntosh, Wagmer, White Pearmain, Winesap, Yellow Bellflower and Yellow Newtown (which, by the way, we meet again in Virginia as the favorite Albemarle Pippin). All these are rated "excellent" eating apples, best, of course, in their own seasons.

## For baking

New York recormends especially its Tompkins King, Tolman Sweet, Rome Beauty, Northern Spy, also its Wolf River, McIntosh, and Twenty-Ounce.

In the Northiost, the apples recomended especially for "cooking" (they con't specify "baking") are the Ortley, Rome Beauty, Spitzenburg, Wagener, Yellow Bellflower and Yellow Newtorn.

## For apole pie

New York says the Maiden Blush, Jonathan and Northern Spy are "excellent", InEnty-Junce, WcIntosh, Snow and Baldwin are "Eood" or "very good."
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Oregon rates as excellent liorthern Spy, Bottle Greening, Rambo, Beitigheiner, Maiden Blush, Ribston Pippin. Very good are McMahon, Gano, Wagener, Ontario, Arkensas, McIntosh, Jonathan, Vestern Beauty, Grimes, and half a dozen more.

## For apple sauce

New York favorites for apple sauce are Maiden Blush, Tompkins King, Jonathan; also Twenty-Ounce, heIntosh, Fall Pippin, Snow, Spitzenourg, and Northern Spy.

Oregon lists the Rambo, Tompinis King, Grimes Golden and Ortley as "excellent"; Northern Spy, Wagener, and Yellow Bellflower as "very good." Missouri Pippin, Western Beauty, Twenty-Ounce, Melon,/Gañ and Spitzenburg "gocd."

## For jelly

New York reports success with Rhode Island Greening, Spitzenburg, Baldwin, Tompkins King, Nortinern Spy, and Fall Pippin. From 5 pounds of each of these apples the yield ranged from 15 to 21 glasses of jelly, with three extractions of juice.

Oregon recomends as "excellent" for jelly making Scett Lawver, TwentyOunce, Maiden Blush, Melon. As "vary good", Jonathan, Rome,/ Thit té Winter Pearmain, Salome, Coos Bay Beauty, Northern Spy, Tompkins Kiñ. Various others are "good".

In the Potomac-Cumberland-Shenandoah apple region you will hoar the praises of the Yellow Nowtown (Albemarle Pippin), Grimes Golden and Stayman Tinesap especially as eating apples, but they are used for cooking too. The Jonathan and Winesap also are excellent for boti purposes, and with the Rome Beauty and Nammoth Black Twig, are considered especially good for boking. The York Imperial is counted a good cooking apple.

In the Middle and North Central West you hear again of the Jonathan, Grimes Golden and lhintosh as excellent eating apples; Rome Beauty for balking, the Arkansas or Black Twig, York Imperial for bakinc and for aple sauce. Misconsin experiments suggest Grimes Golden both for sauce and for baking, Jonathan for baking, Northwestern Greening for pie and sauce, Salome for pie.

