Words on Wellness

YOUR EXTENSION CONNECTION TO NUTRITION AND FITNESS

Home Food Preservation: Apples and Tomatoes

The gardening and preserving season is winding down, but it is never too late to learn about safe home food preservation. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is offering two online food preservation classes in October.

- **Preserve the Taste of Summer: Totally Tomatoes-** Learn about canning and freezing tomatoes, salsa, and other tomato products. Canning includes both water bath and pressure canning.
  - Thursday, October 8, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
  - Monday, October 12, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- **Preserve the Taste of Summer: All About Apples-** Learn about canning applesauce and apple pie filling, as well as freezing and drying apples.
  - Thursday, October 22, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
  - Wednesday, October 28, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

These fun and interactive classes will benefit both newbies and experienced home preservers. All sessions are one hour and free of charge. Register on the Preserve the Taste of Summer website (extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/preserve-taste-summer).

Take A Hike

Hiking is great for physical health. It also improves mental health! It can reduce stress, anxiety, and depression. According to a Stanford study, walking for 90 minutes in nature, instead of an urban setting, decreases activity in the brain linked to depression.

Looking for an Iowa hiking destination?

- Travel Iowa® lists Nine Hiking Trails (tinyurl.com/yxfydsnw).
- The Iowa DNR recommends Great Escapes: 7 of Iowa's Best Hikes (tinyurl.com/yygg8na6).

Grab your hiking books and enjoy being active on Iowa's trails.

Source: Stanford News, https://news.stanford.edu/2015/06/30/hiking-mental-health-063015/.

Apple Cinnamon Bread

Serving Size: 1 slice | Serves: 16

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1 1/4 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 1/3 cup oil
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup all-purpose white flour
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 apple, unpeeled, diced (about 1 cup)
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray a 9-inch by 5-inch loaf pan with nonstick cooking spray.
2. In a small bowl, stir together white sugar, applesauce, oil, and eggs until well combined.
3. In a large bowl, stir together flours, baking powder, and the 1 teaspoon of cinnamon.
4. Add liquid ingredients to dry ingredients. Stir together just until combined.
5. Gently stir in diced apple.
6. Pour the batter into the loaf pan. Spread batter evenly through the pan.
7. In a small bowl, stir together the brown sugar and the 1/2 teaspoon of cinnamon. Sprinkle over the top of the batter.
8. Bake for 45–50 minutes until a tester inserted in the center of the loaf comes out clean.

Nutrition information per serving:

150 calories, 2.5 total fat, 0.5g saturated fat, 0g trans fat, 25mg cholesterol, 40mg sodium, 24g total carbohydrate, 2g fiber, 12g sugar, 3g protein

Recipe is courtesy of ISU Extension and Outreach's Spend Smart. Eat Smart. website.

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Powerful Tools for Caregivers of Adults with Chronic Conditions
Wednesdays, Oct. 28-Dec. 12, 6:30-8pm, Online, Live!

Feeling stretched in your role as a caregiver for a spouse or parent? Caregiving can be stressful -- physically, emotionally, and financially. Whether you care for a loved one at home or in a care facility, nearby or far away, your role is important. In this six-week "Powerful Tools" class series, you will learn ways to take care of yourself, reduce stress, improve your caregiving confidence, and establish balance in your life as you care for others. You will be able to ask questions of an experienced Family Life Extension specialist, Barbara Dunn Swanson. The course fee is $35 for individuals, $40 for couples. Register at https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/event_details/16360

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Lunch and Learn!

Working and homeschooling at home this fall? The structure of school and work can help limit our eating to designated meal times. When we're all at home all day, though, we may graze on less-than-healthy choices. What to do?

- Involve the whole family in planning meals and menus. Family members can suggest weekly menu items, including something new. The ISU Extension and Outreach Spend Smart. Eat Smart. (spendsmart.extension.iastate.edu/) website has planning tips and a Five Day Meal Planning Worksheet (tinyurl.com/yyhaf3w2).
- Get the family involved in preparation and cooking. They may be more inclined to help if the menu was their suggestion. Children will learn colors, shapes, reading, math, and science as they cook, without realizing they are "learning."
- Prep meals in advance. View this video to learn how to Cook Now, Enjoy Later (vimeo.com/419747928).
- Make snack bins in your fridge and on your kitchen table for both perishable and nonperishable snacks.
  - Nonrefrigerated Snacks: peanut butter; washed fresh fruit such as pears or bananas; individual bags of nuts, seeds, dried fruit, whole-grain crackers, or trail mix; individual applesauce or fruit cups; or Apple Cinnamon Bread (see featured recipe).
  - Refrigerated Snacks: low-fat yogurt; precut vegetables and fruits such as apples, carrots, and celery; or high-protein foods such as cottage cheese, cheese sticks, hummus, or hard-cooked eggs.
- Keep sweet and salty snacks out of sight.
- Everyone "starving" right before a meal? Set cut-up raw vegetables out while the meal is being prepared. Watch Veg Out! (vimeo.com/419742344) for more on vegetables.
- Remember you don't have to be perfect at this. Do your best as a family and have fun.

Sources:

Adapted from American Institute for Cancer Research, aicr.org.

For more snack ideas see the ISU Extension and Outreach publication Snacks for Healthy Kids, store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/4605.