

(week 1)

FN1472

COOKING 101

Quick and Easy Menus, Recipes and Tips for Singles and Couples

EQUIPPING YOUR KITCHEN



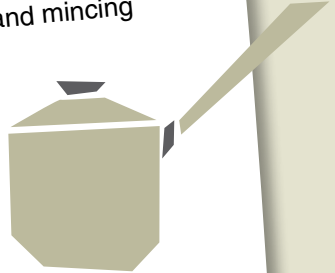
NDSU

EXTENSION

reviewed APRIL 2020

You don't need to have a gourmet kitchen to be a good cook, but having some kitchen equipment essentials can make cooking a breeze. These are some useful pieces of equipment. Check (X) the ones you already have.

- LARGE, NONSTICK SKILLET:** probably the most important pan in your kitchen.
- CHEF'S KNIFE:** used for chopping, slicing and mincing vegetables and also for cutting meat.
- 3-QUART SAUCEPAN:** used to make rice, sauces, gravies and small batches of soup and to boil vegetables.
- 8-QUART POT:** used to boil spaghetti noodles and make soups and chili.
- COLANDER:** great for washing fruits and vegetables and separating liquids from solids.
- CUTTING BOARD(S):** protects your counters from sharp knives. Ideally, have separate boards for cutting meat and produce. Always wash cutting boards thoroughly between uses.
- DRY AND LIQUID MEASURING CUPS AND MEASURING SPOONS**
- HEAT-RESISTANT SPATULA**
- CAN OPENER**
- PARING KNIFE AND/OR VEGETABLE PEELER**
- MIXING BOWL(S)**
- INSTANT-READ THERMOMETER:** essential piece of equipment to ensure food safety. It allows you to check the doneness of foods you are cooking so you do not overcook or undercook.
- SLOW COOKER:** although not essential, it is handy to have.



THE SLOW COOKER: a BUSY COOK'S BEST FRIEND

Mix your ingredients into a slow cooker in the morning, turn it on and leave. You'll come home at the end of a long day to a flavorful, fully cooked, ready-to-eat meal.



POP QUIZ:

WHAT DO YOU KNOW already?

(The answers are on page 6.)

1. True or false? Lifting the lid off the slow cooker to check on your food is advised.
2. What types of meat work best in the slow cooker?
 - a) Tender, expensive cuts
 - b) Less tender, less expensive cuts
3. True or false? For best results, fill your slow cooker all the way to the top.

Try these tips for using a slow cooker:

- Get your ingredients ready the night before. Then all you have to do in the morning is put them in the cooker and turn it to the desired setting.
- Spray the slow cooker with cooking spray or use the slow cooker liner bags before adding ingredients. This will make cleanup much easier.
- To save money, choose less expensive cuts of meat. Slow cooking these meats will result in flavorful, tender dishes at a much lower price.
- For best results, fill the slow cooker between one-half and two-thirds full.
- Do not lift the lid off the cooker unless absolutely necessary.
- Divide the leftovers from a large slow cooker of food into meal-size portions and freeze for future quick meals.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT SLOW COOKER FOR YOUR NEEDS

Compare sizes and choose the one that works for your situation. The 6-quart option is good for preparing larger quantities of food. If you plan to freeze leftovers for future meals, this size is recommended. If you do not plan to be home when the cooking time is up, consider buying a model with a timer. It automatically will switch to a “warming” option when the cooking time is up.

Here are some cooking times for common slow cooker dishes:

BASIC COOKING TIMES FOR SLOW COOKING*		
Food Type	Approximate Cooking Times	
	Low Setting	High Setting
Roast	8 to 12 hours	4 to 6 hours
Ribs	6 to 10 hours	4 to 6 hours
Brisket	8 to 10 hours	4 to 5 hours
Swiss steak	6 to 10 hours	
Meat loaf	5 to 10 hours	4 to 6 hours
Chicken – breast	6 to 8 hours	3 to 4 hours
Chicken – dark meat	8 to 9 hours	4 to 5 hours
Baked potato	8 to 10 hours	4 to 5 hours
Baked sweet potato	6 to 8 hours	3 to 4 hours
Vegetables	2 to 6 hours	2 to 3 hours
Dry beans (soaked and preboiled for 10 to 15 minutes)	8 to 9 hours	
Rice	4 to 8 hours	2 to 3 hours
Soup	6 to 10 hours	3 to 5 hours
Stew	6 to 10 hours	4 to 6 hours
Casseroles	6 to 10 hours	3 to 5 hours

Note: The times above are estimates only. The cooking times will vary according to the amount of food being cooked, the size of pieces and the type of other ingredients cooked with the food. If using a slow-cooking recipe, be sure to follow the cooking times suggested in the recipe.

Source: www.recipe-tips.com/kitchen-tips/t--1273/cooking-basics.asp

*For more information, check the manual for your slow cooker.

WEEKLY MENU PLANNER - week 1

*indicates recipe is provided

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Snacks
MON.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Oatmeal ▶ Blueberries ▶ Skim milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Deli turkey sandwich on whole-wheat bread ▶ Baby carrots w/ dipping sauce ▶ Skim milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Slow Cooker Chili* topped with shredded cheese ▶ Wheat crackers ▶ Skim milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Apple ▶ Almonds
TUES.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Whole-grain waffle with peanut butter ▶ Blueberries ▶ Skim milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Tuna and lettuce in a pita pocket w/ light mayo ▶ Orange ▶ Skim milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Baked potato topped with leftover Chili* and shredded cheese ▶ Side salad w/ choice of dressing ▶ Skim milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Pear ▶ Nonfat yogurt
WED.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Scrambled eggs ▶ Whole-wheat toast ▶ Skim milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Pita pizza: top 1 pita with tomato sauce, cheese and choice of toppings. Microwave or bake until cheese melts. ▶ Orange ▶ Skim milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Easy Slow Cooker Chicken* ▶ 1 c. steamed broccoli ▶ Brown rice ▶ Skim milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Apple ▶ Almonds
THURS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Oatmeal ▶ Banana ▶ Skim milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Chicken salad w/ diced leftover chicken, salad greens, other veggies if desired, and choice of dressing ▶ Pita bread ▶ Skim milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Mexican Egg Scramble* ▶ Whole-wheat toast ▶ Skim milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Apple with peanut butter
FRI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Whole-wheat toast with peanut butter ▶ Banana ▶ Skim milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Grilled tomato and mozzarella sandwich ▶ Baby carrots w/choice of dipping sauce ▶ Skim milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Leftover chicken breast from Wednesday ▶ Baked Sweet Potato Fries* ▶ Side salad ▶ Skim milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Pear ▶ Almonds
SAT.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Whole-grain waffle ▶ Blueberries ▶ Skim milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Grilled turkey sandwich ▶ Side salad ▶ Orange ▶ Skim milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 1 c. brown rice mixed with 1 tsp. olive oil, ▶ 1 c. steamed vegetables and ¼ c. black beans. ▶ Salt and pepper to taste ▶ Skim milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Baby carrots
SUN.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Yogurt with blueberries ▶ Wheat toast ▶ Skim milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Canned soup ▶ Wheat crackers ▶ Side salad ▶ Orange ▶ Skim milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Waffle sandwich: toast 2 waffles, and top with turkey and cheese. Bake in oven until golden brown and crispy. ▶ Side salad ▶ Skim milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Apple with peanut butter

GROCERY LIST

To save money, compare unit prices (price per ounce) on the store shelving.

Read through the recipes and check your supplies to see what and how much you need.

GRAINS

- 1 loaf whole-wheat bread
- 1 box whole-wheat toaster waffles
- 1 package pita pockets (preferably whole wheat)
- Brown rice
- Oatmeal
- Wheat crackers

VEGETABLES

- Salad greens (such as spinach, romaine)
- 1 bag baby carrots
- Fresh broccoli (precut makes using it easy)
- 1 tomato
- 1 large sweet potato
- 1 baking potato
- 1 onion

FRUIT

- 4 apples
- 2 bananas
- 4 oranges
- 2 pears
- 1 bag frozen blueberries (or fresh if in season)

DAIRY

- 1 gallon (or more) skim milk
- 2 (6-ounce) containers nonfat yogurt
- Shredded cheese of choice

MEAT

- 4 frozen boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 can tuna
- 1 carton of eggs
- Deli turkey

CANNED GOODS, ETC.

- 1 (15-ounce) can black beans
- 2 (15-ounce) cans kidney beans
- Tomato soup (or soup of choice)
- Peanut butter
- 1 small jar pizza sauce
- 1 large can low-sodium tomato sauce
- Olive oil or other oil (such as canola or sunflower oil)
- Garlic powder and chili powder
- Salad dressing (your choice)
- Other condiments such as mayo, mustard and ketchup if desired

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

tsp. = teaspoon
Tbsp. = tablespoon
c. = cup
oz. = ounce

pkg. = package
g = grams
mg = milligrams
lb. = pound

RECIPES



EASY SLOW COOKER CHICKEN

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
1 pkg. dry Italian dressing mix
1 c. warm water

Thaw chicken in the refrigerator overnight or in microwave (followed by immediate cooking). Place chicken in slow cooker, sprinkle with dressing mix and pour water over the chicken. Cover and cook on low heat for eight to 10 hours. Chicken should reach an internal temperature of 165 F.

Makes four servings. Per serving: 140 calories, 1.5 g fat, 2 g carbohydrate, 720 mg sodium, 0 g fiber



Baked SWEET POTATO FRIES

1 large sweet potato
1 Tbsp. olive oil
1 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Cut off ends of potato, peel and slice lengthwise into strips. In medium bowl, toss potatoes with oil until evenly coated. Arrange in a single layer on a baking sheet. Sprinkle with salt if desired. Bake about 30 minutes, or until edges are crisp and potatoes are cooked through. Serve immediately.

Makes two servings. Per serving: 140 calories, 7 g fat, 19 g carbohydrate, 1,200 mg sodium, 3 g fiber



MEXICAN EGG SCRAMBLE

- 1 whole egg plus 2 egg whites*
- ¼ c. canned black beans, drained and rinsed
- ¼ c. shredded cheese
- 2 Tbsp. salsa

Drain and rinse black beans. Scramble the eggs with beans and cheese. Top with salsa.

Makes one serving. Per serving: 280 calories, 15 g fat, 13 g carbohydrate, 820 mg sodium

*Note: Using egg whites reduces the fat and calories in the dish. Egg white is an excellent source of protein.



SLOW COOKER CHILI

- 1 large can low-sodium (or unsalted) tomato sauce
- 1 lb. lean ground beef
- 2 cans beans (kidney beans are fine, but you can use whatever you'd like)
- 2 Tbsp. chili powder
- ¼ c. diced onion
- Shredded cheese (optional)

Cook the ground beef in a separate pan until cooked all the way through. Add all ingredients, except cheese, and cook in the slow cooker for four to six hours on high. Sprinkle with shredded cheese if desired. Serve with whole-wheat crackers.

Makes six servings. Per serving: 270 calories, 14 g fat, 35 g carbohydrate, 14 g fiber, 75 mg sodium

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