

(week 1)

FN1472

# COOKING 101

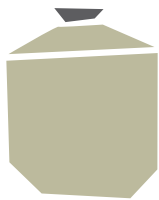
Quick and Easy Menus, Recipes and Tips for Singles and Couples

## EQUIPPING YOUR KITCHEN



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 off 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 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
<b>Roast</b>	8 to 12 hours	4 to 6 hours
<b>Ribs</b>	6 to 10 hours	4 to 6 hours
<b>Brisket</b>	8 to 10 hours	4 to 5 hours
<b>Swiss steak</b>	6 to 10 hours	
<b>Meat loaf</b>	5 to 10 hours	4 to 6 hours
<b>Chicken – breast</b>	6 to 8 hours	3 to 4 hours
<b>Chicken – dark meat</b>	8 to 9 hours	4 to 5 hours
<b>Baked potato</b>	8 to 10 hours	4 to 5 hours
<b>Baked sweet potato</b>	6 to 8 hours	3 to 4 hours
<b>Vegetables</b>	2 to 6 hours	2 to 3 hours
<b>Dry beans</b> (soaked and preboiled for 10 to 15 minutes)	8 to 9 hours	
<b>Rice</b>	4 to 8 hours	2 to 3 hours
<b>Soup</b>	6 to 10 hours	3 to 5 hours
<b>Stew</b>	6 to 10 hours	4 to 6 hours
<b>Casseroles</b>	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.

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

# 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 8 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 F. 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

**Julie Garden-Robinson, Ph.D., R.D., L.R.D.**  
 Food and Nutrition Specialist

NDSU Nutrition Education in the Community Students:

**Katie Myrold**, Dietetic Intern (former), Lead student writer

**Leah Gramlow**, Dietetic Intern (former)

**Joan Nagel**, Dietetic Intern (former)

For more information, visit  
[www.ag.ndsu.edu/food](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/food)

The NDSU Extension Service does not endorse commercial products or companies even though reference may be made to tradenames, trademarks or service names.

**For more information on this and other topics, see [www.ndsu.edu/extension](http://www.ndsu.edu/extension)**

County commissions, North Dakota State University and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. NDSU does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of age, color, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, participation in lawful off-campus activity, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, spousal relationship to current employee, or veteran status, as applicable. Direct inquiries to Vice Provost for Title IX/ADA Coordinator, Old Main 100, 701-231-7708, [ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu). This publication will be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities upon request, 701-231-7881. 2M-5-10, 2M-4-11, 500-12-15, 500-6-16; web-4-20; web-6-25