

October

Fresh from the Farm

--- Washington Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program ---Making it easier to add fresh fruits and vegetables to your diet, and support local farmers too!

Volume 1, Issue 5

Fruits and Vegetables: Good for Your Heart!



ENERGIZE YOUR LIFE!

EAT HEALTHY-BE ACTIVE

Here's more good news about eating 5 or more servings of fruits or vegetables every day. A recent study of over 100,000 men and women found that eating one extra serving of fruit or vegetables daily decreased the risk of heart disease by about 4%. The

people who ate the most fruits and vegetables had the lowest risk of heart disease; about 20% lower!

The lower risk group ate the most green leafy vegetables, like spinach, kale, Swiss chard, broccoli, mustard and turnip greens, and parsley. They also ate more vitamin C-rich fruits and vegetables such as strawberries, bell pepper, kale, greens, tomatoes, potatoes and citrus fruit.

The heart health benefits of vegetables and fruits shouldn't be too much of a surprise. Fruits and vegetables have a wide variety of nutrients that are thought to reduce the risk of heart disease.

And adding an extra serving of vegetables or fruit is easy. One serving is 1/2 cup of a cooked vegetable or 1 cup of leafy greens. A serving of fruit is 1/2 cup cut up or a piece of fruit about the size of a tennis ball. For example, an ear of corn is about 2 servings of vegetable and a medium size apple is one serving of fruit.



Visit your local farmers market! Adapted from an article by Public Health: Seattle & King County

Winter Squash & Pumpkins:

 1 pound winter squash = 2 cups cooked pieces or 1 cup mashed



- Make squash easier to cut by microwaving on high for 1 to 2 minutes, let stand for 3 minutes before cutting. Be sure to poke holes in the rind several times before heating.
- Ginger goes well with most winter squash and pumpkins.
- To bake, cut squash in half lengthwise and scoop out seeds. Brush cut side with oil or butter and place cut side down on a cookie sheet or baking pan. Bake at 375 degrees for about an hour or until squash is fork tender.

The Washington Basic Food Program can help people with a low-income buy nutritious food for a better diet. To find out more contact your local DSHS Community Service Office or call 1-800-865-7801.

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Parsnip-Carrot Gratin Makes 4 servings Directions:

Ingredients:

3 parsnips, peeled and cut into ¼ inch slices

3 carrots, peeled and cut into ¼ inch slices

1 Tbsp chopped fresh parsley or 2 tsp dried parsley

¹/₄ cup chicken broth

¹/₄ cup water

- 2 Tbsp breadcrumbs
- 1 Tbsp parmesan cheese

- 1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- 2. Place vegetables in a lightly greased 8 inch baking dish and pour broth and water over vegetables.
- 3. Sprinkle breadcrumbs and Parmesan cheese on top.
- 4. Cover and bake for 45 minutes or until tender.

Per serving: 140 calories, 1 g total fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 390 mg sodium, 4 g protein, 32 g carbohydrates, 6 g dietary fiber.

Corn & Squash Stew- Makes 6 servings From the Northwest Urban Indian Community

Ingredients:

Directions:



- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped

5 cups summer squash thickly sliced, then quartered

2 cups fresh corn kernels cut off the cob

4 roasted, peeled, seeded, chopped Long Anaheim Peppers*

¹/₄ cup water

Salt to taste

¹/₂ cup grated cheese

- 1. In a skillet, heat oil, add onion and cook until it just begins to get limp.
- 2. Add squash and sauté over medium heat 1-2 minutes.
- 3. Add remaining ingredients (except cheese) and simmer over low heat for 15 minutes. Add a bit of water if necessary to make it a "stew".
- 4. Top with grated cheese. Cover tightly to melt cheese. Serve hot.

Per serving with no added salt: 140 calories, 6 g total fat, 10 mg cholesterol, 75 mg sodium, 6 g protein, 19 g carbohydrates, 5 g dietary fiber.

* Anaheim peppers are a large mild pepper used in Southwestern cooking. If you wish you may substitute banana peppers or 1 Tbsp ground chili powder for each pepper.

To Roast: Char pepper skins over a gas or electric burner. Put into a paper or plastic bag until they cool. Then pull skins off and remove core and seeds.



Food for Health