MEETING YOUR MYPLATE GOALS ON A BUDGET
INTRODUCTION

Welcome! We’re excited to share with you these tips for meeting your MyPlate goals on a budget. Think it’s not possible? You’re not alone – in fact, 62% of shoppers say it costs too much to eat healthy food. The good news is that it truly can be easy and affordable. In fact, one study showed that serving fruits and vegetables for snacks can actually SAVE you money. Snack-size portions of produce cost about 2 cents less on average than snack-size portions of foods like crackers, chips, or donuts.

Once you know you can do it, all you need are the tips and tricks to make it happen. Throughout this guide you’ll find many ideas for making healthy, affordable choices using MyPlate as a guide. You’ll also get recipes and cooking tips to make those healthy foods taste great for your family. So what are you waiting for? Let’s get started!

This guide is brought to you by the following MyPlate National Strategic Partners:

[Logos of Egg Nutrition Center, Alliance for Potato Research & Education, USA Rice Federation, Canned Food Alliance, Share Our Strength's Cooking Matters]
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MYPLATE

So what is MyPlate anyways? MyPlate shows you the five food groups that are the building blocks for a healthy diet using a familiar image — a place setting for a meal. Before you eat, think about what goes on your plate or in your cup or bowl. Use the tips in this guide to fill your plate with healthy foods without breaking the bank.
**VEGETABLES**
Vary your veggies.

Make half your plate fruits and veggies.
Select vegetables with more potassium often, such as white potatoes, sweet potatoes, white beans, tomato products, beet greens, soybeans, lima beans, spinach, lentils, and kidney beans.

**FRUITS**
Focus on fruits.

Make half your plate fruits and veggies.
Color your plate! Fill it with red, yellow, orange, blue, and purple fruits.

**GRAINS**
Make at least half your grains whole.

Just because bread is brown doesn’t mean it’s whole grain. Check the ingredients list to be sure the first word is “whole.”

**PROTEIN**
Go lean with protein.

Eat lean meat, chicken, and turkey.
Ask for it baked, broiled, or grilled — not fried.
Mix it up! Beans, peas, nuts, seeds, fish, and eggs are all great sources of protein, too.

**DAIRY**
Get your calcium-rich foods.

Look at the carton or package to make sure your milk, yogurt, or cheese is fat-free or low-fat (1%).
Calcium builds strong bones. If you can’t have milk products, choose other calcium sources like fortified soy milk.
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

MyPlate says:
Make half your plate fruits and vegetables.

The Budget Shopper says:
Buy fruits and vegetables in all their forms — fresh, frozen, and canned.

Fresh, frozen, and canned are all nutritious forms of fruits and vegetables. In fact, canned and frozen produce is typically picked and packed at its peak, when it’s chock-full of nutrients. It also lasts longer than fresh, which can cut down on the amount you waste. Try these tips for choosing wisely with fresh, frozen, and canned:

• Buy fresh produce when it’s in season. It will cost less and taste better than out-of-season produce.
• Buy canned or frozen produce year-round. Look for veggies that have not been pre-sauced and say “no salt added,” “low sodium,” or “reduced sodium.” Look for fruits canned in 100% fruit juice, light syrup, or water.

Time-saving tip: Another great thing about canned and frozen produce? It often comes pre-chopped and pre-cooked (think diced tomatoes and cut green beans), saving you time in the kitchen! Don’t try this with fresh produce — pre-rinsed and pre-cut will almost always cost you more.

FOR MORE TIPS ON COOKING WITH CANNED FOODS, VISIT www.mealt ime.org.
How Much Produce Can You Buy For $10?

The USDA’s MyPlate recommends that we fill half our plates with all forms of fruits and vegetables, or about 2.5 cups of vegetables and 2 cups of fruit each day. Using a combo of fresh, frozen, and canned produce, you can get 3 extra servings of fruits and veggies compared to buying only fresh.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All Fresh</th>
<th>Fresh/Canned/Frozen</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pears 2 cups</td>
<td>Pears 1 cup</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tomato 1 cup</td>
<td>Tomato 1 cup</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peas 2 cups</td>
<td>Peas 4 cups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Beans 2 cups</td>
<td>Green Beans 3 cups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn 4 cups</td>
<td>Corn 3 cups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peaches 4 cups</td>
<td>Peaches 6 cups</td>
</tr>
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</table>

9 one-cup portions of vegetables

6 one-cup portions of fruits

15 Total portions for $10

11 one-cup portions of vegetables

7 one-cup portions of fruits

18 total portions for $10

1 Based on average prices. Actual prices will vary throughout the year based on location, seasonality, discounts, and other factors.

2 Combination bag contents include frozen peas, fresh green beans and pears, and canned corn, peaches, and tomato.
The Budget Chef likes potatoes!
At about 19 cents per serving, potatoes are the largest, most affordable source of potassium in the produce department. They have even more potassium than a banana! Most Americans are not meeting the recommended amount of potassium per day — and that's a big deal. Potassium can help lower blood pressure and may decrease chances of kidney stones and bone loss.

The Budget Chef cooks microwaved potatoes 3 ways!
For these recipes, start with 4 (5- to 6-ounce) whole potatoes, rinsed. Each recipe serves 4.

**Classic Baked Potatoes**
Cut a wedge out of each potato, about ⅛-inch wide and 1-inch deep. This allows steam to escape while microwaving. Place in a microwave-safe dish. Microwave on high, uncovered, 10-12 minutes. Using a kitchen towel or oven mitts, remove hot dish from microwave. Carefully make a slit in the top of each potato. Fluff with a fork. Add your favorite toppings. For an extra veggie boost, top with chopped tomatoes, steamed broccoli, or cut corn.

**Basic Mashed Potatoes**
Place potatoes into microwave-safe dish. Do NOT puncture the skin. Cover — if covering with plastic wrap, poke small hole in plastic. Microwave on high, 10-12 minutes. Using a kitchen towel or oven mitts, remove hot dish. Carefully remove cover. Mash well with a fork. Stir in ½ cup each low-fat plain yogurt and low-fat milk, plus 1½ Tablespoons oil.

**Microwave Roasted Potatoes**
Cut potatoes into 1-inch cubes. Place in microwave-safe dish. Drizzle 2 Tablespoons canola or olive oil. Sprinkle with herbs or seasonings of your choice (such as dried thyme, sage, or paprika). Toss to coat evenly. Cover — if covering with plastic wrap, poke small hole in plastic. Microwave on high, 10-12 minutes. Using a kitchen towel or oven mitts, remove hot dish and serve.

FOR MORE TIPS ON COOKING WITH POTATOES, VISIT WWW.POTATOGOODNESS.COM.
The Budget Chef likes potatoes!

At about 19 cents per serving, potatoes are the largest, most affordable source of potassium in the produce department. They have even more potassium than a banana! Most Americans are not meeting the recommended amount of potassium per day — and that's a big deal. Potassium can help lower blood pressure and may decrease chances of kidney stones and bone loss.

The Budget Chef cooks microwaved potatoes 3 ways!

For these recipes, start with 4 (5- to 6-ounce) whole potatoes, rinsed. Each recipe serves 4.

**Classic Baked Potatoes**

Cut a wedge out of each potato, about \( \frac{1}{4} \)-inch wide and 1-inch deep. This allows steam to escape while microwaving. Place in a microwave-safe dish. Microwave on high, uncovered, 10-12 minutes. Using a kitchen towel or oven mitts, remove hot dish from microwave. Carefully make a slit in the top of each potato. Fluff with a fork. Add your favorite toppings. For an extra veggie boost, top with chopped tomatoes, steamed broccoli, or cut corn.

**Basic Mashed Potatoes**

Place potatoes into microwave-safe dish. Do NOT puncture the skin. Cover — if covering with plastic wrap, poke small hole in plastic. Microwave on high, 10-12 minutes. Using a kitchen towel or oven mitts, remove hot dish. Carefully remove cover. Mash well with a fork. Stir in \( \frac{1}{2} \) cup each low-fat plain yogurt and low-fat milk, plus 1 \( \frac{1}{2} \) Tablespoons oil.

**Microwave Roasted Potatoes**

Cut potatoes into 1-inch cubes. Place in microwave-safe dish. Drizzle 2 Tablespoons canola or olive oil. Sprinkle with herbs or seasonings of your choice (such as dried thyme, sage, or paprika). Toss to coat evenly. Cover — if covering with plastic wrap, poke small hole in plastic. Microwave on high, 10-12 minutes. Using a kitchen towel or oven mitts, remove hot dish and serve.

For more tips on cooking with potatoes, visit [www.potatogoodness.com](http://www.potatogoodness.com).

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**Potassium Content Per Medium Fruit or Vegetable**

- **Potatoes**: 950 mg
- **Broccoli**: 530 mg
- **Banana**: 420 mg
- **Tomato**: 290 mg

**Sources:**

1. 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans
2. with skin on
3. Drewsowski A and Rehn C. JADA 2011; 9:90
GRAINS

MyPlate says:
Make at least half your grains whole.

The Budget Shopper says:
Store brands can save you money on your favorite whole grain foods.

Whole grains don’t have to cost more. In fact, many of your favorite grains are available as whole grains for the same price. You can also look for store brands, like store brand cereal. Try a few and see which ones compare well on taste. Another money-saving bonus? Whole grains that contain fiber can keep you full for longer — so you may not need to cook or serve as much to begin with!

New to whole grains? Here’s a tip: buy the whole-grain version of the grains you already love. You can find whole grain cereal, rice, pasta, bread, crackers, tortillas, and more. To get your family used to the more wholesome taste, start by mixing them together — like half brown rice and half white rice. Slowly increase the amount of whole grains you use. How do you know a food is whole grain? Look for a whole grain word (like whole wheat flour, whole oats, or brown rice) as the first ingredient in the ingredients list.

Time-saving tip: Cook once and eat all week. Cooked whole grains like brown rice can be stored in the fridge for 3-5 days or frozen for up to 6 months. Make a big batch over the weekend or whenever you have the most time. Then use with your meals all week long. Just add a small amount of water to add moisture when reheating.
Now add some flavor to fit your mood and dinner (or breakfast! or lunch!) is ready. Try these combos or create your own.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RICE BOWL VARIETIES</th>
<th>VEGETABLES OR FRUIT</th>
<th>PROTEIN</th>
<th>SAUCE, SEASONING OR GARNISH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Fajita Bowl</td>
<td>Green and red pepper strips, onions, corn</td>
<td>Grilled chicken or beef strip</td>
<td>Garnish with shredded low-fat cheese, salsa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taco Bowl</td>
<td>Tomatoes, onions, green pepper strips</td>
<td>Taco-seasoned lean ground beef or chicken</td>
<td>Garnish with low-fat cheddar cheese, low-fat plain yogurt and tortilla chips</td>
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<td>Vegetarian Salad Bowl</td>
<td>Cucumbers, tomatoes, carrots, celery</td>
<td>Black, pinto or kidney beans</td>
<td>Italian salad dressing. Garnish with shredded low-fat cheese</td>
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<td>Thai Bowl</td>
<td>Red peppers, hot peppers, pea pods, carrots, green onions</td>
<td>Chicken, pork or seafood (baked, grilled, or sauteed instead of fried)</td>
<td>Thai peanut sauce or curry sauce. Garnish with fresh cilantro or basil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit &amp; Nut Breakfast bowl</td>
<td>Mangos, bananas or apples</td>
<td>Walnuts or almonds</td>
<td>Brown sugar, cinnamon, raisins or milk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Huevos Breakfast Bowl</td>
<td>Diced tomatoes, green onions, green peppers</td>
<td>Cooked scrambled eggs</td>
<td>Taco sauce. Garnish with low-fat cheddar cheese and fresh cilantro</td>
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</table>

FOR MORE TIPS ON COOKING WITH RICE, VISIT WWW.USARICE.COM/MYPLATE.
PROTEIN

**MyPlate says:**
Choose lean proteins and vary your protein food choices.

**The Budget Shopper says:**
Use healthy, affordable proteins like beans, eggs, and canned fish several times per week.

Check your receipts next time you go to the store. Protein foods are likely one of the biggest strains on your wallet when it comes to food shopping. Save big by using budget-friendly proteins more often. Replace half the ground meat in tacos with your favorite beans. Use canned tuna or salmon in your next casserole. Or top a salad with hardboiled eggs for protein power. If you’re buying meat or poultry, check your store flyers before you shop. If you have enough space in your freezer, buy in bulk whatever is on deep discount and freeze what you won’t use right away.

**Time-saving tip:** Dried beans are great when you have the time to soak them, but canned beans are a great time-saver for weeknight meals. Rinse and drain before using to cut the sodium by almost half, or look for low-sodium or no-salt-added versions.

**Other Egg-cellent Benefits**

Studies suggest that healthy individuals can enjoy an egg a day without increasing blood cholesterol levels. Eggs are one of the most affordable sources of high-quality protein.
The Budget Chef likes eggs!
At just 15 cents per egg, eggs are one of the most affordable sources of high-quality protein. One egg contains 6 grams of protein and varying amounts of 13 essential vitamins and minerals — all for about 70 calories.

The Budget Chef cooks easy eggs!

Scrambled Eggs
Beat eggs with a fork for 20-30 seconds. Heat pan over medium-low. Coat with cooking spray. Turn heat down to low and add eggs. Wait until you see eggs start to “set,” or firm up, on the bottom. Begin to stir, pushing eggs toward the center of the pan. When eggs are cooked to your liking, add any other ingredients you like. Try adding herbs, chopped tomatoes, or sautéed mushrooms or veggies. Remove from pan and serve right away.

Hard Cooked Eggs (commonly referred to as “hard boiled” eggs)
Place eggs in a pot large enough to hold them in a single layer. Cover with cold water. There should be about an inch of water over the top of the eggs. Turn heat on high. As soon as water comes to a rapid boil, remove pot from heat. Cover tightly with a lid. Let sit 9-15 minutes, depending on the size of the egg. Remove lid and drain off water. Transfer eggs to a bowl of cold water. Let sit at least 10 minutes. Peel and serve. Or, if you won’t eat right away, refrigerate after cooling. Do not peel until ready to eat.

Fried Eggs
Heat a pan over medium heat. Coat with cooking spray. Crack egg into a small bowl. Gently slide it off the bowl and into the pan. Immediately reduce heat to low. Cover pan with a lid. Cook about 5 minutes, until egg white turns solid and yolk begins to thicken. Slide cooked egg onto a plate.

FOR MORE TIPS ON COOKING WITH EGGS, VISIT WWW.INCREDIBLEEGG.ORG.
**DAIRY**

**MyPlate says:**
Choose low-fat (1%) or nonfat milk and milk products.

**The Budget Shopper says:**
Compare unit prices to find the best deal.

Larger packages of foods often have a lower unit price. In the dairy aisle, compare unit prices for a gallon versus a half-gallon of milk, a tub of yogurt versus individual-size packages, or a larger versus smaller bag of cheese. Choose the item with the lower unit cost. Worried you won’t use up the larger item before it goes bad? Dairy foods can be frozen for later use.

Not sure where to find unit price? You can usually find it on the shelf tag just under the food. It will often be listed as “price per ounce” or “price per gallon” — think of gas prices, which are listed as “price per gallon.” The unit price tells you how much it costs for a set amount of food, so you can compare “apples to apples” (or “yogurt to yogurt”!).

**Time-saving tip:** Compare unit prices for block and pre-shredded cheese. Sometimes pre-shredded cheese can have a lower unit price, particularly if it’s on sale. You won’t know until you check.

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**Unit price**
The price per unit (e.g., price per pound, price per ounce).

**Retail price**
Your total cost for the item.

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<th>1 Gallon Store Brand Milk</th>
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<td><strong>You Pay</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unit Price</strong></td>
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©2013 Share Our Strength, www.strength.org
The Budget Chef likes low-fat milk!
New to drinking or cooking with low-fat milk? Try going down just one fat level at a time to get your family used to the taste. If you drink whole milk, start with 2%. If you drink 2%, move to 1%. When you feel ready, try going down one more level. Or, start by mixing higher- and lower-fat milk. Slowly increase the amount of lower-fat milk.

The Budget Chef cooks lower-fat family favorites!
Start lightening up your family’s favorite dishes with this recipe for a Simple White Sauce. Use it in place of cream sauces in your recipes — like Fettuccine Alfredo or Tuna Noodle Casserole.

1. In a small bowl, use a fork to whisk together 2 Tablespoons cornstarch and 1 cup nonfat or low-fat milk until smooth.
2. In a large saucepan over medium heat, add milk mixture. Cook until thickened, stirring constantly, about 5 minutes.
3. Stir in 2 teaspoons mustard. Season with dried or fresh herbs as you like, such as basil, parsley, or dill. Start with ¼ teaspoon and add to your taste.

FOR MORE HEALTHY, AFFORDABLE COOKING TIPS AND RECIPES, VISIT COOKINGMATTERS.ORG.
RECIPES

The recipes in this guide have all been chosen to help you meet your MyPlate goals on a limited budget. The ingredients are low-cost and can be found in most food stores. Plus, they don’t require any fancy cooking tools to make. For more low-cost recipe ideas, check out our websites found throughout this guide. Also visit ChooseMyPlate.gov and click on “Sample Menus and Recipes.”

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APPLE-SAGE WILD RICE STUFFING

www.usarice.com/myplate

Serves 12
Prep time: 25 minutes • Cook time: 20 minutes
DIRECTIONS

1. Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the pecans and cook 2-3 minutes or until beginning to brown, stirring frequently. Set aside on separate plate.

2. Heat 1 teaspoon of the oil over medium heat. Cook the celery and onions 8 minutes or until beginning to lightly brown on edges, stirring occasionally.

3. Add the apples and cook 4 minutes or until tender crisp.

4. Stir in the pecans and the remaining ingredients and cook 3-4 minutes or until the rice mixture is heated, stirring occasionally.

CHEF'S NOTES

• Use any of your favorite nuts in place of the pecans. Or leave them out if someone is allergic.

INGREDIENTS

- 4 ounces chopped pecans
- 1 tablespoon and 1 teaspoon canola oil, divided
- 1½ cups diced celery
- 1¼ cups diced onions
- 1 medium red apple, such as Jonathan or Gala, halved, cored, and diced (about 1½ cups total)
- 2 cups hot cooked brown rice
- 1 cup hot cooked wild rice
- ½ cup dried cranberries
- 1 medium jalapeno pepper, seeded (if desired) and finely chopped or ¼ tsp. dried pepper flakes
- 1½ tablespoons chopped fresh sage or ⅛ teaspoons dried rubbed sage
- ¾ teaspoon salt

MATERIALS

- Large skillet
- Measuring cups
- Measuring spoons
- Mixing spoon
- Sharp knife

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size (112g)
Servings per Recipe 12

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<th>Amount Per Serving</th>
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<td>Protein</td>
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Meeting Your MyPlate Goals

Food Groups | Amount per Serving | Daily MyPlate Goals* |
------------|--------------------|----------------------|
Grains      | 1 oz.              | 6 oz.                |
Vegetables  | ⅛ cup              | 2½ cups              |
Fruits      | ⅛ cup              | 2 cups               |
Dairy       | —                  | 3 cups               |
Protein     | ½ oz.              | 5½ oz.               |

*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

*Based on a 2,000 calorie per day meal pattern
BARLEY JAMBALAYA
www.CookingMatters.org
Serves 6, 1¼ cups per serving
Prep time: 25 minutes • Cook time: 1 hour
INGREDIENTS
1 cup instant pearl barley
4 cups water
2 whole bay leaves
3 medium onions
2 medium celery stalks
1 medium green, red, yellow, or orange bell pepper
2 medium cloves garlic
1 Tablespoon canola oil
4 ounces ground turkey
2 (14½-ounce) cans diced tomatoes, no salt added
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
1½ teaspoons dried oregano
1 teaspoon ground black pepper

MATERIALS
Can opener • Colander • Cutting board • Large pot with lid • Measuring cups • Measuring spoons • Medium pot with lid • Mixing spoon • Sharp knife

DIRECTIONS

In Advance
1. In a colander, rinse barley under cold water.
2. In a medium pot over high heat, bring barley, water, and bay leaves to a boil. Reduce heat to low and cover. Cook barley until tender and water is absorbed, about 20–30 minutes.
3. In a colander, drain barley. Set aside.

Preparation
4. Peel, rinse, and dice onions. Rinse and dice celery and pepper. Peel and mince garlic.
5. In a large pot over medium-high heat, heat oil.
6. Add onions, celery, pepper, and garlic to pot. Mix well. Cook until veggies are soft, about 5 minutes.
7. Add ground turkey. Cook until internal temperature registers 165°F on a food thermometer, about 5 minutes more.
8. Add tomatoes and their juices. Bring to a simmer.
10. Add cooked barley to the mixture. Stir to combine. Add more water or broth, if needed. Cook over low heat to blend flavors, about 5–10 minutes more.
11. Remove bay leaves and serve.

CHEF’S NOTES
• To save time, cook barley up to 2 days in advance. Refrigerate until ready to use. Add to pot in step 10. Or, use another whole grain you have made in advance, like brown rice.
• When doubling this recipe, do not double cayenne pepper unless you prefer a very spicy dish.
• For a vegetarian option, use cooked or canned pinto or black beans, rinsed and drained, in place of meat.

Meeting Your MyPlate Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Groups</th>
<th>Amount per Serving</th>
<th>Daily MyPlate Goals*</th>
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<td>Fruits</td>
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*Based on a 2,000 calorie per day meal pattern
BROCCOLI-CHEDDAR FRITTATA

www.incredibleegg.org

Serves 6
Prep time: 10 minutes • Cook time: 20-25 minutes
DIRECTIONS

1. Combine broccoli, carrot, if desired, and water in 10-inch nonstick skillet. Cook over medium heat until tender, stirring occasionally to break up broccoli, about 10 minutes; drain well.

2. Beat eggs, milk, mustard, salt and pepper in large bowl until blended. Add broccoli mixture, cheese and green onion; mix well.

3. Coat same skillet with cooking spray; heat over medium heat until hot. Pour in egg mixture; cook over low to medium heat until eggs are almost set, 8 to 10 minutes.

4. Remove from heat. Cover and let stand until eggs are completely set and no visible liquid egg remains, 8 to 10 minutes. Cut into wedges.

CHEF’S NOTES

• Broil option: After removing from heat, frittata can be broiled, 6 inches from heat until eggs are completely set and no visible liquid egg remains, 2 to 3 minutes.

• Three ways to serve a frittata: Serve wedges right from pan, slide uncut frittata topside-up onto platter, or invert it onto platter to show its nicely-browned bottom.

INGREDIENTS

1 package (10 oz.) frozen chopped broccoli
¼ cup water
8 eggs
¼ cup nonfat or low-fat milk
2 teaspoons prepared mustard
1 teaspoon seasoned salt
½ teaspoon pepper
¾ cup shredded reduced-fat cheddar cheese (3 oz.)
1 tablespoon chopped green onion
Nonstick cooking spray

Optional Ingredients

1 small carrot, diced

MATERIALS

10-inch skillet • Large bowl • Measuring cups • Measuring spoons • Mixing spoon • Sharp knife

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size (142g)
Servings per Recipe 6

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Amount Per Serving</th>
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<tr>
<td>Protein</td>
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<td>% Daily Value:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Meeting Your MyPlate Goals

Food Groups | Amount per Serving | Daily MyPlate Goals* |
---|-------------------|---------------------|
Grains      | —                 | 6 oz.               |
Vegetables  | ¼ cup             | 2½ cups             |
Fruits      | —                 | 2 cups              |
Dairy       | ½ cup             | 3 cups              |
Protein     | 1 oz.             | 5½ oz.              |

*Based on a 2,000 calorie per day meal pattern

Meeting Your MyPlate Goals on a Budget
BROWN RICE TABBOULEH
www.usarice.com/myplate
Serves 6
Prep time: 30 minutes • Cook time: none
**DIRECTIONS**

1. Combine rice, cucumber, tomato, parsley, mint, green onions, olive oil, lemon juice, salt and pepper in large bowl. Toss well and chill.

**CHEF’S NOTES**

- Use leftover brown rice from a meal cooked earlier in the week. Or make a big batch on the weekend to use in this dish and for other easy weeknight meals.
- For best taste, refrigerate for at least 1 hour to allow flavors to blend.
- Serve over fish or lean meats, with hummus and pita, or as a stuffing inside fresh tomatoes.

**INGREDIENTS**

- 3 cups cooked brown rice
- ¼ cup chopped cucumber
- ¼ cup chopped tomato
- ¼ cup chopped fresh parsley
- ¼ cup chopped fresh mint leaves
- ¼ cup sliced green onions
- ¼ cup olive oil
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

**MATERIALS**

- Large bowl
- Measuring cups
- Measuring spoons
- Mixing spoon
- Sharp knife

**Nutrition Facts**

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*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

**Meeting Your MyPlate Goals**

*Based on a 2,000 calorie per day meal pattern
BROWN RICE WITH SIZZLING CHICKEN AND VEGETABLES

www.usarice.com/myplate

Serves 4
Prep time: 25 minutes  •  Cook time: 20 minutes
DIRECTIONS
1. Mix soy sauce, water, honey, and cornstarch in a small bowl; set aside.
2. Heat oil in a wok or large skillet. Add minced garlic; sauté about one minute until garlic is golden.
3. Add chicken; cook until internal temperature registers 165°F on a food thermometer, about 5-6 minutes. Then push chicken to the side.
4. Add onions to center of skillet; cook until slightly tender and push to the side.
5. Continue with carrots, broccoli, and peppers separately, placing each in the center of pan, cooking until slightly tender and pushing to the side.
6. Pour soy sauce mixture into center of skillet. Leaving other ingredients at the sides of the pan, stir sauce until it thickens. Mix in with vegetables and chicken. Serve immediately over cooked brown rice.

CHEF’S NOTES
• Use whatever leftover veggies you have on hand. Or look for veggies in season or on sale.
• Use leftover brown rice from a meal cooked earlier in the week. Or make a big batch on the weekend to use in this dish and for other easy weeknight meals.

INGREDIENTS
3 cups hot cooked brown rice
3 tablespoons low-sodium soy sauce
¼ cup water
1 tablespoon honey
1 tablespoon cornstarch
1½ tablespoons canola or corn oil
1 lb boneless chicken breast, cut into 1-inch cubes
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 small white onion, cut into small wedges (about ¼-inch thick wedges)
3 medium carrots, peeled and thinly sliced diagonally (1 cup total)
1½ cup small broccoli florets
1 medium red bell pepper, cut into 1-inch pieces

MATERIALS
Large skillet • Mixing spoon • Measuring cups • Measuring spoons • Sharp knife • Small bowl

Nutrition Facts
Serving Size (424g)
Servings per Recipe 4

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Vitamin A 190% • Vitamin C 120%
Calcium 6% • Iron 10%

*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

Meeting Your MyPlate Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Groups</th>
<th>Amount per Serving</th>
<th>Daily MyPlate Goals*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grains</td>
<td>2½ oz.</td>
<td>6 oz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>1 cup</td>
<td>2½ cups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2 cups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>3 cups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protein</td>
<td>3 oz.</td>
<td>5½ oz.</td>
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*Based on a 2,000 calorie per day meal pattern
**FISH BRAISED IN GREEN CURRY WITH POTATOES**

www.mealtime.org

Serves 4

Prep time: 10 minutes • Cook time: 20 minutes

1. Season fish fillets with pepper.

2. Heat oil in a large skillet and brown fish on both sides.

3. Add potatoes, broth and garlic to the skillet. Simmer until the fish flakes with gentle pressure and internal temperature registers 145°F on a food thermometer, about 5 minutes.

4. Transfer fish and potatoes to a warm platter.

5. Over high heat, reduce liquid in the pan by about half.


7. Simmer until lightly thickened.

8. Stir in parsley and pour over fish and potatoes.

**CHEF’S NOTES**

- Use whatever type of fish are on sale or at best price. Check prices of frozen fish fillets.
**DIRECTIONS**

1. Place peppers and onions in 8-oz. ramekin or custard cup, or in a small bowl. Microwave on high 30 seconds; stir. Add egg, ham and water, beat until egg is blended.
2. Microwave on high 30 seconds; stir. Microwave until egg is almost set, 30 to 45 seconds longer.

**CHEF’S NOTES**

- Don’t overcook. Scrambled eggs will continue to cook and firm up after removed from microwave.
- Microwave ovens vary. Cook time may need to be adjusted.

---

**Meeting Your MyPlate Goals**

**Food Groups**
- Grains 2 oz. 6 oz.
- Vegetables ¼ cup 2½ cups
- Fruits — 2 cups
- Dairy — 3 cups
- Protein 2 oz. 5½ oz.

*Based on a 2,000 calorie per day meal pattern.
PASTA SALAD WITH HERB VINAIGRETTE

www.incredibleegg.org

Serves 6
Prep time: 20 minutes • Cook time: 0 minutes
DIRECTIONS

1. Whisk dressing ingredients in small bowl until blended.
2. Combine pasta, broccoli, tomato and carrot in large bowl; toss. Pour dressing over pasta mixture; toss until evenly coated. Add eggs; toss briefly.
3. Refrigerate, covered, at least 4 hours to blend flavors.

CHEF’S NOTES

• For a different flavor or to reduce cost, use any other vinegar you have on hand.
PEANUT, PEACH, ’N PINEAPPLE WRAP

www.mealtime.org
Serves 4
Prep time: 15 minutes • Cook time: none

INGREDIENTS
1 can (8 ¼ ounces) sliced peaches in 100% fruit juice, drained
1 can (8 ounces) pineapple tidbits in 100% juice, drained
½ cup red or green bell pepper, chopped
½ teaspoon cinnamon
4 (10-inch) whole wheat tortillas
½ cup chunky peanut butter
3 cups lettuce (deeper-green variety), shredded

DIRECTIONS
1. In a medium bowl, combine peaches, pineapple, bell pepper and cinnamon.
2. Warm the tortillas.
3. Spread 2 tablespoons of peanut butter on one side of each tortilla, leaving room on the edges.
4. Spoon equal portions of the peach mixture over peanut butter, then top with lettuce.
5. Fold the side and bottom edges of each tortilla toward the middle over the filling, then roll so the tortilla covers the filling.

CHEF’S NOTES
• Mix the drained juices with your breakfast juice if you like.
• To make them more pliable before wrapping, warm tortillas. 10 to 15 seconds on high heat in the microwave, 3 to 5 minutes at 350ºF in aluminum foil in the oven, and 15 seconds per side over medium-high on the stove top.

MATERIALS
Colander • Measuring cups • Medium bowl • Sharp knife

Nutrition Facts
Serving Size (284g)
Servings per Recipe 4

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<th>Amount Per Serving</th>
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<td>Iron 20%</td>
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*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

Meeting Your MyPlate Goals

Food Groups
Amount per Serving
Daily MyPlate Goals*
Grains 2½ oz. 6 oz.
Vegetables ½ cup 2½ cups
Fruits ½ cup 2 cups
Dairy — 3 cups
Protein 2 oz. 5½ oz.

*Based on a 2,000 calorie per day meal pattern
DIRECTIONS
1. Place whole potatoes (do not poke) into microwave-safe dish.
2. Cover dish. (If covering dish with plastic wrap, poke small hole in plastic).
3. Microwave on high for 10 to 12 minutes depending on strength of microwave.
4. Use oven mitts or a towel to remove dish from microwave; carefully remove cover from dish due to steam build-up and let cool.
5. Cut potatoes into bite-size pieces and place in a large bowl with remaining ingredients; stir well to mix.

CHEF’S NOTES
• This salad may be served right away, but is best if refrigerated for at least one hour to allow flavors to blend.

INGREDIENTS
1½ pounds red potatoes
1 cup non-fat plain yogurt
½ cup minced red onion
½ cup shredded reduced-fat Cheddar cheese
¼ cup snipped fresh chives
3 tablespoons real bacon bits or pieces
¼ teaspoon salt
Freshly ground pepper to taste
Chopped fresh parsley, optional

MATERIALS
Large bowl • Measuring cups • Measuring spoons • Microwave-safe dish with lid • Mixing spoon • Sharp knife

Nutrition Facts
Serving Size (261g)
Servings per Recipe 4

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<tr>
<td>Vitamin A 10%</td>
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*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

Meeting Your MyPlate Goals

<table>
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<th>Food Groups</th>
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*Based on a 2,000 calorie per day meal pattern


Meeting Your MyPlate Goals on a Budget 31
QUICK AND EASY POTATO CASSEROLE

www.potatogoodness.com

Serves 6
Prep time: 25 minutes • Cook time: 20 minutes
DIRECTIONS

1. Spray an 8-inch microwave-safe baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Place ⅔ of the potatoes and ½ of the onions on the bottom of the dish and sprinkle with ⅓ the cheese and ⅙ the herbs.

2. Repeat layers, then top with the last ⅓ of the potatoes, layering potatoes so that there is a solid layer of potatoes with no gaps; sprinkle with remaining cheese.

3. Stir together stock, Dijon and garlic salt and pour over the potatoes.

5. Cover with plastic wrap and microwave on HIGH until internal temperature registers 165°F on a food thermometer, about 20 minutes.

6. Use oven mitts or a towel to remove dish from microwave; carefully remove cover from dish due to steam build-up and serve.

CHEF’S NOTES

• Use regular salt and a dash of garlic powder in place of garlic salt if you like.

• Make a tex-mex potato casserole. Omit Dijon and garlic salt. Layer potatoes with 1 (4-oz.) can diced green chiles and ½ cup canned black beans. Use reduced-fat Cheddar or a Mexican cheese blend. Add 1 teaspoon chili powder, 1 teaspoon dried cilantro and ½ teaspoon ground cumin to broth. Cook as directed above. Delicious served with avocado wedges.

INGREDIENTS

1¼ lbs. Yukon Gold potatoes, very thinly sliced
1 cup quartered and thinly sliced onion
1 cup shredded reduced-fat sharp Cheddar cheese
⅓ teaspoon Italian herb seasoning
⅓ cup stock or reduced-sodium broth
1⅓ teaspoons Dijon mustard
⅔ teaspoon garlic salt
Nonstick cooking spray

MATERIALS

8-inch square baking dish • Measuring cups • Measuring spoons • Mixing spoon • Plastic wrap • Sharp knife • Small bowl

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size (162g)
Servings per Recipe 6

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Vitamin A 2% • Vitamin C 15%
Calcium 20% • Iron 4%

*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

Meeting Your MyPlate Goals

Meeting Your MyPlate Goals on a Budget 33
SMOKED HAM HOCKS WITH LIMA BEANS

www.CookingMatters.org
Serves 8, 1 cup per serving
Prep time: 10 minutes • Cook time: 50 minutes
INGREDIENTS
½ medium onion
2 cloves garlic
2 pounds smoked ham hocks
8 cups water
1 pound frozen lima beans
½ teaspoon ground black pepper

MATERIALS
Cutting board • Sharp knife
• Large pot with lid • Measuring cups • Measuring spoons • Mixing spoon

DIRECTIONS
1. Peel, rinse, and chop onion. Peel and mince garlic.
2. In a large pot over high heat, add ham hocks and water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to a simmer. Add onion and garlic. Cover and cook until meat is tender and internal temperature registers 145°F on a food thermometer, about 30-40 minutes.
3. Transfer ham hocks to a clean cutting board. Let cool.
4. Add lima beans to pot. Cook according to package directions.
5. When ham hocks are cool, shred meat from the bone, removing any fat. Return to pot. Stir in pepper. If using salt, stir in now.

CHEF’S NOTES
• Ham hocks may be salty enough already. Taste the dish before adding optional salt.
• Serve this traditional Southern dish like a soup. Or, use a slotted spoon to take out the beans and meat. Serve over brown rice.
• For extra flavor and color, add diced carrots and celery.
• Use a leftover meaty ham bone or smoked neck bones in place of the ham hocks.

Nutrition Facts
Serving Size 1 cup (108g)
Servings per Recipe 8

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Vitamin A 2%  •  Vitamin C 10%
Calcium 2%  •  Iron 8%

*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

Meeting Your MyPlate Goals

Meeting Your MyPlate Goals on a Budget 35
TEX-MEX SKILLET
www.CookingMatters.org
Serves 8, ½ cup filling and 1 tortilla per serving
Prep time: 20 minutes • Cook time: 20–25 minutes
INGREDIENTS
½ medium head lettuce
1 medium green bell pepper
1 large tomato
1 small jalapeño pepper
½ medium red onion
2 cloves garlic
2 ounces low-fat cheddar cheese
1 (15 ½-ounce) can black beans, no salt added
1 pound lean ground beef, chicken, or turkey
1 (12-ounce) bag frozen corn
½ cup water
¾ teaspoon chili powder
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon ground cumin
Pinch ground black pepper
8 (6-inch) whole wheat flour tortillas

MATERIALS
Box grater • Can opener • Colander • Cutting board • Large skillet with lid • Measuring cups • Measuring spoons • Sharp knife • Small bowl

DIRECTIONS
1. Rinse lettuce, bell pepper, tomato, and jalapeño. Rinse and peel onion. Peel garlic.
2. Chop or shred lettuce into bitesize pieces. Mince garlic. Halve the jalapeño and bell peppers. Remove seeds with the tip of a knife. Dice peppers.
3. Over a small bowl, grate tomato and onion using the coarse side of a box grater. Collect all pulp and juices.
4. Grate cheddar cheese.
5. In a colander, drain and rinse beans.
6. In a large skillet over medium-high heat, cook meat, bell pepper, and garlic, until meat is lightly browned. Drain to remove fat.
7. Stir in frozen corn, beans, water, and spices. Bring mixture to a boil. Lower heat and cover. Simmer for 10 minutes, or until most liquid is gone.
8. While meat mixture is simmering, make a salsa. Add jalapeño and a pinch of salt to the grated tomato and onion. Stir and set aside.
9. When internal temperature of the meat registers 160°F on a food thermometer, remove from heat. Divide the meat mixture evenly among the 8 tortillas. Top each with grated cheese, salsa, and lettuce. Roll up and serve.

CHEF’S NOTES
• Use any type of cooked beans in place of the black beans.
• For a vegetarian option, use an extra can of drained and rinsed beans in place of the meat.
• To increase heat, leave a few seeds from the jalapeño in the salsa. Or, season with an extra pinch of cayenne pepper.
• Top with rinsed and chopped tomatoes, green onions, or low-fat plain yogurt, if you like.

Nutrition Facts
Serving Size 1/2 cup filling and 1 tortilla (240g)
Servings per Recipe 6
Amount Per Serving
Calories 250
Calories from Fat 45
% Daily Value*
Total Fat 5g 8%
Saturated Fat 1g 5%
Trans Fat 0g
Cholesterol 30mg 10%
Sodium 410mg 17%
Total Carbohydrate 31g 10%
Dietary Fiber 12g 48%
Sugars 3g
Protein 20g
Vitamin A 6%  • Vitamin C 30%
Calcium 6%  • Iron 10%
*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

Meeting Your MyPlate Goals

Food Groups Amount per Serving Daily MyPlate Goals*
Grains 1½ oz. 6 oz.
Vegetables 1½ cups 2½ cups
Fruits — 2 cups
Dairy — 3 cups
Protein 2 oz. 5½ oz.

*Based on a 2,000 calorie per day meal pattern
TUSCAN-STYLE PASTA WITH CANNELLINI

www.mealtime.org
Serves 4
Prep time: 15 minutes • Cook time: 15 minutes
**DIRECTIONS**

1. Cook pasta according to the package directions.
2. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat.
3. Add garlic and cook until slightly browned (less than a minute).
4. Add escarole; stirring occasionally until wilted, about 2 minutes.
5. Add beans, tomatoes with their juice and wine.
6. Simmer 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.
7. Stir in basil and heat through.
8. Drain pasta and toss with the sauce.

**CHEF’S NOTES**

- Save money by using canola oil in place of olive oil.
- Use any of your favorite hearty leafy greens in place of escarole, such as collards, chard, or spinach.

**INGREDIENTS**

- 12 ounces whole wheat pasta
- ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 5 large garlic cloves, finely chopped
- ¼ pound curly escarole, sliced
- 1 can (16 ounces) cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (14½ ounces) diced tomatoes with juice, undrained
- ½ cup dry white wine
- ¼ cup fresh basil leaves, thinly sliced

**MATERIALS**

- Can opener
- Colander
- Large pot
- Large skillet
- Measuring cups
- Mixing spoon
- Sharp knife

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**Nutrition Facts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serving Size (389g)</th>
<th>Servings per Recipe 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amount Per Serving</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Calories 580</td>
<td>Calories from Fat 130</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Fat 15g</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Sugars 4g</td>
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<td>Protein 21g</td>
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**Meeting Your MyPlate Goals**

<table>
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<th>Food Groups</th>
<th>Amount per Serving</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grains</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3 cups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protein</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>5½ oz.</td>
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*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

*Based on a 2,000 calorie per day meal pattern
TUSCAN POTATO SKILLET
www.potatogoodness.com
Serves 4
Prep time: 15 minutes  •  Cook time: 25 minutes

INGREDIENTS
1 pound petite red potatoes
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper
1 pound chicken pieces
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil, divided
1 tablespoon chopped fresh rosemary (or 1 teaspoon dried rosemary)
4 cloves garlic, minced
1 (12-oz.) bag frozen green beans, thawed
1 lemon, zested and juiced

MATERIALS
Large bowl • Large skillet
Measuring spoons • Mixing spoon • Sharp knife

DIRECTIONS
1. Cut each potato into 4 wedges. Place in a large microwave-safe bowl and season with salt and pepper. Microwave on HIGH for 4 minutes. Stir and microwave for 4 minutes more.

2. While potatoes are cooking, cut each chicken part into 4 equal pieces. Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add chicken and cook for 5 minutes or until nicely browned, stirring frequently. Add remaining oil and potatoes; cook and stir for 5 minutes more to brown potatoes and fully cook chicken.

3. Stir in rosemary, garlic, green beans, lemon zest and juice. Cook for a few minutes more to heat through.

CHEF’S NOTES
• Use whatever type of potatoes you have on hand, are on sale, or offer best price.

Nutrition Facts
Serving Size (335g)
Servings per Recipe 4

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Vitamin A 10%  •  Vitamin C 45%
Calcium 6%  •  Iron 10%

*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

Meeting Your MyPlate Goals
