Spicy Beef and Beans

Organic ground meat produced in Maine can be enjoyed year round. This is an easy, versatile recipe for all ages. Serve with corn chips or corn bread and salad, or roll the beef and beans in a tortilla with rice and sour cream.

In a fry pan, sauté onion and chopped garlic in oil. Add ground meat, cooking and stirring until done. Drain fat from pan. In a large bowl, mix together meat and cooked beans. Stir in salsa. Add hot peppers if desired. Add salt and pepper to taste. Spoon mixture into oven-proof casserole dish. Top with grated cheese. Bake at 350°F until bubbly, and cheese is melted, about 20 to 30 minutes.

Makes 6 servings. Nutritional analysis per serving: 354 calories, 26 g protein, 16 g carbohydrates, 20 g fat (0 g trans fat), 214 mg sodium, 5 g fiber.

1 lb. ground beef or other ground meat
1-1/2 c. cooked beans (black beans, kidney beans, soldier beans) *
1 onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, chopped
1-1/2 c. salsa
1/4 c. chopped hot or jalapeño peppers, to taste (use gloves when chopping)
1 Tbsp. oil for sautéing meat and pepper to taste
1/2 c. grated cheddar cheese

* Instead of canned beans, try cooking your own. About 3/4 c. dry beans will make 1-1/2 c. cooked beans. Soak dry beans in a large pot for several hours. Drain the water. Cover the beans with water and simmer (do not boil rapidly) until the beans are just tender – 2 or more hours, depending upon the bean. Add water as needed. Once they are just cooked, drain and cool. Pack into glass jars and freeze for later use. This method is more economical and avoids the high sodium content of commercially canned beans – as well as the toxic lining of many cans.

Find organic and local ingredients year-round at MOFGA Certification.org.
Thai Cabbage Slaw

Thai Cabbage Slaw is a tasty addition to any supper and is packed with vitamins C, K and A. One serving provides 4 grams of fiber!

For the dressing:
- Whisk together the dressing ingredients.

For the vegetables:
- Mix vegetables together in a large bowl. Toss with dressing. Just before serving, stir in:
  - 3 Tbsp. chopped dry roasted peanuts
  - 1 Tbsp. minced fresh cilantro
  - 1 Tbsp. minced fresh mint

(Mint and cilantro are grown in greenhouses throughout the winter. If fresh is not available, use 1 tsp. each of dried and add some fresh chopped parsley if available.)

Makes 6 servings. Nutritional analysis per serving: 76 calories, 3 g protein, 9 g carbohydrates, 4 g fat, 390 mg sodium, 4 g fiber.

Secret Chocolate Cake

Ask folks if they can taste the “secret” ingredient in this cake. Beets add a depth and richness to the chocolate. This cake is so good it doesn’t need frosting! Adapted from a recipe in “Simply in Season.”

For the slaw:
- 4-1/2 c. shredded Chinese or green cabbage
- 2 c. grated red cabbage
- 3/4 c. grated carrots
- 1 apple, cored but not peeled, or red bell pepper, cut into matchstick-size pieces

For the dressing:
- 2 Tbsp. fresh lime juice
- 2 Tbsp. rice vinegar
- 1-1/2 Tbsp. fish sauce*
- 1 Tbsp. water
- 1 Tbsp. creamy peanut butter
- 1 clove finely chopped garlic
- 1 tsp. chili paste with garlic*

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FRUIT: Blueberries & Apples

VEGETABLES: Potatoes, Carrots, Beets & Beet Greens, Garlic, Salad & Braising Greens, Tomatoes, Winter Squash, Cabbage, Onions

DAIRY: Milk, Cheese, Butter

PROTEIN: Eggs, Ground Meat, Seafood, Dry Beans

SWEETS: Maple Syrup

GRAINS: Wheat

For more information on organic, local, and seasonal eating in Maine, please visit MOFGA.org/buyorganic

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