

# It's chili cook-off time!

In the spring a young cook's fancy turns to thoughts of cook-offs. For that matter, older cooks fancy cook-offs, too.

This old cook was highly honored by the Michigan Beef Industry Commission when Executive Vice President Patricia W. Scott wrote this year, "I certainly enjoyed your Pilot Light of Dec. 19 (in The Plymouth Observer)." We have an annual State Beef Cook-Off. . . The date has not been set, but it is usually in the spring. It is held at Michigan State University. We would be pleased if you could judge the entries."

Unfortunately, the particulars couldn't be worked out, but — as I

wrote Pat — "I always will relish the invitation."

One cook-off deserves another. "Just finished reading your 'Chili Dilemma' article in the Westland Observer. I just couldn't get my typewriter out fast enough to write you," wrote Joseph Wank, coordinator of the Great White North Chili Cooking Team.

"Our goal is to cook our way to fame. We have developed one of the most exciting recipes. . . We have been cooking as a (four-man) team for over a year. All team members have mastered the rules set up by the International Chili Society."

"This year's plans call for our entry

in the Great Chili Cook-Off held in Saline, Mich. This event is the so-called big step towards the World Chili Cook-Off this coming fall in California.

"So, as you can see, we are serious about our chili, just as you are. . . Enclosed you will find a copy of the Le Chili recipe. . . Right now I am putting the giant cooking pot on the stove. Tonight, we are making your dish, Chili Surprise IV. I'm sure it's going to be a classic."

I don't see how any of my Chili Surprises could beat the Chili, with its 31 ingredients. Chili Surprise I had the most ingredients — 23.

So get out the large pot, le chillheads, it'll need it.



pilot light

Greg Melnikov

**LE CHILI**  
2 lbs. beef chuck roast, coarsely ground  
1 lb. pork loin roast, coarsely ground  
1 lb. Canadian pork sausage  
2 oz. peanut oil  
2 lbs. Canadian bacon, chopped  
1 large Spanish onion, finely chopped  
4 large celery ribs, coarsely chopped  
1 large garlic bulb, minced  
1 large green pepper, coarsely chopped  
2 large jalapeno pepper, finely chopped  
1 small serrano chili pepper, finely chopped  
1 can (28 oz.) whole tomatoes  
1 can (28 oz.) crushed tomatoes  
1 can (1 lb.) tomato purée  
1 can (4 oz.) tomato paste  
1 can (32 oz.) tomato juice

1 can (12 oz.) Canadian beer  
2 cups spring water  
2 tsp. brown sugar  
1 tsp. crushed red pepper  
1 tsp. chili flakes, crushed  
1 tsp. red chili powder  
2 beef bouillon cubes  
1 small bay leaf, crushed  
1 tsp. paprika  
1 tsp. basil  
3 tsp. cumin seed  
2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce  
1 tsp. Mexican oregano  
1 tsp. black pepper  
1 tsp. salt

In large skillet, brown meat and sausage in peanut oil. In small skillet, fry bacon to golden crisp. Place all in large pot. Sauté onion, celery, garlic and peppers in small skillet until tender and add to pot with rest of ingredients. Simmer 3 hours. Makes 6 quarts.

Readers are invited to send questions, suggestions or comments about food, cooking and shopping to Pilot Light, Greg Melnikov, 650 NW 153rd St., Miami, Fla. 33189. Enclose self-addressed stamped envelope for individual replies.

## Buy beef now; prices going up

Meat industry analysts expect the price of red meat to be up this spring. However, since beef is at record low prices right now, it's a good time to buy beef for your freezer.

Be sure to buy your beef from a reputable dealer. When in doubt, check a firm's reputation with the Better Business Bureau. Also make sure you have plenty of room in your freezer to han-

dle the extra meat. For a general guide, you can usually figure on 35 pounds of meat per cubic foot of freezer space.

Choose beef cuts your family likes. If they prefer more tender steaks and roasts purchase the hindquarter. If you can use less tender cuts of meat, choose the less expensive fore-quarter.

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