Health-conscious cooks tool around the kitchen

The foods you buy and how you prepare them are the keys to healthy eating, but the tools you use for cooking can add a lot to the nutritional value of your meals. According to the American Institute for Cancer Research the health-concious cook needs only a few basics.

A steamer helps asfeguard the nutritional value of food by cooking gently but quickly. Nutrient losses are kept to a minum because the food neveromes in cuntact with the heating liquids, and steam cooking requires no added oils or butter.

requires no added oils or butter.

Steamers come in all shapes and sizes, including fold-out laskets that fit into your pans, and electric models as well.

A wek or Oriental frying pan is a versatile, nutrition-ariented device. It's great, for cooking foods fast so that a minimum of vitamins is lost.

A juicer allows you to make healthful beverages from all sorts of fresh fruits and vegetables. And, a grater lets you grate cheese that you can use sparingly to enhance the taste of recipes withoutaiding unnecessary ist.

cipes withoutarding unneces-sary fat.

A pressure cooker also saves nutrients by cooking quickly and trapping nutrients in the scaled jot. It can greatly reduce the time needed to prepare wholesome dried beans, making them much more convenient to tise.

wholesome dried beans, making them much more convenient to use.

'A microwave oven is made for hjalthy cooking. A microwave allows you to cook vegetables in minutes, or poach fish instead of sautecing it in butter. Foods are cooked so quickly that most nutrients are retained in the

process.

A food processor slices or shreds pounds of fruit or vegetables in minutes, processes must or fish into pats without



Delicate dessert: Nectarine Creme is pretty to look at. and nutritious. Serve as is, or top with pureed fresh or frozen strawberries or blueberries.

LOW-FAT

adding eggs or cream, and makes smooth soups and

makes amouth soups and sauces.

The blender has not lost its place to the processor. Blenders are the best for pureeing vegetables, whipping chilled skim milk into lowfat whipped cream or making an instant milkshake from a glass of lowfat frozen yogurt and fresh fruit.

Either a blender or a processor can be used to make Nectorine Creme, a delicate, nutritious dessert with an attractive pale orange color. Serve as is, or top with pursed fresh or frozen strawberries or blueberries.

NECTARINE CREME

3 nectarines, skiced (un-pecied)
1 cup plain low-fat yogurt Few drops almond extract
1 Tablespoon honey or sug-

1 envelope unflavored geta-

tin
2 Tablespoons, water
Extra nectarines, strawberries, or blueberries for garnish (optional)

gamins (opiona)
Combine the three sliced nectarines, the yogurt and almond
extract in a blender or food processor, whirl until smooth. Add
honey or sugar to taste. Combine
the gelatin and water in a small
saucepan over low heat for microwave for about 5 seconds). Stir-

until dissolved.
Add the dissolved gelatin to the mixture in the blender. Whirl 10 seconds to blend. Spoon into stemmed glasses or a mold and chill until set. Garnish with additional nextaine alices or betries if desired.
Each of the four 's-cup servings contains I gram of fat and 100 to 130 culories (depending on use of additional fruit).
Recipe from The American In-

additional fruit). Recipe from The American In-stitute for Cancer Research.

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Burgers, meatloaf are family favorites

See Larry Janes' Taste Buds column on Taste front.

BEST HAMBURGERS

2 pounds fresh ground chuck 1/2 teaspoon fresh ground pep

4 anchovies mashed, or 1 tablespoon anchovy paste tablespoon anchory paste
I teaspoon dried tarragen or 2
tablespoons fresh
½ teaspoon chervil
4 tablespoons butter or marganna, softened

nne, softened
Mix the pepper, anchovies and
herbs into the softened butter or
margarine until well mixed. Mix the
butter mixture into the ground beef
with your fingers to the mest stays
light rather than packed.
Shape the metal gently into 4 pattice about ½ pointd each. If cooking
in a fry pan, het 2 tablespoons of

oil in a fry pan until hot but not smoking. Sear the pattles quickly and cook for 4-5 minutes on each side or until desired doneness is reached. If cooking on a grill, preheat grill and sear patties over hot coals or high heat. Cover and continue cooking for 3-5 minutes. Flip burgers over and cook for 3-5 minutes or until desired doneness is reached. Makes 4 half pound

As we talked about the best burgers, I would be remiss not to print momma's favorite meatloaf recipe.

MOMMA'S MEATLOAF

2 pounds fresh ground chuck 1/2 pound fresh ground pork 1/2 pound fresh ground veal 1/3 cup seasoned bread crumbs 3 tablespoons Parmesan

I medium onion, chopped fine
Leggs, lightly beaten
Labiespoons Worcestershire
Sauce
Sauce
Satiand fresh ground pepper
to taste
Loup peeled plum of Roma tomatoes

Total to fine
Loup celed plum of Roma tomatoes

matoes
Combine the ground beef with
the ground pork and ground veal.
Mix well. Combine remaining
ingredients except tomatoes into
the ground beef mixture. Mix well.
Shape and place into a loaf pan.
Blend or puree the tomatoes until
smooth. Pour this tomato pureo
over the meatloaf. Cook uncovered
for I hour at 350 degrees. Remove
from the oven. Drain or siphon off
any noticeable fat and allow to
stand for 5 minutes before turning
upstick down on a plate or platter.
Serves 6-8.

COOKING CALENDAR

To get your classes or events issted in this column, send items to be considered for publication to: Keely Wygonik, Taste Editor, the Observer & Eccentric, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Lyonia 48150, Or fax to 591-7279.

M LTS SAISONS

m s.s s.siSOMS
French provental menu, 6-8 p.m.
Tuenday, May 17; Sweet miniatures, dazzling desserts, Monday,
May 23; northern Italian culsine,
Wednesday, May 25 at 304 W.
Fruith Street, Royal Oak, Cost
\$25 per class, or three classes for
\$65; Call (810) 545-3400.

E THE LARK
Cooking and dining with Chef
Marcus Haight, 10:45 s.m. Saturday May 21 and May 28 at the Lark, 6430 Farmington Road, West Bloomfield. Cost \$75 per person. Light summer monu. Call 344-2197 for reservations. Class

limited to 16 people.

imited to 16 people.

B SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE
Continuing education cullinary
arts class offerings include succrasful cattering for the entrepreneur (May 18), European
bread making (May 16), quick
easy meals (June 6), desacrats for
everyone (June 7), chocolate
(June 1), professional cake decorating techniques (May 10), and
understanding French wines
(May 16), Call (313) 462-4448 for
registration information.

B KITCHEN GLAMOR
Cooking demonstration — Fresh
summer deserts with Kathleen
Frentz, 1 and 7 p.m. Tuesday,
May 12 to Friday, May 20. There
in a \$3 fee, Chef series features
Rick Halberg, 6:30 p.m. Monday,
May 10 at the West Bloomfield
atore. Call (313) \$37-1200 for
cooking demonstration and class

location and to register.

B BOTSFORD HOSPITAL

28 BOTSFORD HOSPITAL Cooking demonstration — vege-tarian pizza, quick and tasty, 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, May 24 at Botsford Center for Health Improvement, 39750 Grand River, Novi. Cost \$3, call 477-6100 to register.

HUDSON'S
 Cooking demonstrations — Barbecue delights, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 18 to Friday, May 20 at Northland, Summit Place, Fairlane and Twelve Oaks.

ELENORE'S NATURAL CUISINE Healthy cooking for beginners 6-9 p.m. Monday, May 16. Classes at 22899 Inkster Boad, Farmington Hills. Cost ranges from \$20 to \$22, cooking series \$110, Call 478-4455 to register and for more in-formation.

Entries sought for chili cook-off

Register now for the 15th annual Farmer Jack Great Chili Cook-off and Country Music Festival July 15-17 in downtown Wayne which benefits the National Kid-ney Foundation of Michigan.

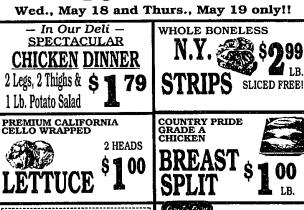
gade Cook-Off on Sunday, July 17. 7. Call 1-800-482-1455 for an ap-

off and Country Music Festival
July 15-17 in downtown Wayne
which benefits the National Ridney Foundation of Michigan.

Applications are now being ac
cepted for the North Central Regional Chill Cook-off (International Chill Society rules apply)
on Saturday's registration includes membership in the ICS

and a one-year subscription to Chili Magazine. The participants will be selected through a lottery drawing on June 6.

Forty cooks will be selected to participate in Saturday's North Central Cook-off. The winner will receive \$500 and a chance to com-pete in the ICS World Champion-ship Chili Cook-off this fall in Reno.





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