Culinary Outlook

COOK'S CORNER

Current healthy eating trends have dealt a blow to those delicious sweet snacks and desserts we all enjoy. It seems ordinary desserts just have too much fat and sugar or too many calories with few, if any, redeeming "healthy" qualities.

Here's some good news to assuage your sweet tooth.

Sweets, such as the ideas shown in the recipes below, can provide the necessary enticement to increase the amount of fibre in your diet.

Health and Welfare Canada says that adults should at least double their intake of fibre-rich foods of various kinds. Yet, surveys show that despite a wide variety of fibre-rich foods, many Canadians are not eating enough.

One food manufacturer recently answered the fibre challenge by creating a new line of cookies and biscuits with added fibre. New Country Fibre cookies and crackers each provide 2.5 mg of fibre per serving with no sacrifice of the taste consumers have come to expect from Christie biscuits. One of these, Country Fibre Apple 'n Oatmeal Soft Cookies, is the ideal portable fibre-snack. Two cookies are hermetically scaled in individual packages — perfect for tucking away in your purse, desk or briefcase for a tasty tidbit.

Country Fibre Oatmeal and Digestive Cookies are great crumbled and served on sherbet, ice cream or yogurt mixed with fruit. Or use them to create these easy, delicious snacks and desserts. When you're looking for a gift to cheer up a friend, the attractive Country Confections are quick, easy and sure to please.

Snackwiches

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's cup pitted prunes or dried apricots or figs

cots or figs 2 thsp low fat plain yagurt 16 to 20 Country Fibre Digestive Cookies

Fit food processor with metal blade. With motor running, drop dried fruit through feed tube. Process until finely chopped. Add yogurt and process until a well blended spread is created.

Top a Digestive with a heaping teaspoonful of fruit spread; top with second Digestive to create a snackwich. Repeat with remaining spread and cookies. Makes 8 to 10 Snackwiches.

Crispy Fruit Crisp

4 medium cooking apples or pears

2 tsp lemon juice 3 tbsp firmly packed brown sugar 1 tsp cinnamon 1 tbsp margarine

10 Country Fibre Oatmeal Cookies, coarsely crushed

Peel, quarter and core apples or pears. Place in a greased 4-cup microproof casserole and toss with lemon juice. Combine brown sugar and cinnamon; sprinkle over apples. Dot with margarine. Cover and microwave on HIGH power 7 to 8 minutes. Remove from microwave and immediately top with coarsely crushed cookies; cover and let stand 4 to 5 minutes. Serve warm. Makes 4 servings.

Country Confections
12 Country Fibre Digestive Cookies
14 cup blanched almonds
15 cup pitted prunes, dried apricots

or figs
2 tbsp plain low fat yogurt
Toppings:

Toasted desiceated coconut or additional Digestive crumbs Slivered blanched almonds

Combine 9 Digestives and almonds in container of food processor. Pulse (with ON/OFF action) until cookies are reduced to crumbs and almonds are well chopped. Set crumbs aside. With motor running drop ½ cup of dried fruit through feed tube. Process until finely chopped. Add yogurt; process until well blended. Return crumb-nut mixture to process with remaining fruit, Pulse until mixture forms a ball

and all ingredients are well blended.

Crush remaining Digestives. Form a round teaspoonful of mixture into a ball; roll in coconut or Digestive crumbs; press a slivered almond or half of a maraschino cherry onto ball. Place in a petit-four paper cup. Repeat with remaining mixture and toppings. Store in a tightly covered container in a cool place. Makes 24 to 30 confections.

By Alleen Claire NEA Food Editor

Corn and rice combine with cheese for an easy, and inexpensive, main course. This is a recipe to slip into a recipe file for a new bride. Serve with a fresh fruit salad.

GOLDEN CORN-AND-RICE CABBEROLE

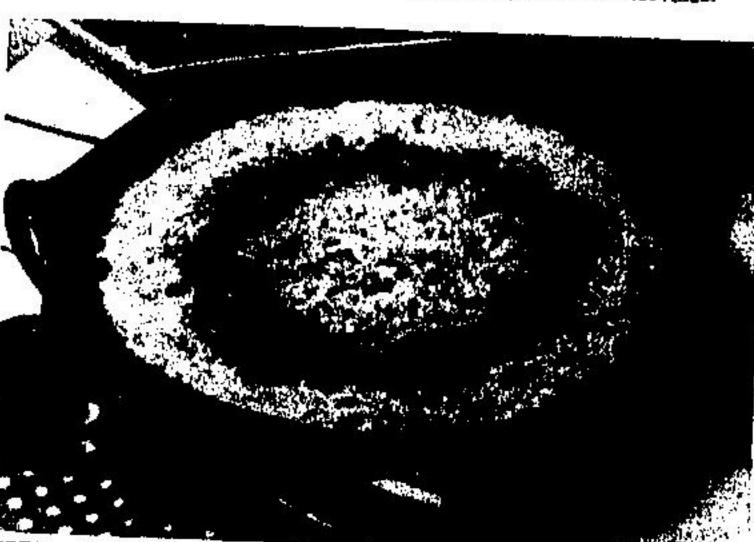
cups cooked rice
1 10-ounce peckage frozen
whole-kernel corn, thawad
cup minced onion
cups grated Cheddar cheese
(8 ounces)

tesspoons salt (or to taste)
tesspoon ground black papper
tesspoon papriks

In a large bowl, combine all ingredients except paprika. Pour into a

buttered shallow 2-quart casserole dish. Sprinkle with paprika.

Bake at 350 degrees for 40 to 45 minutes, or until knife inserted near center comes out clean. This kitchentested recipe makes 6 servings.



CORN, rice and cheese casserole is an easy dish.



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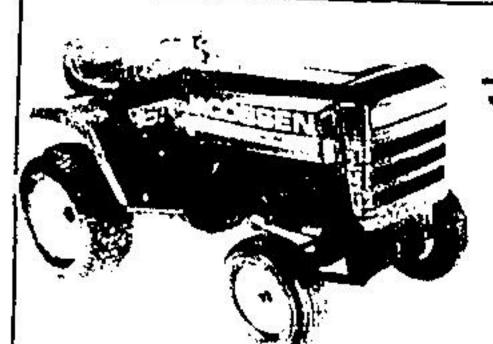
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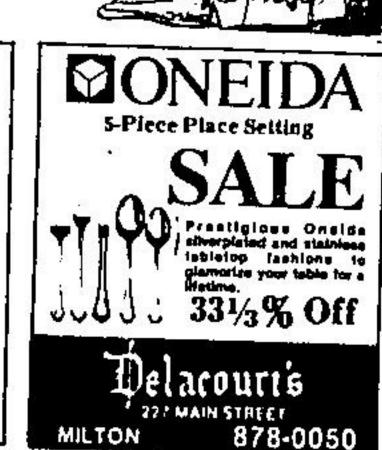
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