

Horizons

A publication of Purdue Extension Hamilton County

2003 Pleasant Street Noblesville, IN 46060-3697 317-776-0854 www.extension.purdue.edu/county/hamilton



August 2023

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What a great summer! As we reflect on the last few months, there is much to recognize, evaluate and celebrate.

Thanks to all our members who worked hard on Achievement Day. During the 4-H fair, the Homemaker's Kitchen was a success due to your hard work and dedication. The book sale proved extremely successful and the open class exhibits were a beautiful display for the public. These community outreaches require a ton of hard work, planning, organization, and "time on your feet." Thank you for all that you do for Extension Homemakers. As we look to next summer, there will be changes with our buildings and displays but we look forward to making plans for these exciting times.

As fall arrives, we look forward to celebrating with you. Enjoy this won-derful season!



Susan L. Peterson County Extension Director Extension Educator, HHS

Dear Extension Homemakers,

Many people come into our office and ask, "Are you glad the fair is over?" We are not sure how to answer because we get to see so many people but then immediately start working on programs for the fall and next year.

A big thank you to all homemakers who worked the fair events which included the fair kitchen, flower show, food & craft show, used book sale and the first homemade pie contest. You ladies are unbelievable.

August 1st was the beginning of the "new" program year so be on the lookout for ways to be involved or events that sound interesting to attend. The district meeting and retreat details are in this newsletter. The new IEHA state president is once again encouraging all members to scatter kindness by making small hearts and giving them to others. Look for interesting ways to share.

This issue of *Horizons* contains 2023 fair results, pie contest winners, and photos from Achievement Day. You will also find information on stroke symptoms, how to use a food thermometer and learn how to have a healthy relationship with others. Can you find something you didn't know?

The weather has been great. Enjoy what is left of summer.

Bernie Huber Program Assistant Health & Human Sciences



CALENDAR 2023

August 17 Board & Council Retreat 9:30 a.m.

Jul 28 - Aug 20 Indiana State Fair (closed Mondays and Tuesdays)

September 5 Board & Council Meetings 9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. September 13 Educational Lessons 10:00 & 11:15 a.m.

Stay Scam Safe; Taxes

September 25 Indianapolis District Fall Meeting (Morgan County) see flyer

September 19-20 District Retreat - Waycross

October 3 Board & Council Meetings 9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

October 14 Sewing Seminar 9:00 a.m.

Message from the county president

A big thank you to all of our members who were able to help in the kitchen during the 4-H fair. We were again very short staffed especially in pouring drinks and cleaning trays during numerous shifts. Several workers had to stay later than they were scheduled. With the construction happening at the fairgrounds this fall we do not know how much of the kitchen will be available to us next year. We may need to consider other ways of fundraising so put on your thinking caps.

Thank you for your help and continued support of Extension Homemakers. I'm looking forward to a great year.
Sharon Parker

Profits from the 2023 fair

Fair Kitchen Food & Craft Show Flower Show Used Book Sale

To be determined when all bills have been submitted





You can receive this newsletter *IN COLOR* -e-mail Bernie (bchuber@purdue.edu)

-contact the office at 317-776-0854.



We have a facebook page called **Hamilton County IN Extension Homemakers** Let us know what you are doing. If you have club photos, stories, or events to post, share them with Jan Plummer then look for it on our page.

"like" it to receive information on your personal facebook news feed "follow" it to make it easier to find in a news feed

Email: jankplum@frontier.com



What happens when you have been a volunteer for **70** years? The Extension Office gives you your own reserved parking space! Susan Peterson, CED, presented Helen Dailey with her own sign. We saw her car in her special spot whenever she volunteered at the fair this year.





Save the Date

The Sewing/Quilting Seminar
Saturday
October 14, 2023
Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds

Sponsored by Purdue Extension Hamilton County





Silvernotes Choral Club is connected with the Indiana State Extension Homemakers Choral Club known as the "Melody Makers of Indiana". The members enjoy singing for nursing homes and other organizations. Silvernotes meets Monday nights from the end of August through June at 7:00pm to 8:30pm at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant Street Noblesville, IN.

The director is Diana Stanton and the accompanist is Emily Block. New members are welcome at any time. If you would like more information, call the Hamilton County Extension Office 317-776-0854.

If you love to sing, this is the place for you!

2023 Extension Homemaker Scholarship Winners

Sierra McDonald **Purdue University** Nursing **Indiana University Avery Miner** Nursing

Purdue University Speech, Language & Hearing Jenna Peterson

Alice Pickett **Purdue University** Nursing Ella Pickett Nursing **Indiana University**

IEHA Week October 22-28, 2023 Help promote Hamilton County Extension Homemakers



State website—check it out. https://www.join.ieha-families.org/

Follow us on facebook https://www.facebook.com/ IndianaExtensionHomemakersAssociation/



Home and Family Conference attendees from Hamilton county - Lisa Gambrel, Sally Thieme, Betty Clark, Susan Peterson, Josiah Rhea and Sharon Parker

Pie Contest Winners

First—Joani Lawson, Black Raspberry Second—Kathy Bray, Black Raspberry







1st 2nd



Make little felt or fabric hearts and leave in places to spread kindness "the IEHA way."





Achievement Day June 22, 2023

New Members 2023

Suzi Bell - Harbourites

Janet Feazel - Friendly Eagles

Tracy Fisher - East Wayne

Sharon Humes - Silvernotes

Judith Lasley - Silvernotes

Carey Mendenhall - North Adams

Jo Palmer - Silvernotes

Judy Pryor - Monte Ray

Cassia Rhea - Roaring 20's

Josiah Rhea - Roaring 20's

Judy Rigsbee - Silvernotes

AJ Robinson - Roaring 20's

Maggie Runchel - Roaring 20's

Meg Sawchuk - Harbourites





Remembering deceased homemakers.....

Judy Kinder – East Wayne
Phyllis Stackhouse – Friendly Eagles
Rachel Merrill – Friendly Eagles
Charlotte Smith – Profit & Pleasure
Bonnie Drayer – North Adams

Mary Coombs – Fall Creek Home Arts



Indianapolis District Representative, Lynn Lillard, incoming State IEHA president, Peg Peter, and outgoing IEHA State President, Michelle Roberts

Welcome new officers

<u>2023 – 2024 Officers</u>

President Sharon Parker, Harbourites
 Vice President Valerie Carson, Roaring 20's
 Secretary Jane Catlin, Friendly Eagles

Treasurer Jessica Gahimer, Roaring 20's

*Asst. Treasurer Linda Westbrook, Fall Creek Home Arts

Recorder Beth Oberbeck, Roaring 20's
Education Josiah Rhea, Roaring 20's
Leadership Sally Thieme, East Wayne

Volunteer Community Lisa Gambrel, Fall Creek Home Arts

Support

Public Relations Jan Plummer, Roaring 20's

Past President Betty Clark, Fall Creek Home Arts

Horticulture

Grand Champion - North Adams Reserve Grand Champion - East Wayne

Champions

Gladioli - East Wayne

Rose - North Adams

Dahlia - Roaring 20's

Zinnia - North Adams

Marigold - Roaring 20's

Sunflower - Harbourites

Three Varieties of Bloom - North Adams

Shrub Flowers - East Wayne

Oriental or Asiatic Lilies - Fall Creek

Snapdragons -none

Reserve Champions

Gladioli - North Adams

Rose - Roaring 20's

Dahlia – none

Zinnia - Harbourites

Marigold - Silvernotes

Sunflower - North Adams

Three Varieties of Bloom - Roaring 20's

Shrub Flowers - Fall Creek Home Arts

Oriental or Asiatic Lilies - North Adams

Snapdragons -none

Ribbon Awards

Gladioli

Blue – East Wayne, Fall Creek Home Arts (2), Friendly Eagles (2), Harbourites, North Adams, Roaring 20's

Rose

Blue – East Wayne, Friendly Eagles, Roaring 20's (2), North Adams

Dahlia

Blue – East Wayne, Fall Creek Home Arts (2), Roaring 20's, Silvernotes

Zinnia

Blue – Friendly Eagles, Harbourites, North Adams, Roaring 20's (2)

Red -Fall Creek Home Arts (2)

Marigold

Blue – East Wayne, Fall Creek Home Arts, North Adams, Roaring 20's (2), Silvernotes (2)

Red - Fall Creek Home Arts

White - Friendly Eagles

Sunflowers

Blue – East Wayne, Friendly Eagles, Harbourites, North Adams (2)

Three Varieties of Bloom

Blue – East Wayne, Fall Creek Home Arts, Friendly Eagles, Harbourites, North Adams, Roaring 20's, Silvernotes

Shrub Flowers

Blue – East Wayne, Fall Creek Home Arts, Harbourites, North Adams, Roaring 20's, Silvernotes

Oriental or Asiatic Lilies

Blue - Fall Creek Home Arts, North Adams

Snapdragon

Blue – Fall Creek Home Arts, Roaring 20's Red – Friendly Eagles

2023 Flower Show Results

Houseplants

Grand Champion – Roaring 20's **Reserve Grand Champion** – Fall Creek Home Arts

Champion - Roaring 20's Fall Creek Home Arts,

Harbourites

Reserve Champion - North Adams

African Violet

Blue - Fall Creek Home Arts (2)

Orchid

none

Any Non-Blooming

Blue – East Wayne, Fall Creek Home Arts, Harbourites,

North Adams, Silvernotes

Fairy Garden/Container Garden

Blue - East Wayne, Roaring 20's

Red - East Wayne. Fall Creek Home Arts, Friendly Eagles

"Fairy Tales that Bloom"

Artistic Design

Grand Champion - East Wayne Reserve Grand Champion - East Wayne

Tiny Creations - none (Champion)

East Wayne (Reserve Champion)

Blue – East Wayne, Friendly Eagles, North Adams, Roaring 20's

Red - Harbourites, East Wayne

Deep in the Forest - East Wayne (Champion)

North Adams (Reserve Champion)

Blue – East Wayne, Friendly Eagles, Harbourites, North Adams, Roaring 20's

Red -North Adams

Royalty - East Wayne (Champion)

North Adams (Reserve Champion)

Blue – East Wayne, Harbourites, North Adams, Roaring

Red - Friendly Eagles

Cottage Garden - Roaring 20's (Champion)

North Adams (Reserve Champion)

Blue – East Wayne, Friendly Eagles, Harbourites, North Adams, Roaring 20's

Red – North Adams

It's Magical - East Wayne (Champion)

East Wayne (Reserve Champion)

Blue –East Wayne, Friendly Eagles, Harbourites, North Adams. Roaring 20's

Red - North Adams

<u>Happily Ever After</u> – Roaring 20's (Champion)

North Adams (Reserve Champion)

Blue – East Wayne, Fall Creek Home Arts, Friendly Eagles, Harbourites, North Adams, Roaring 20's

Red - North Adams



Food Division

2023 Food & Craft Show Results

Grand Champion – Rajean Chastain **Reserve Grand Champion** – Rajean Chastain

Quick Breads

Champion – Debbie Mills

Reserve Champion – Meagan Moran

Blue – Debbie Mills, Jennifer Evans, Abby Albin, John Baker, Rachelle Byerly, Meagan Moran, Emily Vizard

Red – Nate Albin, Kristina Moorhead

Yeast Breads

Reserve Champion – Joe Heffelmire

Blue – David Evans, Joe Heffelmire; Red – Jennifer Evans,

David Evans

Cakes

Champion – Kristina Moorhead

Reserve Champion - John Baker

Blue – Debbie Mills, Angela Asmus, Kristina Moorhead,

John Baker, Deb Knapp, Sandy Parks

Cookies

Champion - Kali Kennebrew

Reserve Champion – Janet Macy

Blue – Amy Radford (2), Debbie Mills, Jennifer Evans,

Tressie Hoang, John Baker (2), Alayna Wilbur, Janet Macy, Kristi Duffy, Amber Blakely, Emily Vizard, Rajean Chastain

(3), Kali Kennebrew

Semi-Homemade

Champion - John Baker

Reserve Champion – Jennifer Evans

Blue – John Baker, Jennifer Evans; Red – David Evans;

White – David Evans

Pies

Blue - Roy Langdon

Food Preservation

Champion - Tiffany Hurlock

Reserve Champion – Tiffany Hurlock

Blue - Tiffany Hurlock (2), Kristina Moorhead (2), Kelsey

Peyton (2), Meagan Moran, Kali Kennebrew

Homemade Candy

Champion – John Baker

Reserve Champion – Janet Macy

Blue - Barb Lawson, Debbie Mills (2), John Baker,

Janet Macy; Red – Jan Fouch

Basic Craft Division

Grand Champion – Chris Prange

Reserve Grand Champion – Janet Fouch

Crochet Division

Champion - Tiffany Hurlock

Reserve Champion – Jenna Depps

Blue – Tiffany Hurlock (3), Jenna Depps

Knitting Division

Champion – Susan Hill

Reserve Champion - Susan Hill

Blue – Susan Hill (3)

Needlecraft - Crosstitch Division

Reserve Champion – Janet Fouch

Blue - Abby Albin, Alyson Bray, Jan Fouch

Needlecraft - Embroidery Division

Reserve Champion – none

Blue – Phyllis Fralick (4)

Felting

Blue – Chris Prange

Needlecraft - Miscellaneous

Champion – Chris Prange

Reserve Champion – none

Blue – Tiffany Hurlock (2), Chris Prange (2)

Basic Craft Division cont'

Creative Ideas Division

Jewelry

Blue – Tiffany Hurlock (2), Dreama Drake (5), Sandra Tolley (10),

Debbie Weldy, Susan Hill

Dolls

Blue - Susan Hill

Wreaths

Blue - Chris Prange

Holiday Decorations

Reserve Champion – Phyllis Fralick

Blue – Tiffany Hurlock, Phyllis Fralick, Christina Wolfe

Card Making

Blue – Jennifer Sullivan (3), Jennifer Endicott (5)

Recycled/Repurposed

Blue – Phyllis Fralick

Miscellaneous

Champion - Amber Blakely

Reserve Champion – none

Blue – Phyllis Fralick, Abby Albin, Emily Vizard (2), Amber Blakely

Professional Creative Ideas

Blue - Emily Vizard

Craftsman

Champion – David Zeller

Glass Work/ Etching

Champion – David Zeller

Blue – David Zeller

Miscellaneous:

Blue - Wendy Hansen

Sewing Division

Grand Champion – Ruth Middleton

Reserve Grand Champion – Ruth Middleton

Quilting

Champion –Bernice Bruhn

Reserve Champion – Ruth Middleton

Blue – Laurie Hayes, Barb Hayes (3), Bernice Bruhn (2), Marcy Kuhn, Judy Langdon, Kathy Zook (3), Kristina Moorhead, Edward Fennel, Ruth

Middleton, Carol Koch, Joann Wack

Wall Hanging

Champion – Ruth Middleton

Reserve Champion – Barb Hayes

Blue – Barb Hayes, Ruth Middleton

Clothing

Champion – Marcy Kuhn

Reserve Champion – none

Blue – Marcy Kuhn, Carol Koch

Red - Emily Vizard

The Arts Division

Grand Champion – Wendy Hansen

Reserve Grand Champion – Andrew Jacobson

Painting

Blue – Terr Johnston (3), Kathy Zook, Joann Wack, Barb Weaver (4),

Asher Estes

Red - Sharon Moore, Ashley Estes (2)

Drawing

Blue – Wendy Hansen (3)

Red - Nicole Cochran

Photography

Blue – Ron Hall (3), Andrew Jacobson (10)

Red – Angela Asmus, Ron Hall, Richard Macy, Andrew Jacobson



Menu

RSVP by September 18th

Cost: \$16.00

Pulled Pork, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Gray Brother's Strawberry Pie, Tea or Lemonade



Attendees:

Please bring pet and cleaning supplies to be donated to the Morgan County Humane Society. No toys please.

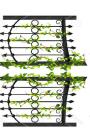
Questíons:

Special dietary needs:

Contact Cíndy Saferíght @ 317-831-6821 or text 317-682-7062

Indianapolis District Fall Meeting

What Grows Behind Your Garden Gate?



Monday, September 25, 2023

Please mail form and payment to:

Morgan County Extension Homemakers

c/o Tura LaMar

2260 Crestview Dr. Martinsville, IN 46151

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Find your best Hawaiian shirt, grass skirt, or mumu...there will be a contest!



Tuesday, September 19 & Wednesday, September 20 IEHA Indianapolis District 21st Annual Retreat

7363 Bear Creek Road, Morgantown, IN 46160 Phone: 812-597-4241 or 800-786-2267 Waycross Camp and Conference Center



Please print clearly

	Zp	TelephoneEmail		Phone	Do you require a handicap room? Yes No On the ground floor? Yes No Double/Triple occupancy room \$127.00 Single occupancy room \$159.00 (ONLY 4)
Name	Address	TelephoneConfirmation by mail (include a self-addi	County	Emergency Contact Person	Do you require a handicap room? Yes_ Double/Triple occupancy room \$127.00

Roommate(s):

_ Classes (additional charges apply) Wed. \$50.00 One Day ONLY Registration includes meals: Tues._ See next page for class descriptions, price, class size and instructions. We will try our best to fulfill your request for classes. First choice: please circle one selection for each of the following sessions:

Second choice: Session 1: 1 2 3 4 Session 2: 1 2 3 4 Session 3: 1 2 3 4 Session 4: 1 2 3

Please mail your registration and check made out to Morgan County Extension Homemakers to cover the cost of accommodations, meals and sessions to:

Tura LaMar

2260 Crestview Dr.

Martinsville, IN 46151

For additional questions please contact: Cindy Saferight @ 317-682-7062 No registrations will be accepted after September 8, 2023.





Tuesday: Session 1 (1:15 – 2:15)

Class limit: 10/ Cost: \$6 Class 2. Shaker Snowperson Class limit: 12 / Cost: \$6 Class 1. Seashell Pendent & Bookmark

Class 3. Charcuterie Class limit: 15/ Cost: \$4

Class 4. Clothes Pin Wreath Class limit: 12/ Cost: \$10

Tuesday: Session 2 (2:30 – 3:30)

Class 1. Decoupage Shell Dish Class limit: 12/ Cost: \$5

Class 2. Felted Brooch Class limit: 12/Cost: \$5

Class 3. Mug Rug (2 hrs.) Class limit: 10/ Cost: \$5

Class 4. Macrame Snowflake Class limit: 10/ Cost: \$5

Tuesday: Session 3 (3:45 – 4:45)

Class 1. Pumpkin Jar Class limit: 10/ Cost: \$5

Class 2. Memory Wire Bracelet Class limit: 12/ Cost: \$5

Class 3. Mug Run cont.

Class 4. Yoyo Pumpkin (2 hrs.) Class limit: 12/ Cost: \$6

Wednesday: Session 4 (9:15 – 10:15)

S

Class 1. Walking with Amy No Class Limit Cost: FREE Wear comfortable shoes, weather permitting

Class 2. Yoyo Pumpkin cont.

Class 3. Button Bouquet Class limit: 12/ Cost \$5

Community Project: 10:30-11:30 We will be filling Hygiene Rolls to be distributed in our counties. We ask that each county donate 100 of the assigned items. These are to be travel size items.

Morgan County-toothbrushes

Hancock County- combs

Johnson County-deodorant

Boone County-soap

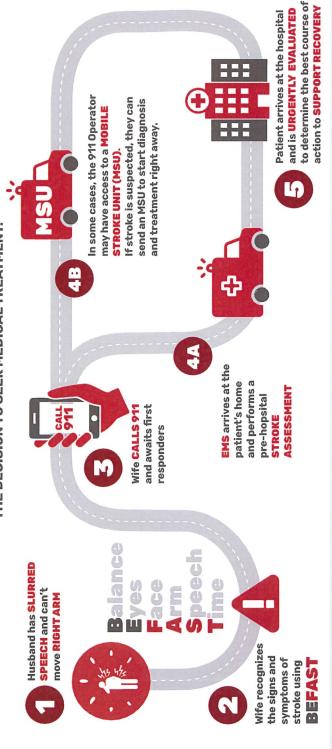
Shelby County- toothpaste

Don't Forget your Silent Auction items: Handmade items and Homemade Goodies are always a hit!



CALLING 911 CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

IN MORE THAN **60% OF STROKE CASES**, SOMEONE OTHER THAN THE PATIENT MADE ACCORDING TO A REPORT FROM THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION, THE DECISION TO SEEK MEDICAL TREATMENT.





Seeking EMERGENCY CARE at the first sign of stroke should not be DELAYED



When it comes to stroke, TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. It's critical to CALL 911

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Your

IMMEDIATE ACTION can have a LASTING impact

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS. TAKE ACTION. SPREAD AWARENESS.

For more information, please visit strokeawareness.com

BE FAST was developed by Intermountain Healthcare, as an adaptation of the FAST model implemented by the American Stroke Association. Reproduced with permission from Intermountain Healthcare. All rights reserved. © 2020 Genentech USA, Inc., So. San Francisco, CA. All rights reserved. M-US-00007404 (v.1.0)



A Member of the Roche Group

SPEND SMART, EAT SMART.

spendsmart.extension.iastate.edu

How to Use a Food Thermometer

Use a food thermometer to ensure that your food has reached the proper temperature for doneness. By cooking food to the proper temperature, you will prevent foodborne illness. The color and texture of food does not always indicate whether or not it is done.

Instant read thermometers are the most common types of thermometers for use in homes. Types of instant read thermometers are:

- Bi-metallic stem thermometer: most commonly used and most cost-effective. To use, insert into the center of the food from tip to dimple; allow about 15 seconds for the temperature to accurately read.
 - DIMPLE
- Digital thermometer: about twice the cost of a stem thermometer. The sensor is in the tip of the thermometer, so the tip needs to be inserted into the center of the food. The thermometer will provide a digital read out of the temperature.

TIPS FOR USING THERMOMETERS

- Any food can be tested with a food thermometer: meat, poultry, fish, eggs, casseroles, soups. Casseroles, soups, and leftovers should have no cold spots.
- Make sure the thermometer is clean every time you use it. If you check a food and it is not the correct temperature, wash it before you check the temperature again.
- When checking meat and poultry, check the thickest part.
- Calibrate thermometers when you first get them and every three months after by inserting into an ice bath, waiting 30 seconds, and turning the dial to 32°F.
- To keep food safe it needs to be colder than 40°F or hotter than 140°F.

Cook foods to the following temperatures:

Ground meat

- · Beef and pork 160°F
- Poultry 165°F

Cuts of beef and pork 145°F, plus let it stand for 3 minutes

Poultry (chicken, turkey, duck) 165°F

Eggs

- Egg dishes (quiche) 160°F
- Eggs (fried, scrambled, boiled) yolk and white must be firm

Fish 145°F or until it is opaque and flakes easily with a fork

Casseroles, soups, and leftovers 165°F

SERVES: 6 | SERVING SIZE: 1/6 of loaf

MEATLOAF

INGREDIENTS

1 pound ground beef

1/2 onion, chopped (about 1/2 cup)

1 cup carrots, grated (about 2 carrots)

1/2 cup dry quick oats 1/4 cup nonfat milk

1 egg

1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/2 cup ketchup, divided

Sauce:

2 tablespoons brown sugar or white sugar

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
- 2. Mix together the ground beef, onion, carrots, oats, milk, egg, black pepper, salt, and 1/4 cup ketchup.
- 3. Form the mixture into a loaf and place on broiler pan.* Bake for 50 minutes.
- 4. Stir the remaining 1/4 cup ketchup and sugar in a small bowl.
- 5. Remove meatloaf from oven and spread the sauce over the top and sides of
- 6. Bake for 10 minutes or until a meat thermometer reads 160°F.

. You can make a broiler pan by laying a wire cooling rack on top of a jellyroll pan or cake pan. Cover with aluminum foil. Poke holes in the aluminum foil so the meat juice can drain.





CHECK OUT OUR VIDEOS:

spendsmart.extension. iastate.edu/videos for more information on basic food preparation, safety, storage, and easy recipes!

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Nutrition Facts Servings: 6, Serv. size: 1/6 of loaf, Amount per serving: Calories 280, Total Fat 13g (20% DV), Sat. Fat 4.5g (23% DV), *Trans* Fat 1g, Cholest. 100mg (33% DV), Sodium 390mg (16% DV), Total Carb. 17g (6% DV), Fiber 2g (8% DV), Total Sugars 10g, Protein 23g, Vit. D (2% DV), Calcium (4% DV), Iron (17% DV), Potas. (9% DV).



Cowboy caviar is cool, easy and protein packed. Here's how to make the ideal summer recipe.

On a hot summer day, what could be better than a cool dish of tender beans, crisp vegetables, sweet corn, fiery jalapeno and smooth avocado with hints of garlic, lime and cilantro? Not much. Serve it as a dip with crunchy tortilla chips, a salad, atop grilled chicken, steak or seafood or even stuffed into tacos, fajitas and burritos. There is almost nothing that cowboy caviar can't do.

Better still, this is a simple dump-and-stir recipe, making it an excellent last-minute option for picnics, tailgates, potlucks, cookouts or summer nights when you can't stand the idea of going near the stove.

What is cowboy caviar?

The prized combination is honored for a reason: Each element perfectly balances the next. Meaty beans commingle with juicy tomatoes. Crisp bell pepper and onion unite with creamy avocado. Sweet corn balances the heat of the jalapeno. And the tangy lime vinaigrette adds a burst of fresh flavor to every element. When served with tortilla chips, the saltiness and crunch add yet another layer of flavor and texture.

To ensure your batch is the stand-out offering at the potluck, follow a few tips.

Finely chop your ingredients. If you're serving cowboy caviar as a dip, it's best to have small pieces of each ingredient as the finished medley mounds perfectly on your tortilla chip. Chop your onion, pepper and tomatoes into bean-size pieces.

Rinse and drain your beans. Since we're using canned beans you need to drain them, rinse them under cold water and drain them again. This quick step removes excess sodium and any cloudy liquid that can alter the color of your dish. Make sure your rinsed beans are well drained before adding them to the bowl. (You don't want to dilute your dressing with water.)

Consider your corn options. You can make this dip with fresh, frozen or canned corn. When using fresh, you can slice it right from the cob and add it raw (it will marinate and essentially pickle in the dressing.) When using frozen corn, there's no need to thaw first; the kernels soften quickly once added to the other ingredients. If you're using canned corn, make sure you drain well.

Use red onion. Red onion is best for uncooked dishes because it can be eaten raw and delivers a sweet-yet-sharp depth of flavor. You can also use green onions.

Choose your favorite bell pepper. Any color works in this dip. Use Roma tomatoes. Also called plum tomatoes, Roma tomatoes are firm and will hold up in this dip without getting mushy. Pro tip: Make sure to remove and discard all the seeds before chopping.

Use as much jalapeno as you want. You can make this dish as spicy as desired, which means you can add an entire jalapeno or \[\] 3 T olive oil just part of it. Note that now all jalapenos are created equal; some can be quite mild, while others can make you teary-eyed. Heat level varies by pepper. My advice? Taste a little bit of the jalapeno before deciding how much to add to the dip. Most of a jalapeno's heat comes from the seeds and whitish innards. Remove the seeds and white portion to keep spiciness in check. Use fresh lime juice. Since this is a dip crammed with fresh ingredients, don't be tempted to use bottled lime juice. Bottled lime juice simply can't deliver the same fresh flavor.

Let your dip chill. For the best flavor experience, chill your cowboy caviar for at least an hour before serving. Marinating ensures that the bold flavors in the lime vinaigrette penetrate the 15-ounce can black-eyed peas, rinsed and drained beans and vegetables. And since some of the dressing will sink to the bottom of the bowl when marinating, stir your dip just before serving.

Consider serving this dip in other ways. As mentioned above, cowboy caviar can be served many ways, so consider serving it as a salad, a topping for meat and seafood or as a filling for lettuce wraps, tacos, fajitas, burritos and enchiladas.

Don't freeze leftovers. You likely won't have any excess dip, but if you do, store your cowboy caviar in the refrigerator for up to three days. Do not freeze.

I Cowboy Caviar Recipe

Makes 6-8 servings

Dressing:

2 T. fresh lime juice

1 t. sugar or honey

3/4 t. ground cumin

Salt and pepper

1/4 t. garlic powder

Whisk together all dressing ingredients. Set aside.

Salad:

15-ounce can black beans, rinsed and drained

1 1/4 cups fresh, frozen or canned sweet corn

2-3 Roma tomatoes, seeded and diced

1 bell pepper, any color, seeded and diced

1/3 c. diced red onion

1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and diced

1 ripe avocado, diced

3/4 c. chopped fresh cilantro

In a large bowl, combine the black beans, black-eyed peas, corn tomatoes, bell pepper, onion and jalapeno pepper. Toss to combine. Add the dressing to the bean mixture and toss to coat everything with the dressing. Fold in the avocado and cilantro.

Tortilla chips, optional for serving



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A Fine Balance: The Magic Ratio to a Healthy Relationship

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Introduction

Does it ever feel like your partner only criticizes you? Can you remember the last time your partner said something positive to you? When negative interactions outweigh the positive ones, it may be hard to recall the positive qualities in an intimate relationship or in your partner. Successful intimate relationships have a balance between positive and negative feelings and actions between partners. According to relationship researcher John Gottman, the magic ratio is 5 to 1.

What does this mean? This means that for every one negative feeling or interaction between partners, there must be five positive feelings or interactions. Stable and happy couples share more positive feelings and actions than negative ones. Unhappy couples tend to have more negative feelings and actions than positive ones. Partners who criticize each other, provide constant negative feedback, aren't supportive of each other, don't demonstrate affection or appreciation, or behave as though they are uninterested in their partner are in relationships that are out of balance.

How do you increase the positives in your relationship? Here are some things you can do.

Show interest

Show your partner that you are listening. Pay attention to your partner. Are you interested in what your partner is saying? Are you showing your partner that you are really listening? For example, your partner comes home from a long day at work. She or he wants to talk to you about it. You nod absently while watching television. Does this show real interest in your partner and what the person is saying? Turn off the television and make eye contact with the person.

Show affection

There are many ways of showing affection to your partner. Hold hands, sit together while watching TV, tell each other "I love you." These are all small ways to be affectionate. You can also do thoughtful things for each other, such as helping with chores.

Show your care and concern

Caring acts can take many forms. You could buy your partner their favorite ice cream while on an errand. You could take time in your busy day to write a short e-mail, leave a phone message, or write a note. If your partner is worried about something, express your concern verbally – "It sounds like you had a really rough day at work today." You can also show your concern by giving your partner a hug. Let your partner know that it matters to you when he or she is worried or concerned.

Be appreciative

Think about what you liked and appreciated about your partner when you first met. Recall the ways in which you did things for each other that were helpful and caring. Encourage positive memories of your partner. Let your partner know what you appreciate. Thank your partner for what they do for you. Compliment your partner. Point out the positives that you genuinely appreciate.

Listen so you can understand

Show your partner when you really understand. Verbal and non-verbal expressions can show your partner that you are listening and understand. Tell them how you understand their perspective. Listen carefully and completely to your partner before conveying your understanding. Express your understanding when you really do understand. Show your partner that you are trying to understand him or her by being a good listener and not giving advice too quickly.

Be accepting

Sometimes you may disagree with your partner. You may not always like or agree with what the person is saying. However, you can still respect your partner. You accept what they have to say and you let your partner know you think it is important.

Lighten things up

Be playful, joke, and enjoy each other's company. Use jokes and playful teasing as long as it isn't hostile or sarcastic toward your partner. Joking about your partner's fashion sense or cooking are examples of hostile joking. Sharing your memories with your partner about when you first met can be a way to enjoy each other's company. Keep things light sometimes. Find ways to spend time together that are fun for both of you. For example, set up a regular date night or lunch with each other. Share your feelings with your partner when you feel good, excited, or happy. Especially share your joy with your partner when your good feelings are about your partner and your relationship.

Aim for more positive interactions

How can you tell if the magic ratio in your relationship is unbalanced? Pay attention to how you and your partner interact. For every negative interaction that takes place between you and your partner, are there several positive interactions? Using Gottman's suggestions can help you increase the positives in your relationship. More positive feelings and actions can lead to happier, more stable, and connected relationships.

Activities to help you achieve the magic ratio

The following exercises/activities will help you start thinking about how to implement the suggestions and strategies from this fact sheet.

- Start by keeping a journal for one week.
- On a daily basis, review the various interactions you have had with your partner and list them in your journal.
- Categorize the interactions as either negative or positive.
- At the end of the week, review your journal to see how the negative and positive interactions balance out.
- Whatever your relationship ratio is, decide to implement at least two positive interactions or behaviors from the list above on a regular basis in your relationship. Put them to use each time you find yourself in a negative interaction or expressing negative feelings in your relationship.
- In a few weeks, try journaling again to see if your relationship is closer to achieving that "magic ratio."

