

SUMMER SQUASH ARE GOOD BUYS

Summer squash, once considered as a one-season vegetable. is now available in different varieties year round. During the summer and early fall, the largest supply of squash appears as yellow summer squash, zucchini, cocozelle, and white patty pan or

Squash - relatives of pumpkins, gourds, cucumbers, muskmelons. and watermelons - add flavor, texture, and variety to summer menus.

White bush scallop is shaped like a disc, has scalloped edges, and is a greenish white. By the time it's a pure white, the squash is too mature for good eating. The scallop is sometimes called patty

Italian zucchini and cocozelle are cylinder-shaped and fairly straight. In the markets, cocozelle

Ladies Have You Heard?

By Doris Thomas

Lancaster Extension **Home Economist**

has more pronounced white stripes and is a little larger than zucchini. Both are dark green with light green stripes. These are often sold individually. Even if these squash are large they will be tender because they're fast growers.

Yellow summer squash is shaped like a bowling pin and may be either straight-neck or crookneck. It should be a delicate or light yellow. If deep yellow, it is too mature and likely to be tough.

All summer squash are fast growing. It takes only four to six days for a tender squash to develop. Summer squash must be picked before the skins and seeds toughen because you don't remove the seeds or peel them when you eat summer squash. That's one difference between the summer and winter varieties.

Because you eat the seeds and rind of summer squash, select ones with tender skin of good color.

Squash should be heavy for its size and free from bruises-Small to medium sizes are most desirable.

When you prepare squash, cut it in thin slices or cubes. Squash contains a lot of water, so add just a small amount of water to the pan. Cook about 5 to 10 minutes or until tender. Season with salt, butter or margarine, and pepper. Check herb charts for a new spice to add. or experiment with the wealth for recipies for this versatile vegetable.

If you would like new ideas for preparing zucchini, send a selfaddressed envelope to the Lancaster County Extension Office, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA. 17601, and ask for a free copy of Zucchini Recipes.

CHOOSING A GOOD MELON

What's the best way to choose a melon? Should you poke it, squeeze it or shake it? Any one of these methods can lead you to a sweet, juicy melon - or a tough, sour fruit.

There are no absolute formulas for choosing a good melon. But here are some helpful hints to increase your chances of success in buying cantaloupes.

Cantaloupes have three signs of full maturity:

• the steam should be gone, leaving a smooth, symmetrical, shallow basin called a "full slip." If all or part of the stem base remains or the scar is jagged or torn, the melon is not fully mature

· the netting or veining should be thick, coarse, and corky and should stand out boldly over the surface.

ground color visible the beneath the netting should have changed from green to yellowishbuff, yellowish gray or a pale yellow.

But remember, just because you found a mature cantaloupe doesn't mean you found a ripe one. A cantaloupe can be mature but no

Look for signs of ripeness too, including a yellowish cast to the rind, a pleasant odor when you sniff it and a blossom end that yields slightly when you apply light thumb pressure to it.

Most cantaloupes in stores are ripe, but have not reached their best eating stage. Keep them for two to four days at room temperature to allow time to ripen completely. Then put them in the refrigerator to chill before serving.

Cumberland Co. plans

4-H Swine Roundup and Sale

CARLISLE - The 1984 Cumberland County 4-H Swine Roundup and Sale will be held on Tuesday, August 21, at the Carlisle Livestock Market. The Show will start at 9:30 a.m. and the Sale at 6:30 p.m.

Members will be judged on fitting and showmanship, and a champion will be selected in each age category. A grand and reserve champion market hog will also be selected. Approximately 85 hogs will be sold at auction that evening.

There are 43 members in the Central Penn 4-H Swine Club. These young 4-H'ers are "learning by doing". They gain practical experience in animal husbandry, business and economics, and also develop socially.

Anyone can buy an animal. This is an excellent opportunity to fill your freezer with quality pork. Come out to the Carlisle Livestock Market and support the Cumberland County 4-H Swine Roundup.

For more information contact Laura Watts at the Cumberland County Extension Office, 1100 Claremont Road, Carlisle, Pa. 17013. Phone - 249-7220 or 697-0371 Ext. 246.

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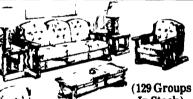
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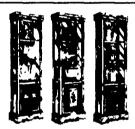
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