

· Have You Heard?

By Doris Thomas Lancaster Extension Home Economist

Nutrients, Calories and The **Microwave**

with microwaves Cooking probably won't significantly increase the nutrient content of your meals, but it may reduce calories.

By substituting water for butter or shortening in food preparation, you can cut down on the calories.

The nutritional value of foods cooked with microwaves is changed in other ways. If you cook vegetables in a lot of water and discard that water after cooking, you are throwing out vitamins and minerals which have leaked out of the vegetable. With the microwave, little or no water is needed, so less vitamin loss oc-

Vitamins are destroyed by air, light, and heat, so the shorter the cooking time with less intense heat, the more vitamins are retained. Some research reports indicate that more Vitamin C is retained in broccoli, tomatoes, cabbage, and more thiamine and riboflavin remained in meat when those foods are cooked in a microwave oven.

The lack of the browning. reaction means less lysine (the amino acid which combines with a sugar molecule and produces the brown colors) has been tied up and protein quality may be slightly higher. This factor is eliminated when a browning pan is used.

Although microwave cooking doesn't add to the nutritional quality of a particular food, it can help that food retain its optimal

nutrient potential

Ice Cream Should Be Hard When You Buy It

When you buy ice cream at the store, it should be hard and you should keep it that way. Here are some tips for handling ice cream or frozen desserts.

When you buy ice cream at the store, make sure that it is hard. Products stored at 0°F or below, as required, will be solid and not spongy. You will not be able to depress the sides of the container.

Buy frozen foods at the store just before going to the checkout counter. Pack frozen foods together in a double bag. Go directly home and place frozen foods in your home freezer immediately.

When you serve ice cream, use a scoop which you have heated in warm water. Do not let ice cream set on the kitchen shelf to soften. After dishing out servings, return the ice cream and container to the freezer.

Manufacturers of ice cream and other frozen dairy desserts keep the products at about minus 40°F. This prevents ice crystal formation and assures a smooth texture. At these temperatures, ice cream will have good quality and texture for more than a year. It is a matter of safety and wholesomeness. Keep your freezer at 0°F or colder, if you plan to keep any frozen dairy desserts for longer than two weeks.

Grange Sewing Contest

for the National Grange Sewing Contest are now being accepted. Sewing done between Oct. 1, 1985 and April 15, 1986 is eligible.

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WHITE HALL, Md. - Entries For details, contact Louisa Hott at 692-2438; Hilda Isenock at 879-9072; Mary Riley at 472-2263; Betsy Galbreath at 836-1803; or Edith Kilby at 658-6660.





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