

Have You Heard?

By Doris Thomas Lancaster Extension

Home Economist

Eat a Variety of Food

If a vote were taken among nutrition educators, the most common nutrition mesage would probably be eat a variety of food. However the word variety has many different meanings among consumers and professionals.

For some people, variety simply means a little bit of everything. For others, it implies eating foods from each of the food groups. Yet, for others, the phrase means choosing a wider variety of food within each of the food groups. Many people consider variety to also include differences in food preparation and in the timing and size of meals.

It is important to clarify just what nutrition educators mean by variety. Studies indicate that it is sufficient to recommend that people choose different foods from among the five major food groups. Nutrition will improve for most people following this advice.

While eating a wider variety of foods from within each group also improves nutrition, research indicates that it is not more healthful to eat or drink five different kinds of milk and milk products than it is to consume just one kind. The same applies to each of the other food groups — grains, dairy products, fruits and vegetables, meat and meat alternates, and fats, sweets and alcohol.

Researchers at the Penn State University also found that increased variety in the diet benefits some people more than others. Of course, people with little variety in their diets to begin with will benefit most. But a varied diet appears to

benefit women more than men. and adolescents and young to middle-aged adults seem to benefit more than other age groups.

Eating a variety of food, in other words making sure you eat something from each of the food groups each day, can really make a contribution to good nutrition. If you fit into one of the high benefit categories — teens, young adults, women, or anyone with a limited diet - you can benefit most from paying attention to the tried and true message: Eat a variety of

MILK: A low-fat beverage

Many people think that milk is high in fat. However, it is actually a lowfat beverage.

Whole or regular milk is more than 96 percent fat-free. An eightounce glass of whole milk has 150 calories and about 30 milligrams of cholesterol.

Most lowfat milk contains 2 percent milkfat, but you can find 1.5 and 1 percent milkfat products in some markets. Two percent milkfat provides 120 calories per eight-ounce glass if it is not fortified with milk solids. 1.5 and 1 percent milkfat milk provide only slightly fewer calories.

An eight-ounce glass of milk contains 90 calories and about five milligrams of cholesterol.

Include milk in your diet to get the calcium your body needs and to prevent osteoporosis in later years. It makes little difference in what form you include milk. You can get the equivalent of the recommended two glasses a day by eating cottage cheese, yogurt or other dairy products.

Yellow Rose 4-H Club

The Yellow Rose 4-H club is sponsoring its first annual Open Horse Show, May 11 at the Luzerne County Fairgrounds.

The show will have 40 classes which will include Western Pleasures and Equitations, Hunter Horses and Ponies. 4-H Pleasures and Equitations, Gynkanna and Pee Wee classes will be offered. A trophy and six ribbons are awarded in each class.

Refreshments will be served on the grounds with many homemade baked items offered. Admission is free to the public.

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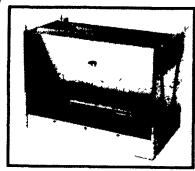
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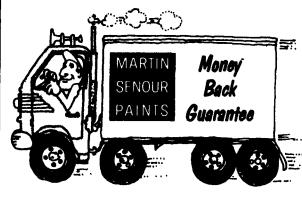
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