Consuming Thoughts by Fay Strickler Penn State Extension Home Economist For Berks Co.

The first Thanksgiving was a celebration to give thanks for the bountiful harvest. Today, Thanksgiving has become the "pigout" holiday, where people enjoy overeating. In fact, Thanksgiving heralds in the holiday season of festivities that usually includes over-indulging in many favorite holiday foods that are high in fat and cholesterol. By the time January comes around, many of us find we have wider waistlines and tighter clothes. It doesn't have to be this way. You can come through this holiday season unscathed by using modified recipes and following these suggestions:

 Don't starve yourself before a big dinner. It is too easy to overeat when you are very hungry.

• Start the meal with clear soup such as chicken or vegetable soup. These relatively low-calorie soups will fill you up so you don't overeat other high calorie foods.

 Take a walk. Walking after a meal can aid digestion and help burn off some of the calories.

 Modify recipes whenever possible. If you must serve creamed dishes, make the sauces without added fat and use evaporated skim milk instead of cream. Try finding alternatives for high fat, high calorie foods. Try reducing the fat or sugar in a recipe. In some recipes, solid shortenings can be replaced by

vegetable oil, reducing the amount by ¼ — ¼ of amount called for in the recipe.

 Plan before you go to a party. Have a cup of soup and a salad just before you go. Try to eat conservative amounts of foods, and drink plenty of water or seltzer. Try these modified recipes of old holiday favorites:

> Low-fat, Low **Cholesterol Pumpkin Pie** (makes one 9-inch pie, 8 servings)

1/2 cup packed brown sugar

1 teaspoon cinnamon

½ teaspoon ginger

1/4 teaspoon cloves

1-1/2 cups (canned or fresh) pumpkin

1 can evaporated skim milk

3 egg whites, beaten until foamy

1 unbaked pie crust

Mix brown sugar, spices and pumpkin together. Add milk and egg whites and beat until thoroughly mixed. Pour into pastry lined pan. Bake in preheated 400° oven for 45-50 minutes, or until knife inserted near center of pie comes out clean. Calories: 265 per serving.

Half and Half **Pie Crust**

½ cup whole wheat flour

½ cup white flour ½ teaspoon salt

into a pie plate.

2 tablespoons margarine

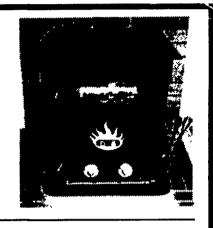
3 tablespoons corn oil 2-3 tablespoons ice water

Mix flour and salt together. Cut in margarine. In a liquid measuring cup, mix the oil and water. Add the oil and water mixture to the dough a little at a time, stirring the dough with a fork. Roll out the dough and fit

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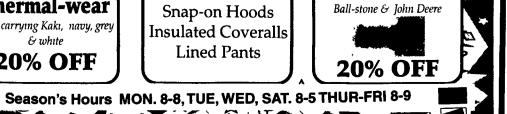
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