# Family Living **Focus** by Lois J. Killcoyne Northampton County Cooperative Extension

Healthy Eating — Healthy You After a long, cold winter, spring has finally arrived. Along with the robins and thoughts of summer vacations, we celebrate National Nutrition Month in March.

The theme this year is "Healthy Eating — Healthy You." Goals are to make informed food choices, develop sound eating habits, and participate in regular physical activity.

Our health is strongly influenced by what we eat. Our bodies need more than 50 nutrients to function well. No single food contains all the vitamins and minerals necessary to maintain the en-

LOST

STREAM

The STREAM MAP OF OHIO

resembles another map--known to

Pennsylvania anglers as the "Lost

Pennsylvania" was completed in

Howard Higbee, a former Penn State

Professor Higbee succeeded in

creating a map of the highest detail

possible a map that shows every

stream and lake He painstakingly

The map sold extremely well until it was lost several years later

Incredibly, the printer entrusted with

carelessly hauled Higbee's 30 years

The few remaining dog-eared

copies became a prized fisherman's

possession. Professor Higbee was

offered \$400 for one of his last

maps. And state agencies were

forced to keep their copies under

reprint the map Holding an updated

Then, by combining Professor

Higbee's knowledge with computer

technology -- the STREAM MAP OF

map, Howard said, "I never thought

I'd live to see this day '

OHIO was created

the original drawing and printing

plates declared bankruptcy, then

of work to the landfill

lock and key

plotted by hand, the location of

45,000 miles of streams onto a

1965 after a 30 year effort by

The "Stream Map of

Stream Map '

Professor

3 by 5 foot map

ergy and vibrant health that allows us to pursue a meaningful lifestyle.

Although there is some talk of revising the Food Guide Pyramid, it is still a valid model for healthy eating. To maximize the benefits to enhance health, individualize choices to your needs and preferences while utilizing the following strategies:

1. Eat the minimum number of servings from each food group. Consume at least 6 servings of grains, 3 servings of vegetables, 2 servings of fruit, 2-3 servings of milk products, 2 from the meat group, and small amounts of fats. Intake on a particular day may

vary, but overall intake over a period of time should balance out. If you have a busy schedule and miss out on vegetable intake one day, plan a vegetarian meal for dinner the next. You may have a baked potato topped with broccoli and cheese, carrots, a salad, and bean soup.

2. Make healthier choices within each food group. Choosing a bowl of oatmeal for breakfast versus a doughnut, nonfat milk or yogurt versus those made with whole milk, or broiled flounder (1 gram fat) versus prime rib (80 grams of fat) can make a huge difference in your total calorie and fat intake for the day.

3. Watch portion sizes! Servings both at home and in restaurants have increased tremendously over the past decades. Plates get bigger and bigger. Our lunch plate of today is the size of a dinner plate 30 years ago. Restaurants serve entrees that could serve a family! Recent studies by Dr. Barbara Rolls of Penn State University found that putting a larger portion of food on a plate or in the serving bowl resulted in eating more of the food. So ask for a doggie bag and have another meal free, or prepare smaller

amounts of food and save money as well as maintaining a healthier weight. There's nothing to lose!

4. Eat healthy snacks. Take foods with you in the car or to the office so you are not dependent on the office supply of doughnuts or vending machine candy bars and chips. Fruit, nuts, graham crackers or baby carrots provide nutrients as well as fewer calories.

5. Increase intake of foods with fiber. Most Americans consume only 10-12 grams of fiber a day instead of the recommended 25-30 grams. Dr. Rolls also found that fiber-rich foods result in feeling fuller for a longer period of time, decreasing the incidence of overeating calories. Fiber is also necessary to maintain colon health and decrease blood cholesterol and blood glucose levels. The milk and meat groups (except for nuts and beans) do not contain fiber. Neither do sugars or fats. Eating lots of fruits (not juice), vegetables, and whole grains is the way to go.

6. Read labels! In our world of highly processed and fast foods, it is the only way to make informed choices. Depending on your goals, you may want to

focus in on total calories, total fat, saturated fat, sodium, fiber or specific vitamins and minerals. Fat free is not calorie free — fat free desserts may contain more calories than the original version - a problem if you are working toward weight maintenance. Cholesterol-free does not mean the food is healthy for your heart. Look at total fat and saturated fat. They both affect your blood cholesterol. Buy foods higher in fiber. Some cereals have less than one gram of fiber, while bran cereals have 9 or more. Many "juices" are primarily sugar water and may contain only 10 percent juice. Look for 100 percent juice products.

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of National Nutrition Month, resolve to be a wise consumer and reap the benefits of better health, as well as good taste. A healthy diet does not mean elimination of all sweets and fats - small portions of desserts or an occasional piece of fried chicken can fit into your

menu plan.

Stay active - turn off the TV and go for a walk, dig in the garden, or dance with a child. Then sit down to a big bowl of fresh fruit topped with lowfat yogurt!

**Get Ready for Fishing Season!** 

# Stream Maps

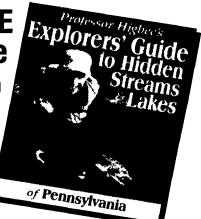
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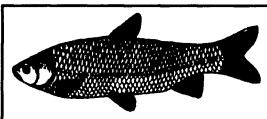
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