



Family and Consumer Science



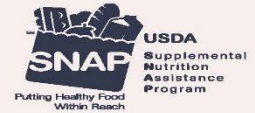
Cooperative Extension Service

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Nan Montgomery
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Agent for Family & Consumer Sciences

Vegetarian Taco Soup



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Nutrition facts per serving:
220 calories;
3.5g total fat;
0g saturated fat;
0g trans fat; 0mg cholesterol; 340mg sodium; 40g total carbohydrate; 5g dietary fiber; 6g total sugars; 10g added sugars; 10g protein; 0% Daily Value of vitamin D; 6% Daily Value of calcium; 10% Daily Value of iron; 15% Daily Value of potassium.

Source:
Andrea Wilde, Staff Support, Northern KY; and Martha Yount, Nutrition Education Specialist, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 can (46 ounces) no-salt-added tomato juice
- 2 cans (15 ounces) pinto beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15 ounces) black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15 ounces) no-salt-added corn, drained
- 1 can (15 ounces) no-salt-added diced tomatoes
- 3/4 cup dry brown rice
- 1 packet reduced-sodium taco seasoning mix
- 2 tablespoons garlic powder
- 1/2 tablespoon cumin
- 4 cups water

Optional toppings: cilantro, cheese, diced onion, crushed tortilla chips, sour cream, jalapeno, hot sauce, or avocado.

1. Wash hands with warm water and soap, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds.
2. Heat olive oil in a large pot on the stovetop over medium heat.
3. Add diced onion and stir well.
4. Cook and stir for 4 to 5 minutes or until the onion starts to turn clear.
5. Add remaining ingredients and bring to a boil.
6. Reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer for 40 minutes, or until rice is tender.
7. Just as you would a taco, top each bowl of soup with ingredients like cilantro, cheese, diced onion, crushed tortilla chips, sour cream, jalapeno, hot sauce, or avocado.
8. Refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours.

Makes 14 cups
Serving size: 1 cup
Cost per recipe: \$9.11
Cost per serving: \$0.65



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Following us online is an easy way to keep up with Ohio County FCS Extension.

Family and Consumer Sciences Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/UKFCSExt>

University of Kentucky Family and Consumer Sciences Podcast

Extension Podcast: <https://ukfcsext.podbean.com/>

Check out our county website for information on all program areas.

<http://ohio.ca.uky.edu/>



Homemaker Happenings

Thought of the Day: "A woman is like a bag of tea: you never know how strong it is until it's in hot water." -Eleanor Roosevelt

Roll Call: March is Women's history month. Name a woman from history you admire?

Dates to Remember:

March 1st Cultural Arts Writing due

March 14th Homemaker Leader Lesson Daviess County 10:00 AM

March 29th & 30th Body Walk

April 27th-29th Homemaker Yard Sale

Big Blue Book Club

March 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd meets via zoom 10:00 EST

Workshops

March 13th & 14th Easter basket making @ 9:00am

March 13th - Cultural Arts Projects due to Extension Office. Judging will be March 15th.

March 21st Spring Burlap Banner class @ 1:30pm

April 11th Homemade pizza crust class @ 1:00pm

April ? Cupcake decorating class with Sweet Dreams by Jarren @5:00pm

I need a homemaker volunteer to help with Body Walk on March 30th at Ohio County Middle School from 7:00-2:30. We will be passing out food samples to the middle school students. Very fun and easy day!



Reminders: If Ohio County Schools are closed then all FCS activities are canceled.

Mark your calendar for the Ohio County Homemaker yard sale in April.

Please bring in nice items on April 27th to be sold at the yard sale. **To make this work we will need a few volunteers.**

Set up on April 27th 9:00-1:00

April 28th 8:00-4:00

April 29th 9:00 to Noon



Calling all Gardeners and Crafters!!

The Beaver Dam Community Farmers Market is looking for more vendors this season. Please reach out to John Stofer for more information 270-256-2799.



Thank you to everyone who participated in the January and February workshops!

Check out our dates for upcoming workshops in the newsletter.

SHRINKFLATION: INCREASING PRICES, DECREASING QUANTITY

You have likely noticed increased prices when shopping lately, but have you also noticed packaging sizes are shrinking? This is known as “shrinkflation.” Let’s unpack what this means for your household and explore ways to be more mindful when shopping.

UNDERSTANDING SHRINKFLATION

Sometimes called downsizing, *shrinkflation* occurs when companies maintain current prices (or even increase prices ever so slightly) while giving you less product. The size differences are often small enough to keep the physical packaging the same, such as a bag of chips shrinking from 13 ounces to 11 ounces, or a package of bacon shrinking from 16 ounces to 12 ounces. These small changes can easily go unnoticed. In fact, manufacturers are counting on consumers not paying attention to the amount of product in their packages, especially when it comes to shrinking sizes.

WHY SHRINKFLATION MATTERS

Even small changes in the amount of a food or household item can add up quickly and impact your monthly budget. The less of the item you receive, the more often you need to repurchase it. Take toilet paper, for example, which was quite the commodity in 2020. Would you notice if your toilet paper contained just 312 sheets per roll instead of its usual 340 sheets? For the same price, there would be less than 92% as many sheets per roll



than before it was downsized, and you will likely go through each package approximately 8% faster.

TIP #1: NOTICE PACKAGING CHANGES

To combat shrinkflation, pay attention to slight changes in packaging on the products you buy, from cereal to toilet paper to shampoo. While not all shrinking products will come with new packaging or a “new look,” some companies may make boxes or bottles taller and narrower to trick the eye into believing it holds more product than it does. Also, be wary of ‘bonus buys’ that promise additional product. Compare the ‘bonus buy’ to the regular product to ensure it contains more.

TIP #2: CALCULATE UNIT PRICE

Shrinkflation is a legal tactic companies can use to save money from a production standpoint. The Fair Packaging and Labeling Act requires businesses to clearly label an accurate weight

CALCULATING AND COMPARING UNIT PRICES HELPS YOU COMBAT SHRINKFLATION



on its packaging so that customers can comparison shop between like items. However, it doesn't prohibit companies from decreasing an item's weight if they clearly label the amount of product contained in the package.

Calculating and comparing unit prices helps you combat shrinkflation. Unit prices help you compare different brands and different sizes of the same brand. Unit prices show you the price per unit, such as pounds or ounces, and are located on the shelf price tag, not on individual packages. You can also calculate the unit price of an item by dividing the price of the item by the number of units.

For example, let's compare the unit price of two packages of bacon. Bacon #1 is priced at \$4.69 and contains 12 ounces. Bacon #2 is priced at \$5.38 and contains 16 ounces. When we divide price by units, Bacon #1 has a unit price of \$0.39 per ounce, and Bacon #2 has a unit price of \$0.33 per ounce. Although Bacon #2 costs more, you get more bacon in the pack, and it has a lower unit price than Bacon #1.

TIP #3: SAVE WHEN YOU CAN

Finally, keep an eye out for sales and consider stocking up on freezer or self-stable household staples when you find a deal. Between inflation (the rising costs of goods and services) and shrinkflation (the shrinking amount of goods we receive), many households may find it difficult to "bring home the bacon" because it's getting harder to afford it! Using smart shopping strategies like couponing, buying generic brands, and utilizing customer loyalty programs can also help you maximize your resources.

REFERENCES:

<https://research.stlouisfed.org/publications/page1-econ/2022/12/01/beyond-inflation-numbers-shrinkflation-and-skimpflation>

https://consumerfed.org/press_release/coping-with-shrinkflation-tips-on-making-ends-meet-as-packages-get-smaller-and-inflation-carries-on/

<https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2021/07/06/1012409112/beware-of-shrinkflation-inflations-devious-cousin>

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