Healthy Eating for Vegetarians

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Food Guide Pyramid for Vegetarians

Tips for a Healthy Vegetarian Diet

- Vegetarian diets can be healthy as long as you eat a variety of foods.
- If you are trying to cut calories and fat, avoid high fat foods even if they do come from plant sources (such as avocados).
- Eat breads and cereals with added vitamins and minerals.
- Consume soy milk products with added vitamins and minerals.
- Look for vegetarian burger patties.

What is a Vegetarian?
A vegetarian is someone who does not eat meat, fish or poultry. There are different types of vegetarians.

1. Lacto-ovo vegetarian – someone who eats milk products and eggs, but no meat, fish or poultry
2. Lacto-vegetarian – someone who eats milk products, but no meat, fish, poultry or eggs
3. Vegan – someone who eats no animal products at all

What is Soy?
Soybeans are a type of legume that can be made into many products. Soybean products can be a healthy way to get vitamins and minerals. Some products are:

- Soy milk – a non-dairy drink
- Soy flour
- Tofu – a soybean curd shaped like a soft cake
Quick and Healthy Snacks

You don’t have to be a vegetarian to enjoy these quick and healthy snacks!

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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Granola</td>
<td>Vegetable juice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pretzels</td>
<td>Veggies with dip</td>
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<tr>
<td>Popcorn</td>
<td>Pita pocket with veggies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bagel</td>
<td>Peanuts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oatmeal</td>
<td>Peanut butter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muffin</td>
<td>Trail mix</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any fruit</td>
<td>Hummus with pita bread</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fruit leather</td>
<td>Cottage cheese with fruit</td>
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<tr>
<td>100% fruit juice</td>
<td>Yogurt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dried fruit</td>
<td>Soy or dairy milk</td>
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<td>Fruit shakes</td>
<td>Bean tortilla or taco</td>
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A Word About Beans and Legumes...

Why should you include more beans and legumes? These foods can add nutrients and fiber to your diet. If you don’t know what to do with beans, try these suggestions:

- Make a soup with cooked beans and vegetables
- Try making a taco or burrito topped with cooked beans, tomatoes, and lettuce
- Include cooked beans on top of your garden salad
- Substitute beans for meat in your favorite casseroles, stews or chili

Tennessee Corn Pone Serves 10-12

4 cups canned or cooked beans (pinto or kidney)
2 cups cornmeal
2 Tsp. baking soda
1 Tsp. salt
1 quart buttermilk
2 eggs, slightly beaten
1/4 cup margarine

Preheat oven to 450º. Heat beans until quite hot and pour into a lightly greased 9”x13” baking dish. Mix the cornmeal, baking soda, and salt in a large bowl. Melt the margarine and combine with buttermilk and eggs. Stir the wet and dry ingredients together until smooth and pour them over the hot beans. Bake on the top rack of your oven until bread is a rich golden color and the sides of the corn bread pull away from the sides of the pan. This takes about 30 minutes.

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