Lentil Loaf

Lentils are an excellent source of fiber and protein with very little fat. This recipe is from Dr. Caldwell Esselstyn, Jr.'s book Prevent and Reverse Heart Disease. It is a perfect combination of plant-based protein, dark leafy greens and whole grains. It's delicious and nutrient-packed! Leftovers of this dish make a great sandwich!

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups dry lentils, sorted and rinsed
- 2 1/2 cups water
- 2 medium onions, chopped (about 1 1/2 cups)
- 6 fresh mushrooms, chopped
- 2 cups packed fresh spinach, chopped
- 1 (15 oz.) can petite diced tomatoes
- 2 cups cooked brown rice
- 1 teaspoon EACH garlic powder and dried sage
- 1 teaspoon Mrs. Dash's garlic and herb seasoning blend
- 1/2 teaspoon marjoram
- 1 cup Simply Heinz Ketchup or BBQ sauce without high-fructose corn syrup

Instructions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cook lentils in 2 1/2 cups water until tender, then partially mash lentils in the cooking water. Set aside. Stir-fry onions and mushrooms in a small amount of broth or water in a large nonstick pan. Add spinach and cover for a few minutes while spinach wilts. Remove from heat. Add onions, mushrooms, spinach, tomatoes, rice, and seasonings to lentils. Mix thoroughly. Press into a 9x5 inch loaf pan OR 9x12 inch baking dish and spread ketchup or BBQ sauce on top. Use more or less sauce to cover mixture. Bake for 30-45 minutes, depending upon which pan is used. If using a 9x5 pan, let the loaf rest for 10-15 minutes before turning onto a platter and slicing.