### We Love Corn On The Cob

BY SHARON THOMPSON

Lexington Herald-Leader (MCT)

July's abundant crop of sweet corn is delayed a bit in some areas because of the wet spring, but don't let that stop you from enjoying fresh corn on the cob.

Some corn has arrived at farmers markets — keep watch at the markets near

There are lots of good recipes for preparing fresh corn. One of the best is grilling corn on the cob in its husk. Simply throw the ears on the grill in one layer and cover. The corn steams in its husk and picks up a mild smokiness from the grill.

#### **GRILLED CORN WITH CHILI-CILANTRO BUTTER**

12 ears corn, with husks 1 stick unsalted butter, at room temperature

4 teaspoons chili powder 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped

1 tablespoon honey 1/2 cup finely chopped cilantro

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt 1/2 teaspoon black pep-

Directions:

Preheat grill. Place corn ears in their husks over lowburning coals (or over low heat on a gas grill) and cover the grill. Cook corn, turning occasionally, until it is tender, 35 to 45 minutes. Transfer corn (still in husks) to a serving platter.

Meanwhile, heat 2 tablespoons butter in a small heavy skillet over medium heat until it is melted. Stir in chili powder and garlic and cook, stirring constantly, until garlic is golden and chili powder is fragrant, less than 1 minute. Transfer chili powder mixture to a food processor, then add honey, cilantro, remaining 6 tablespoons butter, salt and pepper, and pulse to combine. Transfer chili-cilantro butter to a bowl and serve with corn. Makes 12 servings.

–From "The Farm" by Ian Knauer

#### **CORN RELISH**

4 ears corn 2 bell peppers, green or red, seeded and diced 2 celery stalks, finely

sliced 1 red chile, seeded and

- sliced 1 onion, peeled and sliced
- 2 cups white wine vinegar 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons sea salt 2 teaspoons mustard
- powder 1/2 teaspoon ground

turmeric

Directions:

Strip kernels from corn cobs using a sharp knife. Blanch them in a saucepan of boiling water for 2 minutes, then drain well. Put corn and other ingredients in a saucepan, bring to a boil, and stir. Simmer gently, stirring, for 15 to 20 minutes. Check seasoning, then spoon into warmed sterilized jars. leaving 1/4-inch head space. The relish should be a spoonable consistency and wetter than a chutney. Cover, seal with non-metallic or vinegar-proof lids, and heatprocess for 5 minutes, then label. Once opened, store jars in refrigerator. Makes 2 large jars.

—From "Vegetables Please" by Carolyn Humphries

This is a classic recipe for corn pudding, but adding buttermilk instead of milk makes a sort of cheesy curd that clings to the corn kernels in the finished dish. The smoky, slightly sweet flavor of ancho chile powder is perfect with corn.

#### **SPICY SUMMER CORN PUDDING**

10 ears corn

1 1/2 cups buttermilk 1/2 cup unbleached all-

purpose flour 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

2 teaspoons ancho chile powder

1 1/2 teaspoons salt

Directions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter a 2-quart casserole dish.

Cut kernels off corn and place in a large bowl. Add remaining ingredients and stir to combine well. Pour into prepared dish and bake 40 minutes, or until puffed and golden. Serve hot. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

From "The Animal Farm Buttermilk Cookbook" by Diane St. Clair

#### **GRILLED CORN, POBLANO AND BLACK BEAN SALAD**

2 ears shucked corn 2 tablespoons extra-virgin

olive oil, divided 4 green onions 1 avocado, peeled, halved, and pitted

1 large red bell pepper 1 large poblano chile Cooking spray 1/2 cup chopped fresh

3 tablespoons fresh lime

cilantro

1 teaspoon ground cumin 1/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper 1 can (15 ounces) unsalted black beans, rinsed and

drained Directions:

Preheat grill to high heat. Brush corn with 2 teaspoons oil. Place green onions, avocado, bell pepper, poblano and corn on grill rack coated with cooking spray. Grill onions 2 minutes on each side or until lightly browned. Grill avocado 2 minutes on each side or until well marked. Grill bell pepper 6 minutes on each

side or until blackened; peel. Grill corn 12 minutes or until beginning to brown on all sides, turning occasionally.

Cut kernels from ears of corn; place in large bowl. Chop onions, bell pepper and poblano; add to bowl. Add 4 teaspoons oil, cilantro and next 5 ingredients; toss well. Cut avocado into thin slices; place on top of salad. Makes 6 servings.

—From "Cooking Light Pick Fresh Cookbook'



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Indulge your appetite for sweet corn by shopping farmers markets, roadside stands and local grocers for freshly picked ears, then crunching your way around cob after cob after cob.

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