BUDGET BYTE\$ SAMPLE ONE WEEK VEGETARIAN MEAL PLAN

MEAL PLANNING MADE EASY WITH DELICIOUS RECIPES DESIGNED FOR SMALL BUDGETS



HUNGRY FOR MORE?

GET FULL MONTHLY MEAL PLANS with WEEKLY MENUS and CUSTOM GROCERY LISTS at:

>>>>>>>> BUDGETBYTES.COM/MEALPLANS

FOLLOW ME:



Copyright © 2019 Budget Bytes.

All rights reserved. Nothing contained herein constitutes nutritional or medical advice. The contents of this book are protected by copyright. Unauthorized duplication is not allowed without express written permission.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

LET'S GET COOKING! 5

ABOUT THIS MEAL PLAN 6

HOW TO USE THIS MEAL PLAN 8

WEEK ONE

- **13** Smoky Potato Chickpea Stew
- 14 Fresh Tomato Basil Pasta with Ricotta
- 15 BBQ Bean Sliders with Smoky Garlic Oven Fries
- 16 Spanish Chickpeas with Rice
- 17 Garlicky Kale and Ricotta Pizza
- Sweet Potato Tacos with Lime Crema and Warm Corn and Avocado Salad



LET'S GET COOKING!

Hello, and welcome to the Budget Bytes Meal Plans! I've created these meal plans to help make your life a little easier, but also in hopes that this will be the jumping off point on your meal planning journey.

I hope these meal plans will help get you comfortable with the meal planning process, so that one day you'll be able to create your own customized meal plans that are tailored to your lifestyle.

And hey, if meal planning for yourself is not your goal, we're happy to do the work for you. We will have a fresh stream of pre-made meal plans coming your way soon!

So, let's get cooking, shall we?

Beth Moncel

Owner, Budget Bytes

PS: If you enjoyed this sample meal plan, get full monthly meal plans with weekly menus and custom grocery lists at: **budgetbytes.com/mealplans**

ABOUT THIS MEAL PLAN

This four week meal plan^{*} is designed to give you a variety of satisfying, well balanced dinners, all while maximizing your food budget and reducing waste. This vegetarian meal plan is designed to be classic lacto-ovo vegetarian, which includes eggs and dairy ingredients.

*This is a sample one week plan taken from the full four week monthly meal plan, with weekly menus and custom grocery lists available at: **budgetbytes.com/mealplans**

THE MENUS

Each of the four weeks include six days of dinners, with one "freebie day" designed in, so you can either eat up your leftover portions from the week, or take a night off and eat out. Because let's be real, sometimes you just need a night off, and allowing yourself to do so once in a while will help you stick to the plan the rest of the week. We've made the freebie day the last day of the week so you can use your ingredients while they are the most fresh, and you can use that "cook free" day to do the shopping for the next week.

You can choose to do all four weeks in succession, or mix and match the weeks as you see fit.

THE MEALS

Each meal provides 4-6 servings. This meal size can work great for couples or small families. Leftover portions can be taken to work or school the next day for lunch, or often times frozen for later on. Having single portions of meals stashed in the freezer ready to reheat at a moment's notice is a lifesaver!

Some meals are an all-in-one dish with no need for a side, while others are served with a second simple recipe on the side to round out the meal and keep it balanced.

CALENDARS AND SHOPPING LISTS

This meal plan includes a monthly calendar with all four weeks listed in one place, as well as individual weekly calendars, so you can concentrate on one week at a time.

Each weekly plan includes a shopping list, six recipes, notes for saving and using leftover ingredients, as well as notes about what should be saved for the next week, or what you might have on hand from a previous week's menu.

Each weekly shopping list is included in the master pdf, and also available as an individual file so it can be easily printed or saved to your phone for easy access when shopping.

LEFTOVERS

Making the most of your leftover ingredients is a major theme in this meal plan. We've included suggestions throughout for using up leftover ingredients. While it's not always possible to find uses for 100% of the ingredients you purchase, just being mindful and proactive about using leftovers will help reduce your regular weekly food waste by a considerable amount. Every effort counts.

GENERAL INGREDIENT BUYING TIPS

- Buy yellow onions in 2-5 lb. bags instead of individually because you'll be using them frequently throughout the month and they are fairly shelf stable.
- I highly suggest using a bouillon or broth concentrate that you can keep on hand to mix up any amount of broth needed. This method is much less expensive than buying cans or boxes of broth, it reduces waste, and uses less packaging. My favorite is Better Than Bouillon, which comes in several flavors, low sodium, and organic versions.
- Salt and pepper are not included in the grocery lists. Make sure you're stocked with both.
- Your shopping lists will likely get shorter throughout the month as your kitchen becomes stocked with basic ingredients.



STEP 1

The day before the week begins, review the menu for the week, along with the recipe notes, and tips for saving leftover ingredients.

STEP 2

Review the recipes. If there are any ingredients or techniques that you are unfamiliar with, don't hesitate to reach out to us for help! You can request help in the **Budget Bytes Meal Plans Facebook group**, or by emailing support@budgetbytes.com. Make sure to include which meal plan you're working on and the title of the recipe.

STEP 3

Shop your pantry, freezer, and refrigerator. Take the shopping list for that week into your kitchen and go down the list, item by item, crossing off ingredients you already have and making notes about pantry staples that you may need to restock. Many ingredients in this meal plan carry over from week to week, either in your pantry or freezer, so it's critical that you check each week, even when there isn't a specific note in the meal plan.

STEP 4

Take it to the store! Take your modified shopping list to the store and purchase the remaining items on your list.

STEP 5

Time to get cooking! Each day, before you begin your recipe(s), make sure to read the recipe through, from start to finish, so you understand the workflow. If you're having trouble with a recipe, you can reach out to us or visit the recipe on the website to view the step by step photos, or video when available.

STEP 6

Save those leftovers! Portion your cooked meal into single servings and refrigerate for later, or if it's a freezer-friendly dish (as indicated by the asterisk on the weekly menu), freeze for longer storage.

STEP 7

On the last day of the week, your "freebie day", start planning for the following week by going back to step 1!







WEEK ONE



* Leftover cooked portions are freezer-friendly

MONDAY

Smoky Potato and Chickpea Stew 🎇

Optional - buy crackers or bread for dipping.

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

Fresh Tomato Basil Pasta with Ricotta

BBQ Bean Sliders with Smoky Garlic Oven Fries

Spanish Chickpeas with Rice 🍀

FRIDAY

SUNDAY

THURSDAY

Garlicky Kale and Ricotta Pizza

Use your favorite store bought pizza dough or crust, or make your own using my Pizza Dough Recipe (ingredients not included in shopping list).

ATURDAY	Sweet Potato Tacos with Lime Crema and Avocado Sala
2	

Leftovers/eat out and shop for next week!

LEFTOVER INGREDIENT SUGGESTIONS

Hambuger buns - freeze

Ginger - buy one large knob of ginger and keep it in the freezer for use throughout the month.

Cilantro - extra cilantro can be served with Smoky Potato Chickpea Stew

Parsley - extra parsley can be added to coleslaw, used to top Garlic Oven Fries, or added to smoothies for extra greens.

Bagged coleslaw mix make a double batch of coleslaw and serve with lunches

Mozzarella - freeze

d

Red onion - save for use in Week 2

GROCERY LIST

BAKERY:

□ 1 large Pizza dough
 □ 4 large Hamburger buns
 □ 8 small Tortillas (6-inch)

CANNED GOODS:

□ 1 tablespoon Butter ①
DAIRY:
☐ 5 ½ cups Vegetable broth @®
□ 1 15 oz. can Fire roasted diced tomatoes ₪
□ 1 15 oz. can Diced tomatoes ®
🗌 1 15 oz. can Pinto beans 🛞
□ 2 15 oz. can Chickpeas @®
☐ 2 15 oz. can Black beans @③
☐ 1 15 oz. can Quartered artichoke hearts ®

☐ 1 cup Shredded mozzarella ⓒ
🗌 8 oz. Sour cream 🕥
回1½ cups Whole milk ricotta ⑦④

DRY GOODS:

□ 1 cup Uncooked long grain white rice ®

☐ 12 oz. Pasta (any shape) ⑦ ☐ Freshly cracked pepper ֎

FROZEN:

□ 1 pound Frozen corn ⑤

PRODUCE:

 \Box 1 Avocado (s) \square ½ cup Fresh basil \bigcirc \square ½ bunch Fresh cilantro (s) □ ½ lb. bagged Coleslaw mix (shredded cabbage & carrots) @ □ 11 clove Garlic M T W R F S □ 1 tsp Fresh ginger, grated @ □ 2 pints Grape tomatoes ⑦ \Box 1 lb. Kale $\boxtimes \mathbb{F}$ 1 Fresh lemon (R) 2 Limes (s) 5 Green onions (m) \square ¹/₄ Red onion (s) 3 Yellow Onions M@R

\square ¹/₄ bunch Fresh parsley \mathbb{R}

□ 2 Sweet potatoes (about 1.25 lbs. total) ⑤

☐ 4 ½ lbs. Russet potatoes @@

CONDIMENTS:

□ 1⁄2 Tbsp Honey 🛞
☐ 1⁄3 cup Mayonnaise ⊛
🗌 1 tsp Dijon mustard 🛞
□ 2 Tbsp Cooking oil ⑤
☐¾ cup Olive oil @⑦@®িS
□ ½ cup BBQ sauce
□ 1 tsp Red wine or apple cider vinegar ⑩

SPICES:

□ 1¼ tsp Cayenne pepper ®
□ 2 ¼ tsp Ground Cumin ®⑤
□ 1 tsp Curry powder ⊛
□1¼ tsp Garlic powder @④
☐ ½ tsp Dried oregano ®
☐ 2 Tbsp Smoked paprika @@®
□ pinch Crushed red pepper ⊛



SERVINGS 6 (just over 1 cup each)	PREP TIME 10 minutes	COOK TIME 1 hour	TOTAL TIME 1 hour 10 minutes		
INGREDIENTS	INSTRUCTIONS				
2 Tbsp olive oil	Tbsp olive oil 1. Finely dice the onion, mince the garlic, and grate the state of the state				
2 cloves garlic	pot with the	ginger. Add the onion, garlic, and ginger to a large soup pot with the olive oil and sauté over medium heat until the			
1 tsp fresh grated ginger	onions are s	onions are soft and transparent.			
1 onion		curry powder, smoked pa			
1 Tbsp curry powder		flakes to the pot and continue to stir and cook for 1-2 minutes more to toast the spices.			
1 Tbsp smoked paprika	3. While the onion, garlic, and ginger are sautéing, peel the				
pinch red pepper flakes	potatoes ar	potatoes and cut them into 1-inch cubes. Drain the chickpeas.			
1 15 oz can fire roasted diced		4. Once the spices are toasted, add potatoes, fire roasted			
tomatoes		diced tomatoes (with juices), and chickpeas to the pot. Pour			
2 russet potatoes (1.75-2 lbs total)	combined.	the vegetable broth over top, then stir until everything is combined.			
1 15 oz can chickpeas		5. Place a lid on the pot, turn the heat to medium-high, and allow it to come to a boil. Once boiling, turn the heat down t			
4 cups vegetable broth		ow the soup to simmer w	ith the lid in place for 45		
1/2 lb. fresh kale, chopped	minutes, st	rring occasionally.			
Get step by step photos & more: https://www.budgetbytes.com/ smoky-potato-chickpea-stew/	against the thicken the stew until it	 6. After 45 minutes, stir the stew well and smash the potatoes against the side of the pot to help them break down and thicken the stew. Add the chopped kale and stir it into the stew until it has wilted. Taste the soup and adjust the salt or other spices if desired. Serve with crusty bread or crackers. 			

FRESH TOMATO BASIL WITH RICOTTA

SERVINGS 4	PREP TIME 10 minutes	COOK TIME 15 minutes	TOTAL TIME 25 minutes			
INGREDIENTS	INSTRUCTIONS					
12 oz pasta (any shape)	1. Bring a large pot of water to a boil for the pasta. Once					
2 Tbsp olive oil	l the pasta and continue t erve about one cup of the	-				
2 cloves garlic	then drain	then drain the pasta in a colander.				
2 pints grape tomatoes		2. While the pasta is cooking, prepare the rest of the recipe.				
1 Tbsp butter	-	Slice the grape tomatoes in half and slice or roughly chop the basil. Mince the garlic.				
1/2 cup fresh basil, loosely packed 1/2 cup whole milk ricotta	heat. Once	3. Add the olive oil to a large skillet and place it over medium heat. Once hot, add the garlic and sauté for just one minute to take the raw edge off the garlic.				
salt & pepper to taste	Stir to com tomato sim Let the tom and they ha just be beg	4. Add the grape tomatoes and a pinch of salt to the skillet. Stir to combine, then place a lid on the skillet and let the tomato simmer for about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Let the tomatoes simmer just until they begin to break down and they have released their juices. The tomatoes should just be beginning to lose their shape and their skins should appear a bit wrinkled.				
	some to ga until the bu pepper as r	heat off and add the butte rnish with), and some fres atter is melted, then taste a needed. You want it to be s ness will dilute a bit once i	hly cracked pepper. Stir and adjust the salt and slightly on the salty side,			

6. Add the cooked and drained pasta and stir to coat the pasta in the tomato sauce. Add a splash or two of the reserved pasta water if the mixture appears dry.

7. Top the pasta with dollops of ricotta, a little more pepper, and any reserved basil, then serve!

Get step by step photos & more:

https://www.budgetbytes.com/fresh-tomato-basil-pasta-with-ricotta/

wednesday BBO BEAN SLIDERS

SERVINGS 4 to 6	PREP TIME 15 minutes	COOK TIME 15 minutes	TOTAL TIME 30 minutes		
INGREDIENTS	INSTRUCT	IONS			
1 Tbsp olive oil	1. Dice the	onion and mince the garlic	. Cook the onion and		
1 small yellow onion		garlic with the olive oil in a medium saucepan over medium			
1 clove garlic	heat until th	ne onion is soft and translu	icent (about 5 minutes).		
1 15 oz can black beans		 Rinse and drain the pinto and black beans in a colander. Add the drained beans, BBQ sauce, and smoked paprika to 			
1 15 oz can pinto beans		ot with the onions and gar			
1/2 cup BBQ sauce	then cook c occasionall	then cook over medium-low heat until warmed through (stir			
1/2 tsp smoked paprika					
(optional)		3. While the beans and BBQ sauce are heating, prepare the			
4 large hamburger buns	slaw. Add the cabbage coleslaw mix to a large bowl. Slice the green onions and add them to the bowl with the cabbage.				
FOR THE SLAW	1 lp a copa	rate small house make the	draccing for the claw		
4. In a separate small bowl, make the dressing for the s½ lb. bagged coleslaw mixStir together the mayonnaise, honey, Dijon, vinegar, sa(shredded cabbage and carrots)pepper until smooth. Add the dressing to the bowl with					
3 whole green onions, sliced	slaw mix ar	nd green onions, then stir t	o combine.		
1/3 cup mayonnaise	5. To make	the sliders, add a heaping	1/2 cup of BBQ beans to		
1/2 Tbsp honey	each bun, t	hen top with 1/2 cup of the	e slaw.		
1 tsp Dijon mustard	Get step by st	ep photos & more:			
1/4 tsp salt	https://www	.budgetbytes.com/bbq-bean	-sliders/		
1 tsp red wine or apple cider vinegar					
Freshly cracked pepper					

WEDNESDAY

SMOKY GARLIC OVEN FRIES

SERVINGS 4	PREP TIME 15 minutes	COOK TIME 45 minutes	TOTAL TIME 1 hour		
INGREDIENTS	INSTRUCT	TIONS			
2 lbs. russet potatoes	1. Preheat the oven to 400°F.				
2 Tbsp olive oil	2. Wash the potatoes well to remove any dirt or dust. Cut				
1 tsp garlic powder the potatoes into very thin, 1/4 inch matchsticks, thethem between the two baking sheets.					
1 tsp smoked paprika	3. Drizzle each sheet of potatoes with 1 Tbsp olive oil, then				
Generous salt and peppertoss the fries to coat. Make sure the fries and oil to prevent sticking. Sprinkle the fries with smoked paprika, salt, and freshly ground pep worry, they'll get tossed with the spices wher during the baking process.		ries with garlic powder, ound pepper. Don't			
	4. Bake the fries in the fully preheated 400°F oven, stirring gently with a spatula every 15 minutes. Bake until the fries are brown and crispy, but still slightly moist in the center, about 45 minutes. The fries will bake at different rates, depending on how thinly they are sliced, so keep a close eye.				
		tep photos & more: v.budgetbytes.com/smoky-g	arlic-oven-fries/		

BUDGETBYTES - 1 WEEK VEGETARIAN MEAL PLAN

THURSDAY

SPANISH CHICKPEAS AND RICE

SERVINGS 4 (1 cup each)	PREP TIME 5 minutes	COOK TIME 20 minutes	TOTAL TIME 25 minutes		
INGREDIENTS	INSTRUCT	IONS			
2 Tbsp olive oil	1. Mince the garlic and add it to a large deep skillet with the olive				
2 cloves garlic		oil. Cook over medium-low heat for 1-2 minutes, or just until the garlic is soft and fragrant. Add the smoked paprika, cumin,			
1/2 Tbsp smoked paprika		oregano, cayenne pepper, and some freshly cracked black pepper to the skillet. Sauté the spices in the hot oil for one more minute.			
1 tsp cumin		·			
1/2 tsp dried oregano	is soft and tr	2. Dice the onion and add it to the skillet. Sauté the onion until it is soft and translucent (about 5 min). Add the rice and sauté for 2			
1/4 tsp cayenne pepper	minutes mo	ſe.			
Freshly cracked black pepper		3. Drain the chickpeas and artichoke hearts, then add them to the skillet along with the can of diced tomatoes (with juices),			
1 yellow onion		vegetable broth, and a half teaspoon of salt. Roughly chop the			
1 cup uncooked long grain white rice	parsley and sprinkle ove	parsley and add it to the skillet, reserving a small amount to sprinkle over the finished dish. Stir all the ingredients in the skillet until evenly combined.			
1 15 oz. can diced tomatoes					
1 15 oz. can quartered artichoke hearts 1 15 oz. can chickpeas	Allow the sk the heat dov it's simmerin	4. Place a lid on the skillet and turn the heat up to medium-high. Allow the skillet to come to a boil. Once it reaches a boil, turn the heat down to low and let simmer for 20 minutes. Make sure it's simmering the whole time and adjust the heat up slightly if			
1 E cune vocatable brath	necessary to	keep it simmering.			
1.5 cups vegetable broth	5. After simm	nering for 20 minutes, turn	the heat off and let it rest		
1/2 tsp salt (or to taste)	for 5 minute	s without removing the lid.	Finally, remove the lid, fluf		
1/4 bunch fresh parsley		with a fork and top with the remaining chopped parsley. Cut the lemon into wedges and squeeze the fresh juice over each bowl.			
1 fresh lemon	Get step by st	ep photos & more:			

https://www.budgetbytes.com/spanish-chickpeas-and-rice/

FRIDAY GARLICKY KALE AND RICOTTA PIZZA

SERVINGS 4 (2 slices each)	PREP TIME 15 minutes	COOK TIME 15 minutes	TOTAL TIME 30 minutes		
INGREDIENTS	INSTRUCI	INSTRUCTIONS			
1 Tbsp olive oil	1. Preheat	 Preheat your oven to 400°F. If your kale is still on the stem, pull the leaves from the stems and tear them into 2-inch pieces. Rinse the kale well in a colander. 			
1 clove garlic, minced					
 6 cups torn kale leaves (about ½ 12. Place the minced garlic and olive oil in a large p sauté over medium heat for about one minute, or 			0		
1 large pizza dough	e	the garlic is soft and fragrant. Add the kale and continue to			
1 Tbsp olive oil		sauté for about 5 minutes, or until it has wilted. Season with a pinch of salt.			
1/4 tsp garlic powder	3. Stretch y	our pizza dough (about 1	2-14") and place it on		
1 cup whole milk ricotta		a pizza pan. In a small dish, combine the olive oil and garlic powder, then brush it onto the surface of the dough. Scatter			
1 cup shredded mozzarella	the sautéeo	d kale over the surface, th ally, sprinkle the shredded	en top with dollops of		
		e pizza for 15-20 minutes,			
		he cheese is melted, and the edges. Slice the pizza i	0		
	Get step by st	ep photos & more:			

https://www.budgetbytes.com/garlicky-kale-and-ricotta-pizza/

SATURDAY

SWEET POTATO TACOS WITH LIME CREMA

SERVINGS 4 (2 tacos each)	PREP TIME 20 minutes	COOK TIME 20 minutes	TOTAL TIME 40 minutes		
LIME CREMA	INSTRUCT	INSTRUCTIONS			
8 oz. tub sour cream	1. Prepare the crema first to allow the flavors to blend. Minc				
1 fresh lime		one clove of garlic and use a zester or small holed cheese grater to scrape the thin layer of green zest from the lime. Add			
1/4 tsp salt		the minced garlic, 1 tsp of the zest, about 1 tsp of lime juice, and 1/4 tsp salt to the sour cream. Stir the ingredients to			
1 clove garlic	-	combine then refrigerate until ready to use.			
TACOS		sweet potatoes, then cut t			
1 Tbsp olive oil		cubes (about 1/4 to 1/2 inch square). Heat a large skillet over medium, then add olive oil and two cloves of minced			
2 cloves garlic	e	garlic. Sauté the garlic for about a minute or just until it becomes fragrant. Add the diced sweet potato and a couple			
2 sweet potatoes (about 1 ¼ lbs. total)	•	tablespoons of water. Sauté the sweet potatoes until they			
1 15oz. can black beans	tablespoor	become soft and just begin to fall apart. Add another couple tablespoons of water during cooking if the skillet becomes dry before the sweet potatoes are soft.			
1 tsp cumin	3. Meanwh	ile, drain and rinse the car	of black beans. Once		
Salt and Pepper to taste	-	ootatoes are soft, add the b			
2 green onions		Season with cumin, salt, and pepper to taste. Sauté the mixture just until the beans are heated through.			
¼ bunch fresh cilantro (optional)		green onions and pull the ghly chop the cilantro. Stir			
8 small (taco sized) tortillas		into the skillet. Add the cilantro to the skillet if desired, or use it to top each taco.			

5. Prior to filling each tortilla, heat them in a dry skillet until slightly browned and crisp on each side, or carefully toast them over an open flame. Smear a small amount of the lime crema down the center of the tortilla, then top with a scoop of the sweet potato and black bean hash. Add fresh cilantro if desired.

Get step by step photos & more:

https://www.budgetbytes.com/sweet-potato-tacos-with-lime-crema/

SALAD

SERVINGS 4 (1 cup each)	PREP TIME 10 minutes	COOK TIME 7 minutes	TOTAL TIME 17 minutes
INGREDIENTS	INSTRUCTIONS		
2 Tbsp cooking oil	1. Make sure to let the corn thaw completely. Heat the		
1 lb. frozen corn kernels, thawed	cooking oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. When the oil is very hot and shimmering, add the thawed corn and sauté until the corn becomes golden brown and blistered.		
Salt and Pepper to taste	Remove the corn from the skillet and place it in a large bowl,		
1⁄4 tsp Ground Cumin	season with a pinch of salt, pepper, and 1/4 tsp cumin. Allow the corn to cool slightly.		
1⁄4 red onion	2. While the	e corn is cooling, prepare	the remaining
1 avocado		Finely dice the red onior	0
1⁄4 bunch Fresh cilantro	cilantro, and cube the avocado. Add the onion, cilantro, and avocado to the bowl with the corn. Stir briefly.		
1 lime			-
	3. Squeeze the juice from half the lime over the salad, stir, and taste. Adjust the salt and lime juice as needed. Serve		
	immediately, or refrigerate until ready to eat.		
	Get step by step photos & more:		

https://www.budgetbytes.com/warm-corn-avocado-salad/





HUNGRY FOR MORE?

GET FULL MONTHLY MEAL PLANS with WEEKLY MENUS and CUSTOM GROCERY LISTS at:

>>>>>>>> BUDGETBYTES.COM/MEALPLANS

FOLLOW ME:



Copyright © 2019 Budget Bytes.

All rights reserved. Nothing contained herein constitutes nutritional or medical advice. The contents of this book are protected by copyright. Unauthorized duplication is not allowed without express written permission.