



Cowboy Bell Pepper Baked Breakfast Hash for Dinner

By Erin Fletter

Prep Time 25 / **Cook Time** 40 / **Serves** 3 - 4

Fun-Da-Mentals Kitchen Skills

chop: to cut something into small, rough pieces using a blade.

crack: to break open or apart a food to get what's inside, like an egg or a coconut.

mix: to thoroughly combine two or more ingredients until uniform in texture.

sprinkle: to scatter small drops or particles of an ingredient evenly or randomly over food.

toss: to lightly lift and drop food items together or coat food items with flour, or a sauce or dressing, as in a salad.

Equipment

- Oven
- Sheet pan - 9" x 13" works well
- Parchment paper
- Oven mitt
- Large mixing bowl
- Dry measuring cups
- Measuring spoons
- Heat-resistant spatula
- Cutting board + kid-safe knife
- Paper towels
- Soap for cleaning hands

- Plates, forks, drinking glasses, napkins for serving

Ingredients

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- 8 oz (about 1 1/2 C) frozen hash browns
- 1 14-oz can pinto beans, drained and rinsed
- 3/4 C shredded cheddar cheese **** (for DAIRY ALLERGY sub dairy-free/nut-free cheese shreds, like Daiya brand)****
- 3 T olive oil, divided
- 1 tsp salt + more to sprinkle on eggs
- 1/4 tsp ground black pepper + more to sprinkle on eggs
- 3 green onions
- 1 red bell pepper
- 1 green bell pepper
- 1/2 tsp paprika
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 6 eggs **** (Omit for EGG ALLERGY)****

Food Allergen Substitutions

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Dairy: Substitute dairy-free/nut-free cheese shreds, like Daiya brand.

Egg: Omit eggs.

Instructions

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preheat + mix

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. In a bowl, mix together **8 ounces frozen hash browns, 1 can pinto beans** (drained and rinsed), **3/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese, 2 tablespoons olive oil, 1/2 teaspoon salt,** and **1/4 teaspoon black pepper.**

spread + bake

Evenly spread shredded potato mixture on your sheet pan. Once the oven preheats, slide the sheet pan into the oven and set a timer for 25 minutes.

chop + toss

Chop **3 green onions**, **1 red bell pepper**, and **1 green bell pepper**. Discard the stem and inner seeds of the peppers. Toss the chopped veggies with **1 tablespoon olive oil**, **1/2 teaspoon paprika**, **1/2 teaspoon garlic powder**, **1/2 teaspoon salt**, and **1/4 teaspoon black pepper**.

flip + spread

Once the timer for 25 minutes is up, adults can help remove the sheet pan from the oven. Use a spatula to flip the potatoes, then spread the bell pepper mixture on top of the potatoes.

crack + season + bake

Crack **6 eggs** over the bell peppers, making sure to crack them with an even amount of space between each egg. Season with salt and pepper and return to the oven to bake for another 15 minutes. Serve with Creative Kid Ketchup (see recipe)!

Featured Ingredient: Bell Peppers!

Hi! I'm Bell Pepper!

"Do you like your pizza with green pepper on top? If you do, then you'll like me! I'm a bell pepper, and we come in different colors, like green, yellow, orange, and red. Plus, some of us are a bit sweeter than others. We bell peppers have colorful, glossy skin, and when you bite into one, it will taste fresh and crunchy. We're also very versatile and add distinctive flavor and texture to many dishes!"

History

Bell peppers may be called sweet peppers or capsicum in other countries. They are members of the nightshade family, along with tomatoes, potatoes, and eggplants.

Peppers are native to the Americas. Spain imported their seeds in the late 1400s, and then they spread to the rest of Europe and Asia. Today, China is the largest producer of bell peppers and chili peppers, followed by Mexico, Indonesia, Spain, Turkey, and the United States.

The most popular bell pepper in the United States is the green bell pepper. Other peppers sold in the United States are hot peppers (also called chili peppers).

November is National Pepper Month!

Anatomy & Etymology

Bell peppers are actually fruits, not vegetables! They are technically berries but are most often used as a vegetable.

The bell pepper is a tropical plant, preferring warm, moist soil to grow in.

Green and red bell peppers grow on the same plant. However, as the bell peppers mature and ripen, they change from green to red and become sweeter.

Bell peppers are large and bell-shaped. Depending on the variety, they can be brown, white, lavender, or dark purple, but the most common colors for bell peppers are green, yellow, orange, and red.

Bell peppers have crisp, thick flesh and smooth, waxy skin.

The scientific name for bell peppers is "Capsicum annuum." The scientific name for hot or chili peppers is "Capsicum frutescens."

The "pepper" name came when explorers introduced the plants in Europe. Europeans named them after the peppercorn or black pepper, which is unrelated.

The word "pepper" comes from the Old English "piper," from the West Germanic "pipor," related to the Dutch "peper," from the Greek "peperi," and from Sanskrit "pippalī," meaning "berry," "peppercorn."

How to Pick, Buy, & Eat

You want to harvest bell peppers with the right color and sweetness when they're full size. You may want to use all green ones, and so you would pick them at their first stage of ripeness. Many recipes use green bell peppers. Next would be yellow, orange, and then red, the sweetest. You could pick them at each stage if you want multiple colors in your salad, for instance.

Bell peppers can be stored in your refrigerator's crisper drawer for one to two weeks. Then, refrigerate cut bell peppers for two to three days and cooked bell peppers for three to five days.

Bell peppers are a good choice for dishes where you don't want spicy pepper flavor because they don't produce capsaicin like other peppers. Bell peppers have a mild, sweet taste, but the flavors of other peppers can range from mild heat to extremely hot. A hybrid variety of bell pepper, the Mexibelle, is mildly spicy due to a small amount of capsaicin.

Paprika is a powdered red spice made from dried red bell peppers. People often associate paprika with Hungarian cuisine, especially since the name comes from the Hungarian language. However, cooks in many European and other countries use it regularly to color and flavor foods. For example, they add it to soups and stews, sprinkle it over the tops of meats, or add it to other seasonings to make rubs for grilling. Paprika is also often found in sausages. Because red bell peppers are mild and sweet, paprika is usually not as spicy as ground chili pepper. However, paprika can add a little heat to a dish, especially when using certain varieties.

One-half of a medium bell pepper counts as one serving.

Bell peppers are good to eat raw or cooked. They are often chopped and added to dishes such as salads, soups, omelets, stir-fries, fajitas, and pizza, but they can also be hollowed out, stuffed with a meat, veggie, and rice filling, and baked.

Nutrition

Bell peppers are a low-calorie food and are 94 percent water. They are also nutritious, with 97 percent of the daily value of vitamin C. Bell peppers of all colors have a high amount of vitamin C and beta-carotene, but the red bell pepper contains 1.5 times the amount of vitamin C and eleven times the beta-carotene as green bell peppers.

Vitamin C is an antioxidant that improves your immune system to prevent heart disease and cancer. It also helps your body to absorb and store iron. It helps remove excess fluid from your body, reducing pressure in blood vessels. In addition, vitamin C may help reduce elevated blood sugar levels, and it aids in creating collagen, which is needed for wounds to heal.

Beta-carotene gives yellow, orange, and red fruits and vegetables their color. Beta-carotene is an antioxidant, and it converts to vitamin A in the body, which can help prevent age-related macular degeneration.

Fiber improves your digestive health and, by slowing down the speed of sugar absorption by the body, helps reduce the risk of diabetes.