Slow Cooker Bean & Beef Chili

Makes: 8 servings

Prep time: 20 minutes Cook time: 8 hours

Ingredients:

- 2 tsp. cooking fat of choice
- 1¹/₂ lbs. lean ground beef or bison (may substitute ground turkey)
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 4 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 bell pepper, any color, diced
- 1 small jalapeño pepper, finely diced (seeds and membranes removed for less heat)
- 3 Tbsp. chili powder
- 1 Tbsp. cumin
- 1 tsp. smoked paprika
- ¼ tsp. salt, plus more to taste
- ¼ tsp. black pepper
- 2 (15-ounce) cans tomato sauce
- 1 (14-ounce) can fire-roasted diced tomatoes
- 1 (4-ounce) can diced green chiles
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can pinto beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can black beans, drained and rinsed
- ³/₄ cup beef broth
- 1 Tbsp. cocoa powder
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon

Directions:

- 1. Heat a large skillet or Dutch oven over medium heat. Add the oil. When the oil starts to shimmer, add the onion, garlic, and bell pepper. Sauté, stirring occasionally for 5 minutes or until onions and peppers just start to soften.
- 2. Add ground beef, chili powder, cumin, smoked paprika, salt, and pepper. Use a large spoon to spatula to break up the meat. Cook, stirring occasionally, until beef is almost cooked through.
- 3. Transfer beef mixture to a 6-quart slow cooker. Add remaining ingredients. Stir to combine. Place the lid on the slow cooker and cook on low for 8 hours (or high for 4-5 hours).
- 4. Taste and adjust seasonings as desired. Serve with desired toppings.

Recipe credit: Jess and Stacie, The Real Food RDs

Photo credit: Jess, Plays Well with Butter

Nutritionals (serving size: 1/8th of recipe) Calories: 350 Total Fat: 9 g Saturated Fat: 3 g Sodium: 900 mg Carbohydrates: 38 g Fiber: 11 g Sugar: 8 g Protein: 28 g