



University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service

## **Using Functional Foods**

#### The best functional foods are natural foods.

- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Low fat and non-fat dairy foods
- Whole grain breads, cereals



May reduce risk for heart disease, some cancers, and osteoporosis.

No single food has all the nutrients we need. Eat a variety of foods.

# Use other Functional Foods Carefully

- Claim may not be proven.
- May cause allergy, drug interaction, or drowsiness.
- Not a substitute for balanced diet or proven medical treatment.
- Discuss with health professional.



#### Look for FDA approved claims

- Calcium may reduce risk for osteoporosis.
- Low sodium diet may reduce hypertension.
- Low fat diet may reduce cancer risk
- Diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol may reduce heart disease risk.
- Fiber-rich grains, vegetables and fruits may reduce cancer and heart disease risk.
- Fruits and vegetables may reduce cancer risk.
- Folate may reduce risk for neural tube birth defects.
- Sugar alcohols may reduce cavities.
- Oat products may reduce heart disease risk.
- Foods with psyllium may reduce heart disease risk.
- Soy protein may reduce heart disease risk.
- Food with plant sterols/stanol esters may reduce heart disease risk.
- Diet high in potassium may reduce high blood pressure and stroke risk.
- Whole grains may reduce cancer and heart disease risk

### Ways to Use Functional Foods

- 1. Make soup with low fat or skim milk instead of water.
- 2. Season vegetables with lemon instead of fat back or butter.
- 3. Eat whole grain bread, cereal and pasta and brown rice most of the time.
- 4. Have two or more fruits and vegetables at each meal.
- 5. Eat oatmeal often for breakfast.
- 6. Use soy milk on cereal.
- 7. Try a margarine containing plant sterols or stanol esters.

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