Fat Out … Flavor In

A little fat goes a long way. One teaspoon of butter or oil has 5 grams of fat and about 45 calories. Check out these tips to cut fat and add flavor:

- When eating out, ask for the topping or sauce to be put on the side. Ask for lower-fat options like salsa, mustard, or ketchup. Also, be mindful of serving sizes.

- With salads, choose fat-free or reduced-fat dressings, flavored vinegar, or lemon juice. Ask for the dressing to be served on the side.

- Pick lean cuts of meats, poultry, and seafood. Trim away any fat or skin.

- Cook foods without adding fat. Use non-stick cooking spray instead of butter, margarine, or oil when grilling, frying, or sautéing. Use non-stick cookware. You can sauté in a small amount of broth. If you do add fat, use a small amount of olive or canola oil, as these are healthier fats. Remember, however, that all fats add calories.

- Choose to bake, roast, grill, steam, poach, or sauté instead of fry. If roasting or baking in the oven, use a rack to raise the food up off the bottom of the pan to allow the fat to drip away.
• Instead of using ham hocks, bacon, or pork rind (fatback) to season vegetables, use lean ham or broth to get the meat flavor.

• Use napkins or paper towels to blot out extra fat from foods. This helps with pizza or fried foods.

• Taste your food before spreading on butter or margarine. Choose another topping. Try using fruit butter (like apple butter) or low-sugar spreadable fruit on toast.

The MOVE!® Handout “Spice It Up” and “Recipe — Smart Stand-Ins for Healthy Cooking” will give you more ideas on how to cut fat and add flavor.