



STRENGTH

7-Day Healthy Meal Plan

Nutrition that gives you strength to be your best self.



The protein in beef is a powerful nutrient that helps strengthen and sustain the body.¹ Beef is an excellent source of complete, high-quality protein, providing all essential amino acids the body needs for optimal health.² Many Americans may benefit from a moderate- to higher-protein diet because of its positive role in weight management, healthy aging and disease prevention.^{1,3,4,5,6,7} The following 7-day menu showcases how beef can be incorporated into a healthy eating pattern, distributing protein intake evenly throughout the day.*

This meal plan is based on a 2,000 calorie/day diet and provides general guidance for a balanced diet to maintain a healthy weight. Individual energy needs may vary. The menus below provide general guidance with some calorie-saving suggestions to reduce total calories, if needed. To determine your individual energy requirements, please consult a registered dietitian.

**Each daily menu is based on a 2,000-calorie diet and includes breakfast, lunch, dinner and a morning and afternoon snack. Beef was incorporated into at least one meal per day. Recipes were sourced from Beef. It's What's For Dinner recipe collections. Calorie, food group and nutrient limits were identified using the 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and were based on a Healthy U.S.-Style eating pattern. Nutrition analysis may vary depending on the protein selected for meals indicating "protein of choice" — the protein used in the analysis is noted.*

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2. USDA National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference Legacy Release, April 2018.
3. Leidy HJ, Clifton PM, Astrup A, Wycherley TP, Westerterp-Plantenga MS, Luscombe-Marsh ND, Woods SC, Mattes RD. The role of protein in weight loss and maintenance. *Am J Clin Nutr* 2015;101(Suppl):1320S–9S.
4. Paddon-Jones D, Campbell WW, Jacques PF, Kritchevsky SB, Moore LL, Rodriguez NR, van Loon LJC. Protein and healthy aging. *Am J Clin Nutr* 2015;101(Suppl):1339S–45S.
5. Rousell MA, Hill AM, Gaugler TL, West SG, Ulbrecht JS, Vanden Heuvel JP, Gillies PJ, Kris-Etherton PM. Effects of a DASH-like diet containing lean beef on vascular health. *J Hum Hypertens* 2014 Oct; 28(10):600-5
6. Rousell MA, Hill AM, Gaugler TL, West SG, Ulbrecht JS, Vanden Heuvel JP, Alaupovic P, Gillies PJ, Kris-Etherton PM. Beef in an Optimal Lean Diet study: effects on lipids, lipoproteins, and alipoproteins. *Am J Clin Nutr* 2012 Jan(1); 9-16.
7. O'Connor LE, Paddon-Jones D, Wright AJ, Campbell WW. A Mediterranean-style eating pattern with lean, unprocessed red meat has cardiometabolic benefits for adults who are overweight or obese in a randomized, crossover, controlled feeding trial. *Am J Clin Nutr* 2018 Jul 1; 108(1):33-40.

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Monday

Breakfast

Fruit Smoothie + Trail Mix Bar

½ cup plain, fat-free Greek yogurt
½ cup fat-free milk
1½ cups baby spinach
½ cup fresh strawberries
½ cup fresh blueberries
1 scoop whey protein powder
1 trail mix bar

Protein: 33g

Morning Snack

Peanut Butter Banana Toast

1 slice whole grain bread
1 Tbsp. peanut butter
1 banana

Protein: 8g

Lunch

Grilled Steak + Asian Noodle Salad + Grapes

4 oz. beef, top sirloin steak, cooked
1 cup cooked whole grain spaghetti
½ cup shredded carrots
½ cup red bell pepper
½ cup sugar snap peas
1 tsp light Asian sesame dressing
1 tsp hoisin sauce
1½ tsp lime juice
½ cup grapes

Protein: 35g



Afternoon Snack

Beef Jerky with Greek Yogurt + Crackers

1 piece (0.7 oz.) beef jerky
8 oz. plain, fat-free Greek yogurt
3 whole grain crackers

Protein: 31g

Calorie Saver Swap

Replace Greek yogurt and crackers with 1 clementine
Saves 160 calories



Dinner

Protein Loaded Sweet Potato + Milk

2 oz. lean protein of choice, cooked*
(e.g., 93% lean ground beef, lean ground pork, lean ground turkey)
1 sweet potato
½ cup cooked brown rice
¼ cup low-sodium black beans
2 Tbsp. guacamole
2 Tbsp. low-fat shredded cheddar cheese
2 tsp olive oil
1 cup fat-free milk

Protein: 37g



Recipe contains beef option



Recipe available at
BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com

Calories 2,037; Carbohydrate 257g; **Protein 144g**;
Total Fat 52g; Saturated Fat 13g; Sodium 2,116mg;
Added Sugar 3g

*Nutrition analysis reflects lean ground beef

Tuesday

Breakfast

Beef + Spinach Breakfast Sandwich

3 oz. beef, top sirloin steak, cooked
1 egg, scrambled
2 Tbsp. baby spinach
2 Tbsp. tomatoes
1 slice fat-free Swiss cheese
1 whole wheat sandwich thin
1 cup fat-free milk

Protein: 45g



Wednesday

Peanut Butter Banana Toast + Cottage Cheese

¾ cup unsalted, low-fat cottage cheese
1 slice whole grain bread
1 Tbsp. peanut butter
1 banana
1 cup fat-free milk

Protein: 38g

Morning Snack

Blueberry Yogurt Parfait

½ cup plain, fat-free Greek yogurt
½ cup fresh blueberries
2 Tbsp. granola

Protein: 13g

Crackers + Grapes

5 whole grain crackers
½ cup grapes

Protein: 3g

Calorie Saver Swap

Replace crackers and grapes with 10 baby carrots
Saves 115 calories

Lunch

Greek Salad + Pita + Hummus

2 cups romaine lettuce
½ cup red onion
½ cup tomato
½ cup cucumber
4 Kalamata olives
1 Tbsp. low-fat feta
¼ cup hummus
1 whole grain pita bread
3 oz. chicken breast
1 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar
1 Tbsp. olive oil

Protein: 42g

Sandwich + Steamed Carrots

3 oz. lean protein of choice, cooked* (e.g., low-sodium deli roast beef, chicken breast, turkey)

½ whole grain pita bread
2 cups romaine lettuce
½ cup cherry tomatoes
½ cup cucumber
1 cup fat-free milk
1 Tbsp. mustard
1 Tbsp. fat-free mayo
1 Tbsp. relish
1 cup baby carrots

Protein: 41g



Afternoon Snack

Apple + Peanut Butter

1 apple
2 Tbsp. peanut butter

Protein: 7g

Calorie Saver Swap

Replace apple with ½ cup celery and reduce to 1 Tbsp. peanut butter
Saves 180 calories

Hard-Cooked Egg + Mixed Veggies

1 hard-cooked egg
½ cup cherry tomatoes
½ cup sugar snap peas

Protein: 7g

Dinner

Asian-Style Noodle Bowl

3 oz. lean protein of choice, cooked* (e.g., beef strip steak, salmon, tofu)
2 oz. cooked soba noodles
½ cup red pepper
½ cup bok choy
½ cup baby carrots

Protein: 40g



Farmer's Market Vegetable, Beef, + Brown Rice Salad

4 oz. beef, top round steak, cooked
¼ tsp. olive oil
½ cup asparagus
½ cup summer squash
¾ cup cooked brown rice
½ cup tomatoes
¼ cup garbanzo beans
1 Tbsp. fresh basil
Marinade: 1 Tbsp. olive oil, ½ Tbsp. lemon juice, ¼ Tbsp. garlic, ¼ Tbsp. honey, ½ tsp fresh thyme, pinch of salt, pinch of pepper

Protein: 49g



Calories 2,007; Carbohydrate 213g; **Protein 147g**;
Total Fat 70g; Saturated Fat 16g; Sodium 2,362mg;
Added Sugar 2g

*Nutrition analysis reflects strip steak

Calories 1,965; Carbohydrate 249g; **Protein 138g**;
Total Fat 53g; Saturated Fat 13g; Sodium 2,259mg;
Added Sugar 5g

*Nutrition analysis reflects chicken breast

Thursday

Breakfast

Saucy Beef with Baked Eggs + Apple

- 3 oz. 93% lean ground beef, cooked
- 1 Tbsp. jalapeño pepper
- 1 tsp garlic
- 1 tsp ground paprika
- ½ tsp ground cumin
- ½ cup tomato sauce, no salt added
- 1 egg
- 1 slice French bread
- 1 cup fat-free milk
- 1 apple

Protein: 41g



Morning Snack

Greek Yogurt + Trail Mix Bar

- 8 oz. plain, fat-free Greek yogurt
- 1 trail mix bar

Protein: 25g

Calorie Saver Swap

Replace trail mix bar with 1 clementine
Saves 110 calories

Lunch

Protein-Stuffed Pita + Strawberries

- ½ whole grain pita bread
- 4 oz. canned light tuna
- 1 slice romaine lettuce
- 1 slice tomato
- 1 Tbsp. fat-free mayo
- 1 cup celery
- 1 cup strawberries

Protein: 42g

Friday

Cereal with Blueberries + Hard-Cooked Egg

- 1 ½ cups whole grain cereal
- 1 cup fat-free milk
- ½ cup blueberries
- 2 hard-cooked eggs

Protein: 30g

Afternoon Snack

Baby Carrots + Hummus

- ½ cup baby carrots
- ¼ cup hummus

Protein: 5g

Banana + Cheese Stick

- 1 banana
- 1 part-skim mozzarella cheese stick

Protein: 7g

Sandwich + Mixed Veggies

- 3 oz. lean protein of choice, cooked* (e.g., low-sodium deli roast beef, chicken breast, tuna (drained))
- 2 slices whole grain bread
- 1 cup romaine lettuce
- 1 Tbsp. mustard
- 1 Tbsp. fat-free mayo
- 1 cup frozen green beans and carrots

Protein: 35g



Dinner

Asian-Style Brown Rice Bowl + Blackberries

- 3 oz. lean protein of choice, cooked* (e.g., beef strip steak, boneless, skinless chicken breast, tofu)
- 1 cup cooked brown rice
- ¼ cup edamame
- ¼ cup red bell pepper
- ¼ cup baby carrots
- ¼ cup water chestnuts
- 1 ½ Tbsp. olive oil
- ½ cup blackberries

Protein: 38g



Apple + Peanut Butter + Granola

- 1 apple
- 1 Tbsp. peanut butter
- 2 Tbsp. granola

Protein: 5g

Calorie Saver Swap

Replace apple with ½ cup celery and remove granola
Saves 110 calories

Grilled Steak + Mozzarella Flatbread + Roasted Brussels Sprouts

- 4 oz. beef, top sirloin steak, cooked
- ¼ tsp lemon pepper seasoning
- ¼ cup baby spinach
- 1 oz. part-skim mozzarella cheese
- ½ tsp fresh basil
- ⅛ tsp balsamic vinegar
- 1 whole grain pita bread
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 cup Brussels sprouts
- 1 cup fat-free milk

Protein: 52g



Calories 2,035; Carbohydrate 244g; Protein 151g; Total Fat 53g; Saturated Fat 11g; Sodium 1,791mg; Added Sugar 0g

*Nutrition analysis reflects chicken breast

Calories 1,900; Carbohydrate 245g; Protein 129g; Total Fat 53g; Saturated Fat 15g; Sodium 2,046mg; Added Sugar 1g

*Nutrition analysis reflects chicken breast

Saturday

Breakfast

Egg + Spinach Breakfast Muffin

- 1 whole grain English muffin
- 2 eggs, scrambled
- 1 cup baby spinach
- ¼ cup part-skim shredded mozzarella
- 1 cup fat-free milk

Protein: 34g

Morning Snack

Banana + Peanut Butter

- 1 banana
- 2 Tbsp. peanut butter

Protein: 9g

Lunch

Southwest Salad + Pita Bread

- 3 oz. lean protein of choice, cooked* (e.g., beef top sirloin, chicken breast, tofu)
- 2 cups romaine lettuce
- ¼ cup low-sodium black beans
- ¼ cup tomatoes
- ¼ cup sweet corn
- 2 Tbsp. red onion
- 2 Tbsp. low-fat shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 ½ Tbsp. low-fat creamy chipotle dressing
- ½ whole grain pita bread

Protein: 39g



Afternoon Snack

Beef Jerky + Cheese + Crackers

- 1 piece (0.7oz) beef jerky
- 5 whole grain crackers
- 1 ½ oz. part-skim mozzarella cheese

Protein: 19g

Calorie Saver Swap
 Replace crackers and cheese with 10 baby carrots
 Saves 170 calories



Dinner

Beef + Asparagus Pasta Toss + Pear

- 4 oz. 93% lean ground beef, crumbles, cooked
- 1 cup cooked bow tie pasta
- 3 asparagus spears
- ¼ Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 Tbsp. shallots
- ¼ Tbsp. garlic
- 1 pear

Protein: 35g



Sunday

Breakfast Beef Burrito

- 4 oz. beef, top sirloin steak, cooked
- 1 egg, scrambled
- ⅓ cup shredded Mexican cheese
- ⅛ tsp ground pepper
- 1 flour tortilla
- 2 Tbsp. salsa
- 1 cup fat-free milk

Protein: 49g

Calorie Saver Swap
 Remove shredded Mexican cheese
 Saves 50 calories



Roasted Almonds + Blackberries

- ½ oz. roasted almonds
- ½ cup blackberries

Protein: 4g

Roast Beef Sandwich + Cucumber Tomato Salad

- 2 slices whole grain bread
- 3 oz. low-sodium deli roast beef
- 1 leaf romaine lettuce
- 1 slice tomato
- 1 Tbsp. fat-free mayo
- 1 slice fat-free swiss cheese
- ½ cup cucumber
- ½ cup tomato
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar

Protein: 33g



String Cheese + Apple

- 1 apple
- 1 part-skim mozzarella string cheese

Protein: 6g

Protein Power Bowl + Strawberries

- 4 oz. lean protein of choice, cooked* (e.g., beef top round steak, pork tenderloin, salmon)
- 1 ½ cup broccoli
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 cup cooked brown rice
- ½ cup strawberries

Protein: 51g



Calories 2,099; Carbohydrate 223g; **Protein 136g**;
 Total Fat 80g; Saturated Fat 24g; Sodium 2,171mg;
 Added Sugar 3g

*Nutrition analysis reflects chicken breast

Calories 1,994; Carbohydrate 185g; **Protein 143g**;
 Total Fat 76g; Saturated Fat 21g; Sodium 2,160mg;
 Added Sugar 0g

*Nutrition analysis reflects top round steak

Grocery List

Produce

- Apples
- Asparagus
- Baby spinach
- Bananas
- Basil, fresh
- Blackberries
- Blueberries
- Bok choy
- Broccoli
- Brussels sprouts
- Carrots (shredded and baby)
- Celery
- Cucumber
- Garlic
- Grapes
- Jalapeño peppers
- Pears
- Red bell pepper
- Red onion
- Romaine lettuce
- Shallots
- Strawberries
- Sugar snap peas
- Summer squash
- Sweet potatoes
- Thyme, fresh
- Tomatoes (Roma and cherry)

Meat

- Beef, ground, 93% lean
- Beef, top round
- Beef, top sirloin
- Beef, strip steak
- Chicken breast
- Pork, ground, lean (optional)
- Pork tenderloin (optional)
- Salmon (optional)
- Tofu (optional)
- Turkey, ground, lean (optional)

Dairy

- Cheddar cheese, low-fat (shredded)
- Cottage cheese, low-fat, unsalted
- Eggs
- Feta cheese, low-fat
- Greek yogurt, plain, fat-free
- Mexican blend cheese (shredded)
- Milk, fat-free
- Mozzarella cheese, part-skim (shredded, ball, string cheese)
- Swiss cheese, fat-free (sliced)

Deli

- Guacamole
- Hummus
- Low-sodium deli roast beef
- Low-sodium deli turkey breast (optional)

Grains

- Bread, whole grain
- Brown rice
- Cereal, whole grain
- English muffin, whole grain
- French bread
- Pasta, spaghetti, whole grain
- Pasta, bow tie
- Pita bread, whole grain
- Sandwich thins, 100% whole wheat
- Soba noodles
- Tortilla, flour 10"

Snacks

- Beef jerky
- Almonds, roasted
- Crackers, whole grain
- Granola
- Trail mix bars

Frozen Foods

- Frozen edamame
- Frozen green beans and carrots
- Frozen sweet corn

Canned/Jarred Goods

- Black beans, low-sodium
- Garbanzo beans
- Kalamata olives
- Salad dressing, Asian Sesame, light
- Salad dressing, Creamy Chipotle
- Tuna, light, in water
- Water chestnuts

Pantry Items You May Already Have

- Balsamic vinegar
- Ground black pepper
- Ground paprika
- Ground cumin
- Hoisin sauce
- Honey
- Lemon pepper
- Lemon juice
- Lime juice
- Mayonnaise, fat-free
- Mustard
- Olive oil
- Peanut butter
- Relish
- Salsa
- Salt
- Tomato sauce, no salt added

Miscellaneous

- Whey protein powder