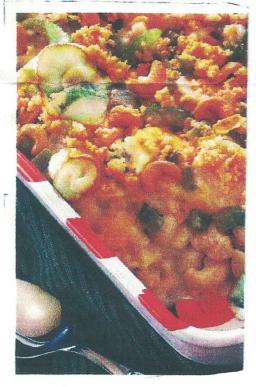
CASHEW CHICKEN CASSEROLE

Plan ahead...start the night before

"I especially like this dish because I can get it ready the day before I need it," comments Julie Ridlon of Solway, Minnesota. It's easy to whip up with common pantry items, including macaroni, canned soup and saltine crackers.

- 2 cups uncooked elbow macaroni
- 3 cups cubed cooked chicken
- 1/2 cup cubed process American cheese
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1/2 cup chopped green pepper
 - 1 can (8 ounces) sliced water chestnuts, drained
 - 1 can (10-3/4 ounces) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
 - 1 can (10-3/4 ounces) condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted
- 1-1/3 cups milk
 - 1 can (14-1/2 ounces) chicken broth
 - 1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted



2/3 cup crushed saltines (about 20 crackers) 3/4 cup cashew halves

In a greased 13-in. x 9-in. x 2-in. baking dish, layer the first seven ingredients in the order listed. In a bowl, combine the soups, milk and broth. Pour over water chestnuts. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Toss butter and cracker crumbs; sprinkle over casserole. Top with cashews. Bake, uncovered, at 350° for 35-40 minutes or until macaroni is tender. Yield: 6 servings.

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