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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE - UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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2

1

Know And Count Your Pennies

Time: 55 sec.

Count your change and you'll be dollars ahead each year. Pennies, nickels and dimes count up to well over a hundred dollars during a lifetime.

Mary Fran Lamison, Extension home management specialist at the University of Minnesota, suggests you watch grocery store clerks while they're ringing up each item. They're only human and subject to honest mistakes... especially if pushed or they've had a long work day.

Try to keep prices in mind, particularly of speialed items and fresh produce. This prevents overcharging. Surveys indicate that the average shopper does not know the prices of five items she buys regularly. An awareness of prices is essential for comparative and bargain shopping. Of course the cash register mistake could be in your favor, so be fair with the store too.

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Fresh Cranberries In Season Are Bumper Crop Time: 35 sec.

Plump, bright red cranberries--a bumper crop--are featured in grocery stores. Buy enough now for holiday cooking and freeze them for year-round use.

Sheryl Nefstead, consumer information at the University of Minnesota, suggests you pop several bags into the freezer. Leave the berries in an air tight container. That's all there is to it! No need to wash or rinse beforehand. When ready to use, just handle as fresh berries. Not necessary to thaw first.

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consumer radio briefs

Help Yourself And The Clerk

Time: 40 sec.

Marketing analysts know how supermarket lines deter shoppers. Save yourself some frustration by grouping items in the cart for easy check out.

Mary Fran Lamison, Extension home management specialist at the University of Minnesota, places all likes together.

If the items are 6 for \$1, keep them clustered together. Precious time can be spent searching for a stray can or money lost if you lose the quantity purchase advantage. Time is also shortened if you turn the price tag toward the clerk and help out on price identification.

Place all fragile items together on the counter for easier packing. Heavy canned items should be checked out first if the packer is working along with the cashier.

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Plan Leftovers

Time: 30 sec.

Allowing food to spoil is one sure way to raise living costs says Mary Fran Lamison, Extension home management specialist at the University of Minnesota. Use a little organizational ability to preserve leftovers and the result will be lower food costs.

It's a nuisance to store food only to toss it out later because you'd forgotten about it. Keep one spot where leftovers are placed and use them within two days. Otherwise freeze and plan for casseroles or TV dinners.

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Holiday Worth Celebrating

Time: 10 sec.

How often do you get to celebrate a 350th anniversary? November 25th this year commemorates the 1st Thanksgiving of 1621.

\* \* \* \*

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