In supermarkets, fresh is best but we all depend on packaged foods and drinks, too. Here are our nutrition experts' top picks and a few tasty and healthy ways to make them into meals.

BY MATTHEW KADEY, M.S., R.D. PHOTOGRAPHS BY MITCH MANDEL

# **EXPERT PANEL**

Alissa Rumsey, M.S., R.D., spokesperson for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Kelly Pritchett, Ph.D., R.D., sports nutrition professor at Central Washington University

**Emily Edison**, M.S., R.D.

Marni Sumbal, M.S., R.D.

To shop these items (and see dozens more not listed in these pages), go to runnersworld.com/ bestfoods.



APRIL 2017 RUNNER'S WORLD 55

# **BREAK** FAST



Adding meat? Choose sausages

with only meat

and water as the

main ingredients,

says Rumsey.

Morning workout?

Your prerun snack

should contain no

ore than five grams

of fiber. Postrun, load

up on protein to boost recovery



**FARM PASTURE-RAISED** EGGS Packed with protein and choline (to keep

your brain sharp), these eggs, from freerange chickens, tout high levels of vitamins E and D.



CLEVERFOODIES SCRAMBLE RANCHEROS This veggie-and-bean base adds vitamin A, vitamin C, and iron to your muy delicioso scramble. Also a great omelet filling.



**ROJO'S HOMESTYLE** SALSA A combo of antioxidant-rich tomatoes and peppers that is free of added sugars, it's a perfect topper for eggs, meats, salads, and chips.



LA TORTILLA FACTORY **ORGANIC STREET TACO** Made with non-GMO corn flour, this authentic-tasting. small-size tortilla makes portion control easy on taco night.



Look for products with short ingredient lists, says Rumsey.



**APPLEGATE CHICKEN** AND APPLE BREAKFAST SAUSAGE

Fry up tasty links, free of chemical preservatives, or nuke Jones All-Natural Golden Brown Fully Cooked Chicken Sausage for lean protein.



**ENJOY LIFE PANCAKE &** WAFFLE MIX This gluten-free mix uses iron-rich teff. a grain that Ethiopian runners love. Or try grain-free Simple Mills Pancake & Waffle Mix.



WHITE) CLOTHIN

ICH MANDEL (PRODUCT STILLS ON SKINNER FOR CELESTINE AGENCY; (

RAINEY & MIT

BY MATT GROOMIN

PHOTOGRAPHS E

BARRETT WASHBURNE; STYLING BY ARGY KOU

OUS SPREAD:

HILARY'S APPLE MAPLE VEGGIE SAUSAGE With just the right amount of spices and maple sweetness, these plant-based patties are packed with flavor and have a real sausage texture.



ORGANIC VALLEY PASTURE BUTTER Rich-tasting butter from antibiotic-free. pasture-raised cows is higher in omega-3s and CLAs. Also try Kerrygold Pure Irish Butter.



WYMAN'S OF MAINE FROZEN TRIPLE **BERRY BLEND** Thaw and toss handfuls of brain-healthy berries onto cerea and yogurt, or blend into smoothies.

# IN THE BLENDER

"You need a balance of carbohydrates, protein, and fat," says Rumsey. "And watch the calories."



CHEESE

serving.

tein in each half-cup

Nhey

ORGAIN GRASS FED

Each serving adds 20

grams of high-quality

protein to smoothies

from pasture-fed

WHEY PROTEIN

POWDER

COWS.

#### HORIZON ORGANIC LIFEWAY ORGANIC LOW-FAT COTTAGE PLAIN WHOLE MILK KEFIR This cultured milk Your muscles and midmorning hunger pangs will appreciate the 14 grams of pro-

adds protein, calcium, and probiotics for a happy gut. Stick with plain to keep your sugar count low.



PROBAR KOKA MOKA **ALMOND BUTTER** The cocoa and ground coffee in each squeeze pack borders on evil genius. (Not to mention it's high in plant protein.)



MUFFINS

FROZEN WAFFLES Made with spelt and khorasan wheat flour. Or: Van's Gluten-Free Blueberry Waffles,

blueberries.

Morning Glory Taco



# **ORGANIC VALLEY REDUCED FAT 2% MILK**

Research shows that deliciously creamy organic milk from pasture cows is higher in omega-3 fats-good news for vour ticker!



BLUE DIAMOND WHOLE NATURAL ALMONDS Studies show nut eaters tend to live longer, so toss these almonds onto cereal for a boost of vitamin E, a powerful antioxidant

# Super Bowl

# IN THE TOASTER

Aim for less than 300 mg of sodium and at least three grams of fiber.



# FOOD FOR LIFE EZEKIEL 4:9 FLAX ENGLISH

These morning muffins are made with sprouted whole grains, known for the amino acid lysine, not often found in grains.



studded with real

# IN THE BOWL

Ideally, cereals should have five grams of protein and no more than 10 grams of sugar per serving, says Rumsey.



BARBARA'S HIGH FIBER MEDLEY This flavor-packed cereal has 14 grams of fiber. For a gluten-free option with chocolate, trv Nature's Path Qi'a Cocoa Coconut Superflakes.



# KIND DARK CHOCO-LATE WHOLE GRAIN CLUSTERS

Chocolatey, yes, but not a sugar bomb. Need a bar? Try Seven Sundays Blueberry Lemon & Chia Muesli Square.



EARNEST EATS **HOT & FIT ASIA BLEND** 

This blend of nutritional powerhouses includes oats, guinoa, dried mango, almonds, and matcha green tea powder. Indulge: It has 12 grams of sugar.



# SILK ORGANIC UN-SWEETENED SOYMILK

This moo-free milk has more than twice the protein of other nondairy options, without added sugar. Go with organic if you're avoiding GMO soy.

# FUELUP

# PRERUN



# HEALTHY SKOOP

ENDURANCE BEET BLEND

endurance. The added

mango powder ramps

up the flavor without

MADE IN NATURE MAN-

GO BERRY FIGGY POPS

A mix of dried fruits

makes this prerun

snack rocket fuel.

without added sugars.

sacrificing benefits.

Beets have been

shown to improve

Skoop

CHAMELEON COLD **BREW ESPRESSO** Boost your run with bottled espresso made with organic beans. High Brew Dark Chocolate Mocha will also get you out the door.



#### **HEALTH WARRIOR** BANANA NUT CHIA BAR At just 100 calories, this banana bread bar will fuel vour run without weighing you down. Its chia seeds will keep your appetite



at bay.

ZEST CINNAMON APPLE **BLACK TEA** Not into coffee? This extra-caffeinated black tea will power you through those tempo miles.



before an easy 12-miler and the other half after, with coffee.'

HEATHER MAYER IRVINE. SENIOR EDITOR (Food + Nutrition)





# MIDRUN

"When your run is longer than 60 minutes, you want 30 to 60 grams of carbs per hour," says Sumbal.



# **BASE PERFORMANCE BASE HYDRO**

LEMON LIME Mix this powder with water for a quick hit of carbs and electrolytes. Its triple blend of sugars helps increase absorption.

**BONK BREAKER STRAW-**BERRY ENERGY CHEWS Run strong with carbs and caffeine (24 g and 50 mg in four pieces, respectively). Or try Probar Raspberry Bolt Organic Energy Chews.



NUUN ACTIVE TRI-BERRY For sweaty runs when vou want electrolytes without the calories, drop one of these effervescent tablets into your water bottle to rehydrate.

RAISINS SUN-MAID RAISINS Research shows that the natural sugars in raisins are just as good at helping you keep up the pace as engineered products. The mini boxes will fit in your fuel belt, too.

UNTAPPED ALL-NATURAL ATHLETIC FUEL Pure maple syrup gel provides fast-acting. tasty carbs. Take with water to dilute the sugar. Prefer bees? Try Honey Stinger Gold Gel.

# Viki's +3.22

VIKI'S BANANA WALNUT GRANOLA Kickstart recovery with the carbs and protein in a bowl of cereal. Viki's is also available in singleserving to-go packs.



NAVITAS NATURALS CHIA SEEDS Chia seeds, which power Tarahumara super-runners, are high in fiber and healthy fat. Sprinkle onto yogurt.

**GU SALTED CHOCOLATE** STROOPWAFFLE



FIORDIFRUTTA FRUIT SPREAD Running long? Pack

Avoid foods that are high in fiber and fat before your run, which car trigger GI distress, says Sumbal.

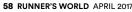
# **ORGANIC STRAWBERRY**

berry-heavy spread is perfect on your cheese (for after)





JUSTIN'S CLASSIC PEANUT BUTTER more protein than other nut butters (and sugar). Peanut-free?





## MUNK PACK MAPLE PEAR OUINOA OATMEAL FRUIT SOUEEZE

For a non-chew midrun carb hit, try this oatmeal-like gel. It tastes great and goes down easy. Also good as a prerun snack.



# POSTRUN

Within 30 minutes to two hours, refuel with carbs and protein.



# CHERIBUNDI TART CHERRY JUICE

Refuel and recover with tart cherries, which fight inflammation. Blend into a vogurt-based smoothie for your postrun protein fix.



### RUMBLE VANILLA MAPLE SUPERSHAKE Real maple syrup and 20 grams of protein make this a drink you'll be happy to run to the fridge for. Or mix

Nomva Everberry into a smoothie.



# PICKY BARS BLUE-BERRY BOOMDIZZLE

This real-food combo (dates, almond butter, and blueberries) has the ideal recovery ratio of 4:1 carbs to protein. And they're made by elite runners.



**TRUMOO 1%** CHOCOLATE MILK It's hard to find a better recovery snack than chocolate milk. It's got that perfect carb:protein ratio. Or try Organic Valley Organic Fuel.





"Fage yogurt is my breakfast 90 percent of the time. The texture is so good and it has loads of protein."

> JESSICA NI MURPHY. MANAGING DIRECTOR

# LUNCH

# Turkey Bacon Club



# **CANYON BAKEHOUSE** MOUNTAIN WHITE sorghum flour. Perfect for postrun PB&J.



# CABOT SHARP CHEDDAR SLICES your daily calcium



# APPLEGATE ORGANIC ROASTED TURKEY BREAST help you recover. Or try sustainable <u>Acm</u>e Salmon.



Pritchett.

# JUST MAYO SRIRACHA This egg-free mayo has the perfect



APPLEGATE NATURAL **TURKEY BACON** 

# GREEN GIANTS

Top leafy greens with lean protein and healthy fat for a perfect meal.



## READY PAC ELEVATE **SWEET GREENS & CHIA** SEED SALAD

Greens plus wholegrain sorghum, aronia berries, almonds, and cacao nibs make this salad high in antioxidants and healthy fat.



**EPIC CURRANT +** SESAME BBO CHICKEN BITES Top your salad with this high-quality protein (without weird ingredients). Also good for snacking straight from the bag.



LUCINI TUSCAN BAL-SAMIC VINAIGRETTE You won't find many balsamic vinaigrettes that use healthier extra-virgin olive oil instead of cheaper vegetable oils. This is one of the good ones.



NONA LIM CARROT SUPERSEEDZ TOMATO ITALIANO GINGER SOUP CUP These savory pumpkin This is the perfect seeds contain protein. blend of gingery zing and silky texture beneficial fats, iron, and immunity-boosting packed with vitamin zinc. Toss them on A-complete with a salads, soups, and special sipping lid. No pizza. spoon required.

# HIDDEN VALLEY GREEP VOGURT CUCUMBER **DILL DRESSING** creamy topping fo your salads. **BIENA SEA SALT** CHICKPEA SNACKS croutons with runner-friendly nutrients like fiber



Go for high-quality whole grains and short ingredient lists with recognizable items, says Pritchett.



WITH VEGETABLES

will help you avoid

afternoon vending

with its satisfying

a nona lim

MORNINGSTAR FARMS THAI YELLOW CURRY This veg-heavy chili **VEGGIE BOWL** An Asian-inspired meal of snap peas, carrots, machine temptation and protein-rich edamame over brown chunky texture and rice and quinoa for eight grams of fiber. quality carbs.

PACIFIC ORGANIC VEGE-TABLE MASALA STEW Yellow split peas and real vegetables team up to give each serving six grams of fiber, keeping postlunch hunger at bavwithout all the salt.



TORTILLAS These gluten-free tortillas are a good source of protein (thanks to almonds), vitamin E, and hearthealthy fat-and don't crumble when rolled.







ARNOLD EXTRA GRAINY **17 GRAINS AND SEEDS** A wholesome bread with whole-wheat flour as the first ingredient and four grams of fiber per slice. Quinoa and amaranth add nice texture.



SIETE ALMOND FLOUR

# Salmon Salad



# PEPPADEW PIOUANTE PEPPERS Rev your metabolism



#### WILD PLANET WILD SOCKEYE SALMON

Up your salad's nutrition with protein, vitamin D, and omega-3 fats



### ORGANICGIRL SUPER GREENS A vitamin-packed blend of chard, spinach, arugula, and Asian tatsoi.

# **BREAD WINNERS**

Your sandwich bread should have whole grains as the first ingredient and at least two grams of fiber per slice, says Pritchett. Then add lean protein and low-calorie flavor boosters.







ROAST BEEF SLICES These organic slices are packed with protein and iron, minus the mystery preservatives.



WILDBRINE ORGANIC **SMOKY KALE KRAUT** Add tang to sandwiches and keep your gut healthy with probiotic-rich kale "sauerkraut."



# **ORGANICVILLE STONE** GROUND MUSTARD

At just five calories in each tablespoon, you can spread this sugar-free mustard generously on your bread to spice things up.



# WILD PLANET ORGANIC ROASTED CHICKEN BREAST

This no-water-added (BPA-free!) canned chicken tastes better than most fresh stuff and packs in 12 grams of protein per serving.

# SNACKS & SIPS



**BARNEY BUTTER BARE** ALMOND BUTTER Squeeze a packet of no-sugar-added nut butter on slices of apple for a hearthealthy snack.



**KRAVE WILD BLUEBERRY BEEF BARS** Brain-friendly blueberries add natural sugar. Or go fish with EPIC Salmon Sea Salt Pepper Bar.



**REVIVE ASCEND** KOMBUCHA Live cultures boost digestive health. And it contains a low three grams of sugar per serving.



TRADITIONAL MEDICI-NALS CHAMOMILE Proper shuteye is an important part of exercise recovery, and this tea before bed helps you feel cozy.



**BRUSSEL BYTES CHILI** PUMPKIN SEED CRUNCH Load up on vitamins A and C and iron with these crisps. Cashews and pumpkin seeds have good-for-you fat.



MATCHA LOVE ORGANIC CHOCOLATE CHIP BITES MATCHA + GREEN TEA Unlike most bottled teas, this one isn't high in sugar. And Fair Trade chocolate matcha may help with weight loss.



SIMPLE SQUARES **COFFEE ORGANIC** SNACK BAR Perk up with these grain-free, nut-heavy bars, made with real

coffee beans.

0



ZICO NATURAL COCONUT WATER Coconut water, high in electrolytes, is a great base for your postrun smoothie



BELGIOIOSO FRESH MOZZARELLA

**SNACKING CHEESE** 

cherry tomatoes

for an on-the-go Caprese salad.

**GAEA PITTED GREEN OLIVES WITH LEMON &** 

These marinated

olives are addictive.

With just 15 calories

per serving, you can

**ANNIE CHUN'S ORIGINAL** 

**SEAWEED CRISPS** 

Seaweed has more

orange and is high in

iodine, for a healthy

thyroid. Beach not

included.

vitamin C than an

eat the whole bag.

OREGANO

Skewer this calcium-

packed cheese with

Choose snack:

with protein,

and natura

sugar, say

saturated fats

LACROIX ORANGE SPARKLING WATER Great fizz and a taste of sweet sunshine without the sugary calories. (Even better in postrace celebratory cocktails.)





**"Need more** Snapea Crisps.' **KIT FOX. REPORTER** 



WHOLLY GUACAMOLE **AVOCADO VERDE MINIS** Serve veggies or chips with these individual 45-calorie cups of salsa-gauc dip, packed with healthy fat and jalapeño zing.

**BEANITOS BLACK** AND WHITE BEAN **SKINNY DIPPERS** This bean-based chip has more than twice the protein and fiber of traditional chips. for smarter snacking

**Jerky Trail Mix** 

**GOOD HEALTH HINT OF OLIVE OIL HALF NAKED** POPCORN Five cups of this oliveoil-flavored snack has iust 120 calories. Or try Popcorn, Indiana's Sea Salt Popcorn.

WONDERFUL PISTA-

**CHIOS SALT & PEPPER** SINGLE-SERVE PACKS Each 160-calorie pack has fat, protein, and fiber. And shelling the nuts helps you avoid mindless eating.

**BELVITA SOFT BAKED** BANANA BREAD This tasty wholegrain-based snack has four grams of fiber and zero grams cho-





chips, and cherries. siggis 4

lesterol. Yes, please!

LÄRABAR CHERRY

This Instagram-

dates, almonds,

worthy snack has

SIGGI'S 2% BLACK **CHERRY SKYR YOGURT** Real fruit adds sweetness with less sugar than other brands. Also high in vitamin D, calcium, and protein.

lie's Tomato Juice.



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# **COUNTRY ARCHER MAN-GO HABANERO JERKY**

Jerky is a runner favorite: It's an excellent source of lean protein and iron. This one features grass-fed beef and real mango.



#### **STONERIDGE ORCHARDS** MONTMORENCY **CHERRIES DIPPED IN** DARK CHOCOLATE

Antioxidant-loaded dried tart cherries are coated in endorphinboosting 70% cocoa dark chocolate.

# **EXPERT Q&A**

# How do you satisfy a sweet craving?

Crumbling a square of dark chocolate onto vanilla Greek yogurt. -Alissa Rumsey, M.S., R.D.

# You're stranded on a desert island. What is the one packaged food you need?

Trail mix since you get healthy fats and protein in the nuts: the carbs in the dried fruit for energy. -Kelly Pritchett, Ph.D., R.D.

# When you're stuck in traffic and the hunger monster strikes, what do you wish you had in your glove box?

An Almond and Coconut KIND bar! It's a satisfying balance of protein, healthy fats, and carbs that keeps road rage at bay. -Emily Edison, M.S., R.D.

# When traveling for a race, what food do you always bring?

Smucker's Natural Peanut butter is my favorite go-to preworkout and anytime food. It leaves me satisfied and happy. -Marni Sumbal, M.S., R.D.

# **PWBOX**

## GET THE **RUNNER'S** WORLD BOX!

Each month a new RW box will contain editors' favorite products. This month features tasty picks from these pages. For more intel. ao to runnersworld box.com.

# DINNER



# **Pesto Chicken Pasta**



#### **BARILLA WHOLE GRAIN LINGUINE** Pasta made with

100% whole wheat has more fiber and important nutrients like magnesium than its counterparts.



**EARTHBOUND FARM FROZEN POWER BLEND** 

This power trio of organic spinach, kale, and chard will also up the nutritional clout of sautés, soups, chilis, and smoothies.

> "You can get good nutrition from packaged veggies," says Edison. "But avoid extras like sauces that add



BONELESS TURKEY **BREAST TENDERLOINS** A 4-oz. serving has 26 grams of protein (runners need .54 to .91 gram per pound of body weight).



THREE BRIDGES Kale Pesto Sauce Kale, rich in folate, potassium, iron, and vitamin K, adds nutrition to this pesto without overtaking







**AL FRESCO ROASTED** GARLIC AND HERB CHICKEN SAUSAGE Juicy and garlicky chicken is lower in fat than pork. The herbs replace some of the salt to keep sodium levels in check.



**AUSTRALIS BARRA-**MUNDI ALL NATURAL SKINLESS FILLETS Cook up a buttery fillet with omega-3s and lean protein. Bonus points for sustainable

farming practices.



BEETNIK ORGANIC RAGU ALLA BOLOGNESE Even an Italian grandmother would approve: organic ironrich beef and plenty of tomato goodness (which is high in antioxidants).



ORGANIC PRAIRIE **GRASS-FED 85% LEAN** GROUND BEEF Use this omega-3and vitamin E-packed beef in pasta sauces. tacos, and meatloaf.

VEG OUT



CALIFORNIA OLIVE **GARDENLITES BUTTER-RANCH EXTRA VIRGIN** NUT SOUASH SOUFFLÉ OLIVE OIL This sweet puree High in healthy fat and boosts your meal with anti-inflammatories. vitamin A, vitamin Prefer nuts? Try La C, protein, and five Tourangelle Roasted grams of fiber. Walnut Oil.

3



LOVE BEETS ORGANIC COOKED BEETS High in performanceboosting and blood pressure-lowering nitrates.

#### TOMMY'S SUPERFOODS ROOT FUSION Rev your immune system with more than a day's worth of vitamin A, thanks to carrots, beets, sweet potato, and apples.

ove

NUKE ATTACK

Unless you've just sweat buckets, choose a meal with no more than 800 mg of sodium, says Edison.



EVOL BEAN, RICE & **BIRDS EYE STEAM-**FRESH CALIFORNIA CHEDDAR BURRITO STYLE PROTEIN BLEND This nuke-ready burrito, stuffed with pinto This frozen meal, with lentils, green veggies, beans and brown rice, and bulgur, has 12 has a good balance grams of fiber and 13 of carbs, protein, and grams of protein per fat, and less sodium than other brands. 1½-cup serving.



**KASHI BLACK BEAN** LUVO CHICKEN & MANGO BOWL HARISSA CHICKPEAS Fill up on white meat, Whole grains like oats, rye, and barley brown iasmine rice. are topped with a and chickpeas with sweet-savory blend 19 grams of protein. of mango, fiber-rich Mango and butternut black beans, and squash add a touch of veggie chunks. Yum! natural sweetness.



NEWMAN'S OWN ROASTED VEGETABLE THIN & CRISPY PIZZA venient freezer pizza delivers antioxidants and three grams of fiber per serving.



"We're not

vegan, but we

eat Beyond

Meat: the

**Beyond Burger** 

because it tastes

awesome and is

easy to make.

Not to mention

packed with

protein!" FRIN BENNER.

ART DIRECTOR

fight cancer.

FRIES WITH SEA SALT Try this unfried sweet potato variety (full of vitamin A) with sea salt, which has magnesium, zinc, and potassium.



LUCINI RUSTIC TOMATO **BASIL ORGANIC SAUCE** Packed with tomatoes that taste like they were just pulled from the vine, this nosugar-added sauce rivals the secret family

recipe.



# **REIGN OF GRAIN**

Complete your dinner with whole grains for quality carbs for your legs (and brain!). Upping whole-grain intake can help



**ALEXIA SWEET POTATO** 





## ALTER ECO ORGANIC **RAINBOW HEIRLOOM** OUINOA

Quinoa is the only grain with complete protein. And this trio of beige, red, and black quinoa delivers a ton of flavor.



## MINUTE READY TO **SERVE MULTI-GRAIN** MEDLEY

Precooked brown rice, quinoa, barley, oats, wheat, and rye make it easy (and quickl) to have a fiber-rich side dish.



## HUNGRY ROOT SWEET POTATO NOODLES WITH CREAMY CASHEW ALFREDO

Lower in starch and higher in antioxidants than wheat pasta. vegetable noodles are all the rage.



TRUROOTS ORGANIC FUSILLI This gluten-free,

brown rice-quinoaamaranth pasta actually has better texture and taste than many wheat-based noodles.

# NOT-SO-GUILTY PLEASURES

HUNGRYROOT ALMOND CHICKPEA COOKIE DOUGH Almond butter, chickpeas, and sweet potatoes make for a nutrient-dense raw (or baked!) treat that tastes like real cookie dough.



EATPOPS GLOW Chill out with noadded-sugar pops made of carrot, mango, and pineapple, for an immunefriendly dessert.



#### TALENTI SICILIAN Pistachio gelato

Gelato is a gift from Italy. It uses more milk than cream, in contrast to ice cream, making it lower in fat (but not in flavor).



AMONG FRIENDS SUZIE Q'S OATMEAL CHOCO-LATE CHIP COOKIE MIX This mix is made with oats, which means you get iron and fiber. We won't tell if you have one (or more!)

for breakfast.



A filling of creamy peanut butter is surrounded by not-toosweet dark chocolate for your protein and antioxidant fix.



BARE COCOA BANANA CHIPS Potassium-rich bananas? Good. Chocolate? *Gooood.* Try this combo as-is, or dip 'em into nut butter for a boost of protein.



#### EDY'S SLOW-CHURNED FRENCH VANILLA ICE CREAM

Edy's uses nonfat milk without sacrificing creaminess or taste. Or try dairy-free NadaMoo! MMM... Maple Pecan.



### ALTER ECO DARK Blackout organic Chocolate

Research has shown that dark chocolate (when it's at least 70% cocoa) can boost brainpower and help your heart.