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Meringue-Topped Sweet Potato Casserole

SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

- 2 1/2 Pounds sweet potatoes (about 3 medium), peeled and cut into 2-inch chunks
- 2 Large eggs
- 2 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1/4 Tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 Tbsp canola oil
- 1 Cup low-fat evaporated milk
- 1 Tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 Tsp salt
- 1 8-ounce can of crushed pineapple, undrained
- 1/2 Cup chopped pecans, toasted (see Tip)

MERINGUE TOPPING

- Tsp dried egg whites, reconstituted according to package directions, or 2 large pasteurized egg whites, at room temperature
- 1/4 Cup granulated sugar
 - 1) Place sweet potatoes in a large saucepan and cover with water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to a simmer and cook until tender, 10 to 15 minutes. Drain well and transfer to a food processor. Process until smooth.
 - 2) Preheat oven to 350°F. Coat an 8-inch-square (or similar 2-quart) broiler-safe baking dish (see Tip) with cooking spray.
 - 3) Whisk whole eggs, brown sugar, cinnamon, oil, evaporated milk, vanilla and salt in a large bowl until smooth. Add the sweet potato; whisk until smooth. Stir in pineapple and its juice. Spread the mixture in the prepared baking dish. Sprinkle with pecans.
 - 4) Bake the casserole until heated through and the edges are bubbling, 35 to 45 minutes. Set aside while you make the topping.
 - 5) To prepare meringue topping: Position rack in top third of oven; preheat broiler. Beat egg whites in a medium bowl with an electric mixer at high speed until soft peaks form (see Tip). Beat in granulated sugar in a slow, steady stream.

 Continue beating until stiff peaks form.
 - Spoon the meringue into a gallon-size sealable bag. Seal the bag, pressing out as much air as possible.
 - 7) Cut a 1/2-inch hole in one corner. Pipe the meringue onto the casserole, making marshmallow-size dots. (Alternatively, use a pastry bag fitted with a 1/2-inch tip or spread the meringue over the casserole as if you were frosting a cake.) Broil until lightly browned, watching carefully to prevent burning, 30 to 90 seconds.



Makes 10 Servings