## **Creole Stuffing**

Ruth Bates - Temecula, CA Taste of Home Grandma's Favorites

## Servings: 8

1 1/2 cups uncooked brown rice 2 links Italian sausage 2 tablespoons vegetable oil 1 cup onion, chopped 5 cloves garlic, minced 1/2 cup sweet red pepper. diced 1/2 cup green pepper, diced 1 can (14-1/2 ounce) diced tomatoes, undrained 1 tablespoon lemon juice 1 teaspoon dried basil 1/2 teaspoon sugar 1/2 teaspoon hot pepper sauce 1/2 teaspoon chicken bouillon granules 1/4 teaspoon chili powder 1/4 teaspoon pepper 1/8 teaspoon dried thyme 1 teaspoon salt, divided 1 cup fully cooked ham, diced 1 cup cooked small shrimp (optional), peeled and deveined 3 tablespoons fresh parsley, minced

In a large saucepan, cook the rice according to package directions.

Meanwhile, in a skillet, cook the sausage in oil until a thermometer reads 160 degrees. Remove the sausages, reserving the drippings. When cool enough to handle, cut the sausages in half lengthwise, then into 1/4-inch pieces. Set aside.

Saute' the onion, garlic and peppers in the drippings until tender, about 4 minutes. Add the diced tomatoes, lemon juice, basil, sugar, hot pepper sauce, bouillon, chili powder, pepper, thyme and one teaspoon of salt. Cook and stir for 5 minutes.

Add the mixture to the cooked rice. Stir in the ham and shrinp, if desired, the sausage and parsley. Mix lightly.

Per Serving (excluding unknown items): 151 Calories; 12g Fat (73.0% calories from fat); 5g Protein; 6g Carbohydrate; 1g Dietary Fiber; 21mg Cholesterol; 509mg Sodium. Exchanges: 0 Grain(Starch); 1/2 Lean Meat; 1 Vegetable; 0 Fruit; 2 Fat; 0 Other Carbohydrates.