

CREAMY POTATO AND ASPARAGUS SOUP

- 1 large bunch asparagus (11/4 lb.), trimmed
- 11/4 lb. potatoes, peeled and chopped (1/2-inch pieces or smaller)
- 1 12-oz. can evaporated milk
- 6 slices bacon
- Tbsp. honey
 Shredded lemon peel, Italian (flat-leaf)
 parsley, coarse salt and/or freshly ground pepper (optional)
- **1.** Reserve about 1/3 of the asparagus. Combine remaining asparagus, the potatoes, evaporated milk, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1/2 tsp. black pepper, and 1/4 cups water in saucepan. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer, covered, 10 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Cool slightly. In blender or food processor, blend or process soup, half at a time, until smooth.
- **2.** Meanwhile, in skillet, cook bacon until crisp. Drain on paper towels; set aside. Reserve 1 Tbsp. bacon drippings in skillet. Add reserved asparagus. Cook 5 to 6 minutes or until asparagus is crisp-tender, stirring occasionally.
- **3.** Coarsely chop bacon and place in microwave-safe pie plate. Drizzle with honey; cover with vented plastic wrap. Just before serving, microcook on 100% power (high) 30 seconds. To serve, ladle soup into bowls and top with asparagus, bacon, and desired toppings. **SERVES 4.**

EACH SERVING 356 cal, 15 g fat, 41 mg chol, 673 mg sodium, 43 g carbo, 4 g fiber, 15 g pro.