

I Love Oatmeal

By Janet Hainstock

I love oatmeal.

I eat it every day for breakfast.

My mom says, "You are a neat little kid."

She says every other little boy she knows likes cold cereal poured out of a box.

When my mom and I go grocery shopping, we don't even go down the cereal aisle.

But we do look in the aisles that have "toppings": things like dates and raisins and brown sugar and almond butter and peanut butter and frozen fruits, especially dark cherries and fresh fruit of any kind, and yogourt and that is all I have tried, so far.

Mom says, "Let your imagination about what you want on top of your oatmeal be long, wide and high and low."

That means I can look in all the aisles and shelves of the grocery store.

If I spy it when I look in all those directions, mom usually lets me try it.

She did say no to the cayenne pepper. "Too hot," she said.

But then she said, "Yes," to cinnamon.

That is weird isn't it?

They both start with the letter c, so I thought they would both be okay as toppings.

I like all sizes of bowls for my oatmeal.

Since mom has read me the story of *The Three Bears*, I know small, medium, and large size bowls of oatmeal are possible.

Sometimes we will buy a new bowl if it is one of those sizes or if we like the colour or if it matches a bowl we have already or if we just like it.

Some mornings, I am only hungry like Baby Bear, other days I need a medium sized bowl like Mama Bear, but sometimes I need a Papa Bear size bowl.

Mom says that I inherited my love of oatmeal from her, because she loves it too.

And my dad grows the oats for the oatmeal right here in the field on our farm, so I know it is especially good to eat - even our cows eat it.

They don't get to have all the yummy toppings I do, though.

My dad most often eats the Papa Bear size bowl of oatmeal.

He likes his oatmeal very hot with milk and LOTS of brown sugar.

And without fail all three of us say this together every morning, "Mmmm, I love oatmeal!", as we clink our spoons together and then dig in to our bowls of oatmeal.