



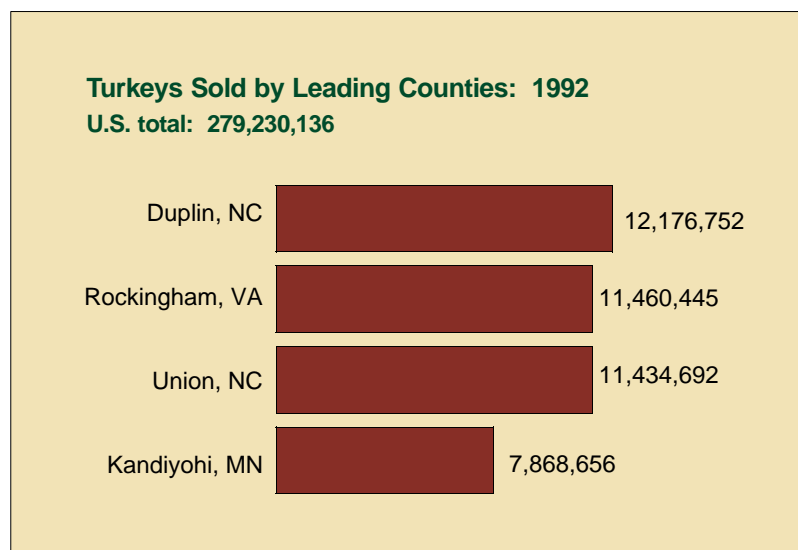
Bureau of the Census

Agricultural Brief

Thanksgiving Feast – An American Tradition

Traditionally, Thanksgiving has been a time for families and friends across the Nation to gather together, give thanks for all that we share, and usher in the holiday season. Though the way we celebrate Thanksgiving differs from family to family and region to region, one part of the tradition remains constant—the bountiful feasts that are prepared in homes throughout the country. Without the hard work and ingenuity of America's farmers, our traditional feasts would not be possible. Data from the 1992 Census of Agriculture show that farmers from counties across the Nation make valuable contributions to our Thanksgiving celebrations.

Turkey, a popular dish of the traditional Thanksgiving feast, is produced throughout our Nation. More than 279 million turkeys were sold by farmers in 1992.



In 1992, North Carolina and Minnesota sold nearly 99 million turkeys, which was 35 percent of the turkeys sold in the United States. Duplin County, NC, was the top county in turkeys sold, with 12 million. Rockingham County, VA, and Union County, NC, were second and third, respectively. Kandiyohi County, MN, with 7.8 million sold, was fourth.

Other popular items on the Thanksgiving menu are bread and rolls. The wheat used to produce them may have come from North Dakota, Kansas, or Montana. In 1992, these three States harvested 881.9 million bushels of wheat, which was 40 percent of the 2.2 billion bushels harvested in the United States.

Vegetables are an important part of our Thanksgiving feast. Snap (green) beans may have been grown by farmers in Wisconsin, New York, or Florida. In 1992, these three States accounted for 45 percent of all acres of snap beans harvested in the United States. Leading counties were Dade County, FL, Portage County, WI, and Marion County, OR.

The sweet corn on your table, if not from your own garden, may have come from one of the top three sweet corn producing States: Wisconsin, Minnesota, or Washington. The 1992 Census of Agriculture shows these three States accounted for 345,275 acres of the Nation's 762,132 acres of sweet corn harvested. The top three



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counties in the production of sweet corn were Palm Beach County, FL, with 33,776 acres, Grant County, WA, with 27,586 acres, and Fond du Lac County, WI, with 21,846 acres.

Sweetpotatoes are a popular Thanksgiving dish. They may have been harvested in Johnston or Nash Counties in North Carolina, or in Merced County, CA. In 1992, these three counties accounted for 29 percent of all sweetpotatoes grown in the United States.

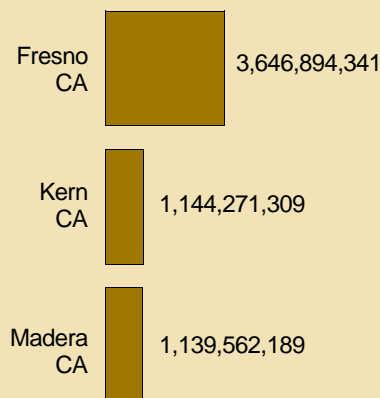
If cranberry sauce is on the menu, the cranberries in it may have been produced by farmers in Massachusetts or Wisconsin. These two States produced 3.1 million hundredweight, which was 79 percent of all the Nation's 1992 cranberry crop. Notable counties in these States were Plymouth, MA, and Wood and Jackson Counties, WI.

Farmers produced the essential elements that allow us to have a sweet Thanksgiving feast. Pumpkin pie is sure to be a favorite. Pumpkins were grown in every State, however, Illinois had the most acreage in 1992 with 8,297 acres. The heart of pumpkin production in Illinois was Tazewell County, which accounted for 2,730 acres. California ranked second with 5,552 acres. San Joaquin County, CA, accounted for 1,804 acres.

If you prefer cherry pie, you might be surprised to learn that in 1992, 70 percent of the Nation's 311 million pounds of tart cherries came from Michigan. Two Michigan counties, Leelanau and Oceana, produced 47 percent of the State's crop in 1992 and one-third of the Nation's total.

Grapes Harvested by Leading Counties: 1992

U.S. total: 11,024,545,294 pounds



You might enjoy some domestic wine along with your Thanksgiving meal. The grapes used to produce domestic wine probably came from farmers in California, who led the Nation in grape production. In 1992, California harvested 9.8 billion pounds of grapes, 89 percent of the Nation's total harvest of 11 billion pounds. Notable counties in California included Fresno, Kern, and Madera.

Cranberries Harvested by Leading Counties: 1992

U.S. total: 3,959,725 hundredweight

