

Fun Facts: Thanksgiving Day - 4th Thursday of November



A History of Giving Thanks

- In fall 1621, the Pilgrims—early settlers of Plymouth Colony—held a 3-day feast to celebrate a bountiful harvest. Many regard this event as the nation's first Thanksgiving.
- The legacy of thanks and the feast have survived the centuries, with the event becoming a national holiday as of October 3, 1863. It was then that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday of November as a national day of thanksgiving.
- Later, President Franklin Roosevelt clarified that Thanksgiving Day should always be celebrated on the fourth (not last) Thursday of the month to encourage earlier holiday shopping. Sometimes the last Thursday of November is the fifth Thursday.



Turkey Towns and Cranberry Counties

4 - The number of places in the United States named after the holiday's traditional main course.

- Turkey Creek, Arizona (Population - **294**)
- Turkey, Texas (Population - **384**)
- Turkey Creek, Louisiana (Population - **458**)
- Turkey, North Carolina (Population - **294**)

4 - The number of census places in the United States named Cranberry, a popular side dish at Thanksgiving.

- Most populous: Cranberry township, Butler County, Pennsylvania (Population - **31,560**)
- Second most populous: Cranberry township, Venango County, Pennsylvania (Population - **6,298**)

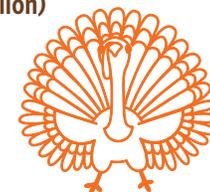


Why didn't the turkey eat dessert?

He was already stuffed!

Which states were forecasted to raise the most turkeys in 2019?*

- Minnesota (**40.0 million**)
- North Carolina (**32.5 million**)
- Arkansas (**32.0 million**)
- Indiana (**21.5 million**)
- Missouri (**19.0 million**)
- Virginia (**15.7 million**)



Did You Know? The six largest turkey producing states account for nearly 2/3 of all turkeys produced in the United States.

Food for the Big Feast

In the United States in 2017, there were approximately:

- **65,000** supermarkets and other grocery (except convenience) stores.
- **2,800** baked goods stores.
- **2,700** fruit and vegetable markets.



Sources: Data on this page come from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 Population Estimates, 2017 Economic Census, and *The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service.