

Turkey Still Receives Top Billing For Holidays

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tranced by the wild turkey that he recommended its adoption as the national symbol over the bald eagle, calling the turkey a true native of America.

His proposal didn't pass. The visage of the wild turkey is not found on our currency, stamps or documents. But there is one time of year when the turkey again receives top billing.

A Tradition

What would the traditional Thanksgiving meal be without the pleasing aroma of baking turkey? And if we missed turkey at Thanksgiving we'll certainly have turkey for Christmas. How would we enjoy cranberries? What would we stuff with bread crumbs?

Today turkeys are big business for farmers. One poultry farm owned and operated by John Sensenig, raises turkeys for sale in supermarkets throughout the area.

The turkeys raised at the Sensenig farm are a far cry from the wild turkeys served at the first Thanksgiving meal.

They are brought to the farm when they are one day old. Their food, water, and environment are carefully monitored to insure proper growth and a pleasing taste.

According to Mervin Zimmerman, my guide through the Sensenig farm, it takes just 16 weeks to get the turkey from the egg to the market.

Raising Turkeys

The young turkeys are kept in a

brooding house which is a constant 83 degrees. Brooders, big electric lights, provide heat to the building and to the chicks as they mature.

When the turkeys have matured sufficiently to be taken from the heated brooder, they are then moved to large holding barns.

Six thousand large pink and white birds greeted us as the big sliding doors of their house were opened.

HERSHEY - The Pennsylvania Farmers' Association (PFA) today re-elected its president to a third two-year term and adopted policies on top farm concerns.

Vegetable and grain farmer Keith W. Eckel of R.D.#1, Clarks Summit, Lackawanna County was re-elected president of the statewide, voluntary farm organization which represents 23,361 farm families. Members of PFA's state Board of Directors were also elected. The elections and policy recommendations were made during PFA's 36th Annual Meeting taking place Nov. 17-19, at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center.

Voting delegates adopted policy recommending that the mandatory \$1 per head national beef promotion checkoff be collected only when the animal is sold for slaughter instead of every time the animal is sold. On another issue, delegates recommended that PFA

There were birds as far as the eye could see, making a gobbling noise which, when magnified by 6,000, was quite a ruckus.

Where They Go

Zimmerman explained that this is the busiest time of the year for the poultry farm. He noted that the Sensenig farm alone would supply up to 6,000 birds to stores in the area for the Thanksgiving season. As Christmas approaches, the

farm will supply 3-4 thousand more for consumer consumption.

Healthy Gamble

The Sensenig farm is just one of the many poultry farms in Lancaster farming territory who produce turkeys. Farmers throughout the nation are capitalizing on the health emphasis put on lean meat provided by the turkey.

The Pennsylvania Poultry

Eckel Re-elected PFA President

oppose the use of bovine growth hormone until consumer reaction to milk produced using the growth hormone is studied.

Delegates also addressed the issue of insurance liability, adopting policy recommending that the state Insurance Commission implement measures to protect policyholders from abrupt and unjustified policy cancellations. Delegates also recommended enactment of tort reform legislation to limit pain and suffering awards to \$300,000 and holding lawyer's contingency fees to 20%. In addition, delegates recommended that individuals be prohibited from suing for injury suffered on land without the landowner's permission.

Delegates elected five new members to the PFA Board of Directors. Newly elected are John Shafer of Tamaqua representing Schuylkill/Carbon, Columbia and Luzerne counties; Fred Slezak of

New Alexandria representing Westmoreland, Fayette, Washington and Greene counties; Eugene Eisenbise of Hershey representing Dauphin, York, Lebanon and Lancaster counties; Robert Jones of Bath representing Northampton/Monroe, Lehigh and Bucks counties; and Ralph Dotterer of Mill Hall, representing Centre, Clinton and Lycoming counties.

Delegates re-elected J. Elrose Glick of Belleville representing Huntingdon, Mifflin, Perry and Juniata counties; James Glover of Waterford representing Crawford,

Council expects that the January-March production of turkeys in Pennsylvania could well exceed production quotas set during the same quarter of 1986.

Such a lot of to-do over a bird that is considered a not-too-smart cousin of our own wild turkey.

Whenever you sit down to your turkey dinner this Thanksgiving, it would be wise to offer thanks for this lowly bird who provides us with such a warm family tradition.

Erie and Warren counties; and R. Edwin Nehrig of Homer City representing Clearfield, Indiana and Cambria counties.

Delegates also filled two unexpired terms. Richard Pallman of Clarks Summit representing Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming and Lackawanna counties; and Mrs. Helen Jackson of New Galilee representing Butler, Beaver/Lawrence and Mercer counties. Mrs. Nyna Lucas of Bellefonte was appointed to the PFA Board as the State Women's Committee chairman.

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