

Turkey Trivia!

Ok, right up front I'll admit...this is one ugly bird! Only a mother could love that kisser! But, whereas the turkey is a homely, even comical looking bird, as opposed to, say, the majestic and stately eagle, still the *Meleagris* (that's its scientific name) deserves our respect and...yes...even our admiration.

Not only has the turkey graced American tables for some 400 years, and in the process becoming an entrenched and much anticipated annual culinary tradition in American homes, but the turkey has also earned its own special position in the history and development of this country. Just take a look...

Most domestic turkeys are so heavy they can't fly.

The largest turkey raised, according to the *Guinness Book of World Records*, was 86 pounds.

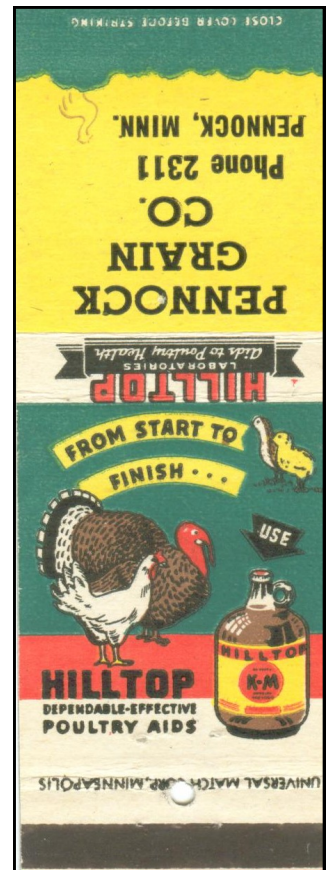
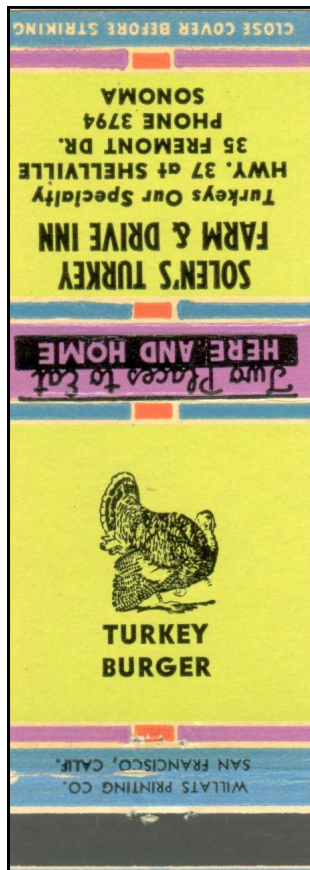
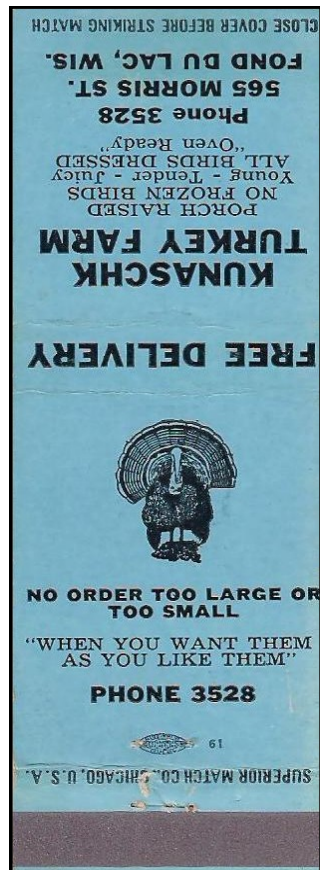
The red or pink fleshy growth on the head and upper neck of the turkey is called 'caruncle'.

The bright red appendage on the neck of the turkey is called 'wattle'.

The black lock of hair found on the chest of the male turkey is called the 'beard'.

Frozen, fully stuffed turkeys, ready to cook, were introduced in 1955.

Long before the Europeans came to America, it was the Aztecs who used to domesticate turkeys to use them as food. They also used turkeys for religious sacrifices and their feathers for decoration.



The turkey was considered a sacrificial bird in Mexico.

Turkey is the state game bird of Alabama.

The Wild Turkey is the official state bird of Oklahoma.

The Wild Turkey was designated the state game bird of Massachusetts on December 23, 1991.

Turkey eggs are tan with brown specks.

Domesticated turkey hens that are artificially inseminated, lay around 80 to 100 eggs during a 25 week laying cycle and each egg takes 28 days to hatch.

The typical 15-pound turkey is seventy percent white meat and thirty percent dark meat. White meat contains less calories and less fat as compared to dark meat.

When Neil Armstrong and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin went on the moon, they took 'roasted turkey' and all the trimmings with them.

In 2000, the total turkey production in the United States was 269,969,000 turkeys.

In 2004, the total turkey production in the United States was 263 million turkeys.

Turkeys have heart attacks. When the Air Force was conducting test runs and breaking the sound barrier, fields of turkeys would drop dead.

