



Meat the Future

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“The Christmas in Agriculture”

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Sparkling white lights, peppermint bark, extra time with loved ones, the general warmth of a seasonal home, and so much divinely delicious food to indulge in are just a few of my favorites of the holiday season. What are yours?

Christmas-time is often marinated in nostalgia and tradition, but have you ever thought about the ties the holiday season has to U.S. agriculture?

I recently read a dated Farm Bureau article by Robert Giblin, titled “American Agriculture Brings People Together over the Holidays”. Thought it was a few years old, I thought it served as the perfect example of the role agriculture plays on our holiday trees, Christmas cards, family feasts and so much more! Enjoy a few fun facts with me...

The Tree

Quite possibly one of the most prevalent Christmas traditions in our homes today is the tree. Giblin shares, “Most holiday traditions begin on the farm, as each year, some 25 million to 36 million fresh-cut Christmas trees find their way into American homes.” Approximately 98 percent of these live trees are grown on and supplied by the nearly 15,000-20,000 Christmas tree farms and nurseries across the United States – accounting for almost each state.

So, who are the top producing tree states? Coming in third place is Michigan, North Carolina comes in second, and the top producing Christmas tree state in 2022 was Oregon with approximately 4.7 million trees cut.

The Food

What holiday celebration doesn’t have tasty morsels of food at the forefront? And, America’s farmers and ranchers are to thank for that!

"The Agriculture in Christmas", Cont.

At the epicenter of a good portion of our holiday meals is a meat option. Turkey, ham, and roast beef are the most popular options on the list... and Kansas lands within the top ten ratings of cattle and hog production.

I don't know about you, but my sweet tooth seems to grow exponentially during the holiday season! And, I know I'm not alone as during the period between Thanksgiving and New Years, according to the National Sugar Association, sugar sales increase by 50 percent. The United States is among the world's largest sugar producers which is derived of sugarcane and sugar beet plants that can be found across a number of our states.

When the word "agriculture" is brought to the table, many instantly shift their mindset towards the traditional cattle ranch or row crop farm. But, today's agriculture industry takes on many faces and is behind providing us with so many important pieces of every day life.

So, to that... join me in extending a sincere "Thank You!" to the heartbeat of the agriculture industry!

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