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Let's Talk Turkey

The turkey has been front and center on Thanksgiving dinner tables since "Mary Had a Little Lamb" author Sarah Josepha Hale began promoting turkey as a family's main Thanksgiving course. We can also thank Hale, the "Godmother of Thanksgiving," for encouraging U.S. officials to make Thanksgiving an official holiday. It's been that way since 1863.

But why turkey? Well, for one thing, turkeys were a plentiful option in New

England, they served a lot of people and they weren't needed for other consumption purposes since they don't produce eggs or milk.

Another theory attributes the Thanksgiving turkey to the Queen of England. During the 16th century, a fleet of Spanish ships sunk on their way to attack England. According to legend, Queen Elizabeth received this news while eating dinner. She was so thrilled that she ordered another goose be served. Some historians say the early settlers were inspired by the queen's actions and roasted a turkey instead of a

The wild turkey is a native bird of North America. As a result, **Benjamin Franklin** claimed this made the turkey a more suitable national bird for the United States than the bald eagle. Not everyone agreed with Franklin, however, and the bald eagle became the national emblem for the United States in 1782. The bald eagle may be America's bird 364 days a year, but the turkey has one day all to itself Thanksgiving.



Green & Healthy Living Tips

Start a healthy Thanksgiving with a big breakfast like hot whole-grain cereal and an egg-white omelet with veggies. That's because saving up calories for the big meal rarely works.