



# LET'S TALK TURKEY

## Can You Guess How Much Food Schools Serve for Thanksgiving Feasts?

November 11 2015

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#### Pickens County School District Serving Up Good Eats to Celebrate Thanksgiving

Does the thought of planning and hosting Thanksgiving dinner leave you feeling overwhelmed? Menu planning, shopping, cleaning, cooking, cleaning again – it can make you want to order a catered dinner from a local restaurant. Or just throw hot dogs on the grill.

You might think you have a daunting task, but it's nothing compared to the plans the Pickens County School Nutrition Department manages each year. School lunchrooms are set to serve over 5,400 Thanksgiving meals to students and visitors on Thursday, November 19.

Let's talk turkey. What does it take to provide this many meals? This year, it won't involve much turkey. "Our USDA supplier suffered a shortage of turkeys due to the Asian bird flu," states Beth Thompson, District Nutrition Director. So, the decision was made to serve hardwood smoked ham as the main dish. "We know families traditionally serve turkey for Thanksgiving, and we figured students would have the opportunity to enjoy that dish at home."



So, what goes in to preparing such a huge feast? Start with 1,520 pounds of smoked ham and 170 gallons each of stuffing and mashed potatoes. Over 85 gallons of gravy will be bubbling on stovetops, and 5,400 yeast rolls baking in the ovens. Guests won't forget to eat their fruits and vegetables with 1,431 pounds of green beans and 1,925 pounds of fresh fruit on the tables. To satisfy a sweet tooth, cinnamon apple crisp made with 1,600 pounds of apples will be served.

Sweet tea is a requirement on southern tables, so there will be 235 gallons to wash it all down (along with 338 gallons of milk).

So instead of fretting about fussy relatives, how long it takes to thaw a turkey, or if you should try a new recipe, enjoy the party hosted by Pickens County School District food staff.

The Pickens County School District is thankful for our community and the hard work of our staff and students. Happy Thanksgiving!