

**Episode Title:** Thanksgiving and Agriculture

**Summary:** In this week's episode, we're doing things a little differently. In light of Thanksgiving, we will be discussing how agriculture plays a role in the holiday and why we're thankful for our farmers, ranchers, and all agricultural workers who provide us with food, fiber, and fuel.

## Transcript

**00:03 M. Bentley**

Welcome to the FarmSafe Podcast brought to you by the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health. In the blink of an eye, an injury can change your life and your farm forever. During each episode, we share first-hand stories and real-life tips for making safer and healthier decisions while working on the farm.

**A. Proctor**

This week's episode, we're doing things a little different. In light of Thanksgiving, we will be discussing how agriculture plays a role in the holiday and why we're thankful for our farmers, ranchers, and all agricultural workers who provide us with food, fiber, and fuel.

**00:33 M. Bentley**

So, starting off with some must-have Thanksgiving foods– the USDA found that the United States produced 5.61 billion pounds of turkey in 2021.

**A. Proctor**

That is definitely a lot of turkey! My family, however, we prefer a smoked ham. And last year, the U.S. produced 66.1 million market hogs.

**00:54 M. Bentley**

That's one of my favorite parts about holidays is seeing everyone's family traditions, and how they put their own twists into each of the food staples that we know here in the U.S. And my family specifically does a pumpkin pie competition, which is so much fun, but the U.S. produces 2 billion pumpkins yearly and Illinois is the leading state for the amount of pumpkin acreage that they produce, which is at about 16,000 acres of pumpkins and around 40,000 pounds of pumpkins per acre.

**A. Proctor**

Now, who won the family pumpkin pie competition last year?

**01:28 M. Bentley**

I'm so glad you asked, Anna. It's usually really close but definitely me!

**A. Proctor**

Thinking about thanksgiving dinner must haves– cranberry sauce is staple. Did you know that Wisconsin raised the most cranberries in 2021?

**01:40 M. Bentley**

No, I didn't realize that! Potatoes are also a top favorite for me, and potatoes are the top vegetable crop in the United States, specifically within Idaho and Washington which produce half the potato crop annually.

**A. Proctor**

I don't know about you, but I have a major sweet tooth, and my favorite part of Thanksgiving is all of the desserts with–. You can't have a pie or cake without whipped cream or ice cream. The U.S. produces 226 billion pounds of milk yearly.

**02:10 M. Bentley**

Yeah, and to kinda come back for all the sweets that I usually eat during Thanksgiving, I always like to have a really good salad. And our friend Ernesto makes super good salads, and he happens to be from California, and Anna, you're from Arizona. And so, those two states are primarily the top producers of lettuce in the United States, and lettuce is also one of the most valuable vegetables in the United States as well.

**A. Proctor**

Now, Matison, I have a serious question for you. Do you prefer red or white wine?

**M. Bentley**

I think I'm a red wine girl.

**02:43 A. Proctor**

I'm definitely a white wine girl, and it's nice that we have different tastes because there is so much variety in wine. Over 900 million gallons of wine were produced in 2017. And California alone makes 85% of all U.S. wine.

**M. Bentley**

So, I'm definitely hearing that California is a top producing ag state.

**A. Proctor**

Absolutely, but while California makes 85% of all U.S. wine, the United States accounts for 12% of the world's wine production.

**03:13 M. Bentley**

The United States agricultural industry is why we love what we do, and why we're here. And the FarmSafe podcast wishes you and your family a very happy, and safe and relaxing holiday.

**A. Proctor**

We especially thank our farmers for producing our food, fiber, and fuel.

**M. Bentley**

We truly thank our farmers, ranchers, and ag workers for all that they do. Happy Thanksgiving!

We want to hear from you. Share your stories about health and safety issues on the farm, about injuries that made you change the way you work, or about the ways you keep yourself and others safe on your farm. Also let us know if there's questions you have or topics that you want to hear about on the air. You can visit our website, [gpcah.org](http://gpcah.org) or email us.

Original music for the FarmSafe podcast was written and performed by Ben Schmidt.

This work was funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as part of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health.

# Photo

