

Thanksgiving Poll

An Extra Slice of Pie: More from the responses to questions about food

Must Have Dishes

White Castle stuffing was specifically listed by one person who also included it under the categories of ‘oddest side dishes they’d been served’ and the list of ‘things you found out aren’t common in other households.’

There was one person who said they always go out to eat, four who started buying their meal from a store and bringing it home to eat, and three either assign every family member a dish to bring or do a potluck.

There were also specific family traditions, like pistachio salad, dad’s mac and cheese, chicken mole, a dessert simply known as the cherry thing, and another called pink stuff (composed of cranberries and whipped cream).

Oddest and Most Awful

Cranberry-related complaints involved cranberry sauce from a can (or worse, in the shape of a can), jellied cranberries, cranberry relish made with sweet n’ low instead of sugar, mushy-runny cranberry sauce, and cranberry molds.

Among the more ‘exotic’ jello dishes mentioned were green jello ‘salad’ with pineapple and mayonnaise, a lime jello mold, a pink fruit jello mold, a jello horseradish dish, jello with fruit in it, blue jello with gummy fish, frog-eye salad, and one item described as a “slimy jello dessert concoction.”

Some people who tried unexpected dishes were pleasantly surprised, like the individual who tried a dish of yams with raisins and marshmallows to find it tasted good. And of course, the lover of White Castle stuffing who wrote, “some will say the White Castle Stuffing but it is wonderful and everyone loves it. Will not eat anything else.”

“We made this awful jello mold from a 70s cookbook— cherry gelatin with red hots, ketchup, celery and pecans on top and told everyone it was an old family favorite. It was beautiful and terrible of us. We didn’t tell anyone until after they all tried it. One person actually really liked it!”

“We don't allow experiments on Thanksgiving.”

“Blue jello with gummy fish. The fish melted so it looked like a gelatinous dirty fish tank.”

“My ex-mother-in-law makes this awful corn casserole. It's greasy and bland and (this really is the best word for it) squeaky.”

For the Love of Leftovers

The most common sandwich mentioned (given the name Gobbler sandwiches by at least two different people) are made with turkey, stuffing, and cranberry sauce (with some preferring gravy).

“Yes! The ultimate turkey sandwich. It starts with two slices of bread, mayo on one side, regular mustard on the other. Add turkey leftover meat, salt and pepper. Add salt and vinegar chips (or whatever kind you fancy) and voila! You have a delectable feast all over again. For those who go all out, they also add the stuff, potatoes and cranberry sauce right in the sandwich and then smother it with gravy.”

“Cornbread dressing sandwiches on worthless white bread slathered with mayo. (Maybe this should have been in the "odd" answer, but we love it.)”

Various types of casserole creations were mentioned including one from this person who kindly shared their recipe. “A casserole that layers the leftovers of vegetables, turkey, shredded cheese, stuffing, and gravy in a 9x13 pan and heat for 15-20 min at 350. You can garnish with cranberry sauce leftovers. My husband likes it so much we have modified it to make it throughout the year, not just for leftovers.”

People said they get ideas from Martha Stewart, America’s Test Kitchen, and the Betty Crocker Cookbook for their recipes. Others just reheat theirs and eat “repeat plates of Thanksgiving dinner” as one person phrased it. Turkey pot pie and turkey tetrazzini were mentioned multiple times and two different people said they’ve had NO leftovers in recent years!

Non-Traditional, International, and Ethnic Additions

There were mentions of sledzie, povitica, lumpia, lefse, pizzagaina, spaghetti and meatballs, zwieback, posole, birria, rice and beans, dirty rice, Jamaican rice, cooked tongue, chitterlings, soul food, lasagna, Yorkshire pudding, chili rellenos, hog maw, kolach, sashimi, poke, and cabbage rolls among others.

Some shared personal stories: “Lebanese food- my first year of marriage to my husband, his family had no turkey (lamb) no stuffing (just rice) and baklava instead of pumpkin pie. It was hard the first time. I love all those foods now.”

“On years where my brother-in-law's parents join us, his mom will make Posole or Birria. She makes them both perfectly and it’s such a treat.”

“For several years when we had Korean guests, they made Korean food for dinner after the traditional mid-day meal.”

“I have to make the traditional Portuguese cod fish - boiled salted cod fish, potatoes, eggs, carrots, cabbage (preferably the Portuguese one); layering all of these on a serving dish, drizzling olive oil and vinegar, salt and pepper.”

“We are Chinese, so usually there is a sticky rice roll or fried rice of some sort present.”

“Yes! My mother is Thai. We also have egg rolls, fried rice, and noodles.”

“Yes, we are Inuit. We eat Canada Goose, and Turkey, plus Newfoundland Jigg's Dinner.”