

# Turkeys

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MODERN TURKEY

Turkeys are the only fowl that originated in the Americas. When the **Spanish Conquistadors** landed in Mexico in 1519, they discovered that turkeys were already domesticated. On their return home, they introduced them to Europe. In the 1600s, the turkey was reintroduced to North America by the **Pilgrims**. They bred with the indigenous wild turkey of that area to produce the bronze-coloured bird that became the ancestor of the modern turkey.



### GOBBLE GOBBLE GLOSSARY

Hen: female turkey

Tom: male turkey

Poult: baby turkey

## DID YOU KNOW?

All turkeys have a **snood** (red fleshy bit hanging from the face). Turkeys do not sweat, just like dogs! They rely on their snood, pant, and spread their wings to cool themselves.

## TURKEY CAREERS

**Farmer**  
**Veterinarian**  
**Scientist**  
**Nutritionist**  
**Breeder**  
**Food Processing**



## WHAT DO TURKEYS EAT?

Turkeys are fed nutritionally balanced diets of **mixed grains and oilseeds**, which may include corn, soy, wheat, canola, for optimal health and development. Turkeys have access to **feed and water** 24 hours a day, which means they can help themselves at any time.



## KEEPING TURKEYS SAFE

Before going into the barn, the farmer puts on clean, barn-specific boots. Using these boots are a way for farmers to make sure they aren't bringing anything harmful into the barn from the outside, and vice versa.

This is part of **bio-security**.



## TURKEY HOUSING

Turkey barns are made to give the birds plenty of room to move around and have access to food and water at all times.

**Barns** protect turkeys from predators such as foxes, weasels and coyotes.



## MMM-MMM!

Turkey meat is a tasty and excellent source of **nutrition**. The meat contains protein, vitamin B<sub>6</sub>, vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, and zinc. Not only is turkey a healthy food choice, but it's delicious too!