

The Little Bird[©]

A Twice-Weekly Newsletter For Curious Seniors Nancy A. Franks, Editor

Topic: Corn

“Where’d you hear that?” “The Little Bird[©] told me!”



Corn By The Numbers

1

There is 1 strand of silk for each kernel of corn.

7-10

Corn typically grows 7-10 feet high.

6

Corn is grown on 6 of the 7 continents. Corn is not grown on Antarctica.

8

Shelled corn kernels are measured in bushels. 1 bushel = 8 gallons

16

An average ear of corn has 16 rows of kernels.

86

An average ear of corn has 86 calories.

400

One bushel of corn will sweeten 400 cans of Coca-Cola or Pepsi.

1,300

About 1,300 corn kernels is equal to one pound.

3,500+

There are more than 3,500 different uses for corn products.

7,000

Corn was grown over 7,000 years ago in Central America.

14,000

One acre of land can produce 14,000 pounds of sweet corn.

Top Corn Producers In The USA 2020



Iowa took the #1 slot. They produced 2,296.2 MBU (million bushels).



Illinois finished second after producing 2,131.2 MBU.



Third place went to Nebraska for producing 1,790.1 MBU.



Minnesota ranked #4. The state produced 1,441.9 MBU.

The remaining top ten corn producing states were Indiana, Kansas, South Dakota, Ohio, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

(Photo Source For State Maps: enchantedlearning.com)

Top Corn Producers In The World 2020



The United States is the world's largest producer and exporter of corn. In 2020, our country produced 346 MMT (million metric tons). A large percentage of the corn was used domestically. About half of that was used to feed livestock.



China took the #2 slot for producing 260.8 MMT. Most of this corn was used domestically.



Brazil finished third. Most of the 102 MMT produced was used domestically.



Argentina secured the #4 slot, producing 51 MMT. Unlike the countries that finished first, second, and third, Argentina exported more than half of its corn.

Ukraine finished 5th, producing 35.9 MMT. India took the #6 slot, producing 26 MMT. The country is expected to rise in its ranking in the years to come.

(Photo Source For All Flags: worldometers.info)

Popcorn Numbers

1/4

One quarter of the popcorn produced in the United States is grown in Nebraska.

3

Popcorn can travel up to 3 feet when popping.

4

Popcorn kernels are 4% water.

17

Americans eat about 17 billion quarts of popcorn per year.

19

January 19th is National Popcorn Day in the United States.

70

70% of all popcorn sold in the United States is consumed at home.

250

Nebraska produces 250 million pounds of popcorn annually, more than any other state.

1600

There are approximately 1,600 popcorn kernels in one cup.

1800s

In the 1880s, popcorn was often eaten like breakfast cereal. Milk and sugar were added.

1885

In 1885, Charles Cretors invented the first commercial popcorn machine.

1949

In 1949, popcorn was temporarily banned in movie theaters because it was thought that people eating it made too much noise.

1982

Microwave popcorn was invented by Pillsbury in 1982.

5,000

Popcorn is over 5,000 years old.

Corn Palace



(Photo Source: travelsouthdakots.com)

Each year, over 500,000 visitors stop at the world's one and only Corn Palace, located in Mitchell, South Dakota. This 43,510 square foot venue hosts concerts, rodeos, community events, and the annual Corn Palace Festival. Every spring, approximately \$175,000 is spent to decorate the outside of the palace with intricate murals using corn, grains, and grasses. Local farmers, provide twelve different shades of corn to the artists. After the artists transfer their designs onto tar paper on the building's exterior, corn cobs are split lengthwise and nailed to the tar paper. The results are amazing!

Corn Snake



(Photo Source: petco.com)

Looking for a new pet? If you find snakes intriguing and beautiful, then the corn snake could be your perfect companion. It's docile and easy to handle. Your adult corn snake will grow to 3-5 feet, but there's no pressure to remember daily feedings! Just offer your adult corn snake a thawed mouse every 10-14 days. If you'd prefer to serve a thawed rat, you can extend the gap between feedings to 14-21 days. If your corn snake should bite you, simply pour some water or Listerine mouthwash over its head. This will cause it to release its teeth. If you hear hissing, your corn snake is just asking you to go away. Are you ready to head to the pet store to purchase one?

Cornwall, England



(Photo Source: britannica.com)

Welcome to Cornwall! There's 433 miles of coastline to explore and over 300 beaches to visit. Surfers flock to the villages of Newquay and Porthtowan to ride the powerful swells. You'll love the warm, sunny weather - a welcome change from the rest of England. Start your day with a scone smothered in Cornish clotted cream. For lunch, feast on a genuine Cornish pasty - a puff pastry stuffed with seasoned minced beef, diced potatoes, and onion. Do you have room for dessert? There are over 75,000 cows in Cornwall, guaranteeing an endless supply of ice-cream. When you're attending a folk festival or visiting a local brewery, be on the lookout for Prince Charles and his wife. Carmella is the Duchess Of Cornwall.

Largest Corn Maze



(Photo Source: atlasobscura.com)

Do you have a good sense of direction? You'll need it to find your way out of the world's largest corn maze located in Dixon, California at Cool Patch Pumpkins. The maze, which opened in 2001, stretches for 63 acres. Upon entry, customers have an opportunity to choose the "fast" route that can be completed in about an hour, or the "full" route that requires at least two hours. To keep visitors challenged, the maze design is modified from year to year. The three bridges in the maze aren't just decorative. Disoriented visitors can get a bird's eye view of the maze. Each year, a few calls are made to 911 by visitors convinced that they will not find their way out.

Charles Cornwallis



(Photo Source: britanica.com)

You probably remember Charles Cornwallis as the British General who was defeated at the Battle Of Yorktown on October 17, 1781. This loss ended the Revolutionary War. Fortunately for Cornwallis, his military career did not suffer. He became the Governor-General Of India in 1786 and was appointed Lord Lieutenant and Commander-In-Chief Of Ireland in 1798.

Corn Husk Dolls



(Photo Source: digitalheritage.org)

The origin of corn husk dolls may be traced back to Native Americans. Corn husks were woven and braided to create dolls. Clothes were created using additional corn husks or cloth. Horse hair, flowers, and beads were also used to enhance the figures. The corn husk dolls were much more than toys for children. They often played a role in healing ceremonies or were used to scare away evil dream spirits. Traditional corn husk dolls do not have facial features. The Oneida Nation of Wisconsin shares the *Legend Of The No Face Doll*. It reminds us that we should never think that we are better than someone else.

Corncob Pipe



(Photo Source: listia.com)

The historic river town of Washington, Missouri is known as the "Corn Cob Pipe Capital Of The World". In the 1860s, Dutch immigrant Henry Tibbe used his wood working tools to improve upon a corncob pipe that had been carved by a local farmer. Tibbe's design became so popular that he began producing corn cob pipes fulltime. The company that Tibbe founded, *Missouri Meerschaum*, continues to sell corncob pipes around the world.

Corny Jokes



(Photo Source: britanica.com)

What do you get when you cross an ear of corn and a cow?

Corned beef

What did the corn say when he received a compliment?

Aww, shucks!

How is an ear of corn like an army?

They both have a lot of kernels.

What did Baby Corn ask Mommy Corn?

Where's Pop-Ccorn?

Why shouldn't you tell a secret on a farm?

Because the corn is all ears.



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