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More bucks needed to bring home the bacon...er, turkey

The retail cost of menu items for a classic Thanksgiving dinner including turkey, stuffing, cranberries, pumpkin pie and all the basic trimmings increased about 13 percent this year, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation.

AFBF's 26th annual informal price survey of classic items found on the Thanksgiving Day dinner table indicates the average cost of this year's feast for 10 is \$49.20, a \$5.73 price increase from last year's average of \$43.47.

A similar survey in Vermilion County found the local price of that meal would be \$42.38, 14% under

the national average.

"Many of you may be saying, 'I spend more than that for my meal,' and that may be true. We're fortunate enough to be able to offer our families more than the basics in this traditional Thanksgiving meal," noted Mark Willard, Vermilion County Farm Bureau Marketing Committee chairman.

The Farm Bureau survey shopping list includes turkey, bread stuffing, sweet potatoes, rolls with butter, peas, cranberries, a relish tray of carrots and celery, pumpkin pie with whipped cream, and beverage.

See **TURKEY** on other side

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Letters to the Editor



God's holy book

Somewhere in the world in 2011, there was a shout and the assembled people stood, tears on their cheeks as someone entered holding up THE WORD. Hearts were overwhelmed that for the first time, in their own language, they had God's Holy Book in their own language.

Daily Bible translators work furiously trying to get the Word out to those who have never had it to hold and revere in their own hands, to hear of The Messiah, The Christ, who suffered and died to bring them forgiveness of sins, win them a place in Heaven and give them peace and an abundant life here on earth.

In far away places people walk for miles to hear the Word of God.

Thousands of dear saints have been martyred to bring to Word of God for over 2,000 years!

Most homes have at least one Bible, many have several for study. But too often God's Voice is seldom opened.

In this country too many make excuses on God's Holy Day, some won't even walk across the street to hear His voice let alone drive across town. The homebound would

give anything to walk through those doors which someday may be closed forever. We are not immune to such a thing in this country.

We should be so ashamed. There is still hope. "Now is the day of salvation." "As God's servants, we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For He says, 'In the time of my favor, I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.' Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation."

Alice Lawrence Fink
Hoopeston

Letters to the Editor policy

Just the Facts welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed by the writer and must include a daytime phone number for verification. Letters must be in good taste and of general interest to readers. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters may be mailed to P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942, or emailed to publish@justthefacts.net.

Turkey continued from other side

ages of coffee and milk, all in quantities sufficient to serve a family of 10. There is also plenty for leftovers.

The big ticket item – a 16-pound turkey – came in at \$21.57 this year. That was roughly \$1.35 per pound, an increase of about 25 cents per pound. A local bird could be purchased at 99 cents in Danville. The turkey was the biggest contributor to the final total, showing the largest price increase compared to last year.

"Turkey prices are higher this year primarily due to strong consumer demand both here in the U.S. and globally," said John Anderson, an AFBF senior economist.

In addition, "the era of grocers holding the line on retail food cost increases is basically over," Anderson explained. "Retailers are being more aggressive about passing on higher costs for shipping, processing and storing food to consumers, although turkeys may still be featured in special sales and promotions close to Thanksgiving.

"Although we'll pay a bit more this year, on a per-person basis, our traditional Thanksgiving feast remains a better value than most fast-food value meals, plus it's a wholesome, home-cooked meal," Anderson said.

Nationally, a gallon of whole milk increased in price by 42 cents per gallon, to \$3.66. "Demand for U.S. dairy products has been strong throughout the year and continues to influence retail prices, as demand for higher-quality food products grows globally," Anderson said. But good news for local shoppers is that our milk price dropped 26 cents to \$3.49.

Other items that showed a price increase from last year in both surveys were: a 30-ounce can of pumpkin pie mix, two nine-inch pie shells, a ½ pint of whipping cream, and a pound of green peas.

Grocery items that rose nationally but dropped

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 45. Tonight, chance of flurries. Low 29. Tomorrow, sunny. High 42, low 32.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

locally included sweet potatoes and cubed stuffing. Locally, a pound of carrots and celery rose while dropping nationally. A combined group of miscellaneous items, including coffee and ingredients necessary to prepare the meal (onions, eggs, sugar, flour, evaporated milk and butter) decreased in price to \$3.10 for both surveys.

"The cost of this year's meal remains a bargain, at just under \$5 per person," noted AFBF President Bob Stallman. "The quality and variety of food produced for our dinner tables on America's diverse farms sets us apart from our contemporaries around the world. It is an honor for our farm families to produce the food from our nation's land for family Thanksgiving celebrations."

The AFBF survey was first conducted in 1986. This year's survey included 141 shoppers from 35 states. The Farm Bureau volunteers are asked to look for the best possible prices, without taking advantage of special promotional coupons or purchase deals, such as spending \$50 and receiving a free turkey. While Farm Bureau does not make any scientific claims about the data, it is an informal gauge of price trends around the nation.

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Family or friends coming for the holidays and you don't have room for them? 1 bedroom house for rent by the day. 2 day minimum. \$75 per day. Call (217) 304-8573 for details or to reserve.

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