

NOVEMBER 2023



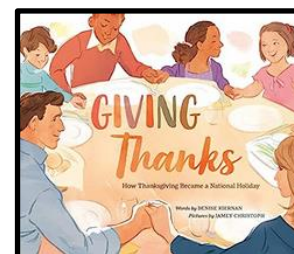
Ag in the Classroom Book of the Month

Giving Thanks: How Thanksgiving Became a National Holiday

By Denise Kiernan

All across the world, among hundreds of cultures and across centuries, people have come together to give thanks. But Americans didn't have an official Thanksgiving holiday until the 1800s. The holiday Americans know today exists because of a woman named Sarah Josepha Hale, a spirited letter-writing campaign, a sympathetic president, and a civil war.

This beautifully illustrated picture book shares the true story of how Thanksgiving became a national American holiday and offers a look at the timeless and global power of gratitude.



Fun Facts:

- Agriculture contributes approximately \$69.4 billion annually to Georgia's economy, according to the UGA Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development.
- One in seven Georgians works in agriculture, forestry or related fields.
- In 2020, there were over 42,000 farms in Georgia. The average farm size was 235 acres.
- In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday on the last Thursday in November.
- Congress passed a law on December 26, 1941, making the fourth Thursday in November a legal holiday.
- The origin of Georgia's first official celebration of Thanksgiving Day came in 1826. Governor George Troup, in his annual message to the Georgia legislature, asked the assembly to proclaim a statewide celebration of Thanksgiving Day.
- 88% of Americans surveyed by the National Turkey Federation eat turkey on Thanksgiving. 46 million turkeys are eaten each Thanksgiving.

Videos:

- [AgVentures at Mitcham Farms in Newton County](#)
- Farm Monitor has LOTS of videos of Georgia Farmers. Click [here](#) to search for a specific commodity to learn about!
- [The Science of Turkey Farming](#)
- [History Channel- History of the Holidays: History of Thanksgiving](#)

Activities:

- [Thanksgiving Coloring Page](#)
- [Thanksgiving Bookmarks](#)
- [Georgia's top 10 commodity bookmark featuring the 2023 bookmark contest winner's artwork](#)
- [Thank a Farmer Letters](#)
- [Thankful Bag Show and Tell](#)
- Gratitude Activities: [Gratitude Classroom Chain](#) [Gratitude Candy Game](#) [Gratitude Writing Activity](#)
- Make a [recipe](#) featuring a commodity in your county. Find the top 3 commodities for your county by [downloading the annual report](#).
- [Activity: Draw or cut out the food that you hope will be on your plate this Thanksgiving.](#)
- Georgia's Top 20 Commodities Bingo. Each calling card has a riddle so students can figure out the commodity before being shown the card! [3x3 Card](#) [4x4 Card](#) [Calling cards](#)
- **FREE** printable book, [The Prized Pumpkin!!](#) Great for grades 3-5. (In English and Spanish)



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