**Corn Trivia**

Fresh corn on the cob will lose up to 40% of its sugar content after 6 hours of room temperature storage. The sugar is converted to starch.

Corn is a cereal crop that is part of the grass family.

An ear or cob of corn is actually part of the flower and an individual kernel is a seed.

An average ear of corn has 800 kernels, arranged in 16 rows.

Corn will always have an even number of rows on each cob.

There is one piece of silk for each kernel

Each tassel on a corn plant releases as many as 5 million grains of pollen.

Corn can be produced in various colors including blackish, bluish-gray, purple, green, red, white and the most common yellow.

Corn is an ingredient in more than 3,500 grocery products.

One bushel of corn can make 33 pounds of sweetener, 32 pounds of starch, or 2 ½ gallons of ethanol fuel

Corn is the 3rd most important food crop of the world measured by production volume, behind wheat and rice. In terms of acreage planted, it is second only to wheat.

With the exception of Antarctica, corn is produced on every continent in the world.

In the 1930s, before the machines were available, a farmer could harvest an average of 100 bushels of corn by hand in a nine-hour day. Today’s combines can harvest 900 bushels of corn per hour, or 100 bushels of corn in under 7 minutes.

Corn was domesticated about 10,000 years ago, most likely from a lost ancestor from the highlands of central Mexico. The oldest remains of corn found at archaeological sites in Mexico resemble popcorn type corn.

An area termed the "Corn Belt" in the US where growing conditions are ideal includes the states of Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Minnesota, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Michigan, Missouri, Kansas and Kentucky .Nebraska is the “Cornhusker State.”

Washington, Missouri is known as the Corn Cob Pipe Capital of the World.

As well as being eaten by the cob, corn is also processed and used as a major component in many food items like cereals, peanut butter, potato chips, soups, marshmallows, ice cream, baby food, cooking oil, margarine, mayonnaise, salad dressing, and chewing gum.

Corn and its by products are also found in many non-food items such as fireworks, rust preventatives, glue, paint, dyes, laundry detergent, soap, aspirin, antibiotics, paint, shoe polish, ink, cosmetics, the manufacturing of photographic film, and in the production of plastics.