



EXTREME THANKSGIVING

How your Thanksgiving dinner battled the elements in 2011

Drought

Hit: Pumpkins, Southwest

Cost: The sales and shipping manager for M&P Produce Co. in San Antonio said bins of pumpkins that cost \$70 to \$75 last year cost at least \$95 this year – “Prices are up to start with, and it will get tighter in mid-October when demand grows”

*Drought takes bite out of Texas pumpkins
– September 23 2011, Houston Chronicle*

Heat Wave

Hit: Turkeys, Great Plains

Cost: More than 4000 turkeys died when barn temperatures reached more than 105.

Heat wave blamed in deaths of thousands of poultry in several states – July 13 2011, Associated Press

Cold Spring

Hit: Wine grapes, California

Cost: “Our Viognier is down 80 percent,” – California winemaker

In Calif, wine grapes good but in short supply – October 12 2011, Associated Press

Heavy Rain

Hit: Wheat, Pacific Northwest

Cost: Aaron Schumacher, president of A&R Farms Inc, had \$90,000 worth of wheat wiped out by rain.

*Crop insurance brings the national debate down to Oregon farmers
– July 30 2011, Oregon Live*

Heavy Rain

Hit: Vegetable harvest, Northeast

Cost: “We are looking at a one-third loss” – Farmer, Ransom Twp, PA.

*Wet weather hinders crop production
– October 19 2011, The Times Tribune*

Hurricane Irene

Hit: Vegetable harvest, Northeast

Cost: “This year is going to be a total loss...All that effort, all that money, the labor to weed it, fertilize it, irrigate it, and then to get nothing from it, that’s what kills you.” – Farmer, New Paltz, NY

*Flooded farmers learn to be creative
– September 27 2011, The New York Times*