

National Pig Day

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

National Pig Day is an event held annually on March 1 in the United States to celebrate the pig. The holiday celebration was started in 1972 by sisters Ellen Stanley, a teacher in Lubbock, Texas, and Mary Lynne Rave of Beaufort, North Carolina.^{[1][2][3]} According to Rave the purpose of National Pig Day is "to accord the pig its rightful, though generally unrecognized, place as one of man's most intellectual and domesticated animals."^[2] The holiday is most often celebrated in the Midwest.^[4]

National Pig Day includes events at zoos, schools,^[5] nursing homes, and sporting events around the United States. It is also recognized at "pig parties" where pink pig punch and pork delicacies are served, and pink ribbon pigtails are tied around trees in the pigs' honor.^[2] According to Chase's Calendar of Events, National Pig Day is on the same day as pseudo-holidays Share a Smile day and Peanut Butter Lover's day.^[6] The question of whether the holiday is a time to honor pigs by "giving them a break" or to appreciate their offerings (spare ribs, bacon and ham) is an open question.^[7]

Events

In Lexington, Kentucky, a nursing home celebrated National Pig Day with a porcine parade that included a display of pig collectibles such as porcelain pigs, pig potholders, piggy banks, and pigs made from calico and cross-stitches, as well as a real-life Vietnamese potbellied pig named Stella who "hogged the day."^[8]

In the Lehigh Valley, National Pig Day in 2008 was honored with single-game tickets to the IronPigs' 73 home games at Coca-Cola Park, including the IronPigs-Philadelphia Phillies exhibition and Opening Day, going on sale to the general public.^[3] The celebration was described as a "sporktacular" day in franchise history by the team's General Manager Kurt Landes who said, "We look forward to doing our part in making National Pig Day an openly celebrated date in the Lehigh Valley!"^[3] Highlights of the National Pig Day also included plans for a pig roast featuring complimentary food and beverages, appearances by the IronPigs mascot Ferrous, and a variety of activities for children including pig crafts, IronPigs tattoos, and a chance to pin the tail on Ferrous.^[3]

In Illinois the celebration Jake Bowers of the "often disrespected species" is done with "good reason": the pork industry contributes \$1.9 billion to the state's economy. When National Pig Day coincided with the Year of the Pig in 2007, described as a porcine nexus, Illinoisans watched a 50 lb (23 kg) miniature pig named Pinto from the Yucatan display sporting abilities (guiding a ball into a soccer net and using his snout to push a basketball up a ramp into a hoop) at the Brookfield Zoo and many fans donned pig snouts and caps for the festivities and parade.^[9]

A handbook for first year teachers includes National Pig Day as a seasonal activity and recommends cooking bacon, making BLTs, and discussing where pork chops come from.^[10]

New York

At the Tisch Children's Zoo in New York's Central Park, National Pig Day is usually celebrated with the help of pot-bellied pigs. In 1998, two nine-month old piglets named Thelma and Louise and their 185-pound companion named Speedy greeted visitors, while the children's zoo also held a "snort off" competition for

children.^[4] In 2009, the Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs at the zoo were named Oliver and Otis; they were reported to have "hammed it up and stole the show at the seventh annual National Pig Day celebration at the Children's Zoo," though, in general, reviews of the pigs were mixed.^[11]

On Long Island a family gives their pot-bellied pig a special treat, refrains from eating pork and prepares a special National Pig Day meal. At the Suffolk County Farm in Yaphank, the Cornell Cooperative Extension celebrated National Pig Day by sponsoring a pig program. Families visited farm pigs where "the piglet cuddled today will soon grow to 220 pounds and wind up in 'hog heaven.'"^[12] The meat from the farm is fed to the inmates at the Suffolk County Jail, "so it was a strange day viewing pigs as if they were in a zoo, but knowing that their time was limited... except, of course, for the stud pigs, or boars, and their ladies-in-waiting, the sows." Big Bert was a 650-pound "hunka-hunka burning-love" at the farm.^[12] Miss Piggy and Porky Pig were honored and porcine facts presented: the world's largest pig weighed 2,660 pounds, and pigs sailed with Christopher Columbus.^[12] Attendees included the owner of Lil Pig Out, a company on the Island that makes pig-shaped candies.^[12] "We've got Gummy Pigs and Good 'n Piggy," the owner said in between viewing pigs and handing out pink-colored pig pens.^[12]

References

1. ^ Sarah Casey Newman Pig Day Hogs Spotlight (http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_product=SL&p_theme=sl&p_action=search&p_maxdocs=200&p_topdoc=1&p_text_direct-0=0EB05228E391E505&p_field_direct-0=document_id&p_perpage=10&p_sort=YMD_date:D&s_trackval=GooglePM) February 26, 2000 page 43 St. Louis Post-Dispatch
2. ^ *a b c* A Pig-Out for porkers (http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=rGsJAAAAIBAJ&sjid=_EYDAAAIAIBAJ&pg=6026,3536625&dq=ellen+stanley+1972+national+pig+day) February 23, 1980 Associated Press story reported in Virgin Islands Daily News
3. ^ *a b c d* "Single-Game Tickets On Sale March 1" (<http://www.oursportscentral.com/services/releases/?id=3594388>) . *Our Sports Central*. 2008-02-18. <http://www.oursportscentral.com/services/releases/?id=3594388>. Retrieved 2009-05-11.
4. ^ *a b* Graeber, Laurel (1998-02-27). "Family Fare: 3 Pigs, Not All Little" (<http://www.nytimes.com/1998/02/27/arts/family-fare.html>) . *New York Times*. <http://www.nytimes.com/1998/02/27/arts/family-fare.html>. Retrieved 2009-05-11.
5. ^ Flick, David (1998-02-28). "A Pig Day at School: Kids Learn All Sorts of Things; Some They May Want to Forget" (http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_product=DM&p_theme=dm&p_action=search&p_maxdocs=200&p_topdoc=1&p_text_direct-0=0ED3DA969E2BBF6F&p_field_direct-0=document_id&p_perpage=10&p_sort=YMD_date:D&s_trackval=GooglePM) . *The Dallas Morning News*. http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_product=DM&p_theme=dm&p_action=search&p_maxdocs=200&p_topdoc=1&p_text_direct-0=0ED3DA969E2BBF6F&p_field_direct-0=document_id&p_perpage=10&p_sort=YMD_date:D&s_trackval=GooglePM. Retrieved 2009-05-11.
6. ^ Jim Slotek March may come in like a lion or a lamb, but it goes out like a teenager abducted by extraterrestrials goofing off (http://www.torontosun.com/entertainment/columnists/jim_slotek/2009/03/01/8576566-sun.html) March 1, 2009 Toronto Sun
7. ^ "But what about National Pig Day? Is it time to celebrate what the pig offers by downing spare ribs, bacon, and ham? Or is it time to give the little guys a break - to step back and just appreciate all they offer us?" Stuttley, Henry Go hog wild National Pig Day is Wednesday. How will you be celebrating? (http://goliath.ecnext.com/coms2/gi_0199-5278304/Go-hog-wild-National-Pig.html) February 28, 2006 Daily Herald (Arlington Heights, Illinois)
8. ^ "Hamming It Up: Pigs Hog Spotlight at Nursing Center" (<http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?>

- p_product=LH&s_site=kentucky&p_multi=LH&p_theme=realcities&p_action=search&p_maxdocs=200&p_topdoc=1&p_text_direct-0=0EB73D150F977974&p_field_direct-0=document_id&p_perpage=10&p_sort=YMD_date:D&s_trackval=GooglePM) . *Lexington Herald-Leader* (Jake Bowers). 1991-03-02. http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_product=LH&s_site=kentucky&p_multi=LH&p_theme=realcities&p_action=search&p_maxdocs=200&p_topdoc=1&p_text_direct-0=0EB73D150F977974&p_field_direct-0=document_id&p_perpage=10&p_sort=YMD_date:D&s_trackval=GooglePM. Retrieved 2009-05-11.
9. ^ Pyke, Marni (2007-03-02). "Swine get a day to pig out Hogs take a poke at stereotypes at Brookfield Zoo pig day celebration" (http://goliath.ecnext.com/coms2/gi_0199-6311307/Swine-get-a-day-to.html) . *Daily Herald (Arlington Heights)*. http://goliath.ecnext.com/coms2/gi_0199-6311307/Swine-get-a-day-to.html. Retrieved 2009-05-11.
 10. ^ Memory Long Schorr, Linda Martin A Handbook for First Year Teachers: Ready, Set, Go! (<http://books.google.com/books?id=Uwxqlzsc8wC&pg=PA132&dq=national+pig+day+bacon>) Libraries Unlimited, 1995 ISBN 1-56308-170-9, ISBN 978-1-56308-170-5 169 pages page 132
 11. ^ Molnar, Phillip (2009-03-01). "Central Park Zoo goes hog-wild for squeal good time on National Pig Day" (http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2009/03/01/2009-03-01_central_park_zoo_goes_hogwild_for_squeal.html) . *New York Daily News*. http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2009/03/01/2009-03-01_central_park_zoo_goes_hogwild_for_squeal.html. Retrieved 2009-05-11.
 12. ^ *abcde* Ketcham, Diane (1992-03-08). "Long Island Journal: No Ribs to Spare" (<http://www.nytimes.com/1992/03/08/nyregion/long-island-journal-648092.html?partner=rssnyt&emc=rss&pagewanted=all>) . *The New York Times*. <http://www.nytimes.com/1992/03/08/nyregion/long-island-journal-648092.html?partner=rssnyt&emc=rss&pagewanted=all>. Retrieved 2009-05-11.

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=National_Pig_Day&oldid=534549649"

Categories: March observances | Observances in the United States | Pigs

- This page was last modified on 23 January 2013 at 21:10.
 - Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. See Terms of Use for details.
- Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.