

## Help Customers Get Ready for Thanksgiving

The majority of your customers will be celebrating Thanksgiving, whether they are cooking and hosting themselves, or joining a gathering and bringing a dish. Did you know? Americans will eat an estimated 46 million turkeys on Thanksgiving Day.

### Fun Fact

Turkey wasn't on the menu at the first Thanksgiving. Venison, duck, goose, oysters, lobster, eel, and fish were likely served, alongside pumpkins and cranberries (but no pumpkin pie or cranberry sauce!).

### Celebrate Thanksgiving with different events

- Thanksgiving-themed cooking classes & demos
  - Opt for “everything but the turkey” recipe demos featuring produce!  
Most customers will be looking for new side dish ideas. Try recipes like:
    - [Caramelized Butternut Squash](#)
    - [Creamed Spinach and Mushrooms](#)
    - [Carrot Sweet Potato Mash](#)
  - Share recipes in demos or classes that feature how to use up [Thanksgiving Day dinner leftovers](#)
- Host a nutrition education class in the store or in the community
  - It's the beginning of the holiday season and customers will be seeking advice for staying on track with healthy habits during the holidays.
    - Listen to Produce for Kids [podcast](#) of “Balancing the Holiday Sugar Rush”
- Kids events
  - Guess this squash contest
    - Set up a table and number the squash. Have a worksheet for kids to guess the names of each squash with a box to collect the entries. At the end of the month, pick a winner and share a prize!
  - Create fun [food-themed recipes](#)
  - While parents are shopping, set up a [Thanksgiving craft corner](#) with healthy snacks

### Celebrate with the Employees

- Host a Friendsgiving with the employees. Arrange a potluck dinner where everyone signs up to bring something to share in the breakroom to enjoy together.
  - Share [recipes](#) with employees to spark some new recipe ideas to bring to their own Thanksgiving too!

## What's In Season

Remind customers what fresh produce items are [in season](#) when so when they head to the grocery store they can not only save you money but also they will be enjoying fruits and veggies at their peak!

### *Squash their confusion about squash!*

- Having a hard time cutting a large spaghetti squash in half?
  - Start by making several large slits through the skin with the tip of a sharp knife. This helps the air release as your squash heats up (so your squash doesn't explode when you microwave it!). Next, microwave the squash on high for approximately 3-5 minutes (in 30-second intervals) to soften the skin, which makes it easier to cut.
- Too much prep work to peel and dice squash?
  - Showcase the freshly cut squash in the produce section or highlight the frozen aisle.
- Share this [guide to squash](#) with customers or hang it in the produce aisle

### **Cross-merchandising ideas**

- Make a display of different varieties of squash with the guide near to explain the variety of squashes.
- Set up a Thanksgiving “survival guide” end cap, including aluminum foil pans, digital thermometers, decorations, or any of these [must-have Thanksgiving products](#).
- Add digital thermometers next to the frozen turkeys.

Looking for healthy, family-friendly recipes to share with shoppers? Our recipes are approved by a registered dietitian, taking the guesswork out of planning healthy and delicious meals!

- [Broccoli Cheddar Corn Muffins](#)
- [Garlic & Parmesan Mini Hasselback Potatoes](#)
- [Scalloped Sweet Potatoes and Apples](#)