Newsletter

Southeastern Game Bird Breeders & Hunting Preserve Association

﻿No. 10, OCTOBER 2021

National Quail Conservation Initiative Finds New Home at Clemson University

Clemson University is home to a new center for the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI) and will serve in a national leadership capacity co-managing the operations and enabling the implementation of the initiative. John Morgan, NBCI director shared, “after 28 years, the NBCI is coming back to where it started. ... Clemson University’s vision for science, education and outreach coupled with an enthusiasm for growing the NBCI were a perfect fit.”

 

Ribbon Ceremony to Celebrate the Farm Pavilion

In honor of the opening of the new Extension and Research Farm Pavilion, a ribbon ceremony was held at North Carolina A&T State University Farm on McConnell Road. The 17,000 square foot pavilion includes an auditorium, laboratories, demonstration kitchen, a 50-person classroom and a 400-person conference room for the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences department. The project is worth $5 million, and it is funded by USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture. North Carolina A&T and North Carolina State University established a research partnership in 2012 to help with agricultural programs and supporting small-scale farmers in North Carolina. For more information, read The A&T Register article.

N.C. A&T hosts Ribbon Ceremony

WOMEN CHAINSAW SAFETY

NCAT is releasing a video on chainsaw safety for women to mark Safety & Health for Women in Agriculture Day on Friday, September 24. These resources and a new guide to preparing for disaster join an archive of other equipment-related guides available at ATTRA.NCAT.ORG.

ATTRA news 9/24/21

FARMER TO FARMER

It has been suggested that a "Farmer to Farmer" Section be included in our Newsletter. I will need your input to make this work! Anything that you would like to make known to your fellow Gamebird growers! Do you have a new piece of equipment Or, just some news you would like to "Share"?

Please send your information to: SouthEasternGamebirds@gmail.com

Thank you.

Cheryl Webster

New Food Freezing Concept Improves Quality,

Increases Safety and Cuts Energy Use

Kim Kaplan

ALBANY, Calif., Sept. 2, 2021 – Shifting to a new food freezing method could make for safer and better quality frozen foods while saving energy and reducing carbon emissions, according to a new study byU.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and University of California-Berkeley scientists.

"A complete change over to this new method of food freezing worldwide could cut energy use by as much as 6.5 billion kilowatt-hours each year while reducing the carbon emissions that go along with generating that power by 4.6 billion kg, the equivalent of removing roughly one million cars from roads," said ARS research food technologist Cristina Bilbao-Sainz. She is with the Healthy Processed Foods Research Unit, part of ARS's Western Regional Research Center (WRRC) in Albany.

"T­hese savings could be achieved without requiring any significant changes in current frozen food manufacturing equipment and infrastructure, if food manufacturers adopt this concept," Bilbao-Sainz added.

The new freezing method, called isochoric freezing, works by storing foods in a sealed, rigid container—typically made of hard plastic or metal—completely filled with a liquid such as water. Unlike conventional freezing in which the food is exposed to the air and freezes solid at temperatures below 32 degrees F, isochoric freezing preserves food without turning it to solid ice.

As long as the food stays immersed in the liquid portion, it is protected from ice crystallization, which is the main threat to food quality.

"Energy savings come from not having to freeze foods completely solid, which uses a huge amount of energy, plus there is no need to resort to energy-intensive cold storage protocols such as quick freezing to avoid ice crystal formation," Bilbao-Sainz said.

Isochoric freezing also allows for higher quality storage of fresh foods such as tomatoes, sweet cherries and potatoes that are otherwise difficult to preserve with conventional freezing.

Another benefit of isochoric freezing is that it also kills microbial contaminants during processing.

"The entire food production chain could use isochoric freezing—everyone from growers to food processors, product producers to wholesalers, to retailers. The process will even work in a person's freezer at home after they purchase a product—all without requiring any major investments in new equipment," said WRRC center director Tara McHugh, co-leader of this study. "With all of the many potential benefits, if this innovative concept catches on, it could be the next revolution in freezing foods."

UC-Berkeley biomedical engineer Boris Rubinsky, co-leader of this project, first developed the isochoric freezing method to cryopreserve tissues and organs for transplants.

Since then, ARS and UC-Berkeley have applied for a joint patent for applying isochoric freezing to preserving food. The research team is now developing the best applications for this technology in the frozen foods industry, especially scaling up the technology to an industrial level. They also are seeking commercial partners to help transfer the technology to the commercial sector.

UC-Berkeley mechanical engineer Matthew Powell-Palm, one of the lead authors of the study paper, noted that "isochoric freezing is a cross-cutting technology with promising applications in not only the food industry, but in medicine, biology, even space travel."

WRRC has also been designated a National Historic Chemical Landmark in 2002 by the American Chemical Society for developing the Time-Temperature Tolerance studies, which made possible the production of stable, safe and high quality frozen food, revolutionizing the industry in the 1950s.

This research was published in Renewable & Sustainable Energy Reviews.

ARS 9\9\2021

An Illustrated Guide to Sheep and Goat Production

We've updated this popular ATTRA publication on sheep and goat production to include new resources. The 20-page, basic and heavily graphic introduction to these livestock animals discusses selection, feeding, breeding and young stock, equipment and handling, and marketing. Look for detailed illustrations of healthy, properly conditioned animals, as well as depictions of various fencing types, feeders, and paddock systems.

ATTRA publication 10/6/21

$650 Million Soon Available for Small-Scale Farmers, Farmers Markets, and Food Producers

Small-scale farmers, food processors or distributors, or farmers markets financially impacted by Covid-19 may be able to access up to $20,000 through the USDA’s Pandemic Response and Safety Grant Program to recover costs related to the pandemic. If you operate a small farm producing specialty crops whose annual revenue is less than $1 million, run a farmers market, food hub, community supported agriculture (CSA) farm, a small food processing business or food manufacturing operation, you may be eligible for grant funding. The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) is helping food producers access these dollars. Applications will open in early October, but producers should get prepared for the application period now.

ATTRA Publication 10/6/21

Secretary's Corner

I hope everyone had a nice Columbus Day. I find this Federal Holiday a conundrum. Christopher Columbus never set a foot on what is now the United States. Now, I wish everyone a Happy and Spooky Halloween.

The Origins of 25 Monsters, Ghosts, and Other Spooky Things

BY Sonya Vatomsky

October 20, 2017

(Updated: October 5, 2021)

Jack-O'-Lanterns

The name jack-o’-lantern comes from an Irish myth, in which a man called Stingy Jack tricks the Devil and ends up condemned to walk the earth, unable to get into heaven or hell. According to the tale, the original lantern was a carved-out turnip Jack used to light his way as he wandered in the dark. When Irish immigrants brought this story to America, they discovered that pumpkins, native to their new home, made an even spookier candle-holder.Tales of headless horseman predate The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.

Though dressing up as an angel is acceptable, it’s ghouls and goblins that truly capture our imaginations during the Halloween season. As lit jack-o’-lanterns beckon and monsters lurk in the shadows, we explore the origins of 25 frightful things that go bump—or boo—in the night.

Zombies

The flesh-eating creatures of movies galore are Haitian in origin—animated corpses raised by Voodoo priests, called bokors. Once reanimated, the zombies would remain under the control of the bokor and do their bidding. The creatures first entered widespread popular culture in the 1929 book The Magic Island by William Seabrook and three years later in the film White Zombie, though our modern zombies have come to be associated more with plagues and viruses than sorcery.

Crystal Balls

A fortune-teller’s staple, crystal balls may have been described by Pliny the Elder in the 1st century. In one chapter of his Natural History, he discusses magic performed with water, balls, and all sorts of other tools. Some scholars have associated these practices with the Druids, which Pliny also discusses. It's said that Druids would employ a procedure known as “scrying,” in which they stared into the reflective surfaces of mirrors, water, and, yes, crystals, to gain insight.

Mummies

In ancient Egypt, mummification was a type of body preservation thought to be developed by people looking to mimic the way the desert kept bodies from decaying. As the popularity of all things Egyptian skyrocketed in Europe during the 19th century, the mummy and its supposed curse became a standard horror trope, appearing in stories by authors such as Bram Stoker, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and even Louisa May Alcott.

Friday the 13th

So many of us fear the number 13 that there’s a word for it: triskaidekaphobia. The superstitions surrounding Friday the 13th, however, are less concrete. One theory traces it to the Last Supper, attended by 12 apostles and Jesus, and the fact that the crucifixion traditionally took place on a Friday. The combined fear of Fridays and the number 13, however, didn’t really take hold until the early 20th century, when Thomas Lawson published a book called (surprise) Friday, the ThirteenthTrolls

TROLLS

Trolls come from Norse mythology, and are prevalent in folklore throughout Scandinavia. They generally live in caves or around other rocky formations, and can be either giant or quite small. Paleoanthropologists like Björn Kurtén have argued that the troll mythos comes from passed-down tales of when our Cro-Magnon ancestors met Neanderthals thousands of years ago.

Headless Horseman

In Irish legends, the dullahan is a frightening being indeed: Sitting upon a horse, the man rides with his head held high in his hand so that he may scan his surroundings. If that wasn’t creepy enough, don’t worry. The dullahan also carries a whip made out of a human spine. Be careful if he stops and says your name—you’ll die instantly.

﻿Bigfoot

Bigfoot is a large, furry, ape-like creature that predominantly lives in the mountains and forests of the Pacific Northwest—though he has also been spotted throughout the rest of North America. While many Bigfoot sightings are said to be hoaxes, it’s believed that Bigfoot shares an origin story with other similar creatures, like the Abominable Snowman. Humans, it turns out, have a tendency to make up giant, wild, ape-like creatures that live at the edges of civilization. Similar creatures are found in the First Nations myths of British Columbia, where some say the Sasquatch was a figure meant to keep children from misbehaving.

Vampires

Vampires entered modern society through the publication of John Polidori’s The Vampyre (1819) and Bram Stoker’s Dracula (1897). Though vampire-like creatures are present in the mythologies of many cultures, it was literature that began to shape their traits into the iconic ones we know today. The vampires of Eastern Europe, for example, were not pale and thin, but ruddy and bloated.

Trick-or-Treating

Mumming, or going around the neighborhood in costume and saying specific lines in exchange for food, has been a staple of certain holidays since the Middle Ages. This custom first applied to Halloween in 16th century Scotland, when it was called “guising.” The term trick-or-treat wasn’t used until the 1930s, and is decidedly American.

Flying Broomsticks

OK, this one is weird. Broomsticks became associated with flying because of witches’ “flying ointment,” a potion made up of various hallucinogens, like the fungus ergot that grew on rye. Since ingesting the ointment orally led to a host of unpleasant side effects, witches chasing a high supposedly began to administer it through, well, other areas. Apparently, it felt like flying.

The Loch Ness Monster

Nessie—arguably the world’s most famous sea monster—is said to inhabit Loch Ness in Scotland. Though the earliest sighting was reported in the 6th century, and told of an Irish monk's encounter with a “water beast,” it was a 1934 photograph that brought international attention to Loch Ness. Known as the “surgeon’s photograph” after the London doctor who took it, the image has since been exposed as a hoax.

Dragons

Because cultures across the world have myths featuring dragons, it’s likely the beasts have their origins in a much more mundane creature. One theory holds that dinosaur fossils, like those of the stegosaurus, were thought to be the remains of dragons. Anthropologist David E. Jones has another theory. In his book An Instinct for Dragons, Jones argues that a fear of large predators is inherent to the human mind.

Mermaids and Mermen

Half-human and half-fish, mermaids exist in multiple mythologies as both beautiful maidens and frightening monsters. One of the earliest examples of such a hybrid are the apkallu of Babylonian mythology, sages associated with the god Ea that were depicted as half-human, half-fish.

Magic Wands

Ancient Egyptian practitioners of magic used metal or ivory wands decorated with images of deities. In Homer’s The Odyssey, written in the 8th century BCE, the sorceress Circe turns men into pigs through the use of a magic wand.

Bloody Mary

Chanting “Bloody Mary” in front of the mirror of a dark bathroom is a sleepover tradition with debatable origins. The titular Mary could be English Queen Mary I, who accused many Protestants of heresy and sealed their fate, earning her the nickname “Bloody Mary.” Given the common name, however, it’s possible Mary doesn’t refer to anyone at all—she’s scary either way!

Werewolf

The werewolf, whether a human who shifts into a wolf or a human/wolf hybrid, was first mentioned in The Epic of Gilgamesh, which tells of a woman who turned a previous lover into a wolf. Another popular origin story is the Greek myth of Lycaon, whom Zeus turned into a wolf in a fit of rage. A synonym for werewolf is, of course, lycanthrope.

Poltergeist

Poltergeist, which means “noisy ghost” in German, is usually a spirit that haunts a person rather than a location. They usually express their anger through the disruption of the household: slamming doors, moving chairs and other objects, and even pinching people. The first investigated cases of poltergeists happened in Scotland and England in the late 1600s, and involved enchanted drums, beggars seeking revenge, and devil worship. The famous movie, however, didn't come out until 1982.

“Boo”

The oldest record in the OED for the modern spelling of boo is found in the writing of two 18th-century Scots—Gilbert Crokatt and John Monroe, who said it was “used in the north of Scotland to frighten crying children.” It has since spread far and wide.

Thank you

Cheryl Webster and Dr. Gary S. David

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