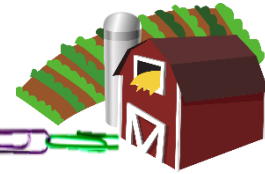




## Links to Agriculture Cheesy Foods & Agriculture



### Cheese and Agriculture

If you were to ask your friends, “What are some of your favorite foods?” most likely two would be macaroni & cheese or pizza! Both mac & cheese and pizza have cheese as a main ingredient. If you were told that both delicious dishes started down on the **farm**, could you make the connection? Cheese is made from milk. Milk comes from a cow. Cows live on farms. Let’s take a look at how these two foods became some of America’s favorites.

### Macaroni and Cheese

When Thomas Jefferson and James Hemings, his chef and slave, visited Paris in the late 1700s, they came upon a macaroni and cheese casserole. They brought the recipe back to the U.S. Jefferson drew a picture of the specially shaped pasta and had someone purchase the machine in Italy for making it. The macaroni shape was special because the hole in it could hold the cheese sauce unlike regular spaghetti noodles. In 1802, Jefferson served a “macaroni pie” at a state dinner at the White House. It was not until 1937 that Kraft Foods produced the packaged mac and cheese in a box that we all eat today.



### Pizza

Pizza has also been around for a long time. For hundreds of years, people made a thin bread-like crust covered with vegetables, oil, and olives and cooked it on a hot stone. When the Spanish brought tomatoes to Italy, most people did not want to eat the “new” strange vegetable since they thought tomatoes were poisonous. Now tomato sauce and CHEESE are important parts of our pizzas.

The pizza we know today came to America with Italian immigrants at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. By this time, pizza was baked in a baker’s oven and topped with other things such as mushrooms and anchovies. In 1905, the first pizza shop was opened in New York City by Gennaro Lombardini. Later, a new variety of pizza was made called the Tomato Pie. This special kind of pizza is most often found in places like New York and Philadelphia. Tomato pies are made just the opposite of regular pizza pies - first comes the CHEESE, then the toppings, and finally the sauce.



It was not until 1957 that frozen pizzas were introduced and found in grocery stores. Today pizza is one of the most popular foods in America and around the world.

So, whatever your favorite food might be – mac & CHEESE or pizza – the main ingredient is **CHEESE!** Remember that CHEESE begins down on the FARM.



## How Well Did You Read?

1. What was the author's purpose in writing this article?

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2. What company was first to package macaroni and cheese in a box?

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3. How are pizza pies and tomato pies alike and different?

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4. In what ways is pizza the same as macaroni and cheese? Use details from the text to explain.

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5. In what ways is pizza different than macaroni and cheese? Use details from the text to explain.

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# Pizza Survey!



There are many favorite toppings for a pizza. Check out the list below and circle what you PREDICT will be the 3 TOPPING favorites.

Then survey 25 classmates, friends, family members, or neighbors and use tally marks to complete the table below. Compare your predictions with the actual survey. How did the two compare? Compare your results with the rest of your classmates. How do the results compare now?



**I predict** that these will be the 3 favorite toppings:

Circle them

- Extra cheese
- Sausage
- Pepperoni
- Green peppers
- Olives
- Onions
- Pineapple
- Anchovies
- Bacon
- Chicken

Toppings	Tally Marks	Final Total
Extra cheese		
Sausage		
Pepperoni		
Green peppers		
Olives		
Onions		
Pineapple		
Anchovies		
Bacon		
Chicken		

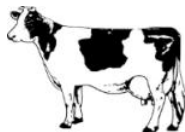
## Cheese Trivia

- History shows that cheese was being made from the milk of cows and goats before 6000 B.C.
- The Pilgrims included cheese in their supplies onboard the Mayflower in 1620.
- **Macaroni and cheese was so popular that in 1993 Crayola made a crayon color called macaroni and cheese.**
- The average American eats more than 31 pounds of cheese per year.
- Mozzarella is the most frequently eaten cheese.



## Did You Know...?

- About one-third of all milk produced each year in the U.S. is used to make cheese.
- Holsteins are the most popular dairy cows in the United States.
- Cheese can be made from whole, 2% low fat, 1% low fat or fat-free milk.
- The top five cheese producers in the United States are Wisconsin, California, Idaho, New York, and Minnesota. These states account for 72 percent of the country's cheese production.



## Joke Time

1. What do you call cheese that is sad?
2. How do you get a mouse to smile?



## Joke Answer:

1. Blue Cheese
2. Say cheese



For more agricultural education lessons and resources, visit:  
[www.maefonline.com](http://www.maefonline.com)