The Feast of Wisconsin: Tracing the Roots of Food and Culinary Tradition in Wisconsin

Abstract
This paper examines the history and ethnicity of food in Wisconsin beginning from the first settlement in the region. Special attention is directed at the ethnicity of Wisconsinites and the different foods eaten and influenced by ethnic roots. Many Wisconsinites find at least part of their heritage as coming from Germany, England, Sweden, Norway, or Poland, so these heritages and other notable immigration patterns are highlighted. The paper will cover the overall diet, agriculture, origins of foods, as well as new variations and changes in diet and agriculture upon coming to Wisconsin. Furthermore, all of these aspects relate to how these foods formed a new way of eating, living, and prospering in Wisconsin, uniting tradition with new customs through interaction and adaptation to conditions and tastes. Wisconsin’s foods can be seen as a part of the social roles that foods in general play in society, and is of regional and national importance as America shifts its food focus back toward its domestic roots.

Subject
Food--Wisconsin--History
Diet--Wisconsin--History
Agriculture--Wisconsin--History
Immigrants--Wisconsin--Social life and customs
Ethnic groups--Wisconsin--Social life and customs
Wisconsin’s food traditions are rooted in our culture. They tell a story about our history and are something we should be proud of. It’s part of what makes Wisconsin so original! Cheese and beer are very well-known food ways of Wisconsin. But here at 16 more foods that are also staples of dining in the Badger State. FYI – You’ll discover more about each food tradition below the infographic. 1. Fish Fry. Small butcher shops opened all over Wisconsin and, like cheese and beer, sausage became a signature food of our state. You’ll find many specialty meat markets throughout the Badger state. Summer sausage, salami and venison sausage are among the popular Wisconsin variety. If you know of a great local meat market in Wisconsin – leave a comment and let people know about it!