

**Subject:** Pumpkin Farmers Thankful for Thanksgiving

**Story Summary:** The American Farm Bureau Federation releases the results of its national survey of the cost of a traditional Thanksgiving meal. The results are contained in this story about pumpkin farming. Most people probably never think to give thanks for the farmers who grow the pumpkins that make their traditional Thanksgiving dessert, but farmers like John Ackerman are thankful that their commodity is a holiday favorite.

**TRT:** 1:35

**Suggested Lead:** For many families, it wouldn't be Thanksgiving without a big slice of pumpkin pie. No place is that more true than a certain corner of Illinois. Johnna Miller reports.

**Suggested Supers:**

Morton, Illinois  
@ :02

John Ackerman  
Pumpkin Farmer  
@ :27

Johnna Miller  
Reporting  
@ 1:26

**Suggested Tag:** The average cost of a Thanksgiving meal for a family of 10 has only gone up \$7.54 since the first Farm Bureau survey was conducted back in 1986.

**Pumpkin Farmers Thankful for Thanksgiving**  
**Johnna Miller Reporting**  
**November 24, 2003**

Town of Morton	VO/ MORTON, ILLINOIS HAS A SPECIAL CLAIM TO FAME.
Street banner  Pumpkins  Ackerman on camera	SOT/ MORTON IS THE PUMPKIN CAPITAL OF THE WORLD. WE CAN CLAIM THAT EASILY BECAUSE 85 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S PUMPKINS ARE CANNED RIGHT HERE IN MORTON, ILLINOIS.
Ackerman walking with family through pumpkin field     Family eating pumpkin pie	VO/ SO THIS TIME OF YEAR, IN KITCHENS AND DINING ROOMS ACROSS AMERICA, PUMPKIN FARMERS LIKE JOHN ACKERMAN BECOME VERY IMPORTANT. WITHOUT THEM IT WOULD BE MUCH HARDER TO ENJOY THE TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY DESSERT.
<b>John Ackerman Pumpkin Farmer</b>    Pumpkin harvesting  Huge pumpkin field	SOT/ THERE JUST HARDLY IS A THANKSGIVING WITHOUT PUMPKIN. I SUPPOSE YOU COULD STILL HAVE IT, BUT THAT WOULD BE ONE SORRY LONELY TURKEY WITHOUT THAT PUMPKIN PIE. THERE'S SOME PRIDE IN THAT. WE ENJOY THE FACT THAT SO MANY PEOPLE ENJOY THE PRODUCTS MADE RIGHT HERE IN OUR LITTLE POCKET OF THE WORLD.

<p>Pumpkin harvesting</p> <p>People eating Thanksgiving dinner</p> <p>Pumpkins being shot into truck</p>	<p>VO/ FARMERS OF ALL COMMODITIES FEEL THAT KIND OF PRIDE – PROVIDING SAFE, AFFORDABLE FOOD FOR COUNTLESS FAMILIES. AN ANNUAL SURVEY BY THE AMERICAN FARM BUREAU SHOWS THE AVERAGE COST OF THANKSGIVING DINNER WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS FOR 10 CAN BE AS LOW AS \$36.28 – UP ONLY \$1.72 FROM LAST YEAR.</p> <p>EVEN THOUGH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION COSTS HAVE CONTINUED TO SHOOT UP THIS YEAR, THE COSTS FOR A PUMPKIN PIE ARE UP ONLY ABOUT A DIME.</p>
<p>Ackermans in pumpkin field</p>	<p>VO/ PERHAPS MORE THAN MOST, FARM FAMILIES UNDERSTAND A HOW THOSE PILGRIMS FELT ON THAT FIRST THANKSGIVING.</p>
<p>Another harvesting shot</p> <p>Ackerman on camera</p>	<p>SOT/ IT'S SORT OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE HARVEST. IT'S ALWAYS SUCH A GAMBLE. CAN YOU GET THE CROPS IN ON TIME? CAN YOU GET THE CROPS OUT IN TIME? I THINK FOR A LOT OF FARMERS THANKSGIVING IS JUST A TERRIFIC HOLIDAY.</p>
<p>Pretty harvesting shot</p> <p>Kid eating pie</p> <p>Pretty pumpkin shot</p>	<p>VO/ AND THANKS TO THOSE FARMERS, IT'S ALSO AN AFFORDABLE ONE. (NAT BREAK – OH MA, THAT'S GOOD.)</p> <p>IN THE PUMPKIN CAPITAL OF THE WORLD, I'M JOHNNA MILLER.</p>