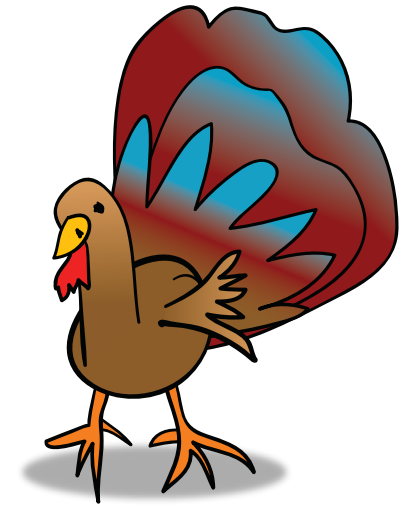


## Gravy (continued)

4. Add enough additional water to the saucepan to just cover the turkey pieces; any more can result in a diluted broth. Depending on the shape and size of your pot and turkey parts, you'll probably need about seven to eight cups of water total. Bring to just below a boil over medium high heat, and immediately lower the heat to a very gentle simmer.
5. Skim any foam or scum that rises to the top, and add **one large coarsely chopped carrot; one large coarsely chopped yellow onion; one coarsely chopped rib of celery; one-half teaspoon of kosher salt; one-half teaspoon of whole black peppercorns, and one bay leaf.** It's awkward to skim once you've added the vegetables and seasonings — since they tend to float to the surface — so don't bother. As long as you don't let the broth boil aggressively, it will be clear. Continue to simmer, uncovered, until it has a sweet, rich turkey flavor, 2 ½ – 3 hours.
6. When the broth is done, set a fine-mesh strainer over a heatproof bowl. (If you don't have a fine-mesh strainer, line a colander with a double thickness of cheesecloth.) Strain the broth, pushing gently on the solids to extract as much liquid as you can but not so hard as to mash the vegetables—this will cloud the stock and give it a murky flavor.
7. Let the broth sit on the counter until it cools to room temperature and then cover and refrigerate for up to four days.
8. When the turkey is done roasting, grab both sides of the roasting rack with oven mitts to lift and tilt the turkey, and let the juices pour from the cavity into the pan. Set the turkey aside, tenting it very loosely with foil, to rest for at least 30 minutes while you tend to making the gravy. (This resting period allows the proteins to cool and firm up, so the turkey better retains its juices when carved.)
9. Pour all the liquid from the roasting pan into a heatproof bowl or 1-quart glass measuring cup, and set it aside. Set the roasting pan over two burners at medium-high heat, and add **three-quarters of a cup of dry white wine or**

**dry vermouth and two tablespoons of brandy.** Bring to a boil, scraping with a wooden spoon to dissolve any flavorful cooked-on bits, and return the reserved liquid to the roasting pan. Boil, stirring often, until the liquid is reduced by nearly half, about eight minutes. Turn off the heat, and set aside.

10. Once the liquid from the roasting pan has settled, spoon off and transfer the surface fat to a medium saucepan, measuring as you go, to make a roux for your gravy. You'll need about four tablespoons of fat, but every turkey is different, so if you're short add enough **butter** to make up the difference. Heat the fat over medium-low heat, and whisk in **one-third cup of flour** until smooth. Cook for about four minutes, until the roux has a light amber color, and then gradually whisk in the reserved pan drippings.



## TaLking Turkey

Need some turkey tips to get you started this holiday season? Use this guide to learn how to prepare and roast a juicy turkey and make flavorful homemade gravy.



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*We are able to revise this guide with the generous help and blessing of Williston native and Intervale Board member Molly Stevens, our own national cooking guru who received the coveted James Beard Award in 2012 for her book [All About Roasting](#).*

## Pre-Salting is the Key to a Juicy Bird

Bring your fresh bird home two days before Thanksgiving. This will allow time to pre-salt, a simple step that keeps the turkey juicy and intensifies its natural flavors. Pre-salting is the key to a juicy bird. The salt will gently permeate the meat, improving the water-holding ability of the muscle cells so that, when cooked, the meat stays juicy yet does not become overly salty.

1. (Two days before Thanksgiving) Remove the giblets from the turkey, and refrigerate them for later use (except the liver, which you can discard or save for another use).
2. Pat the turkey dry with paper towels.
3. For a 14 lb bird, sprinkle two tablespoons of kosher salt and one teaspoon of freshly ground black pepper liberally all over the turkey, spreading a little in the cavity and being sure to season the back, the breasts, and the meaty thighs. Note: If you've never pre-salted before, this may look like too much salt, but it's not.
4. Cover and return the turkey to the refrigerator.
5. The day before Thanksgiving, arrange the turkey on a wire rack over a rimmed baking sheet, and refrigerate uncovered (uncovering allows the skin to dry, which helps it turn crisp during roasting).

Note: when you pull the turkey from the fridge after its salt treatment, the skin will be taut and dry with no trace of salt.

## To Stuff or Not to Stuff

Molly is a firm believer not stuffing the turkey: It roasts more quickly and evenly when its cavity isn't filled. Roast stuffing separately. Of course the choice is yours.

## Thawing

To thaw in the refrigerator: keep the turkey wrapped and place it in a pan. Let it stand in the refrigerator 24 hours for every 5 pounds of turkey. The giblets and the neck may be removed from the bird near the end of the thawing period. If interested in using the giblets and neck for gravy, refrigerate until you are ready to use.

To thaw in cold water: make sure the turkey is packaged in a leak proof bag to prevent bacteria from being introduced from the surrounding environment and so the turkey does not absorb any water. Change the cold water every 30 minutes. Approximately 30 minutes per pound of turkey is required to thaw. After thawing, cook immediately.

## Roasting

Molly has tested every single roasting method out there, from roasting at very high heat to flipping the bird to distribute its juices; none of them surpasses this one, which requires placing the turkey in a very hot oven, then roasting it at a moderate temperature the whole way through.

1. Remove the turkey from the refrigerator two hours before roasting to take the chill off and help it cook more evenly.
2. Heat the oven to 450°F.
3. Tuck the wings behind the neck and tie the tips of the drumsticks together with kitchen string. Arrange the turkey breast-side up on a rack in a sturdy roasting pan.
4. Pour 1½ cups of turkey broth into the pan, and slide the turkey into the oven.
5. Immediately lower the heat to 325°F.
6. Then let it do its thing, rotating the pan after about one and a quarter hours, for two and a half to three hours total. Turkey should be cooked to an internal temperature of 165°F, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. To check the temperature, insert a food thermometer in the innermost part of the thigh and wing and the thickest part of the breast.
7. Let stand 20 minutes to allow juices to set, making carving easier

## Turkey Roasting Timetable

325°F oven temperature. Times are approximate.

### Unstuffed

8 – 12 lbs	2 ¾ – 3 hours
12 – 14 lbs	3 – 3 ¾ hours
14 – 18 lbs	3 ¾ – 4 ¼ hours
18 – 20 lbs	4 ¼ – 4 ½ hours
20 – 24 lbs	4 ½ – 5 hours

### Stuffed

8 – 12 lbs	3 – 3 ½ hours
12 – 14 lbs	3 ½ – 4 hours
14 – 18 lbs	4 – 4 ¼ hours
18 – 20 lbs	4 ¼ – 4 ¾ hours
20 – 24 lbs	4 ¾ – 5 ¼ hours

## Molly's Homemade Gravy

You'll want plenty of it, so Molly recommends buying and roasting turkey parts, which will be used to make the gravy's deeply flavorful broth. You'll need **five to six pounds of turkey parts** — ideally a mix of necks, wings, and legs — to make enough gravy for 10 to 12 people. Smaller pieces are best (4") because the skin and collagen release more easily from the bones, adding flavor and body to the broth.

1. Pat the parts dry with paper towels and arrange them in a single layer in a large flameproof roasting pan (use the same one used for the turkey), and roast them in a 450°F oven, flipping them with tongs after 30 minutes, for an hour total, until nicely browned.
2. Transfer the roasted parts to a four- or five-quart saucepan. Reserve.
3. Place the original roasting pan over your largest burner (you can use two burners if that's a better fit), turn the heat to high, and add two cups of water. Bring to a boil, scraping the bottom with a wooden spoon to dissolve any cooked-on drippings, and then pour the liquid into the saucepan.