

Finger Lakes Sustainable Farming Center
Sustainable Agriculture Support Businesses Bus Tour
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The Birkett Mills

Penn Yan, NY
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<http://www.thebirkettmills.com>



Company Profile

The World's #1 Producer of Buckwheat Products

One of the world's largest manufacturers of buckwheat products for over two centuries, The Birkett Mills has been in continuous operation from its original location since 1797.

Headquartered on Main Street in the village of Penn Yan (named after its original Pennsylvania and Yankee settlers), our mill serves as America's buckwheat capital, right in the heart of New York's picturesque Finger Lakes region.

Our longevity is due to our tradition of total commitment to all our customers. Quality at competitive prices is key to our success.

The Birkett Mills usually operates 16 hours a day five days a week, but in the early fall, its busiest season, the factory is producing 24 hours a day, with finished products shipped throughout the United States, Canada and Western Europe.

About buckwheat

- Originally grown in China and Siberia, buckwheat was one of the first crops to be cultivated in the United States.
- Dutch colonists originally brought buckwheat to North America and planted it along the Hudson River.
- Today, buckwheat is grown primarily in Northern states such as New York. It is used extensively in Eastern European and Oriental cuisine.
- Delicious, nutritious buckwheat is typically identified with pancake flour, but is also popular in its roasted, unground form, called buckwheat groats or kasha.
- Often topped with gravy, kasha can be served as a hearty, flavorful alternative to rice, potatoes or noodles with meat or poultry, or as a stuffing or as a filling for pastry crust.
- The Scots coined the word "buckwheat" from two Anglo-Saxon terms, boc(beech) and whoet(wheat). The word beech was used since the fruit of the plant was similar to that of beechnut. It was called wheat because the grain of buckwheat was used in the same way as wheat. This term is somewhat ironic since buckwheat does not belong to the grass family and is not considered a "true" cereal.