

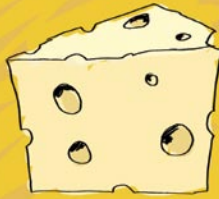
Capital Gains

The Bluegill Capital



BIRCHWOOD

The Swiss Cheese Capital



MONROE

The Morel Capital

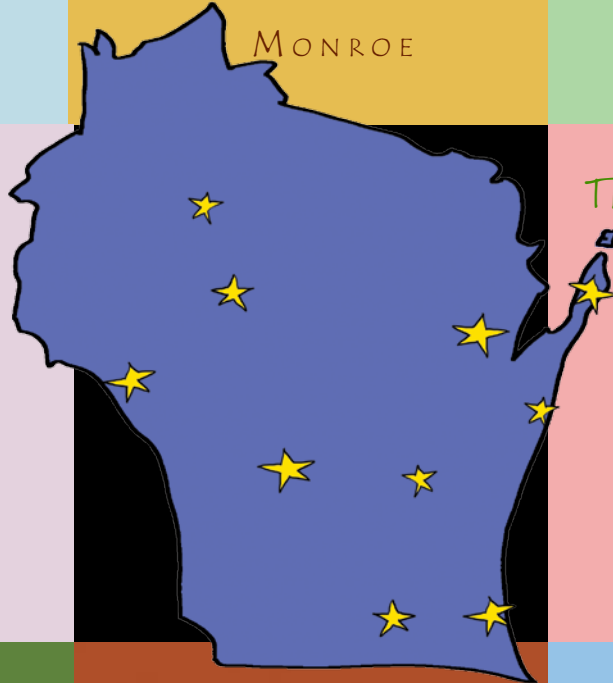


MUSCODA

The Rutabaga Capital



CUMBERLAND



The Strawberry Capital



ALMA CENTER

The Horseradish Capital



EAU CLAIRE

The Bratwurst Capital



SHEBOYGAN

The Butter Capital



REEDSBURG

by Henry Verden

Let's face it, not everywhere has a claim to fame that makes tourists want to come like lemmings and drop money off a cliff into local merchant pockets. So, what do you do when you don't have a unique attraction or historical claim to fame? Correct, you make one up. The tough part is finding that certain something that's unique to your town. Once you've determined your niche then simply drop it into one of these:

The _____ Capital of Wisconsin

The _____ Capital of the world

The _____ Capital of the U.S.A.

Having been born and raised in Madison, the state capital, I thought it might be interesting to explore some other Wisconsin capitals that deal with our favorite topic, food.

Fish play a big role in Wisconsin. They provide recreation, they feed us, and, most importantly to this article, they draw tourists and vacationers. It stands to reason that fish capitals are pretty popular. Birchwood, for instance, is the Bluegill Capital of Wisconsin, which is pretty gutsy considering any body of water in this state that's deep enough to get your knees wet is full of bluegill. Algoma is the Trout and Salmon Capital of Wisconsin—because somewhere had to be. Green Lake picked the lake trout, Potosi-Tennyson the catfish, and



Presque Isle the walleye. Gleason has a loftier vision as the Brook Trout Capital of the **World**. Not to be outdone in the lofty vision department, Freemont is the White Bass Capital of the World.

Meat follows right behind fish on the capital hit parade. Sheboygan jumped on the bandwagon early and named itself the Bratwurst Capital of the World, no small claim with Germany sitting across the pond. For those wanting something more American, Barron is the Turkey Capital of Wisconsin. Perhaps even more American, and more specific, is the Buffalo Roast Capital of Wisconsin—Juda.

Vegetarians can relax as fruits and vegetables are also well represented. Think horseradish and you'll be thinking about Eau Claire, the Horseradish Capital of the World. Cucumbers have their capital in Boyceville. The Morel Mushroom Capital of Wisconsin is a title any town would want to claim but Muscodora has the honor. For a title that you would think nobody would want, Cumberland lays claim to being the Rutabaga Capital. The Strawberry Capital is a little hard to find but if you make the effort, you'll be in a nice little

town called Alma Center, and not far from there is the king of fruit capitals—Warrens, the Cranberry Capital of Wisconsin.

In the Dairy State there are, of course, lots of dairy capitals. Reedsburg is the Butter Capital, Monroe is the Swiss Cheese Capital of the U.S.A., and Ellsworth is the Cheese Curd Capital of Wisconsin. The last one seems a little gratuitous since cheese curds are like Norwegians in Wisconsin—they're everywhere.

Last but not least there are baked goods starting with Babcock, the Cranberry Pie Capital, followed by Haugan, the Kolache

Capital, and Racine, the Kringle Capital. If you don't know what the last two are, I pity you. You need to go and experience them.

After you've visited all these places and tried all these things, there is one more place you need to go to that will end your tour on the proper note . . . Green Bay, the Toilet Paper Capital of the World.



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