

4. National Save the Tiger Month

The tiger is the largest of the cat species and can measure as long as nine feet. Hundreds of thousands of tigers once roamed across Asia, but they are now an endangered species. It is estimated that there are currently fewer than 4,000 wild tigers, and they occupy only about seven percent of their historical range. Urban development has eliminated large portions the tigers' natural habitat, while illegal poaching has greatly diminished their population. In an effort to save the tigers from extinction, serious conservation programs are underway in countries like India, China, Russia, and Tibet. September has been designated as National Save the Tiger Month to increase awareness of this global problem and to raise support for these conservation projects.

5. Milton Hershey's Birthday

Milton Hershey, the man who created Hershey's chocolate, was born on September 13, 1857. He had a dream of owning a candy making business and as a teenager served a four year apprenticeship to a candy maker in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. His first few business attempts failed, but he did not give up. Finally, he discovered a good caramel recipe and created his successful Lancaster Caramel Company which began shipping all over the United States and Europe. In 1893, Hershey became fascinated with the art of making chocolate. He purchased German machinery and began producing chocolate to coat his caramels. It quickly became apparent to him that there was a growing demand for chocolate by itself, and he started the Hershey Chocolate Company. After years of trial and error, he developed a viable formula that allowed him to realize his dream of mass-producing and distributing milk chocolate candy. What had been a treat for the rich now became something everyone could afford and enjoy – the Hershey chocolate bar. Hershey's business proved so hugely successful that he constructed an entire town to contain his manufacturing plants while at the same time creating a caring community where he could provide for the welfare of his employees and their families. The town of Hershey, Pennsylvania, with its many attractions, continues to host thousands of tourists and conventioners annually.

6. National Honey Month

The National Honey Board (NHB) recognizes and promotes the importance of honey bees. These amazing little bees annually pollinate approximately 80% of the crops grown in the United States. They also produce one of the world's favorite natural sweeteners – honey. There are approximately 300 varieties of honey. In 1989, the National Honey Board, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, officially declared September as National Honey Month because that is when much of the honey in the United States is harvested. Americans consume approximately 1.3 pounds of honey per person each year. More and more is being discovered about the versatility of this all-natural ingredient. It is used not only in foods but in a wide variety of other products, as well, such as medicines and cosmetics. Over 200 new products containing honey have been introduced since 1998. National Honey Month gives people an opportunity to learn more about honey and appreciate its many and varied uses in everyday life.