

World-Herald editorial: Possible solution for invasive species?

The latest diet fad, perhaps tongue-in-cheek, is this: Eat invasive species.

Invasive species are those plants, animals, birds, reptiles and everything else that are uninvited guests in this country's biosphere. They've arrived from around the world stealthily, and they've established themselves in the environment, often crowding out and starving or eating native flora and fauna.

An informal network of chefs, bloggers, biologists and others say we should start exploring the option of consuming some of these plants and critters. The Asian carp, for instance, are bony but tasty. For dealing with kudzu (the Southern vining blight), they suggest recipes for kudzu quiche, deep-fried kudzu leaves, kudzu blossom jelly and other dainties.

Not all are toothsome. Cane toads exude a poison, it would take at least four-and-twenty house sparrows to make a pie and ... well, rats.

But feral pigs? Yes, they say. Python? A good recipe supposedly can be had on the Chowhound website.

This whole idea may not catch on, except with the ecologically and gastronomically hard-core. But it's out there, simmering.

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