Dynamic Diets: New insights into faunal resource use at Monticello Plantation.
Elizabeth Clites, Joanne Bowen, Fraser Neiman, and Karen Smith

Overview

The Assemblages

Assemblages from five Mulberry Row site deposits—Monticello Mansion, Southwest, South, Northwest, and Northeast—were examined to test the hypothesis that faunal assemblages from Monticello plantations provide insights into diet and consumption patterns. The assemblages were analyzed using statistical methods, and the results were compared to those from other archaeological sites.

Emerging Patterns

Emerging patterns indicate that the consumption of different taxa changed over time. The trends observed in the assemblages are consistent with historical records and other archaeological data. The results suggest that the consumption of certain taxa increased or decreased, which may be indicative of changes in diet and consumption patterns at Monticello.

Discussion

The assemblages from Monticello provide insights into the diet and consumption patterns of the plantation. The results suggest that certain taxa were more or less frequently consumed, which may be indicative of changes in diet and consumption patterns over time. These patterns may be linked to changes in agricultural practices, market conditions, or other factors that affect diet and consumption patterns.

The West Kitchen Yard

The West Kitchen Yard assemblages suggest that the assemblages are predominantly Jefferson household deposits. However, as seen in this limited analysis, the faunal assemblages from the West Kitchen Yard assemblages are comparable to those of the Mulberry Row site deposits. This may indicate that the West Kitchen Yard deposits are comprised of a mixture of Jefferson household and enslaved worker refuse.

The notable difference between the West Kitchen Yard and Mulberry Row deposits is visible in the relatively large proportion of turkey, game, and domesticated animals found in the West Kitchen Yard. Historical records indicate that these were more purchased and consumed by the Jefferson family, a trend which appears to be supported in the faunal analysis.

The West Kitchen Yard

The West Kitchen Yard assemblages suggest that the assemblages are predominantly Jefferson household deposits. However, as seen in this limited analysis, the faunal assemblages from the West Kitchen Yard assemblages are comparable to those of the Mulberry Row site deposits. This may indicate that the West Kitchen Yard deposits are comprised of a mixture of Jefferson household and enslaved worker refuse.

The notable difference between the West Kitchen Yard and Mulberry Row deposits is visible in the relatively large proportion of turkey, game, and domesticated animals found in the West Kitchen Yard. Historical records indicate that these were more purchased and consumed by the Jefferson family, a trend which appears to be supported in the faunal analysis.

The West Kitchen Yard

The West Kitchen Yard assemblages suggest that the assemblages are predominantly Jefferson household deposits. However, as seen in this limited analysis, the faunal assemblages from the West Kitchen Yard assemblages are comparable to those of the Mulberry Row site deposits. This may indicate that the West Kitchen Yard deposits are comprised of a mixture of Jefferson household and enslaved worker refuse.

The notable difference between the West Kitchen Yard and Mulberry Row deposits is visible in the relatively large proportion of turkey, game, and domesticated animals found in the West Kitchen Yard. Historical records indicate that these were more purchased and consumed by the Jefferson family, a trend which appears to be supported in the faunal analysis.