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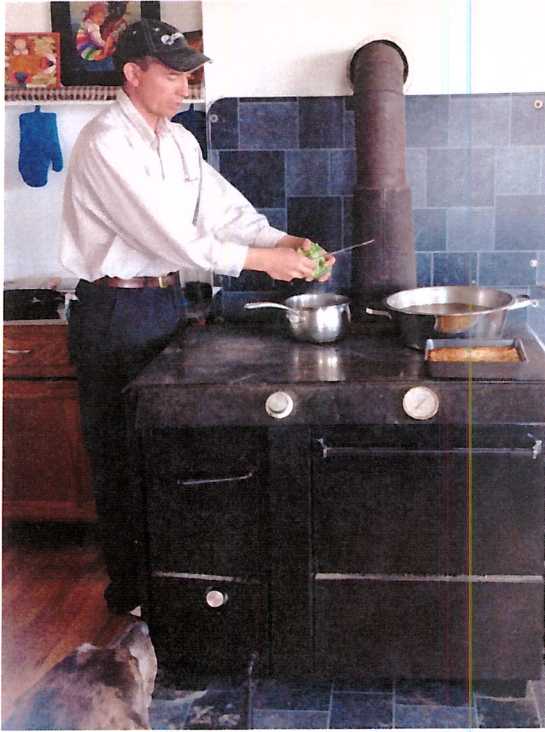
# Singing Prairie Farm: Creating a Rich Canvas of Food, Family & Community

July 23, 2014 | By Jamie Burks



Early into a recent visit to Singing Prairie Farm, John Arbuckle, the farm's founder, said something that will stick with me forever. "I want to set a certain quality for my life. Part of that is talking to friendly people who have their hearts in the right place. Together, we can achieve our goals."

When our location director, marketing manager, and I set out to visit Singing Prairie Farm in the small town of La Plata, in Macon County, Missouri, we had no idea of the warmth and old-fashioned hospitality that would greet us. We entered John's cozy home, lit only by sunlight and candles. As he prepared a farm-fresh lunch on his wood-burning stove, he began sharing the story of his family's newfound lifestyle.



"I want to write a book called 'Mistaken for Amish,'" John joked. Back in 2010, John and his wife, Holly, an acupuncturist, yearned for a simple, sustainable lifestyle where they could prioritize spending time with their growing family in a small, supportive community. Two of the ways the family now achieves that dream include their energy-free home and local homeschool cooperative.

Son Noah, now age 6, and Zea Mary, age 3, help with everything on the farm, from growing produce to naming the pigs, such as Redhead and Fire and Ice. Although Singing Prairie is still in its infancy, John comes from a farming family and nurtures a long-term, sustainable vision. "When my grandkids farm, my signature will be on the canvas," he said, putting into words another beautiful sentiment I just couldn't forget.



As we continued learning about the life of his pigs, I understood what he meant. John gets his piglets when they're six weeks old, from a nearby Amish farm in Clark, Missouri. They then journey to their new life at Singing Prairie Farm, which was named for the singing animals—from bugs to bullfrogs to coyotes—that inhabit the surrounding prairie. At the farm, the pigs eat either non-GMO or organic grains and produce grown on the farm using sustainable agriculture methods.

“We believe fruits and vegetables increase the vitamin, mineral, and omega-3 content of our meat. Our pigs spend their spring free-ranging a half acre of field peas,” John says. Although pigs that eat corn grow really fast, he compares that practice to “giving children ice cream three times a day.” Once the pigs can no longer feast on the field peas, they're moved to a pasture of shade trees, clover, and abundant wildflowers, where they are fed turnips and apples.

Are you getting a sense of the beautiful canvas John and his family are painting? After seeing it firsthand, I appreciated more deeply than ever the value of getting my pork from a farm family that puts so much attention and care into their animals, land, community, and friends, including their customers. With that simple act, I know I'm doing something right for my health, and starting to paint the right picture for my own family. [Check out all of Singing Prairie's offerings in our Shop](#) and get \$1.00 off with the code “prairie” until August 15th, 2014!

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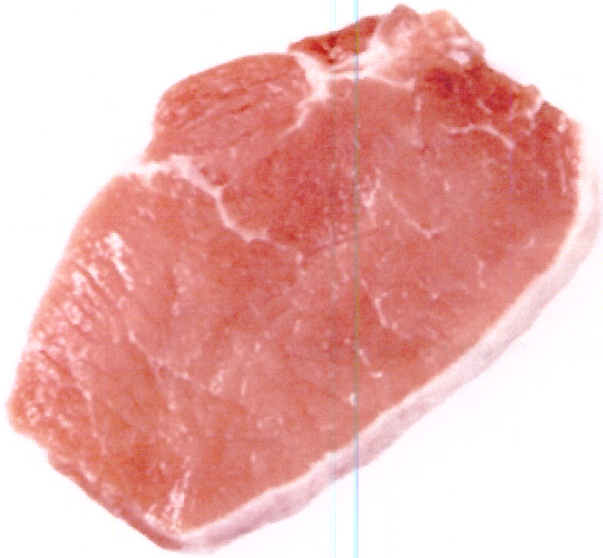
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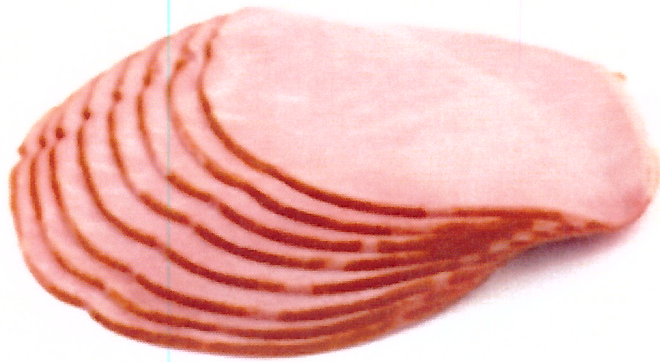
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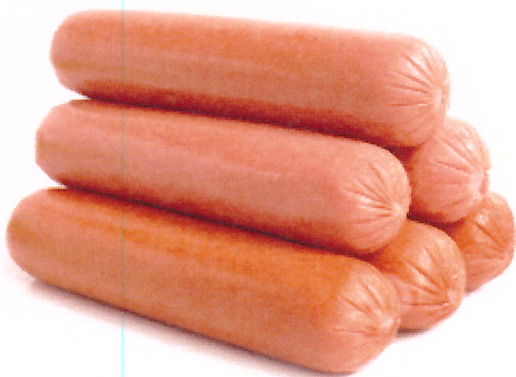
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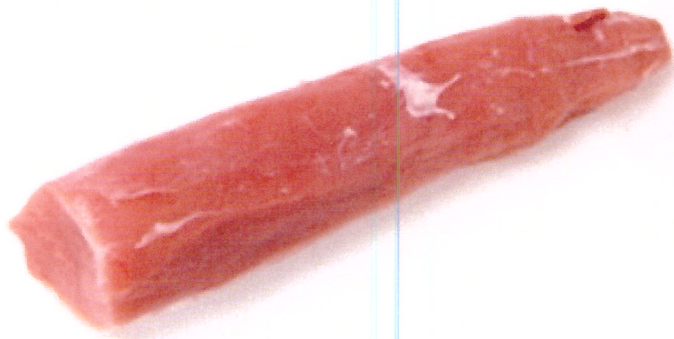
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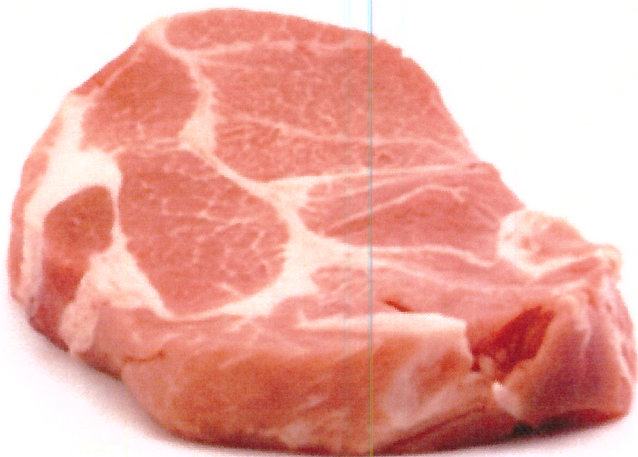
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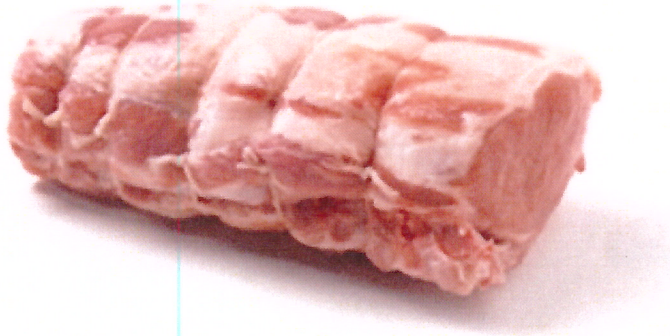


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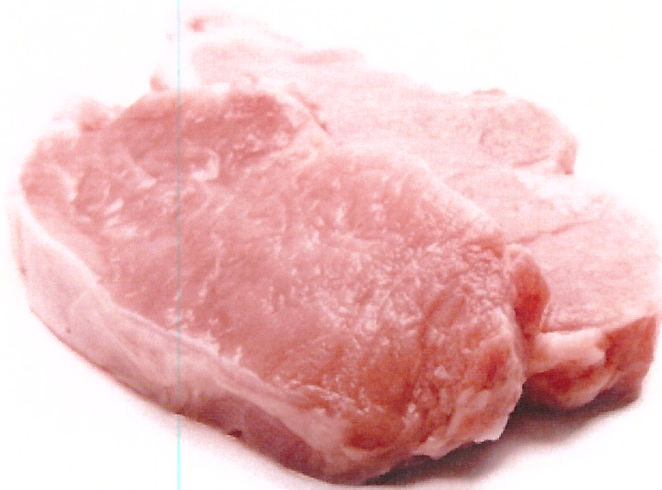
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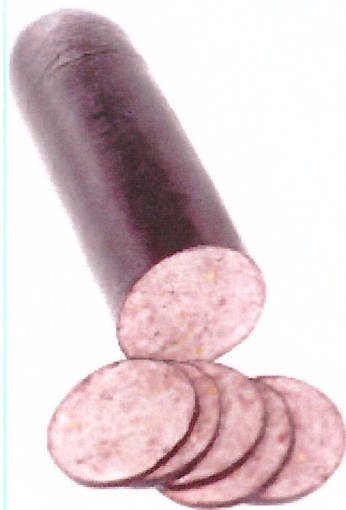
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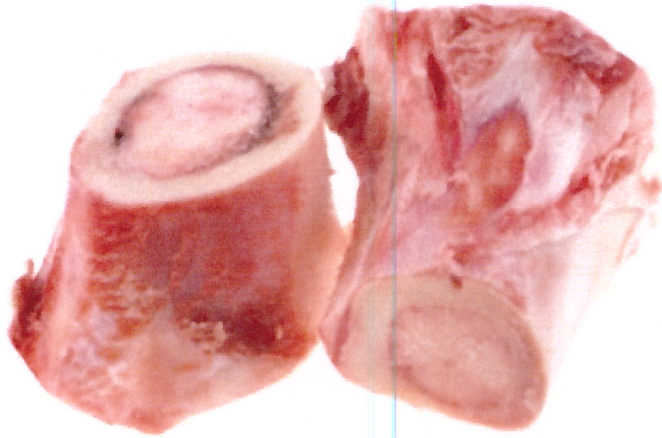
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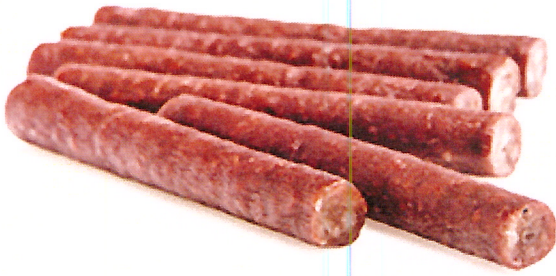
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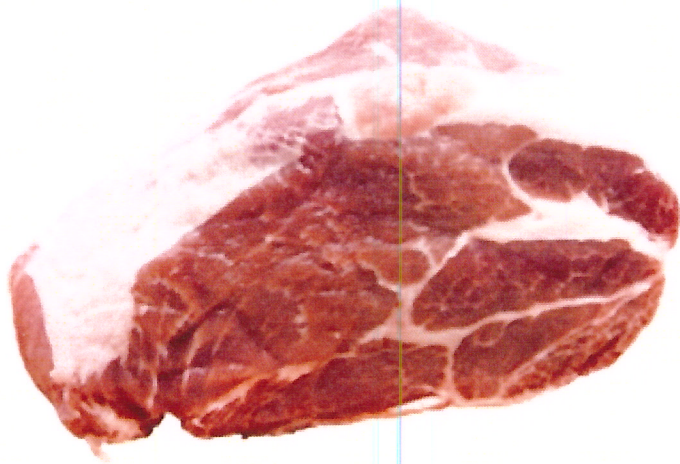
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