



lb.



lb.



lb.



lb.

Certified Angus Beef
T-Bone Steak

PORTER-HOUSE STEAKS
\$5.49
lb.

\$5.49
lb.



Proudly Featured at Piggly Wiggly

Prices.

Boneless Beef
Chuck Roast

CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF™

\$1.79
lb.

Certified Angus Beef

Boneless
Rib Eye Steak

CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF™

\$5.98
lb.

Certified Angus

Beef
Cube Steak

CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF™

\$2.29
lb.

Save \$1

1 to 2-lb. Avg.
Deliciously Cooked
Tri-Tip or
Pot Roast

CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF™

Certified Angus

Beef
Prime Rib Roast

CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF™

\$4.99
lb.



3-lb. Box
Certified Angus
Ground
Chuck Patties
\$3.49
ONLY

BUY 1, GET 1
FREE!
Of Equal or Lesser Value
Assorted
Pork Chops
The Other
White Meat:



Turkey Store
Ground
Turkey
lb.

Center Cut
Stuffed
Pork Chops
lb.

Delicious
Pork
Spare Ribs
lb.

Center Cut
Rib
Pork Chops
lb.

12-oz. package
Hillshire Farm
Brat Patties
\$1.39

1-lb. Size, Assorted
Bob Evans
Sausage Rolls Ea.
\$1.59

8-oz. Pkg., Assorted
Dubque Extra Lean
Lunch Meats
Each
\$1.89

6-oz. Pkg., Assorted
Hillshire Farm
Deli Select Meats
Each
\$2.30

12-oz. Package
Butterball
Turkey Bacon
Each
\$1.49

6-oz. Turkey Pepperoni or 8-oz.

4.15 to 5.35-oz., Assorted Variety

Fresh Ground Chuck



93% LEAN
GROUND BEEF
lb. \$1.39

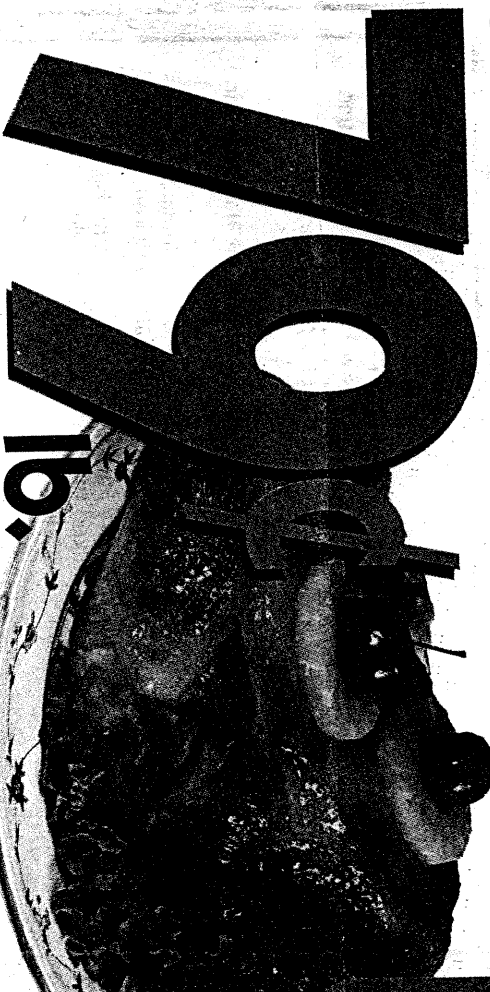
98¢

lb. **\$2.29**

1-lb. Roll, Original or Hot
Johnsonville
Original or Hot
Pork Sausage Roll
2/\$3.50

Semi-Boneless Pork Butt Roast

Pork - The Other White Meat



79¢



lb. **\$1.99**

Fairland Extra Tender
Boneless, Fresh
Ham Roast

Grade A, 6 to 7-lb. Average
Tyson Holly Farm
Sunday Best
Roaster
99¢ lb.

Grade A
Tyson Holly Farm
Boneless
Seasoned
Chicken Breast
\$3.39 lb.

GREAT FROZEN MEAT VALUES

Quick Frozen, 2 to 4-oz. Fillets

Alaskan

Pollack Fillets

lb. **\$1.29**

Quick Frozen, 12-oz. Pkg.

Delicious

Scallops

Ea. **\$4.99**

GREAT LUNCH MEAT

1.5-lb., Reg. or Low Salt

Dubuque Extra Lean

Mini Ham

Ea. **\$3.99**

Boneless Sirloin

Certified Angus



\$1.78

Water Added
Dubuque
5-lb.
Canned Ham ...
\$8.49 Ea.

12-oz. Package, Assorted Patties or
Johnsonville
Pork Sausage
Links
2/\$4

Grade
Mama
Yo
Du
1-lb.
Oz.
Li
or

5-lb. Box
Snow Crab

\$12.99

2/24-oz. Pizzas, Assorted
Mama Rosa

\$2.99

6 to 8-lb. Avg., With Gravy Pack
Honeysuckle
Turkey Breast
\$11.99 lb.

MEAT & SEAFOOD

Tyson Holly Farms USDA Grade A
Pic of the Chicken



\$18
lb.

Tyson Holly Farms, 1-lb. Pkg.
Boneless, Seasoned
Chicken Strips
or Skewers
\$3.99
Ea.

3-lb. Box
Tyson Boneless
Skinless
Chicken Breasts
\$8.99
lb.

Diamond Lean Beef
Boneless Chuck Roast

\$128
lb.



12-oz. Package
Johnsonville
Italian or
Brat Burgers
\$1.69
Ea.

Ham & Water Product
Dubuque
Boneless Smoked
5-lb. Ham
\$5.98
Ea.

404113

4-lb. Size, Water Added
Patrick cudahy
Home Style
Boneless Ham
\$9.98
Ea.

Pork - The Other White Meat
Farmland Extra Tender
Whole Pork
Tenderloin
\$2.99
lb.

Pork - The Other White Meat
Boneless Sirloin Pork Roast



\$128
lb.



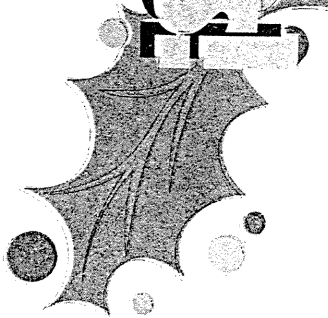
Turkey Store 7-oz. Package
Cooked
Seasoned
Breast Slices
\$1.99
Ea.

1-lb. Pkg.: Regular or Thick
Food Club
Sliced
Bacon
98¢
Ea.

BEEF FOR STEW
\$1.49

~~12-13~~ 12-13

With our Quality Meats!



\$1.69
16
FLAVORITE
Water Added
Whole Boneless Tavern Ham

\$1.69
16

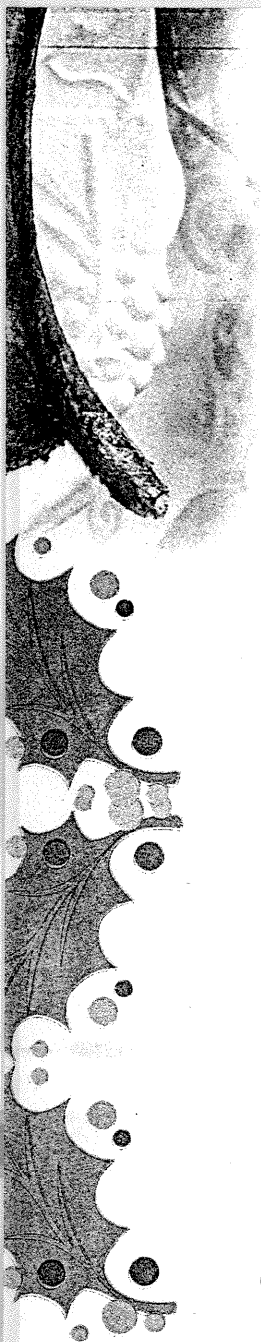
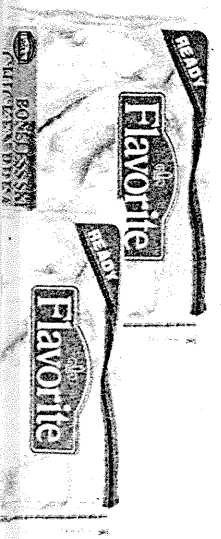
10 oz. Pkg.
FLAVORITE Sliced
Turkey Breast or Cooked Ham

\$1.69



FLAVORITE
Water Added
Half Boneless Tavern Ham

16

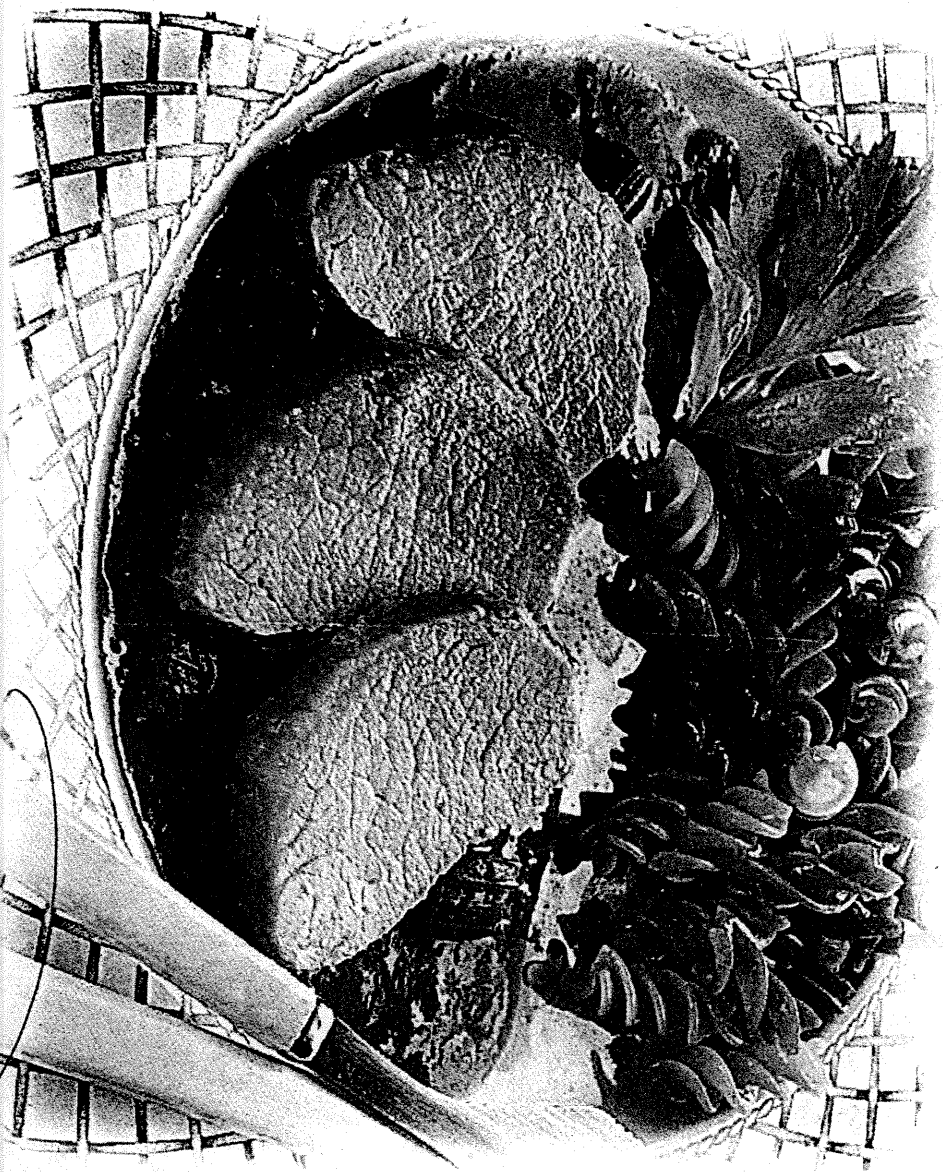


Our quality meats are a cut above



Meat Department

If quality meat matters to you, then you'll be happy to know that our meat department carries only high quality meats for satisfying taste and tenderness. To some stores that might not matter. They may be more interested in selling lesser quality cuts, at lower prices. Not at our store... We only offer meats that will satisfy your taste for lean, tender and flavorful roasts, steaks and more!



12-6-10

Farmland
Extra Tender

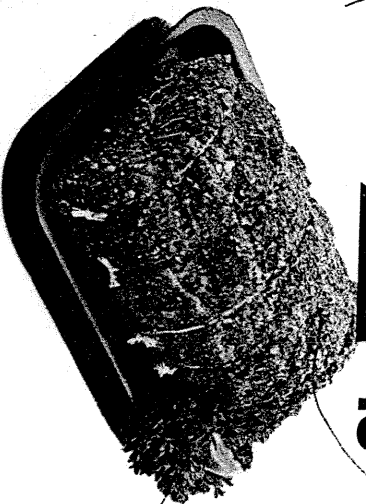
**Fresh Pork
Babyback Ribs**

PERKS PRICE

\$2.99

lb

17



11-8

Today's Special

County Market
...COMPARE THE BOTTOM LINE™

PREPARED MEATS

US Inspected
Center Cut

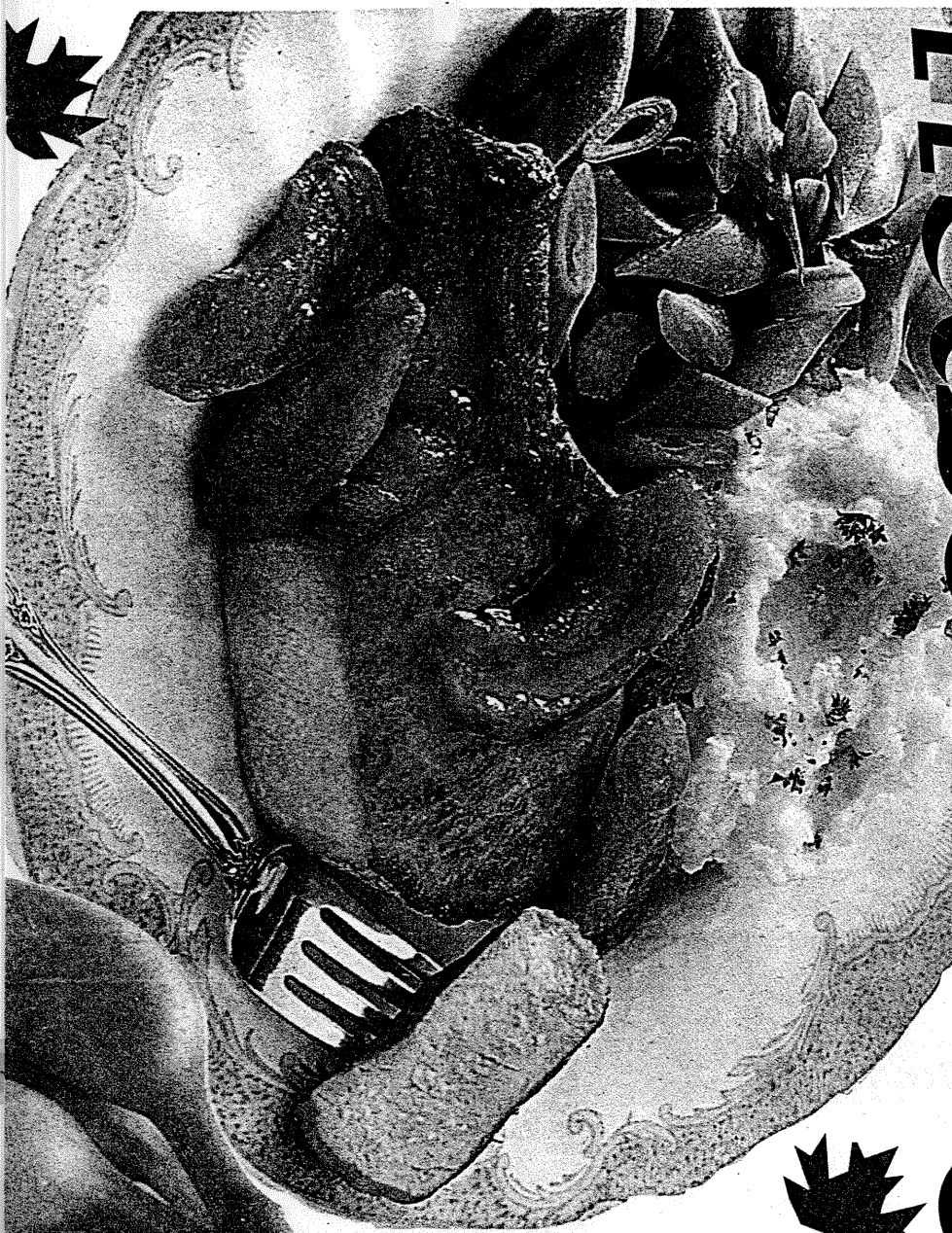
Rib

Pork Chops

PERKS PRICE

\$179

lb





US Inspected, Boneless
"Chef's Prime" Pork
Roast

229
-lb



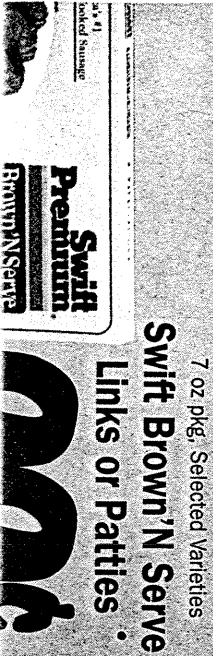
USDA Choice
T-Bone Steak

499
lb



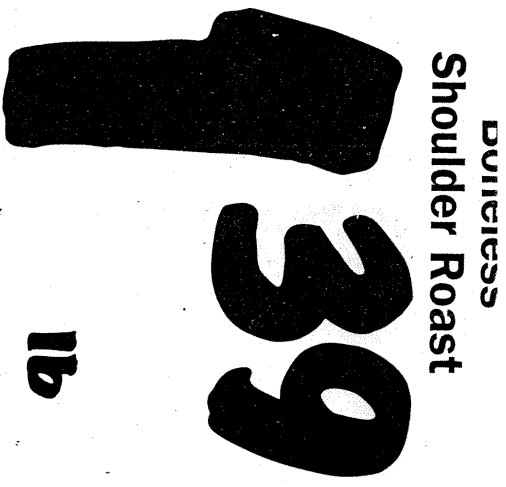
Oscar Mayer Chopped Ham, Ham & Cheese or Turkey

1 lb. pkg. Family Pack
Selected Varieties
229



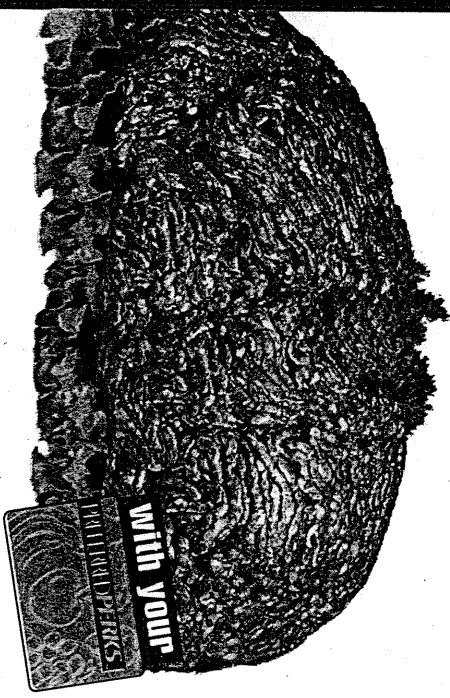
7 oz. pkg. Selected Varieties
Swift Brown 'N Serve Links or Patties

229



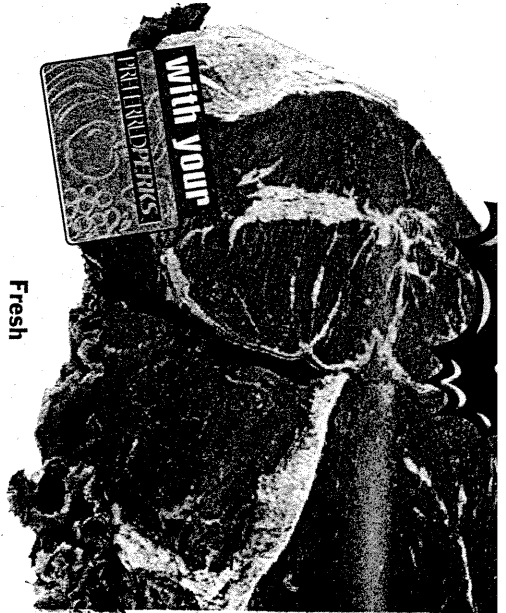
BONELESS
Shoulder Roast

139
lb



Skinless, Shankless Water Added
Flavorite Butt Half Ham

169
lb



Fresh
Ground Beef Round

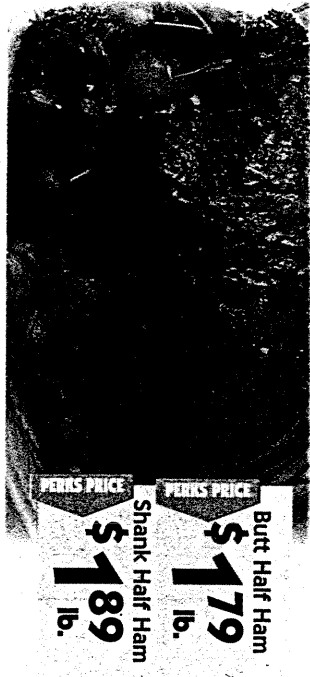
169
lb



Flavorite Shank Half Ham

189
lb

Swift Premium
Brown 'N Serve

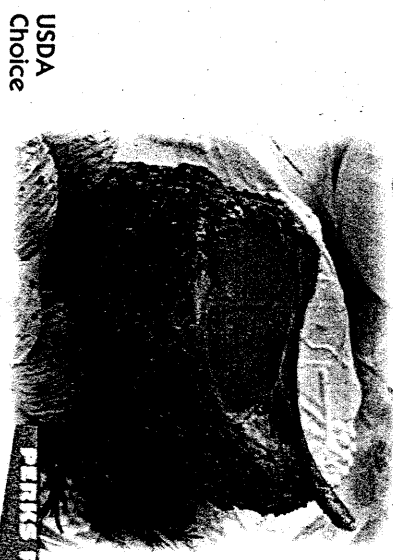


PERKS PRICE
Butt Half Ham
\$179
lb.
PERKS PRICE
Shank Half Ham
\$189
lb.



USDA Choice Beef
Boneless
**New York
Strip Steaks**

PERKS PRICE
\$599
lb.



USDA
Choice
**Standing
Beef
Rib Roast**



US
Inspected
**Fresh
Pork
Steaks**

PERKS PRICE
\$499
lb.

PERKS PRICE
\$119
lb.

Round Roast with Perks Cards **1 lb.**
GOLD'N PLUMP Whole
**Cut Up
Chicken
Fryers** **99¢**
lb.

Water Added Whole Boneless
**Favorite
Tavern
Ham** **\$169**
lb.
Tavern Half Ham
\$189
lb.

US
Inspected
**Whole
Pork Butts** **99¢**
lb.

Deer Hunter's Helpers!

1 lb. Pkg.
Chicago Style or Jumbo
**Klement's
Hot Dogs**



12 oz. Pkg.
Lite, Original or Maple

Klement's

PERKS PRICE
\$199

1 lb. Pkg.
Selected Varieties HILLSHIRE FARM
Lit'l

PERKS PRICE
2/\$

PERKS PRICE
2/\$



Klement's

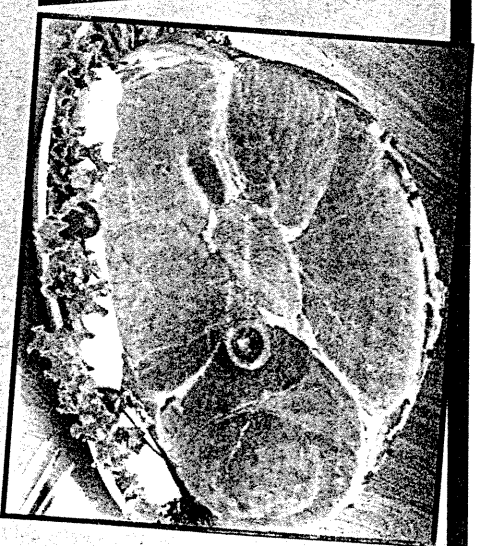
PERKS PRICE
\$199

11-15

Don't Miss Out On These Happy Holiday Helpers... SEASONS EATING!!!

Great Buy
at Freitag's IGA...
Kraft, 7.25 OZ. BOX
Macaroni
&

cheese
59¢



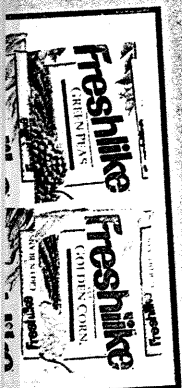
Fresh, Gold'n Plump Gold'n Plump
Whole Bagged Chickenlb. **79¢**

Hillshire Farm, skinless, shankless
Fully Cooked Half Hamlb. **\$1.69**

Hillshire Farm, skinless, shankless
Fully Cooked Whole Hamlb. **\$1.49**

Beans, Corn, Carrots, Peas, Mixed Vegetable or
Vegetables for Soup or Stew

Freshlike
Vegetables16 oz. **69¢**



Sale prices good Sat., 8:00 a.m. thru Friday, 10:00 p.m.

Check out our web site: <http://www.copps.com>

Copps FOOD CENTER

Sale Prices Effective

Saturday	DEC. 19	Sunday	DEC. 20	Monday	DEC. 21	Tuesday	DEC. 22	Wednesday	DEC. 23	Thursday	DEC. 24	Friday	Merry Christmas CLOSED
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Weekly Copps Key Savings

Use your Copps Key Savings Card or Key Tag to get these discounts!



Beautiful, 6 inch
Poinsettia

1 ct. **\$4.99**



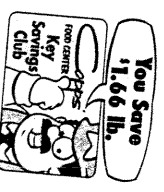
Farnland Boneless

Tradition

Whole Ham

with \$25 purchase or more (excluding this sale item, prescription drugs, video or gas station purchases.)

lb. **\$1.69**

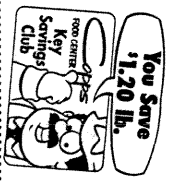


Skinless, Shankless, Fully Cooked

Hilshire Farm

Whole Ham

lb. **\$1.49**

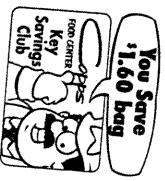


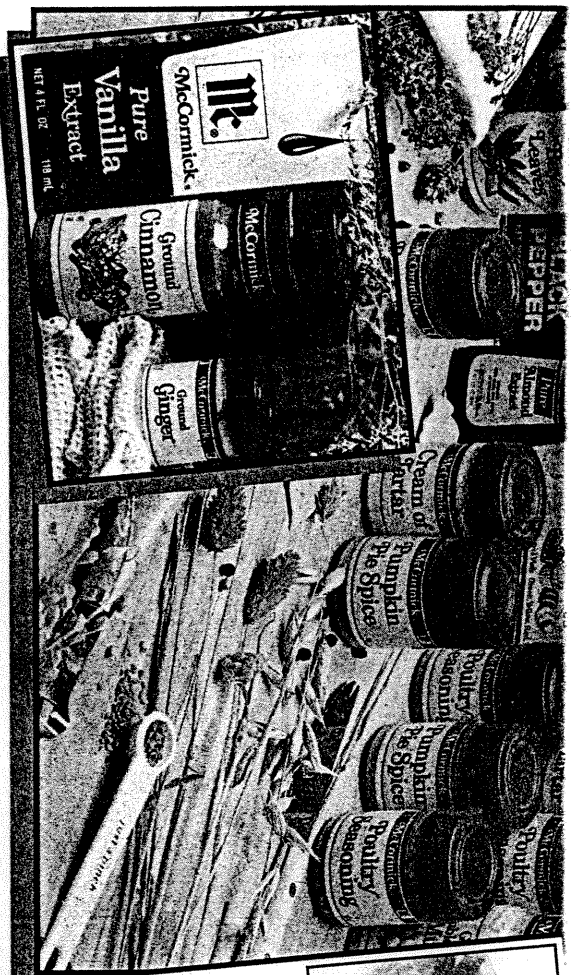
Fresh from Okray Family Farms of Plover, 6 to 8 oz. uniform grade standards. Get only the freshest and finest quality at Copps for your Christmas dinner

Premium Russet

Potatoes

10 lb. bag **99¢**





1 Dozen
My Top Large Eggs
39¢
with card. Limit 2.

All Purpose Enriched or Unbleached, 5 lb. bag
Pillsbury Flour
39¢
with card. Limit 2.

"COPPS QUICK MEAL"

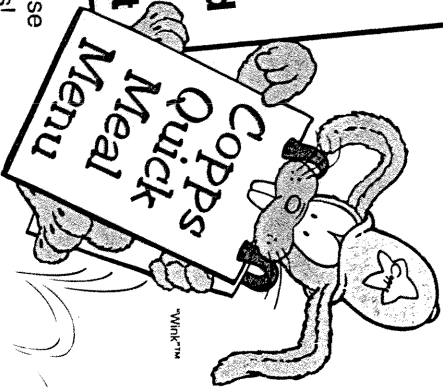
When Meal Preparation is a Race Against Time

You've been meaning to make something different for your family but haven't had the time? Try this recipe and you'll have great tasting Barbecue Pork Chops without sacrificing your day.



Clip and Save These Delicious Recipes!

- Barbecue Pork Chops
- Broccoli with Mustard Dill Sauce
- Pear Yam Salad
- Tangerine Tapioca Parfait



Copps Quick Meal

- 4 boneless chops, 3/8 inch thick
- 1/2 cup reduced fat Italian salad dressing

In small bowl, stir together Italian dressing, barbecue sauce, and chili powder. Place chops in plastic container. Coat chops with 1/2 cup of sauce. Cover and marinate in refrigerator for 30 minutes or overnight. Drain marinade from pork and throw away. Heat non-stick skillet over medium-high heat. Place chops in skillet and cook for a few minutes on both sides. Pour the remaining sauce over the chops and cover the pan. Turn heat to low and simmer for 5 minutes. Serve immediately, topped with sauce. Makes 4 servings. Recipe compliments of Wisconsin Pork Producers.

Nutrition information per serving: Calories-194 Protein-23g Fat-8g Cholesterol-71 mg. Sodium-312mg.

Barbecue Pork Chops

- 1/2 cup barbecue sauce
- 1 tsp. chili powder

Copps Quick Meal

- 1 pound of fresh broccoli

Broccoli: Wash, trim and cut broccoli into small stalks. Cook in boiling, unsalted water 10-15 minutes or until tender but still crisp. Drain. Pour Mustard Dill Sauce over broccoli. Serve immediately.

Broccoli with Mustard Dill Sauce

- Mustard Dill Sauce**
- 3 tbsp. flour
- 3 tsp. prepared mustard
- 1 cup water
- 1/4 tsp. dill seed
- 1/3 cup nonfat dry milk

In a saucepan, combine water, nonfat dry milk, flour, prepared mustard and dill seed. Beat with a rotary beater until well blended. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until it thickens. Makes 4 servings. Recipe compliments of Produce Marketing Association

Sale prices good Sat., 8:00 a.m. thru Friday, 10:00 p.m.

Check out our web site: <http://www.copps.com>

Copps

FOOD CENTER
Sale Prices Effective

Saturday
NOV. 28

Sunday
NOV. 29

Monday
NOV. 30

Tuesday
DEC. 1

Wednesday
DEC. 2

Thursday
DEC. 3

Friday
DEC. 4

Weekly Copps Key Savings

Use your Copps Key Savings Card or Key Tag to get these discounts!



Fresh

Gold'n Plump

Whole Chickens.....lb.

49¢

You Save!
70¢ lb.

Fresh Farmland Extra Tender, Regular or Stuffed

Boneless Pork

Sirloin Chops.....lb.

\$1.69

You Save!
1.30 lb.

Fresh fancy grade from California, Medium size, sweet new crop, A nutritious healthy treat

Navel Oranges.....each

10¢

You Save!
15¢ each

Assorted Varieties

Morning Glory

Cottage Cheese.....16 oz.

99¢

You Save!
15¢

Quaker - Assorted

Cap'n Crunch

Days 1 and 1 End



The Advantage

Two 2

Features Effective
Monday, December 21 Through
Sunday, December 27, 1998.

WALKER'S



ENTER TO WIN A
TRIP FOR TWO TO
SUPER BOWL

XXXIII
SUNDAY,
JANUARY 31,
1999

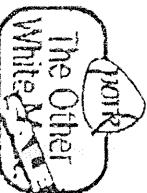


PICK 'N SAVE QUALITY GUARANTEED
USDA INSPECTED • REGULAR OR STUFFED

Boneless

Center Cut Pork

Roast or Roast



\$ 1.88



When you're picky about savings. When you're picky about savings.

Features Effective
Monday, December 7 Through
Sunday, December 13, 1998.

Let us help you plan
your holiday party!
We have creative
party trays, hot
appetizers, dazzling
super subs, hors
d'oeuvres and
snacks!

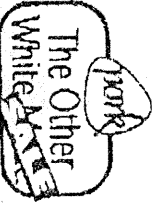
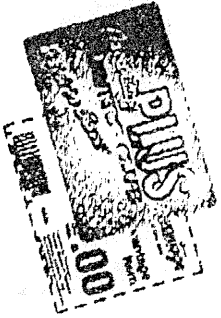
(Please allow 24 hours notice)



PICK 'N SAVE QUALITY GUARANTEED • USDA INSPECTED
CONTAINS 2 CENTER LOIN CHOPS, 2 CENTER RIB CHOPS, 2 LOIN END CHOPS, 2 RIB END CHOPS

Quarter Loin Pork Chops

LIMIT 2 PKGS.



LB. **98**

With Advantage Plus® card or
Second Week Advantage® coupon.

When you're picky about savings.



PICK 'N SAVE QUALITY GUARANTEED
USDA INSPECTED

Fresh Ground Round



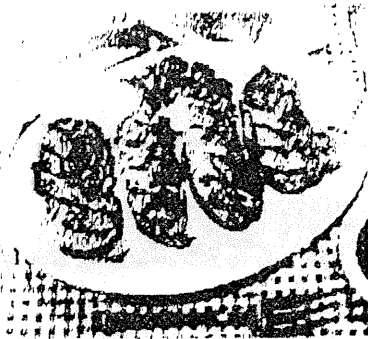
\$ **1.48**

LB.

LIMIT 2 PKGS.

With Advantage Plus® card or
First Week Advantage® coupon.

THE BEST MEAT IN TOWN
Guaranteed



PICK 'N SAVE QUALITY GUARANTEED
USDA INSPECTED

Boneless Country Style Pork Spare Ribs

LIMIT 2 PKGS.

\$ **1.68**

LB.

With Advantage Plus® card or
First Week Advantage® coupon.



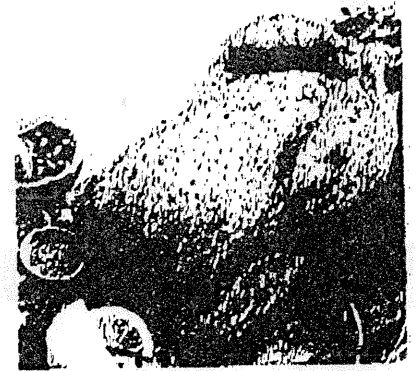
REGULAR, BEEF, LITE OR
COARSE GRIND WITH GARLIC

Klement's Ring Bologna

16 OZ. PKGS.
LIMIT 1 FREE PKG.

**BUY ONE GET ONE
FREE**

With Advantage Plus® card or
First Week Advantage® coupon.



PICK 'N SAVE QUALITY GUARANTEED
USDA GRADE 'A' (3-7 LB. AVG. WEIGHT)

Pilgrim's Pride Regular or Stuffed Fresh Roasting Chicken

LIMIT 2 PKGS.

.98

LB.

With Advantage Plus® card or
First Week Advantage® coupon.

When you're picky about meat

THE BEST MEAT IN TOWN
Guaranteed

When you're picky

LOOK FOR
ADDITIONAL
COUPON
MARKING
ON THE BOTTOM



Features Effective
Monday, October 26 Through
Sunday, November 1, 1998.

Enter to Win

Milwaukee's

Pickles

Crunch Time

Catch[™]

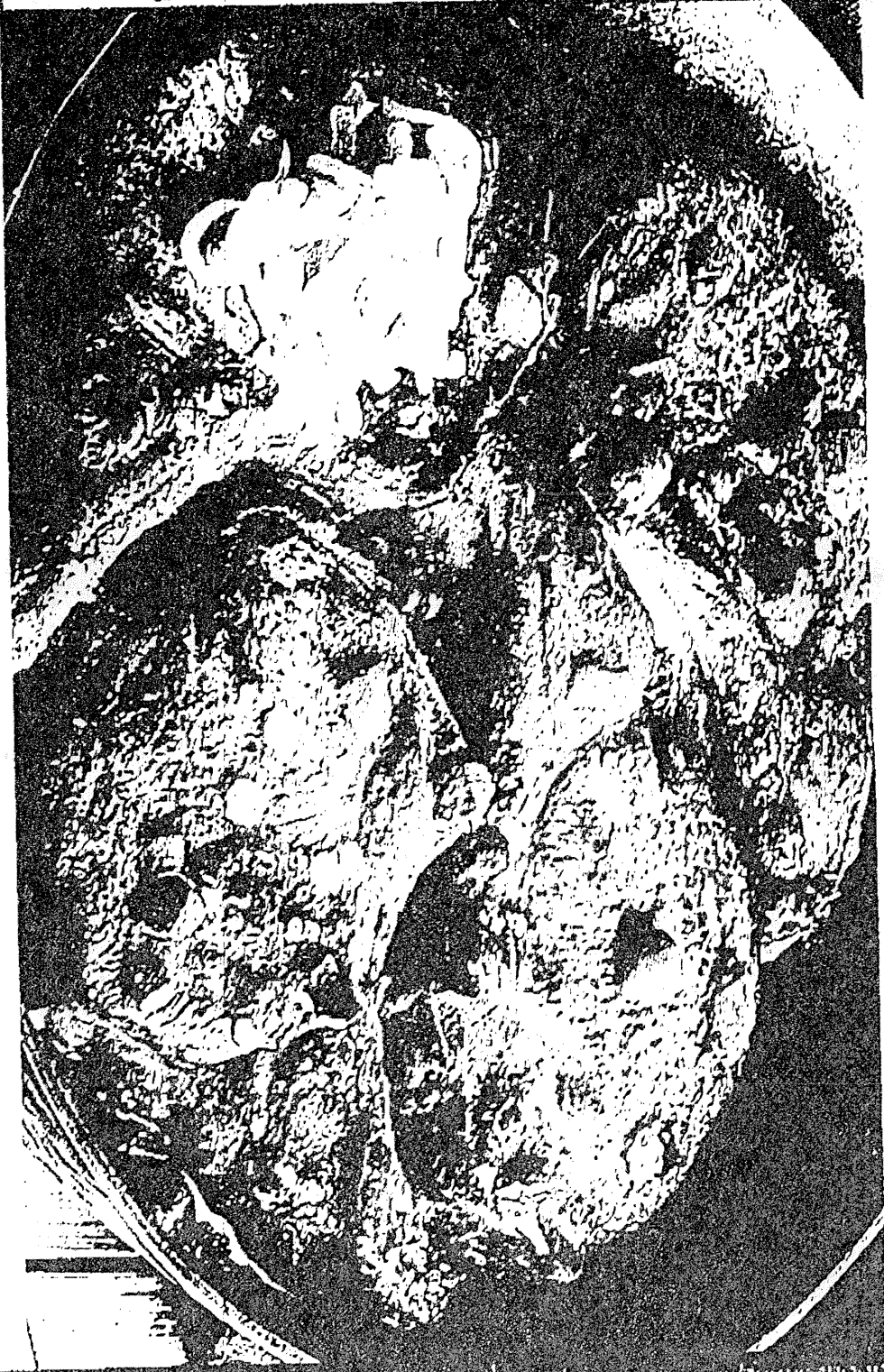


Catch the Punts and

Win Additional Prizes

See Next Page for

Rules & Entry Form

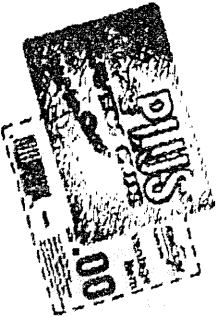


PICK 'N SAVE QUALITY GUARANTEED • USDA INSPECTED
CONTAINS 2 CENTER LOIN CHOPS, 2 CENTER RIB CHOPS, 2 LOIN END CHOPS, 2 RIB END CHOPS

Quarter

Loin

Pork Chops



\$

1.18

LB.

With Advantage Plus[®] card or
Second Week Advantage[®] coupon.

February 5, 1999

Mr. Roger Van Hemelryk
Maplewood Meats
4663 Milltown Road
Green Bay, WI 54313

Dear Roger and family,

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to allow Agriculture Committee members and invited guests to view your facility. The tour was extremely valuable in educating the Agriculture Committee members on how a processing plant works. Numerous members commented afterwards about the efficiency and dedication of the employees of the company.

I hope you found the afternoon hearing and our visit as interesting, educational and eye opening as we did. Thank you once again for all your help. If you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 1-888-534-0003.

Sincerely,

Al Ott
State Representative
3rd Assembly District

February 5, 1999

Dr. Dennis Buege
Extension Meat Specialist
University of Wisconsin
1805 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Dennis,

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to drive up to Green Bay to attend the January 20th hearing. Your testimony was extremely valuable in educating the Agriculture Committee members. Numerous members commented afterward about the level of expertise and compassion displayed by those who testified. We could not have pulled off the hearing with out you.

I hope you found the hearing and tour interesting, educational and eye opening. Thank you once again for all your help. If you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 1-888-534-0003.

Sincerely,

Al Ott
State Representative
3rd Assembly District

HERBERT KOHL
WISCONSIN

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
330 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5653
T. D. D. (202) 224-4464

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
JUDICIARY
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4903

May 3, 1999

The Honorable Alvin Ott
State Representative
Wisconsin Legislature
3rd Assembly District
State Capitol
PO Box 8952
Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8952



MAY 14 1999

Dear Representative Ott:

Thank you for your letter describing your concerns on behalf of Wisconsin's pork producers.

I too share your concerns about the problems that Wisconsin's pork producers are facing. That is why I have enclosed a letter to the President that details the concerns many Senators, including myself, that many face in the pork industry.

I also believe that there are too many slaughter facilities closing their doors in the Midwest. In fact, I recently sent a letter to the President (enclosed) which details the growing market share among the top four pork packers over the past fifteen years.

The Clinton Administration is taking steps to help pork farmers by accelerating USDA's purchase of pork products, and encouraging other government agencies to consider including pork for exports or other federal food assistance programs. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman recently announced the purchase of \$50 million in pork for the National School Lunch Program and sent 50,000 tons of pork to Russia as part of a food aid package.

USDA, in helping to ease the financial burden and provide some flexibility for hog farmers, announced that they will defer 1998 farm ownership and operating payments normally due January 1, 1999. These payments instead will be added on to the end of the repayment period. USDA will also use all loan servicing authorities, including debt rescheduling and forgiveness, to assist farmers. Concerned lenders who make USDA guaranteed loans will be presented with available options and can reschedule and defer payments and write-down debt. Congress is working to appropriate more funds to USDA's guarantee programs to take care of the shortfall.

MILWAUKEE OFFICE:
310 WEST WISCONSIN AVENUE
MILWAUKEE, WI 53203
(414) 297-4451
T.D.D. (414)-4485

MADISON OFFICE
14 WEST MIFFLIN STREET
SUITE 312
MADISON, WI 53703
(608) 264-5338

EAU CLAIRE OFFICE:
402 GRAHAM AVENUE
SUITE 206
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701
(715) 832-8424

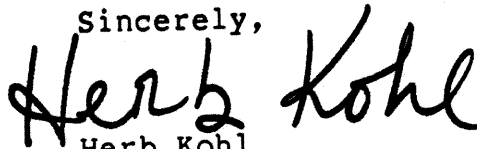
APPLETON OFFICE:
4321 WEST COLLEGE AVENUE
SUITE 235
APPLETON, WI 54914
(414) 738-1840

May 3, 1999
Page 2

This latest farm crisis is threatening to drive many small and mid-sized farms that remain in Wisconsin out of production. As we continue to address this crisis, we must include meat packers, processors, and food retail representatives, and work together for the good of all farmers currently being hurt by low prices. It is also important that we monitor the changing landscape of farming to insure that family-owned or family-run farms have a fair opportunity to continue to prosper in the evolving global agriculture age.

My best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Herb Kohl". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Herb Kohl
U.S. Senator

HK:ps

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 26, 1999

The Honorable Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We welcome the initiative you have taken to establish an interagency working group on market concentration in agriculture that brings together the resources of the White House National Economic Council, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice.

We would urgently request that your administration conduct a full-scale, detailed examination of the impacts of vertical integration and market concentration upon our nation's family farmers and ranchers. It is important that Congress have a clear picture regarding the impacts of the rapid increase in market concentration in agriculture and what steps may need to be taken.

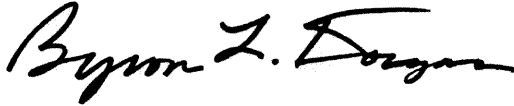
In the past decade and a half, the top four pork packers have increased their market share from 36 percent to 54 percent of the market. The top four beef packers have expanded their market share from 32 percent to 68 percent. Similar increases have also been occurring in the grain and oilseeds markets. The top four flour millers have increased their market share from 40 percent to 62 percent during the same period, while the market share of the top four soybean crushers has jumped from 54 percent to 76 percent.

While thousands of farmers are being forced out of agriculture due to collapsed commodity prices, many of our nation's food processors are posting exceptional returns and record profits. Agricultural commodity markets, particularly in livestock, have become tilted against the producer, and are failing to provide effective, competitive returns.

Because of the urgency of this issue and the extremely fragile economic conditions in agriculture, we would request that this market concentration study be completed within six months and its findings reported to Congress. In the interim, we would request that the Department of Justice exercise particular diligence in its review of any proposed mergers or acquisitions involving major agribusiness firms to prevent any further damage to our nation's farmers and ranchers and their markets.

We look forward to your report on the impacts of market concentration. We also look forward to working with you to ensure fair, free, and open markets for our nation's family farmers and ranchers.

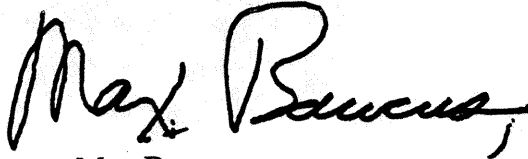
Sincerely,



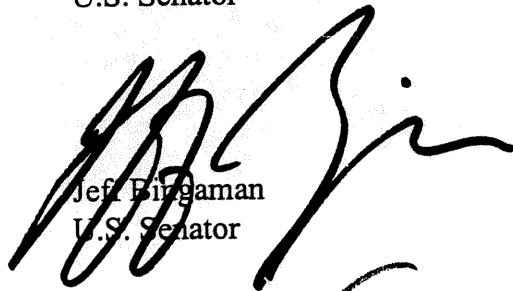
Byron L. Dorgan
U.S. Senator



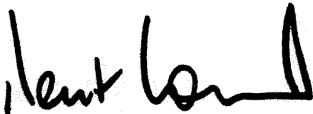
Chuck Hagel
U.S. Senator



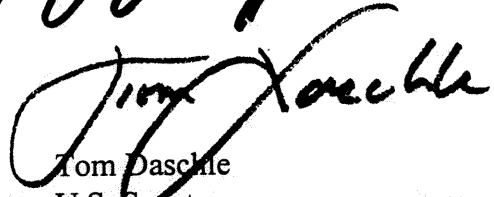
Max Baucus
U.S. Senator



Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senator



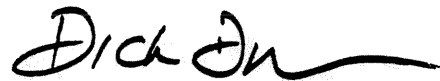
Kent Conrad
U.S. Senator



Tom Daschle
U.S. Senator



Mike Enzi
U.S. Senator



Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senator



Mike DeWine
U.S. Senator



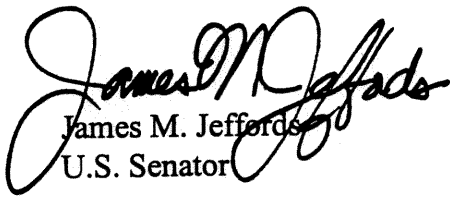
Russell D. Feingold
U.S. Senator




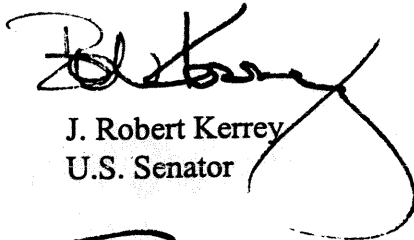
Bob Graham
U.S. Senator



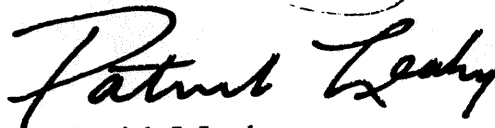
Tom Harkin
U.S. Senator

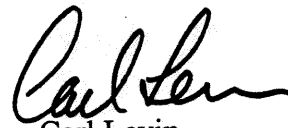

James M. Jeffords
U.S. Senator

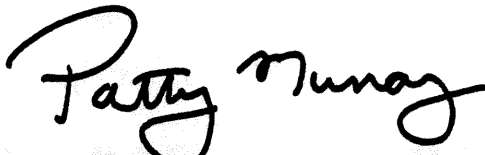

Tim Johnson
U.S. Senator

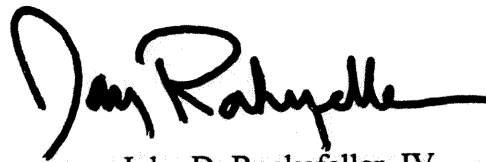

J. Robert Kerrey
U.S. Senator

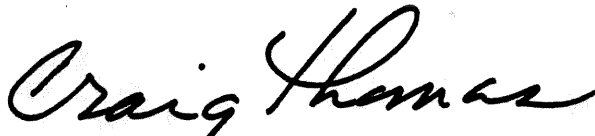

Herb Kohl
U.S. Senator

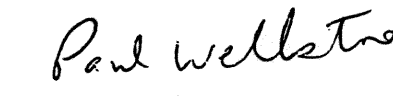

Patrick J. Leahy
U.S. Senator

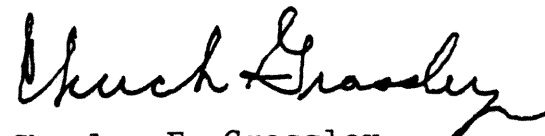

Carl Levin
U.S. Senator


Patty Murray
U.S. Senator


John D. Rockefeller, IV
U.S. Senator


Craig Thomas
U.S. Senator


Paul Wellstone
U.S. Senator


Charles E. Grassley
U.S. Senator

Prom Stats

Public Hearing.

Congressional contacts -

Meat Inspection

Advance Shared Revenues → delay Prop. Tol Pay.

Seek Attorney General's help w/ Anti Trust issues.

* Ask for Task Force on the future of the Hog Industry.

Consumer Protection to look into ledge contract - other marketing contracts or agreements.

To Dale Depies 920-849-9243

① Ag Comm. — letter to Fed Res.
supporting a deficiency program
for the hog crisis & beyond

② Enforcement of Anti-trust laws
Sec. 202
Att. Gen Doyle's help.

③

Marvin Echer Jr. 439-1030

hogs

15-20% - subject to cash markets.
* backed up a week. bill
8.50 / 11.00 / cwt. now

Lennie
Olson

~~Julius~~
Sykora

\$ 3 bil equity out of Industry
5-6 98/99

Exports + 28%

Property Tax - delay until July ?

Access to No-low interest loans.

Canadian - - kill WI.

Expenditure Order. Pork. Rose Bowl official
meat.

Pork - food service - WI. programs.

(William Dobson)

* Retail Takes longer to adjust → How
Do you ~~speed~~ speed that up

(NAFTA)

* More Canadian Hogs → No tariffs, Exchange Rate
Very good

- Expect the Import of Canadian Hogs to reduce

Groves

(97-98)

Produce ↑ 10%

Price ↓ 36%

- Never been such a discrepancy
in the past

① Supply ↑, ② Slaughter Capacity ↓

③ Elasticity off from past years

\$3 billion out of the Equity into the
Industry

~~25,000,000~~

3 to 4 years
to make up the
Profits lost
in the last couple
months

Bob Uphoff

Exec. order! Property Taxes
put off

Buy Pork,

disaster loans, Lay off Environ. Requirements,

fully implement Use-Value

WGA

Loonie Olson Brandon Sholz

Dick's → Pork Margin has gone down

what have they done + will do?

they promote extensively

Jens Knutson AMI (Packer + Processors)

need a Processing Facility, Producers need to market differently → Spot Mkt in these times lose biggest, need to contract.

Hog Populations too low to sustain a large Kill Floor.

South Dakota

Pilot Program for Hog farmers using contracts or futures

① Responds to current circumstances —

② Committee Education

③ Issue retrieving session

④ ~~Left~~ ~~set~~ set agenda. →

⑤ Express states concern for Ag in WI.

retailers-
wholesalers-

Series of 3 meetings — out state

Earl Clark	— Sykora	Jan.	98
Green Bay	— Pal	Jan.	98
Arlington	— Hahn	Dec. 17,	98
Madison	—	Feb.	

State of Agriculture in Wisconsin.

Agenda

1. Hog prices Industry status.
2. Grain Industry / Veg Industry
3. Veg-Industry

Tour - 9:45 AM
New Research Facility

Arlington - Hearing 10:00 AM
Dec. 17, 98

Agenda -

- ① Hog Industry -
 - ⓐ prices - /retail/wholesale/on farm
 - ⓑ regulations - response from pork industry -
 - ⓒ expansion statistics.
(reaching top 10 ten hog states)
 - ⓓ

Attendance to Dec. 17 meeting

Row Land → Farm Land Industries → No

Dan Short - UW - Extension yes??

He's going to talk to Dr. Liebrant → He'll
talk to you at the EPA/USDA Hearing

A. Richard

Jowa #27.
WI #25/26

Messages -

Iowa - South Falls

Sat.

700 People

Iowa
Mun.
Tels.
S.D.

State uniform - legislative request #

Ill.
WI.

Iowa State Senator
Sen Jack Kibbe
off 515-281-3371
Home: 712-852-4140

~~Mandatory~~ Mandatory Price Reporting

Meeting in Eastern Iowa Ill.

Missouri

South Falls
Sweep City

Bill 519 (4400 bond)

Family Farmer Initiative
Davenport - Delbruege
Cedar Rapids - ~~Feb~~

Conti =

Ag is exempt from zoning.



FINANCIAL DATA (Cont'd)

COST OF FINISHING MARKET PIGS FROM 50 LBS. TO 250 LBS., (JANUARY 1998)	
(per head)	
Corn.....	\$24.96
Supplement.....	26.18
Non-feed costs (including labor)	26.33
Transportation.....	1.75
Total finishing costs.....	\$79.21
Cost per cwt. produced.....	\$39.61
Note: Many producers have different costs depending on labor, capital and management. Source: Iowa State University	

AVERAGE COSTS OF PRODUCING 50 LB. FEEDER PIGS (JANUARY 1998)	
(per litter)	
Corn.....	\$ 63.91
Supplement.....	67.80
Non-feed costs (including labor).....	249.94
Total cost per litter.....	\$381.65
Cost per 50 lb. pig.....	\$ 45.43
Note: Many producers have different costs depending on labor, capital and management. Source: Iowa State University	

COST OF PRODUCTION AND PROFIT PER HEAD IOWA FARROW-TO-FINISH SWINE ENTERPRISES								
YEAR	TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION			PROFIT PER HEAD			AVG. SELLING PRICE	CORN PRICE
	HIGH PROFIT ONE-THIRD	AVERAGE	LOW PROFIT ONE-THIRD	HIGH PROFIT ONE-THIRD	AVERAGE	LOW PROFIT ONE-THIRD		
	(\$/cwt)			(\$/head)			(\$/cwt.)	(\$/bu.)
1984	42.37	47.54	53.24	20.45	4.34	(12.89)	48.65	2.97
1985	35.64	40.58	45.93	20.30	4.85	(11.32)	44.61	2.41
1986	33.65	38.02	43.02	53.20	35.89	18.62	51.09	1.83
1987	31.50	36.17	41.03	42.41	29.91	17.07	51.77	1.45
1988	36.28	40.85	45.76	14.62	2.93	(9.89)	43.93	2.19
1989	37.01	41.89	47.15	22.26	8.61	(5.63)	44.80	2.34
1990	35.90	41.49	47.56	48.77	34.14	18.90	55.24	2.31
1991	35.49	40.77	46.79	23.04	8.74	(7.49)	49.53	2.28
1992	34.54	39.97	45.96	20.63	5.62	(12.70)	43.11	2.21
1993	36.10	40.94	46.25	23.41	10.36	(3.93)	45.76	2.21
1994	36.05	40.63	46.02	0.17	(12.55)	(28.66)	39.63	2.30
1995	36.09	40.55	45.17	17.78	5.21	(7.71)	43.38	2.53
1996	44.03	48.94	54.47	28.46	17.95	6.32	53.86	3.68
1997	40.34	44.84	51.12	38.18	21.99	4.03	52.99	2.42
Source: Iowa State University								

RETAIL MEAT PRICES AND PORK PRICE SPREADS											
Item	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
	(Cents Per Pound of Retail Weight)										
Loin Chops	282	277	285	327	327	315	324	322	329	341	348
Sliced Bacon	214	188	177	213	222	192	193	199	217	247	268
Ham, rump or shank half, bone-in, smoked	168	159	160	185	168	149	159	164	158	187	194
Beef, Choice Grade	238.4	250.3	265.7	281.0	288.3	284.6	293.4	282.9	284.3	280.2	279.5
Pork Retail Value	188.4	183.4	182.9	212.6	211.9	198.0	197.6	198.1	194.8	220.9	231.5
Pork Wholesale Value	113.0	101.0	99.2	118.3	108.9	98.9	102.8	99.0	98.8	117.2	110.2
Pork Farm Value	82.7	69.4	70.4	87.2	74.5	67.8	72.5	63.0	66.7	84.6	81.1
Wholesale-Retail Spread	75.4	82.4	83.7	94.3	103.0	99.1	94.8	99.1	96.0	103.7	121.3
Farm-Wholesale Spread	30.3	32.4	28.8	31.1	34.4	31.1	30.3	27.0	32.1	32.6	36.0
Consumer Price Index (1982-84=100)	113.7	118.3	124.0	130.7	136.2	140.3	144.5	148.2	152.4	156.9	160.5
Source: USDA and Bureau of Labor Statistics											



INDUSTRY STRUCTURE & LOCATION (Cont'd)

10

Joe G. Huff

NUMBER OF PIG OPERATIONS BY INVENTORY SIZE GROUPS SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES*

STATE	1 - 99 HEAD		100 - 499 HEAD		500 - 999 HEAD		1,000 - 1,999 HEAD		2,000 - 4,999 HEAD		5,000 + HEAD	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
AR	2,100	1,900	230	240	60	60	100	90	70	70	40	40
GA	2,700	2,100	500	450	160	120	80	60	30	40	30	30
IL	2,900	2,600	3,300	2,600	1,300	1,200	830	660	370	340	100	100
IN	3,700	2,900	2,400	2,400	1,000	800	500	500	300	300	100	100
IA	4,600	4,500	8,900	6,800	4,300	3,500	2,300	2,000	700	980	200	220
KS	2,400	2,300	1,200	750	310	360	90	90	70	70	30	30
KY	1,800	950	400	270	180	170	70	60	35	35	15	15
MI	3,200	2,800	750	820	170	180	150	150	100	120	30	30
MN	5,000	4,900	3,300	3,100	1,400	1,400	800	850	350	400	150	150
MO	3,600	2,600	2,300	1,900	670	530	260	260	130	160	40	50
NE	2,600	2,300	3,500	2,900	1,100	1,100	550	470	200	170	50	60
NC	4,000	3,700	310	280	190	180	350	340	700	820	450	480
OH	7,000	6,500	2,200	1,700	490	490	200	200	90	90	20	20
OK	3,200	2,600	80	50	20	40	10	20	80	80	10	10
PA	3,800	3,400	800	600	220	200	180	160	80	115	20	25
SD	1,200	950	1,600	1,200	450	400	150	150	60	60	40	40
WI	3,300	3,100	1,000	930	220	210	130	110	40	40	10	10
Other States**	37,700	34,800	3,500	3,000	780	730	450	420	115	130	105	110
US	94,800	84,900	36,270	29,990	13,020	11,670	7,200	6,590	3,520	4,020	1,440	1,520

* An operation is any place having one or more hogs and pigs on hand any time during the year.

** Individual State estimates not available for the 33 other states.

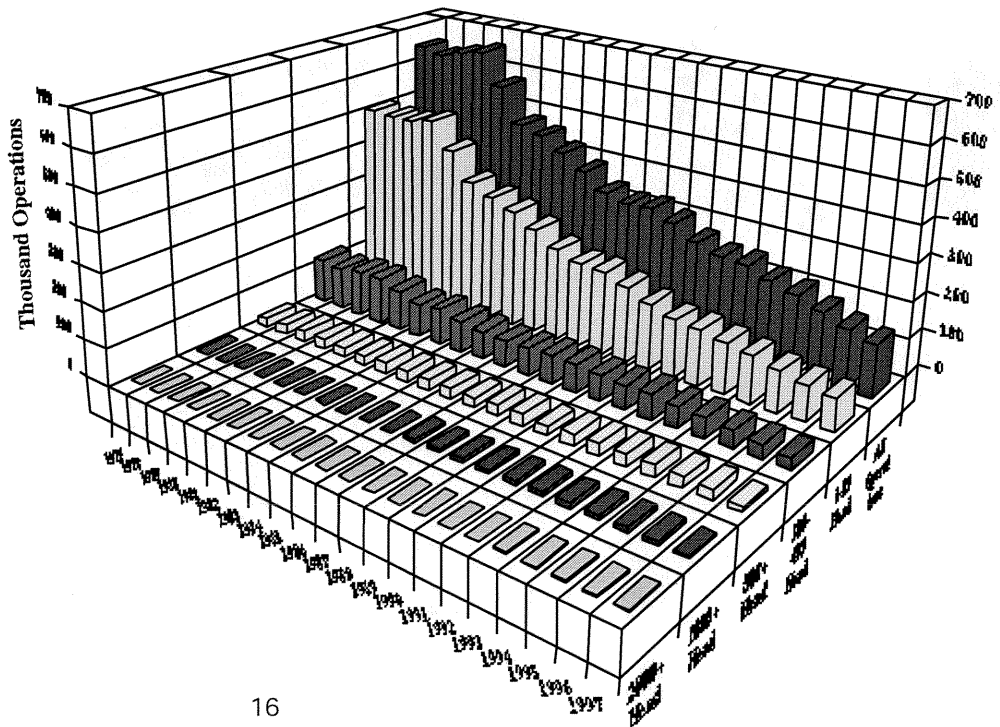
NUMBER OF PIG OPERATIONS BY INVENTORY SIZE

Source: USDA Hogs and Pigs Report, December of each year

Notes:

1) Categories for 500 head or more are cumulative (i.e. the 500+ column includes the 1000+ column which includes the 2000+)

2) An operation is any place having one or more hogs and pigs on hand any time during the year.



SAFETY NET PROPOSAL

PHASE I

A disaster assistance grant program to provide pork producers with funding to endure the financial crisis they are presently incurring due to the extremely low cash market hog prices.

Each farm would be eligible for payment up to 3,000 pigs or hogs. The payment would reflect the difference between the current market price received and the production costs. According to a recent Iowa State study, current cost of production would be \$43 per hundred weight with \$2 per bushel corn cost. Example: If a producer received \$10 per hundred weight and the difference would be \$33 per hundred weight. At this rate, a producer would receive \$82.50 in disaster assistance for that hog.

The funding would be available to operations who raise and own early weaned, feeder pigs and/or market hogs. A formula would be developed to address the difference between the production costs for each unit. Funding could be utilized as follows:

1. If feeder pig producers would receive 30% of the fund, then finishers would receive 70% of the fund.
2. If early weaned pig producers received 20% of the fund, then finishers would receive 80% of the fund.
3. If a producer has a market price contract, that producer would receive the difference between the price received and cost of production.

In order to be eligible, a time frame for payments must be established and producers would have to provide proof of markets utilizing past statements received from the market.

Phase II

What can the American public expect back from this program?

Continue the rural America infrastructure and economic well being of Wisconsin.
Keep the environment safe by utilizing an appropriate management plan.
Price protection for the consumer to keep costs at manageable levels.
Consumers receive a quality, safe food supply.
Effective animal husbandry.

Suggestions for hog prices

General issues and observations

Number of hog farms has declined

Population of hogs in WI has decreased by half in 10 years

WI hog farms are mostly small

Cash market is primary means of sale by small producers

Note that even contract sales may leave significant risk with the producer, depending on wording of contract

Large hog-only operators are most vulnerable

Operators with other income options will do better

Weight of hogs sold has increased

Has same effect as putting more hogs on the market

Those who survive the current crisis will take years to recover

Problem is that producers are borrowing against equity to meet current expenses

Estimate of \$144 million in equity lost per week in the industry

There is a lag in adjustment of retail prices

Retail prices tend to go up more quickly than they go down

Imports from Canada are up

Predictions that 1999 will not improve

Need 2.5 million hogs per year to support a processor in WI

Problems

Supply, processing and demand

Production up

Processing plants running at full capacity

Several have closed recently

Result is lower cash price

Imports and retail sales up

Long term issue is market access for small producers

Suggestions

General comments applicable to all suggestions

Target the suggestions to small producers---don't subsidize large ones

Loans and government programs for producers

Loan guarantees

Governmental disaster payments (cash, not loans)

Forbearance on loan payments (by bankers)

Allow payment of interest only

Reduce principal payments

Use CROP program in WHEDA to provide relief

Current program

Expand the program

Use the dairy options program as an example for pork

Taxes due from producers

Delay property tax payments

Make income averaging available to producers

Implement use value taxation immediately

Reduced sales tax

Bureaucratic responses

Environmental rules

Delay requirements for producers to comply with new rules

Examine rules that may have shut down processors

Address state and federal differences on meat inspection

Government purchases

Federal pork purchase

Commodity programs

International relief efforts

State purchase for use in institutions

Conduct investigation of why retail prices remain high

Either WI attorney general or federal government

Educational responses

Economic and sociological research to benefit independent producers

Shift focus away from support of industrialization

Industry structure

Legislation to prevent processors from raising hogs

Concern about coops raising hogs

Does this comply with coop bylaws or federal law

Provide processing capacity in WI

Industry practices

Reduce weight of hogs brought to market

More promotion of pork

Need accurate price reporting

Need to address marketing

Marketing groups of small producers

Federal issues

Recommend federal economic crisis task force of federal agencies

Reconsider whether food should be used as an international economic sanction

Examine effect of imports into US

Slow down imports from Canada

Enforce Packers and Stockyards Act provisions regarding unfair trade practices

State issues

Review corporate farm law

Summary
Wisconsin Farm and Retail Pricing Analysis
Farm Hogs Price and Retail Pork Prices
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

SUMMARY STATEMENT

- U.S. retail pork prices have not dropped sufficiently, while farm hog prices have dropped by 60%.
- Wisconsin retail prices on some cuts of pork, such as ham, have been more responsive than the national averages. But on other cuts such as pork chops and roast, the extent of decline is very questionable.
- Despite strong consumer demand for pork products this year, consumers are paying much more than they should because of the low farm hog prices.
- Consumers and hog farmers both are the losers in the current farm to market price scene.

U.S. RETAIL AND WHOLESALE PORK PRICES AND FARMERS' SHARE OF CONSUMER DOLLAR
Since October 1997 to October 1998:

- U.S. farm hog price dropped 39%
- U.S. wholesale price dropped 20.8%
- U.S. retail price dropped 2%.
- Farmers' share of the consumer dollar dropped down 41%

WISCONSIN FARM HOG PRICES

Monthly average per pound barrow and gilt prices:

Nov. 1997	.40
June 1998	.41
Nov. 1998	.16

Down 60% compared to November
Down 61% compared to June

RETAIL PORK PRICES

Ham

June to November: Increased 2.9% or 5-cents a pound

November 1997 to November 1998: Decreased 23%, or 51-cents a pound

Bacon

June to November: Increase 1.4%, or 3-cents a pound

November 1997 to November 1998: Decreased 19.6%, or 50-cents a pound

Pork Chops

June to November: Decreased 5.3%, or 15-cents a pound

November 1997 to November 1998: Decreased 9.2% or 27-cents a pound

Pork Roast

June to November: Decreased 6.2%, or 14-cents a pound

November 1997 to November 1998: Decreased 6.6%, or 15-cents a pound

**Wisconsin Farm and Retail Pricing Analysis
Farm Hogs Price and Retail Pork Prices
Assembly Agriculture Committee**

December 17, 1998

Tom Thieding

Executive Director, Communications, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

My name is Tom Thieding. I am the Executive Director of Communications with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation. The Farm Bureau is testifying to present additional information on the farm hog price to retail pork price concerns, and to speak on behalf of hog farmers and consumers about the current situation facing the pork industry.

The information the Wisconsin Farm Bureau is providing comes from the Farm Bureau's Market Basket survey. The Market Basket survey was started six years ago as a consumer education program to make consumers more aware of changes in food prices and the connection of food prices to prices farmers receive for their commodities.

A volunteer in each of the 19 communities in our statewide survey collects the price of 40 food items each month and reports that to me for computation. There are four cuts of pork products in the Market Basket survey—bacon, ham, center cut pork chop, and pork roast—which we are using to illustrate how retail pork prices in 1998 have not responded to the drop in farm hog prices.

We believe the statistics we provide are a reasonable reflection of how consumers and farmers are the losers in the current hog crisis. Our statistics show that Wisconsin retail pork prices have been more responsive than the national averages, but the extent is questionable. Despite strong consumer demand for pork products this year, consumers are paying much more than they should because of the low farm hog prices. Our information shows that retail prices have responded in part to the drop in farm hog prices.

U.S. Retail and Wholesale Pork Prices and Farmers' Share of Consumer Dollar

By comparing average U.S. retail and wholesale prices, as reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a clear picture of the increased spread between farm and retail prices is made. From October of last year to October of this year, the average U.S. farm hog price dropped 39%, while the wholesale price dropped 20.8%, and the retail price dropped only 2%. This does not even take into account the additional drop in farm hog prices in November.

During this time the farmers' share of the consumer dollar has also diminished, down 41% since October of last year.

What is even more troubling is that since June when hog prices started their slide, the wholesale price of pork dropped 7% while the retail price actually increased .8%.

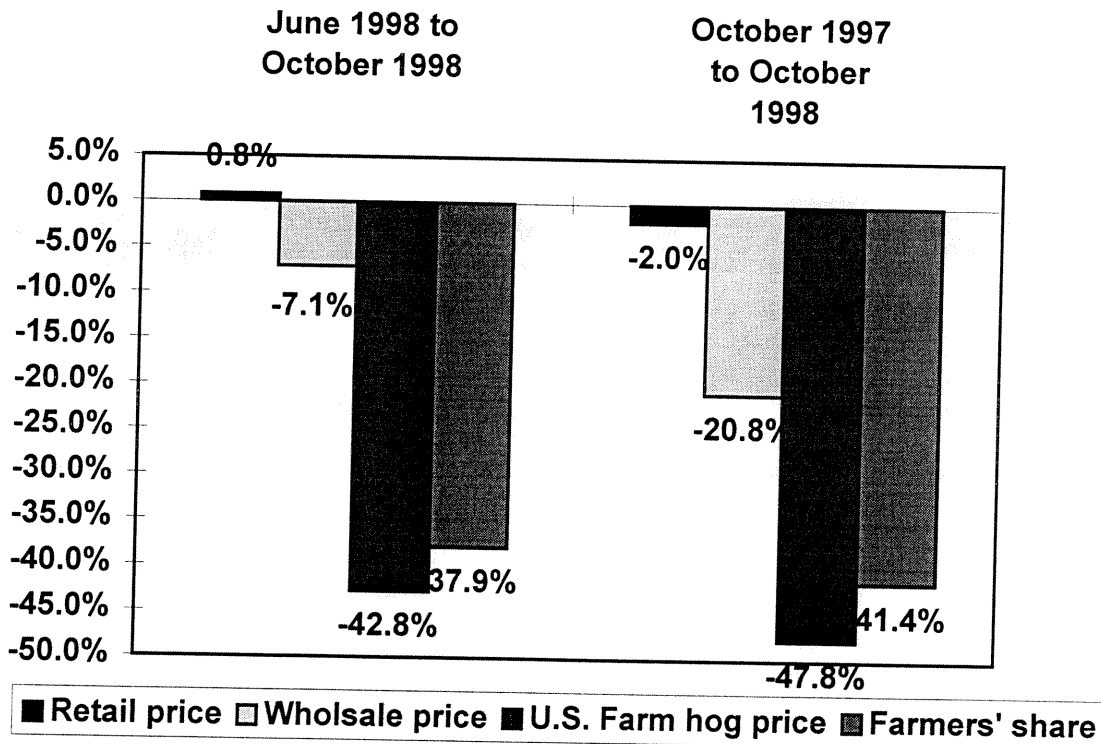
**June 1998 to October 1998 Comparison
U.S. Comparison**

	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Difference
Retail price	2.28	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.3	0.80%
Wholesale price	0.98	0.95	0.96	0.93	0.91	-7.10%
U.S. Farm hog price	0.42	0.36	0.35	0.29	0.24	-42.80%
Farmers' share	.29	.25	.24	.20	.18	-37.9%

**October 1997 to October 1998 Comparison
U.S. Comparison**

	Oct. 97	Oct. 98	Difference
Retail price	2.34	2.3	-2%
Wholesale price	1.15	0.91	-20.80%
U.S. Farm hog price	0.46	0.24	-47.80%
Farmers' share	31.10%	18.20%	-41.40%

**U.S. Farm Hog, Retail and Wholesale Price
Comparison**



Wisconsin Farm and Retail Price Comparison Summary

In general, the retail pork price shows that from June to November, when farm hog prices crashed from 41-cents a pound to 16-cents a pound, a drop of 61 percent, there has been an inappropriate response on retail pork prices.

A November 1997 to November 1998 comparison still shows how retail pork prices have failed to move anywhere near the drop in farm hog and wholesale prices.

Consumers should be made aware that retail prices on some cuts of pork are no where near to what they should be considering the 61 percent drop in farm prices. This is very frustrating to the farmer and should be disappointing to the consumer, who are both, in a nutshell, being taken advantage of.

Farm Hog Prices

Monthly average per pound barrow and gilt prices, reported by Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service:

Nov. 1997	.40
June 1998	.41
Nov. 1998	.16

Since June, the average monthly barrow and gilt price has dropped 61 percent from 41-cents a pound in June to 16-cents a pound in November.

Since November of last year, barrow and gilt has dropped 60 percent from 40-cents a pound in June to 16-cents a pound in November.

Retail Pork Prices

By comparing hog prices to retail prices over two different time frames, both which illustrate the lack of appropriate response on retail prices. We compared November of 1997 to November of 1998, and June of this year to November of this year to draw our conclusions. Actual average retail pork price changes in Wisconsin appear to be more responsive than national averages, particularly with ham. But overall, still not reflective in pork chops and roast.

Ham

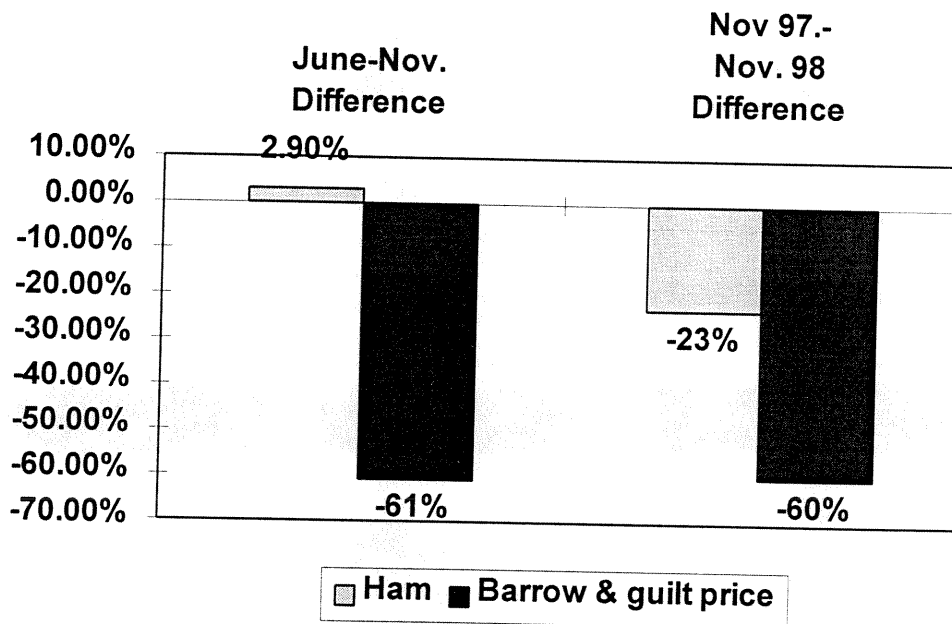
June 1998 to November 1998

	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sep.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Ham	1.68	1.96	1.96	1.78	1.82	1.73	2.90%
Barrow & guilt price	0.41	0.35	0.33	0.28	0.28	0.16	-61%

November 1997 to November 1998

	<u>Nov. 1997</u>	<u>Nov. 1998</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Ham	2.24	1.73	-23%
Barrow & guilt price	0.4	0.16	-60%

Ham Price Comparison



According to our survey, retail ham prices have probably been the most responsive to the drop in farm prices over the long term, since November of last year. Our most recent survey indicated ham is 51-cents a pound less than it was last year. We would urge consumers to purchase a ham for Christmas to take advantage of this price and help out the hog producer.

Bacon

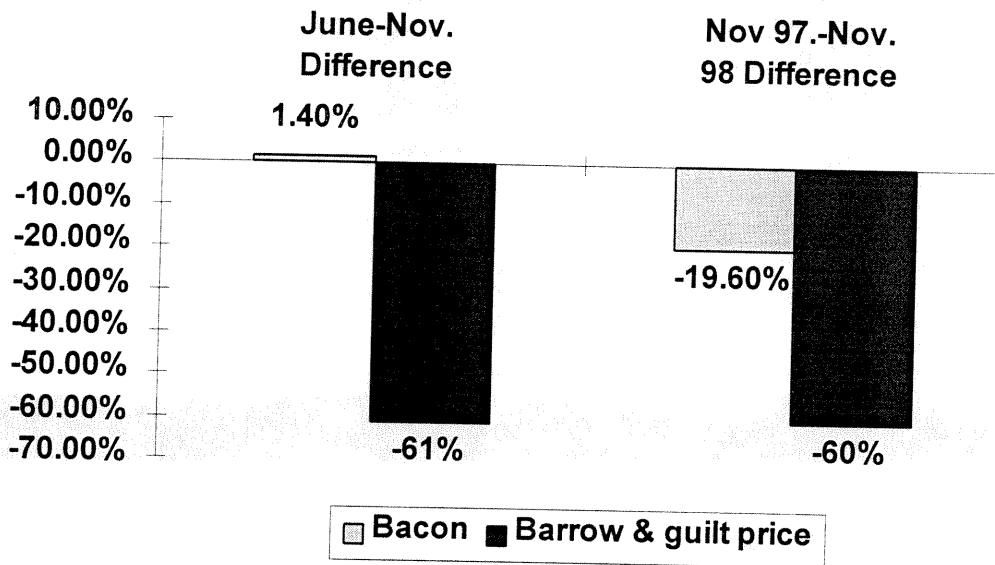
June 1998 to November 1998

	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sep.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Bacon	2.01	2.03	2.03	2.17	2.06	2.04	1.40%
Barrow & guilt price	0.41	0.35	0.33	0.28	0.28	0.16	-61%

November 1997 to November 1998

	<u>Nov. 1997</u>	<u>Nov. 1998</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Bacon	2.54	2.04	-19.60%
Barrow & guilt price	0.4	0.16	-60%

Retail Bacon Price Comparison



Since November of last year, bacon prices have declined significantly, but again, we see since June, retail prices of bacon are actually about the same, instead of lower.

Pork Chops

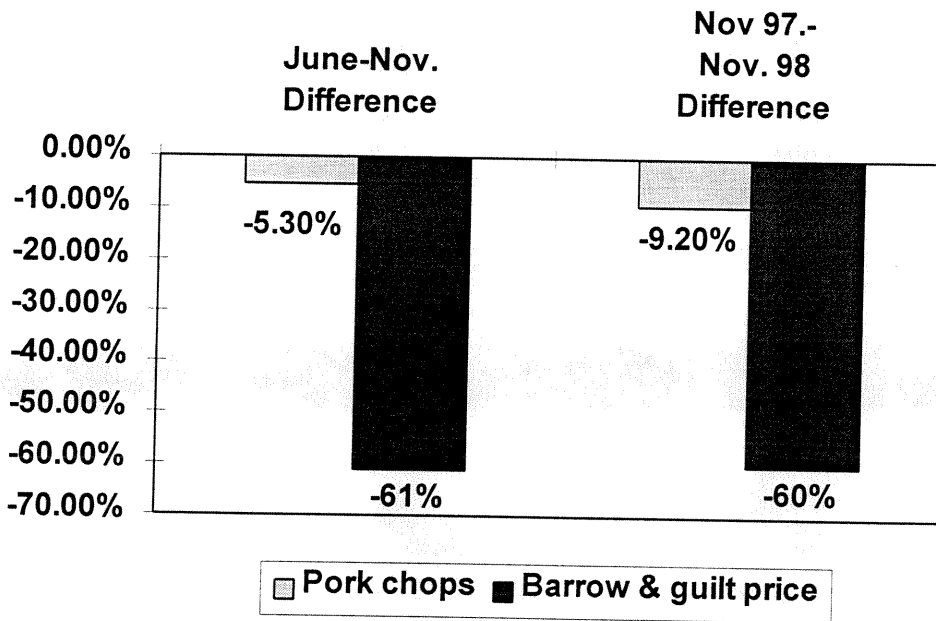
June 1998 to November 1998

	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sep.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Pork chops	2.81	2.76	2.79	2.79	2.62	2.66	-5.30%
Barrow & guilt price	0.41	0.35	0.33	0.28	0.28	0.16	-61.00%

November 1997 to November 1998

	<u>Nov. 1997</u>	<u>Nov. 1998</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Pork chops	2.93	2.66	-9.20%
Barrow & guilt price	0.4	0.16	-60%

Pork Chop Price Comparison



Retail pork chop prices are probably the most visible and frustrating examples of the failure to pass along lower farm hog prices. Since November consumers have seen less than a 10 percent drop in retail prices and only a 5 percent drop since June. On the retail side though, to the credit of grocery stores, our surveyors have reported that stores offered some very attractive specials on pork chops, but overall did not reflect a dramatic savings to consumers.

Pork Roast

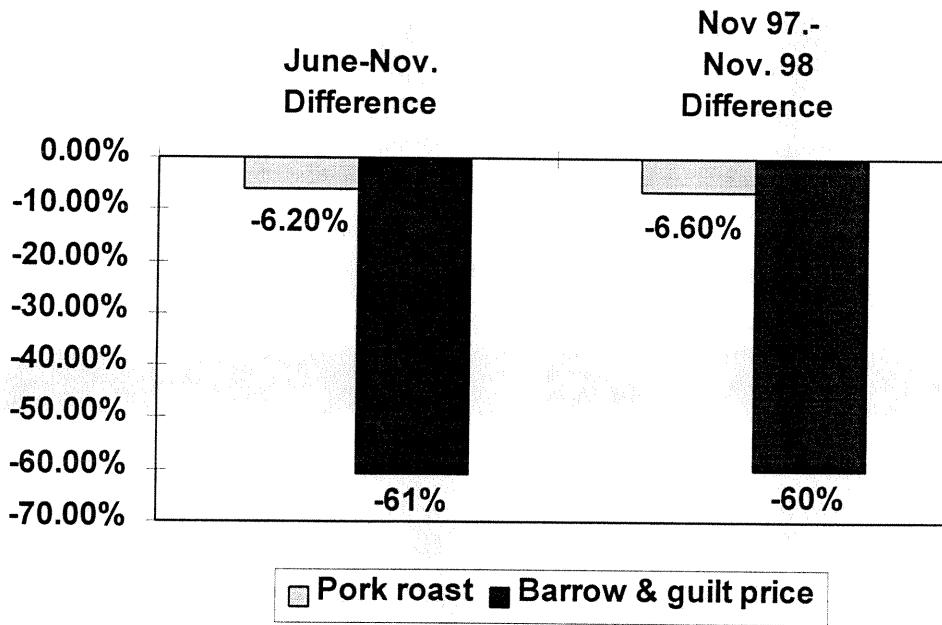
June 1998 to November 1998

	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Difference
Pork roast	2.25	2.12	2.03	2.06	2.15	2.11	-6.20%
Barrow & guilt price	0.41	0.35	0.33	0.28	0.28	0.16	-61%

November 1997 to November 1998

	Nov. 1997	Nov. 1998	Difference
Pork roast	2.26	2.11	-6.60%
Barrow & guilt price	0.4	0.16	-60%

Pork Roast Price Comparison



Again, retail prices for pork roast are no where near what they could and should be.

Comments

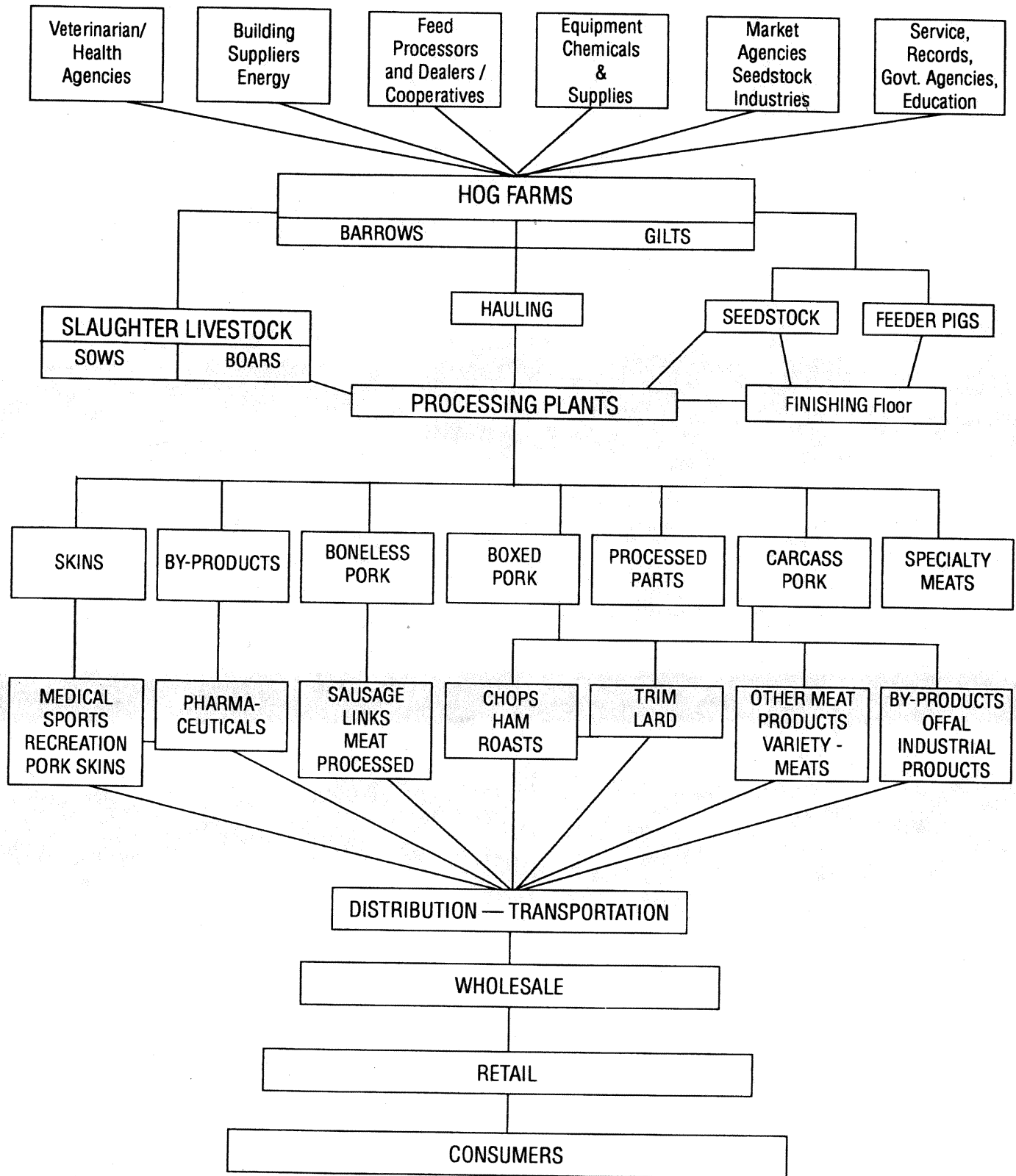
Because farmers have limited ability to determine the prices they get for their commodities, and because consumers are at the whim of the marketing system, we urge consumers to ask their grocers why retail prices on prime cuts of pork are not lower. Farmers would welcome this kind of support if the end users, the consumer, would put some downward pressure to get the food system to respond appropriately.

“Consumption is up 7.5% in 1998, evidence of good demand for pork, even though retail prices have not dropped in relation to lower farm hog prices.” *Ron Plain, University of Missouri economist.*

“Consumers don’t realize they should be eating more pork because retail prices have not decline to reflect the slash in hog prices.” *Larry Duewer, USDA analyst.*

“Retail pork margins reached \$1.38 per retail pound—23 cents higher than the average September margins from the previous year. Retailers have extracted an additional \$274 million from producers and consumers in September alone. For the entire year of 1998, large margins may have negatively impacts producers and consumers by up to \$4 billion.” *Chris Hurt, Purdue University agricultural economist.*

Graph 2.1 - Wisconsin Pork Industry



Source: Wisconsin Pork Industry Task Force, 1990 Report

Fri - Media Advisory - "OTT TO Announce FACT FINDING
Hearing on pork pricing"

Mon - Re-issue Advisory - P.C.

Immed -

Fri a.m. (Thurs) call Flaherty
Walters/Rice
Callahan/Pommes } Ask ag reports
should be assigned

Advisory on 15/16 th - About Hong.

Country Club Meets Enemy: Country, and Pigs

By RICK BRAGG

STUART, Fla., April 8 — Two worlds collide, on the 15th tee.

On one side of the skinny blacktop road, the manicured fairways of the Florida Club golf course meander through the palmetto scrub, where a solitary golfer with a retirement tan hacks hard at the ball and then chases it down in his golf cart, like a duck after a June bug.

On the other side, 165 mud-spattered pigs wallow, grunt, scratch and squeal under the skimpy shade of the same southeast Florida scrub, and the stench, from the animals, the manure and the mounds of rotting lettuce, tomatoes and moldy bread that they consume, hits the people who turn in the sandy driveway like a punch in the nose.

Country music — at the moment the Dixie Chicks, singing on WIRK radio about crying mamas and wide open spaces — mingles with the smell and the heat and the squeals, and the whole experience drifts across the scrub, across the road and onto the carefully tended greens of the Florida Club course.

The pigs' owner, a big, ruddy-faced, white-haired, sunburned man named Paul Thompson, sits in the shade beside the fly-blown pens and shakes his head.

"Now who," he said, "would choose to build a golf course next to a pig farm? Didn't they read the sign? It says 'pig farm,' not 'rose garden.'"

He shakes his head again.

"And they say I'm crazy."

Such a confrontation of old and new Florida, here in this corner of Martin County about 30 minutes north of Palm Beach, was bound to lead to lawyers. But it is the music, not the smell, that has Mr. Thompson in court, defending his right to play Merle Haggard, Garth Brooks and Dolly Parton for his pigs. He swears it improves their disposition.

The Florida Club, a golf course and subdivision with homes that sell for around \$300,000, is suing Mr. Thompson, 60, and another farmer, claiming that the country music they play bothers its golfers.

Mr. Thompson says he is being told how to live his life by the new, richer residents who are encroaching on what used to be a wild, simple place, "just one more case of the rich developers running over the little guy."

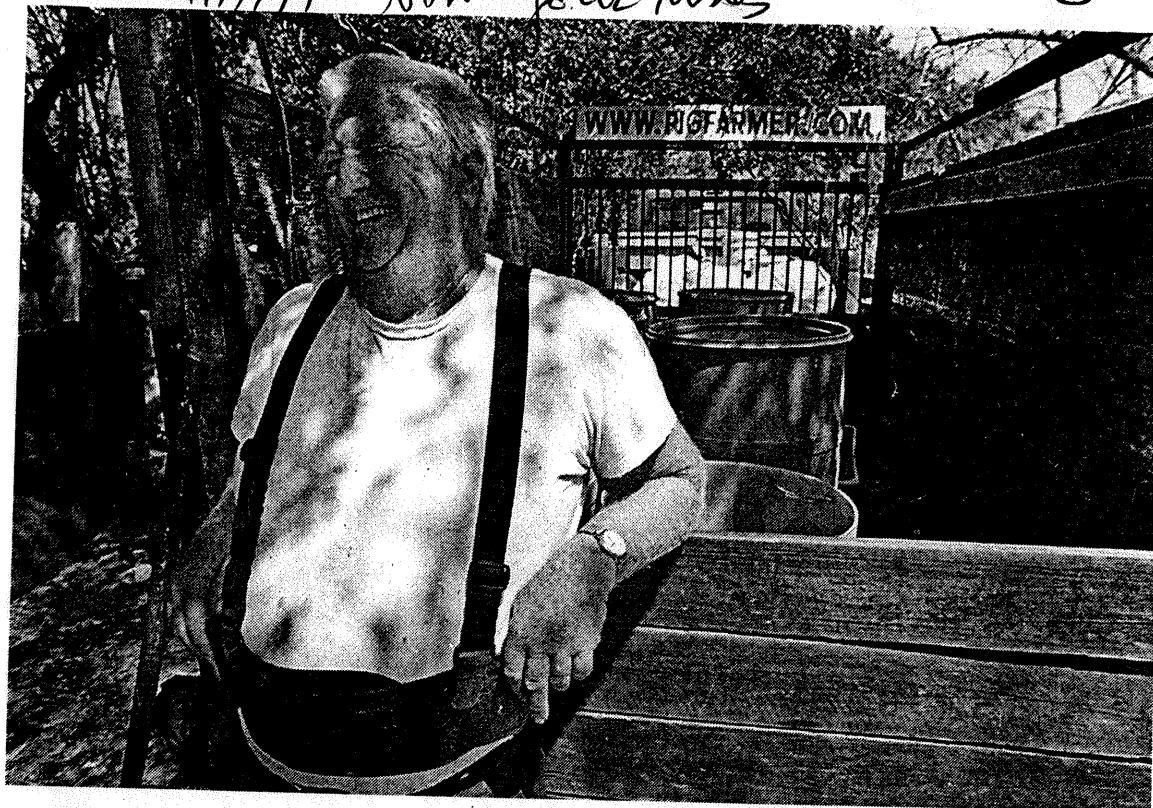
Asked how he knew the developers were rich, he smiled.

"Because I've never seen a poor developer," he said.

A trial date has not been set.

Greg Cotten, the general manager of the Florida Club, insists that its members only want to play in peace, and that the legal challenge is a simple lawsuit designed to halt a nuisance. The club seeks no damages, just reduced volume.

"This guy is persisting with his story of the big developers squeezing him out," which is false. Mr. Cotten



Paul Thompson, a farmer in Martin County, Fla., plays country music to soothe his pigs. But a neighboring country club says the music bothers its golfers and has taken its case to court. Bill Cooke for The New York Times

Golfers and a farmer are at odds over livestock fond of twang.

said. "He's welcome to stay there."

Lawyers for the club have said that Mr. Thompson and the neighbor who also raises music-accented pork, Tom Rossano, want the club to buy their property at an inflated price, to gain peace and quiet.

Mr. Cotten said Mr. Thompson also liked being courted by the media. "He's just a lonely guy who's enjoying the attention," Mr. Cotton said.

Asked whether he was playing the country music in an effort to get the club to buy his three acres, Mr. Thompson said no.

He was here first, in 1957, 38 years before the country club, he said.

But when asked whether he would consider selling his property, Mr. Thompson replied that "everything is for sale, if someone is willing to sell, and someone is willing to buy."

"But I can't force anybody to buy me out," and certainly, he said, not by playing country music.

"When I pulled up in my car here for the first time, in '57, there was country music on the radio," Mr. Thompson said. Over the years, he read studies about how music made cows give more milk, made chickens

lay more eggs and even made small children in day-care centers happier.

What was good for humans must be good for pigs, he reasoned. He found that the music soothed the pigs, and made them less prone to attack each other in their tight surroundings.

The pigs, Mr. Thompson said, do not know the difference between styles of music, between Handel and Hank Williams.

"I play country," he said, "because I like country."

The golfers, bent over their Big Bertha drivers, trying to cleanly strike a small white sphere, have found that hard to do with a country singer warbling: "It's that teeny-weeny, itsy-bitsy thing we call the love bug."

Mr. Thompson has no sympathy for them. He does not play golf.

He considers the golfers hypocrites, people who do not want to know where their pork comes from.

"Standing around moaning about me, with a pork chop in their mouth," he said.

The battle with the country club has been raging for the past year, and so far the law seems to be on the pig farmers' side.

Checks on the noise level of the music by deputies of the Martin County Sheriff's Department and the neighboring St. Lucie County Sheriff's Department found that the music at both Mr. Thompson's and Mr. Rossano's farms was below the 60 decibels allowed in residential areas.

"There is no violation," said Jenell Atlas, the public information officer

for the Martin County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Thompson has "been out there many, many years. As far as we're concerned, he's not breaking the law."

On the face of it, it seems a lopsided battle. One of the country club's lawyers is State Representative Tom Warner, a Republican from Stuart.

And within the past year, the country club pushed for and won a new ordinance that set a decibel level for residential areas — the very one that Mr. Thompson has been obeying.

But Mr. Thompson is no backwoods farmer, despite the pig flop or his boots. He has his own Web site — www.pigfarmer.com — and now he has his own legal defense fund, the Paul Thompson-Pig Farmer Legal Defense Fund, to be precise.

It will give him a chance, he said against the country club.

Why not just turn the music down he is asked. Well, he said, the pigs could not hear it, and, worse than that, it would be giving up.

And when he gives up, he said, it will be only when "they're carrying me out of here, walking slow and singing low."

Appropriately, John Anderson comes on the radio a few minutes later, singing about a dying way of life in Florida.

*Blow, blow Seminole wind
Blow like it's never gonna blow
again*

It is hard to tell if the pigs are

1/15 & others at your selection

SPECIAL REPORT



THE EMPIRE OF THE PIGS

**A LITTLE-KNOWN COMPANY IS A MASTER AT
MILKING GOVERNMENTS FOR WELFARE**

By Donald L. Barlett and James B. Steele



"THIS IS QUITE A CHRISTMAS PRESENT," SAID HARLAN NELSON, then mayor of Albert Lea, Minn., on that December day in 1990 when he learned that a closed factory in the town would reopen. "Fairy tales do come true!"

The fairy godmother turned out to be Seaboard Corp., a giant of agribusiness with headquarters in Merriam, Kans., and controlled out of Chestnut Hill, Mass. Seaboard officials announced that they would restart the shuttered pork-processing plant that had once been the town's largest employer—if the city offered a little help. Albert Lea responded by giving Seaboard a \$2.9 million low-interest loan and a special deal on its sewer bill and grading and paving parking lots for

