



From the President's Desk

Dear fellow Hoggers,

I hope this finds you all hogging along quite well.

Fall is coming to a close and we are now bringing the hogs in from their pasture pens. This is in anticipation of cold weather and also with the idea that we will be butchering some as well. The harvest is out of the fields but busy times are still happening on the farm.

Several things are still in the works on the behalf of the Guinea Hog Association. The DNA work is still continuing and the 501c3 status is still being pursued.

I want to take this opportunity to remind you not to let your hogs get too fat this winter. Their diet may change over the winter so be

on guard for increases in weight. This is a constant struggle. Remember, Guinea Hogs should look like a rectangle boxes, not black barrels on peg legs. Be watchful for the sake of your hogs health.



The secretary asked me to include some personal information about myself so I will share a few facts.

I am working on a 2,000 acre organic farm in Iowa. I enjoy farming and working in the dirt and with livestock. I have been married for 21 years and we have 6 children. We share many interests but I do not have time to tell you all of them now. We are church going, Bible believing people that live separately from the normal American lifestyle. We attend church on Sunday so I do not answer business calls or conduct business on Sundays. My wife and I enjoy traveling to the island of Dominica where we have many friends. I also enjoy attending seminars and conferences on organic farming and raising livestock.

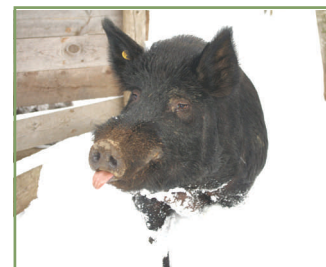
Please remember there will be elections coming up. This means we will be needing nominations for the two

openings. I want to encourage each of you to participate in the elections. That is what makes the association work.

Thank you for all you are doing for the Guinea Hog.

Have a HOGAFUL (wonderful) winter and hogging good holiday season.

Kevin Fall



Board of Directors



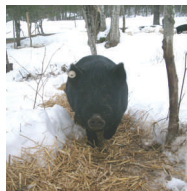
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Member at Large



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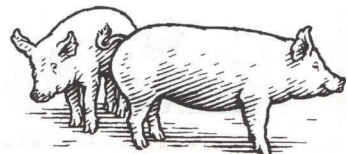
Don Oberdorfer
Advisor

Cooking Corner

Pork Chops with Mace and Apple

from "Farmhouse Cookbook" by Susan Herrmann

Loomis



6 pork chops (1/2 inch thick, about 8 ounces each)

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

1/2 teaspoon ground mace
2 tablespoons minced orange zest

1 tablespoon unsalted butter

1 tablespoon mild vegetable oil, such as safflower

4 large tart apples, such as Gravensteins, Granny Smiths, or Winesaps, peeled, cored, and cut into eighths

1/3 cup dry white wine

1 Preheat the oven to 350°F. Generously butter a 10 x 14-inch baking dish, and set it aside.

2 Rinse the pork chops and

pat dry. Season them with salt and pepper to taste. Rub each side with the orange zest.

3 Heat the butter and oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat until hot but not smoking. Brown the pork chops on both sides until they are golden, about 2 minutes per side.

4 Spread the apple over the bottom of the prepared baking dish, and season them lightly with salt and pepper. Arrange the pork chops on top, pour the wine over them, and bake until the apples have softened somewhat and

the wine has reduced by half, about 20 minutes. Turn the chops, and bake until they are tender and thoroughly cooked, another 40 minutes. Serve immediately. 6 servings



If you have a great recipe that you would like to share, please e-mail it to secretary@guineahogs.org

Boar Taint

"If the animal is in a high state of agitation then they have a higher level of testosterone in their blood stream which will taint the meat."



By Scott Wall

Member at Large

As a former commercial hog producer it was common practice to castrate all boars. The reasoning for this has far more to do with feed efficiencies, co-mingled housing and male-male competition if not castrated. Young boars of most breeds seldom have "boar taint", however the older the boar and the more sexually active it becomes the greater the risk of taint. Taint in meat from males whether domestic or wild will be far more pungent depending on the state of agitation at the time they are killed. If the animal is in a high state of agitation then they have a higher level of testosterone in their blood stream which will taint the meat. We have butchered AGH boars and barrows and have not had any unpleasant taint in the boar meat.



Membership Reminder

Membership renewals are coming up

January 1, 2012

Annual Membership \$20

Lifetime Membership \$200

The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy “A Conservation Breeding Handbook”

By Dr. Phillip Sponenberg & Carolyn J. Christman

Heritage, habitat, and other factors

Despite the utility of mathematical calculations in demonstrating genetic principles, the genetic status of a living breed is very difficult to describe and will always remain somewhat subjective. Each breed has its distinct genetic heritage and its own habitat, and these must be considered when describing its genetic status.

Among the elements of a breed's genetic heritage is the existence (or lack thereof) of distinct, isolated bloodlines, which have high genetic value for a breed. These lines represent genetic material which has been long divergent from the breed as a whole and can be used to provide line-crossing and some hybrid vigor. Also of interest is the recent history of the breed and its relative resistance to inbreeding.

Included in any measure of

breed status is the status of its habitat. Like wild species, domestic animals are dependent on habitat for survival. Unlike wild species, the habitat for livestock and poultry breeds is made by both nature and human breeders. One element is geographical distribution. If all individuals of a breed are found in a single location, then disease, predation, or environmental disaster can have a devastating impact on the breed. In contrast, a breed that is dispersed throughout several locations it is less vulnerable to loss. The number and location of herds or flocks is an especially important indicator of status for those stocks most vulnerable to predation—poultry and small ruminants—but it is an issue for all species.

A second element of habitat is the selection of breeding stock practiced by human breeders, and the ways that selection is evolving to fit the

market conditions. What are breeders' goals for the breed? It is important to know whether current selection pressures fit the historical background of a breed. Intense selection that seeks to mold the breed into a different direction can cause genetic erosion. Breeds which have a current market niche consistent with their historical uses are in a far better position than those which lack this opportunity. Distribution is also relevant. If a breed population is divided among only a few herds or flocks, then it can readily suffer genetic erosion due to poorly designed selection programs.

The network of people who promote a breed, as well as the resources available to then breed, are an important part of its habitat. The strength or weakness of a breed association and the vision of a breeder community serve to make a breed more or less secure.

Describing the status of a breed, therefore, is a complex task. A breed may appear numerically strong, but the use of only a few sires each generation has made it genetically fragile. A breed may have a relatively large population, but may be in danger as its purebred females are being siphoned off into crossbreeding programs. A breed may be rare, but have several distinct bloodlines in the hands of dedicated breeders, giving it a stronger base than the number alone would dictate. This is quite different from the situation facing rare breeds which is limited to one location and selection pro-

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gram. The complexity of breed status—and the fact that it can change quickly—is another reason that all rare breeds are in need of conservation programs, and that no conservation work is wasted.

If you are interested in more information from this book check out the ALBC bookstore for a copy.

Who are our founding hogs?

1. Biggers Arthur
2. Celesky's Tulip
3. Celesky's Boris
4. Celesky's Roxanne
5. Setty Houdini
6. Setty Lilly
7. Setty MC Little Old Stiff Guy
8. Setty MC Big Old Stiff Guy
9. Setty Rose
10. Setty Wart Side
11. Samson VA

American Guinea Hog Association

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We're on the web

www.americanguineahogassociation.org



The American Guinea Hog Newsletter — Questions for the Member's?

What's your guess?

Each year, the ALBC asks breed associations to help them keep their information updated on certain breed statistics. Earlier this fall, the ALBC asked us for the number of hogs we registered in 2010. It's one of the criteria they use to determine a breed's status on their conservation priority list.

It's also an important piece of data for all of us, as fans of the breed, and as breed stewards. Who wouldn't like to see more hogs on the ground? And what can the numbers mean for us as individual breeders, and as a group, as we move forward?

So put your thinking caps on, and check out these numbers .

Here are the numbers of Guinea Hogs registered each year (the year they were registered, not the year of birth)

2007 - 88 2008 - 213 2009 - 411 2010 - 322 2011 - ???

How many hogs do you think we will have registered in 2011? E-mail your guess for the number of hogs to the registrar for the chance to win an AGHA logo mug. One guess per membership, must be received by Jan 31st 2011. Winner will be announced in next newsletter. registrar@guineahogs.org

