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Deb and Jeff Hansen/Iowa Select Farms Foundation Donates 110,000 Pounds of Pork to Food Insecure Iowans

600,000 servings of nutrient-rich pork donated to families in need

Iowa Falls, Iowa — The Deb and Jeff Hansen/Iowa Select Farms Foundation is delivering 90,000 pounds of fresh boneless pork loins to local community organizations, food shelves and pantries and food banks across Iowa.

“We’re committed to feeding Iowa families in need,” said Jeff Hansen, President and CEO of Iowa Select Farms. “We have many employees and producers in Iowa and our state is our most important area of focus. We understand each community has its own challenges, which is why we are focusing on a grassroots effort to supply local organizations as well as partnering with the Iowa Food Bank Association to get food to where it’s needed most.”

Local, grassroots food donations help farming communities

“We collected input from our employees as to what local food pantries we should deliver the pork loins to,” explains Hansen. “It’s tremendous to see the passion and generosity they have for helping families in need.”

Cases of fresh pork loins delivered by employees on behalf of the Deb and Jeff Hansen/Iowa Select Farms Foundation are being made directly into the farming communities of: Ackley, Afton, Alden, Algona, Allison, Carroll, Cambridge, Clarksville, Creston, Dows, Eldora, Emmetsburg, Estherville, Hampton, Hubbard, Iowa Falls, Leon, Lamoni, Mount Ayr, Nevada, Osage, Osceola, Pocahontas, Radcliffe, Sac City, St. Charles, Steamboat Rock, Webster City and Union. Pork donations are also being distributed to Nebraska and up into southern Minnesota.

“When you see a donation of 110,000 pounds of pork to needy Iowans, that says a lot about Iowa Select Farms and pork producers in Iowa,” said Leo Chisholm, Director of the Mitchell County Food Bank in Osage. “We serve 2,000 families from this food bank, which is considerably higher than in years past. At the same time our food and financial donations are down 30 percent. We greatly appreciate these donations of pork and we’re working to make these loins stretch a long way.”

Iowa Select Farms partners with the Iowa Food Bank Association (IFBA) to distribute pork loins across Iowa

The donations to the IFBA started off with a delivery of 13,554 pounds of fresh boneless pork loins to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank in Waterloo and the Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP) in Hiawatha, both via the IFBA. In the next few weeks, deliveries of pork loins will be made to other major food banks across the state, including the Food Bank of Iowa in Des Moines; Southern Iowa in Ottumwa; River Bend Food Bank in Moline, Illinois; Food Bank for the Heartland in Omaha, Nebraska; Siouxland Food Bank in Sioux City and St. Stephen's Food Bank in Dubuque, Iowa.

"Hunger affects one out of every eight Iowans," said Jordan Vernoy, Executive Director of the Iowa Food Bank Association. "Almost 13 percent of Iowans are food insecure — that's 382,000 Iowans being forced to make tough decisions about providing food for their families or paying their rent or mortgage, paying for transportation, or paying for medical bills. These are choices that no one should have to make. We're ecstatic about this donation, especially meat and protein which oftentimes is in short supply."

The fresh boneless pork loins are 9 pounds and can feed 48 people a 3-ounce serving of a nutrient-rich lean pork.

The Deb and Jeff Hansen/Iowa Select Farms Foundation will also be making donations of pork loins to Hope Ministries in Des Moines and organizations supporting military families.

About the Deb and Jeff Hansen/Iowa Select Farms Foundation

In early 2006, the Hansen's established The Deb & Jeff Hansen Iowa Select Farms Foundation to provide ongoing support for community development and service by working with and through philanthropic organizations, particularly those that impact hunger relief, our environment, our families and our employees.

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