

PORK CARE PACKAGES SENT TO IOWA MEMBERS OF THE ARMED SERVICES

Words of thanks pour in from moms, wives, husbands and members of the Armed Services

Iowa members of the Armed Forces and their families have a little more on their plates, quite literally, with an unprecedented donation of Pork Care Packages from the Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation and Iowa Select Farms. Every member of all Iowa military units recently received \$38 worth of coupons good for various pork products — including ham, ribs, bacon and ground pork — through their unit's Family Readiness Coordinators. In total, more than 12,000 service members were gifted the Pork Care Packages, equating to \$456,000 in free pork.

"Providing support to military families in Iowa is the least we can do for those on active duty and those who dedicate their time to the Reserves," says Jeff Hansen, president and CEO of Iowa Select Farms. "Supplying the resources for several home-cooked meals that helps bring families together is our way of saying 'thank you' to the men and women who sacrifice so much of their time away from their families in order to protect our freedom."



Throughout December, January and February, employees of Iowa Select Farms delivered the Pork Care Packages to all units of the Iowa Army National Guard, Iowa Air National Guard, US Army Reserve, US Naval Reserve, and US Marine Corps Reserve. Pork Care Packages were also delivered to the Iowa National Guard's Survivorship Outreach Services to deliver to 600 Iowa families of fallen Soldiers.

From ribs and bacon to fresh pork, the coupons in the Pork Care Packages are redeemable at any local grocery store, regardless the brand or cut. The Pork Care Packages also contain a cookbook entitled "Our Favorites" which features pork recipes submitted by the employees of Iowa Select Farms.

"We asked our employees to send in their favorite family pork recipes to share with the military families and the response was overwhelming," says Jen Sorenson, Communications Director for Iowa Select Farms. The bright and bold cookbook contains a variety of pork recipes for all of the Pork Care Package products, including Apricot Glazed Ham, Bacon Pancake Cupcakes, Slow Cooker Cranberry Pork Chops and Apple and Ale Pork Roast.

"The coupons offer a great opportunity for service members to sit down with their families to share a meal during the holidays and through the cold winter months," Sorenson says. "On top of the Pork Care Package Program, the Foundation will also continue the popular Hams for Heroes Program, which delivers fresh pork packs and hams to select units and families."



WORDS OF THANKS

"Thank-you so much for the coupons for meat and the cookbook. I am excited to try many of the recipes. Tonight I am going to buy the meat and plan on sharing it with my children. There isn't a day that goes by that we don't miss Robert. It makes me feel good that there are people who acknowledge the sacrifice made by some. Thank you so very much."

Barb Yllescas Vorthmann

Proud mother of Captain Robert Yllescas, Army Ranger

Dec 1 2008

President of Gold Star Mothers Iowa

"From the 9-95th Quartermaster Battalion it is with our sincere pleasure to express our appreciation for your selfless service that you contribute to Soldiers of the National Guard and Army Reserves. Your holiday offerings feed so many military families during a stressful time of the year. The donations you provide fill many families' hearts with joy, put smiles on faces, and most importantly show support for our men and women in uniform."

Soldiers and their families from the 9-95th Quartermaster Battalion

"I want to say thank you for your gift. We're a family of four that survives on my husband's paycheck, my drill check, and my GI Bill while I go to school to become a Speech Language Pathologist. I am grateful for your support of my service to this wonderful country and for helping me contribute to putting food on the table while I focus on my education full-time. Thank you also for the recipe book. My guys love sandwiches and ribs and I love getting my money's worth out of that crock pot so we look forward to trying out your delicious recipes. Yum! Thank you again for your gift and we hope you and your family have a wonderful start to this year."

God Bless,

Jessica Swiser



"I did two tours in Vietnam and never received anything. This to me is one of the greatest gifts I have received."

Elbert G. Fisches



"I am writing on behalf of the 800 Iowa Army National Guard Soldiers and Officers assigned to the 334th Brigade Support Battalion who work and drill throughout the state. We want to express our appreciation of the generous gift of pork certificates this holiday season. Many of our young Soldiers and their families live pay check to pay check and I'm sure this gift will be put to good use providing nutritious meals."

Best regards,

Dan Collins, CSM, IA ARNG USPFO Contract Specialist
And Command Sergeants Major, 334th Brigade Support Battalion

"It means a lot to know business owners think so highly about our committee that they are willing to bless us in this way."

Erik Hanson

"I find it deeply moving how many people they reach out to with coupons and hams. They are a fine example of citizenship and selflessness."

Becky Starmer

"Very honored and humbled to receive the continuing support from the Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation. Thank you!"

Brent Garrow

"Makes me proud to work for Iowa Select Farms. And thanks for supporting the troops, their families and schools."

Terry Kondora

"I've rarely been so surprised and appreciative. Completely made my day, week and holiday season. Thanks a million!"

Eric Cox

"It's a wonderful and generous gift to our family and reminds us how much our military is appreciated by so many."

Kristen Querriera

"Our son brought home the recipe book and the coupons from the Deb and Jeff Foundation. We can't thank you enough for supporting the Iowa National Guard. We are very proud our son is a Guardsman, it helps when we know how much support there is for our brave men and women."

God Bless you,

Gail Jackson

"It means a lot to see the soldiers a little less stressed during the holiday season."

Harley Rose



"This gift is greatly appreciated. This really helps lift the financial burden that comes with the holidays. Thank you!"

Kristin Keller



THANK YOU 2016 SPONSORS!

PLATINUM



PREMIER



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



"Thank you for your generous donation of 950 pork care packages and support of the Siouxland military families year round. At a time of year when many families' budgets are taxed with holiday gift giving and the higher costs of groceries, our families appreciated the unexpected gift of pork products to help stretch their monthly food budget. The coupons were a welcome addition for our military families and the cookbooks will be enjoyed by so many families. They are much appreciated by all who received them."

Lawrence L Christensen, Col, IA ANG, Wing Commander

"I am Adam Cooper, Company Commander 3654 Maintenance Company, headquartered out of Knoxville, Iowa. I want to thank you very much for the donation of pork vouchers which were distributed throughout my organization last weekend. Your generosity is unmatched and I just wanted to add that there are many Soldiers whom will benefit greatly from this most gracious donation. Please accept my greatest heartfelt thank you for all that you have done for my Soldiers."

Adam Cooper, CPT, OD, IAARNG Commanding

"On behalf of the Marines and Sailors of the ECHO Company, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation for the assistance you provided to Marines, families and our communities. Your actions show us the strength of your support and hospitality we continue to receive from the community. I greatly appreciate you and your staff volunteering your time, hard work and support to Company E."

Joshua Adamson, Inspector Instructor, ECHO Company 2/24

"We wanted to thank you for the very generous gift of pork! Wow! We have been a military family for over 27 years and I can't remember such a generous gift ever!! My husband was in the SD Air NG for 30 years, our oldest is in the SD Air NG, our second is in the Iowa Air NG, our third is in the SD Air NG. We have two boys who aren't old enough yet but are hoping to join someday!

Our second son gave me your coupons yesterday and we will put them to good use for our family this holiday season since all of them will be home some! Thank you so very much for honoring those in the military. It is very nice to see people like you appreciate our military for their service."

Wade and Chris Druin, and Isaac, Ethan, Austin, Seth and Joel