**Why do we fear Chinese dining on our Pork?**

***Chinese Purchase of Smithfield Farms in 2013 is causing some people to think that Chinese ownership of our farmland facilitates their spying!***

**There are a number of reasons why Americans should be concerned about China's growing economic strength, but owning a pig farm which provides both the Chinese and American citizens with hot dogs and bacon should not be a reason for paranoia. Some have suggested that Chinese ownership of our farms will help China spy on us. With the pig farms, this might be known as Oink intelligence.**

**One issue that has not been mentioned is if the Chinese own a lot of American properties and farmland, it is less likely to bomb us. The provision of food for 1.4 billion mouths to feed in China, is a major issue for the Chinese government. We are a major provider of food products to China.**

**Pork is a major part of the Chinese diet. Since Smithfield farms is providing tons of pork to feed the Chinese, they will have to think twice before bombing us. (There are no other Smithfield Farms in the rest of the world.)**

**On a slightly more serious tone, the United States is nearly 4,ooo,ooo square miles. China is slightly larger than us. No military in the world can conquer such large landmasses.**

**So, the real issue is, why don't we sell even more land and farms to China.**

**A relevant non-security issue is that at the Smithfield Farms now owned by the Chinese since 2013, has 400 farms in several states and hires thousands of American workers to fatten up many pigs for distribution globally.**

**In America their hog products are sold under the following labels, Armour, Farmland and Nathan’s Famous.**

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***The Wall Street Journal* | Page B005. Wednesday, 15 March 2023**

**Smithfield CEO Defends China Link**

*SMITHFIELD, Va*.— **Smith-field Foods Inc., the country’s largest pork producer**, is defending its turf against growing concerns from lawmakers over Chinese control of U.S. agriculture.

**The Virginia company, which was acquired in 2013 by Chinese pork company WH Group Ltd., said its ownership has helped fuel steady growth over the past decade and export more of its products to China**, the world’s biggest pork market. Shane Smith, Smithfield’s chief executive, said **WH’s backing has helped the company increase its sales, hire more U.S. workers and expand its plants’ processing capabilities.**

Smithfield’s Chinese ownership has also made the 86-year-old company a focus of criticism in Washington, D.C., as U.S.-China tensions have grown. **Some lawmakers in Washington and at the state level say they want to ensure the U.S. food-supply chain is protected and that China can’t use U.S. farmland to facilitate spying**.

Mr. Smith, a longtime Smithfield executive who took over as CEO in 2021, said those concerns are misplaced.

“We’re as American today as we were in 2013,” he said during an interview at his of-fice overlooking Virginia’s Pagan River. “When you meet with politicians and have those discussions, they seem to understand that.”

Mr. Smith said **Smithfield has discussed contingency plans in the event China escalates efforts to absorb Taiwan, a concern among U.S. leaders.**

**Smithfield is the biggest U.S. pork processor by volume, slaughtering about 30 million hogs a year, and a major supplier of hams and other fresh pork cuts to grocers’ meat cases.** The company sells products under brand names including Armour, Farmland and Nathan’s Famous, in addition to Smithfield.

The company was founded in 1936 by the Luter family in Smithfield, Va., a town of about 9,000 people and home to a 120-year-old ham. The town once hosted George Washington as a guest at a Main Street inn.

Smithfield sold itself to WH Group a decade ago for $4.7 billion, after years of high grain costs and an industry glut of hogs pressured pork producers. At the time, WH Group’s acquisition ranked as the biggest Chinese takeover of a U.S. company, prompting concerns in Washington. The Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., which reviews national security risks of foreign acquisitions, ultimately cleared the deal. WH Group is publicly traded in Hong Kong and has investors across the globe, including from the U.S., the company said.

Concerns over China’s involvement in the U.S. economy have increased since the acquisition. Alleged pressure on U.S. companies from Beijing to hand over intellectual property was a central part of the U.S.-China trade fight under the Trump administration.

U.S. national security officials have pointed to technology and equipment made in China or owned by Chinese companies that they warn could be used to carry out espionage, including Chinese-made cranes in U.S. ports. Espionage concerns deepened last month after a suspected Chinese spy balloon was identified in U.S. airspace and shot down.

Chinese ownership of U.S. farmland has also stirred debate. The mayor of Grand Forks, N.D., in January stopped supporting plans to build a Chinese-owned $700 million corn mill on the outskirts of town after an official from the U.S. Air Force said it presented a national security risk.

Some lawmakers have called for a ban on Chinese purchases of U.S. farmland. Roughly half of the approximately 350,000 acres of U.S. farmland owned by Chinese entities is represented by **Smithfield’s more than 400 company-owned hog farms and 43 plants, according to federal data**. Some politicians, such as **Sen. Tom Cotton (R., Ark.), have said allowing China to have a presence in the U.S. supply chain is dangerous**.

“From purchasing fields and pastures to gobbling up companies like Smithfield, Chinese influence in American agriculture means that China’s needs, not America’s, come first,” Mr. Cotton, who has criticized Smithfield’s ownership in the past, said in an emailed statement.

Smithfield’s Mr. Smith said he has spent more time in Washington since becoming CEO, meeting with government officials and explaining that his company operates with WH just as it would with any other investor.

**Even if a war breaks out, neither side has a military that is sufficiently large to conquer, hold and control such a large territory. That doesn't mean that we can't hurt each other, but even that is a deterrent, because, any side that is interested in starting a war, must figure out how they will be able to conquer and control the opposition.**

**If a nuclear war is seriously contemplated, neither side is prepared for a post nuclear survival program, that will spread nuclear radiation that will radiate the world a lot longer than humans can survive.**