

DOSS FARM

Turning
forest land
into
pig paradise!



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PICTURES BY

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- LOVING THEIR RURAL LIFESTYLE -

The Doss Family Farm was founded in 2014 in Washington County Oregon, in the northern part of the Willamette Valley AVA by Josh and Christie Doss. When the farm was started they didn't know what they were going to raise, but after evaluating a variety of options, the Mangalitsa pig emerged as the top choice. It was going to be a large investment in time, effort and money..... Nearly two years later the Doss Family Farm Mangalitsas are starting to come to market and the results are great. Mangalitsa pigs turned out to be a great fit for their farm!



Christie and Josh Doss married in 2009 while living in Portland, Oregon. The food scene in Portland was fantastic. They really enjoyed visiting the many new restaurants featuring farm to table and local foods. Eating at places like Lincoln, Urban Farmer, Meriwethers, Nostrana and others they learned to appreciate the flavors that come when a restaurant's chef sources local foods from area farms. As the family grew they moved to the Portland suburbs where they quickly grew restless and needed to find something more fulfilling for their family. Living just a few minutes from the urban growth boundary, they frequently drove through timber stands and farms on the way to and from various destinations.



One day a friend invited the Dosses to a birthday party at their property of 80 acres near Mountaindale. That was the turning point, the Dosses needed to find a way to move to the country. After months of discussion and planning they found the right realtor and started looking for the property of their dreams. They had been raising small flocks of backyard chickens for quite some time, had discussed ideas about starting a vineyard, growing hops, crafting farm to barrel beer. The final choice was livestock and the Mangalitsa.



Enjoying plenty of room to root and roam!



When the Dosses started planning their small farm's programs, they had a few requirements in mind. They wanted to select animals that didn't need large buildings, would thrive on pasture in Oregon's dynamic climate and would have a niche in the food industry. The animal needed to be hardy and provide a unique product that would fit well alongside the area's thriving heritage, locavore and small farm movement.

Having animals that are docile and safe to have around their growing family was also important. The farm should also serve a purpose beyond income and production, the Dosses wanted to choose a pure heritage breed; understanding the danger these types of breeds can suffer in terms of poor genetics, inbreeding, cross breeding and other practices that can result in the loss of a species from our world.





After touring a large breeding farm in Northern California and spending time with the Mangalitsa pigs there, they knew Mangalitsas were going to be the stars of their farm. Josh and Christie received their first breeding stock in November 2014 and additional breeding pigs in early 2015 to complete their herd. The first farrow to finish Mangalitsas were harvested in August of 2016, the first Mangalitsa pigs born on Oregon soil. The reward at the end of the two year journey was hands down the best pork they had ever tasted. The Mangalitsa was chosen as an addition to their farm's poultry program and became the star of their farm.



During the first year they went through quite a few surprises raising them. The Dosses learned that supplementary feeding the Mangalitsas exclusively with leftover fruit from a local grocery store was not sufficient - they had pigs get sick. They quickly learned that the Mangalitsas need high quality feed supplement in addition to the nutrients from the pasture. After building winter paddocks for the breeding stock, the Dosses quickly learned that one Mangalitsa boar can turn a small paddock into a big mud pit in short order. They expanded the paddocks to be nearly 10 times larger as a result! Another big surprise was the amount of feed the Mangalitsas consumed, especially when they are going through their early growth stages. Buying feed by the bag was quickly altered to buying by the ton, sometimes more than once per month for their small herd.



The Doss Family Farm adventure just got started





The hogs really enjoyed being handled, getting belly rubs and having frequent human contact. Another surprise - the first litter of blonde Mangalitsas raised were fence proof – they figured out how to get out frequently and one day went on a ten hour adventure into Oregon’s Pacific Coast range. They always came back though! Hamlet, the first boar in the herd, quickly lays down for a belly rub whenever the Dosses enter his paddock and he has rewarded their spoiling of him with several great litters. One of the concerns the Dosses had was concerning the amount of fat that each pig provides. They were unsure as to how the market would react to the availability of it, but quickly found that the flavor profile of the fat was very much in demand for Lardo, Salo and many other European delicacies. As the Dosses look to build their farm going forward, they are excited to supply their local market with retail packaged Mangalitsa pork. Additional sales of young pigs for other farmers, direct sales of half and whole hogs to butchers, salumists and consumers are also a part of their business. They even have created value added products for their farm’s product line.





*R*aising the Mangalitsa has been an adventure for the Dosses, one that started with much uncertainty and a positive attitude. They would work through whatever challenges the Mangalitsas put in front of them. It has given the entire family a great appreciation of farming and this fantastic breed. Perhaps most importantly, it has shown the Dosses and their customers that there is still food raised the traditional way. With that experience and the Mangalitsa breed, they can continue to provide their local area with a flavor that was nearly lost forever. This is the most rewarding part for the Doss Family Farm, helping to preserve the flavors of the past and sharing them with those near them today and into the future.

If you're ever in the Willamette Valley look them up, they would love to have you come by and meet their Mangalitsas – and I think you will fall in love just like they did.





Josh & Christie Doss

DOSS FARM



Royal Mangalitsa

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