### Benefits of Meat in the Diet









#### **Benefits of Red Meat**





B Vitamins for brain function



Iron helps prevent anemia



Phosphorus aids in healthy bones



### Meat is a high quality protein

High quality, protein aids in:

- Maintaining normal blood cholesterol levels
- Maintaining normal blood pressure
- Muscle building
- Recovery
- Protein provides all essential amino acids required by the body
  Meat proteins have a much greater digestibility than plant proteins



Meat protein digestibility

Plant protein digestibility

65%

Protein digestibility relates to the amino acids made available to the body after digestion and absorption

#### **Essential Amino Acids**

Amino acids build and maintain body tissues and contribute to metabolic processes

Meat is the only food that provides all 9 of the essential amino acids that the body cannot make



http://meatandhealth.redmeatinfo.com/media/ 7789/Red-Meat-Infographic-final.jpeg

### Less calories, same amount of protein



#### WHAT DOES 25 GRAMS OF PROTEIN LOOK LIKE?



'Three ounces of pork tenderloin offers 22 grams of protein

https://www.pork.org/cooking/pork-nutrition/protein-in-pork/

### Lipids (Fat)

Fat is the most variable component in meat - depends on the amount of untrimmed fat and marbling

Lipids provides energy and essential fatty acids • Two types of fatty acids: saturated or unsaturated

• Fat helps the body absorb fatsoluble vitamins A, D, E, and K Cholesterol is a component of meat lipids
Precursor for steroid hormone synthesis and essential component of cell membranes



#### Saturated Fatty Acids

- Contains no double bonds on carbon chain
- Dietary guidelines recommend low levels of SFAs
- High consumption of certain SFAs can lead to high levels of bad cholesterol (LDL) which is a risk factor for cardiovascular diseases
  - However, 43% of SFA in meat have no effect on the body



Palmitic Acid - Saturated Fatty Acid

Oleric Acid - Monosaturated Fatty Acid



Linoleic Acid - Polyunsaturated Fatty Acid

#### **Unsaturated Fatty Acids**

- Monounsaturated Fatty Acids (MUFA)
  - Contains one double bond on carbon chain
  - Considered healthy fats that help protect against coronary heart disease
- Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids (PUFA)
  - Contains more than one double bond on carbon chain
  - Omega-3
    - Essential fatty acids the body cannot produce that art a crucial part of human cell membranes
  - Omega-6
    - Essential fatty acids the body cannot produce primarily used for energy
    - Meat is a rich source of Omega-6 fatty acid. With pork and beef among the top ten sources of Omega 6-fatty acids
  - Trans Fatty Acids
    - Dietary guidelines recommend as low as possible intake levels of artificial trans fat due to an increased risk of heart disease.
    - Naturally occurring trans fat found in meat are considered safe.

# **Beef Lipids**

- The beef checkoff considers 29 cuts of beef as lean
- Contains more saturated fatty acids than pork
- Roughly half of the fats in beef are heart-healthy mono-unsaturated fatty acids
- With enhancements in cattle breeding and feeding as well as improved trimming practices, more than 60 percent of whole muscle beef cuts found in the supermarket are considered lean

# Pork Lipids

- The pork checkoff considers six cuts of pork as lean
- Contains more polyunsaturated fatty acids than beef
- Roughly half of the fats in pork are heart-healthy monounsaturated fatty acids\
- Pork today contains 16% less fat and 27% less saturated fat than pork produced in 1991

#### Minerals

- Iron: meat is a great source of iron and essential for maintaining good health; iron in meat is in a readily absorbable form known as heme iron
- Zinc: 1.8 times more absorbable for the
  body when it comes from meat than plants;
  essential for growth, wound healing, and
  maintaining a healthy immune system
- Selenium: helps protect cells from damage
- Potassium: provides blood pressure control
- Magnesium: aids in muscle and nerve function

Heme iron is 3X more absorbable than non-heme iron found in plants



http://meatandhealth.redmeatinfo.com/media/77 89/Red-Meat-Infographic-final.jpeg

#### Vitamins

• Meat is an excellent source of B complex vitamins

- Thiamine promotes energy production and supports the nervous system
- Riboflavin helps convert food into fuel
- Niacin supports energy production and metabolism
- Vitamin B6 and B12
  - Essential in brain development in children and helps maintain a healthy nervous systems and red blood cells
  - Vitamin B12 is only found in animal proteins

Liver can provide sources of Vitamins A, D, E, and K

•Vitamin A is approximately 20 times more absorbable from animal proteins than plants

•Vitamin D3 is only found in animal proteins and is used at a much higher rate than Vitamin D2 found in plants



#### Importance of meat for.....

#### **Older Adults**

- Meat is necessary to maintain muscle mass in older adults
- Recommended protein levels for older adults is 46 g of protein for females and 56 g for males per day

https://www.meatpoultrynutrition.org/content/ben efits-meat-and-poultry-diet

#### Child Development

- High-quality animal protein are essential for optimal growth and development of children
  - Many pediatricians now recommend meat as a first complementary food for babies
  - Recommended protein levels for children age 1-3 is 13 g and children age 4-8 is 19g
- Brain Development
  - Vitamin B12 is essential in brain development in children
    - Low B12 levels can be associated with cognitive disorders, neurological disorders, and memory loss
  - Vitamin D3
  - DHA
    - Most abundant Omega-3 fatty acid in the brain - critical for normal brain development



## Processed Meats

• Meat that has been transformed through salting, curing, fermentation, smoking, cooking, batter/breading, and/or the addition of ingredients to enhance flavor or improve preservation

 Processed meats are a convenient protein source packed with key vitamins and minerals

#### What are nitrites?

- Curing agent added to extend shelf life, prevent bacteria growth and foodborne illnesses, prevent rancidity, and create unique flavors and color profiles associated with processed meats
- Nitrites are essential with our body making about 20 mg of nitrite and 300 mg nitrate
- Sodium nitrate is a naturally occurring chemical compound found in soil, water, plants, and our own body that is converted to nitrite when in the presence of bacteria
- Nitrites are naturally found in vegetables such as celery
  - Celery salt can be used instead of nitrite since it is a natural form of nitrite

## Meat causing cancer

- Findings on red meat and cancer are inconsistent, largely in part to humans consuming diets and not a particular food item
- Many studies conducted are epidemiological studies that provide an association or correlation, but not a causation
  - These studies have many limitations including lack of reporting of lifestyle factors
- Red meat has often been linked to cancer, specifically colon cancer
  - In 2004, a pooled study concluded that there is not sufficient evidence to support a specific relationship meat red meat consumption and colorectal cancer
    - Cho, E. and Smith-Warner, S. (2004). Meat and fat intake and colorectal cancer risk: A pooled analysis of 14 prospective studies.
       American Association for Cancer Research. 64:113
- Nitrates and nitrites were originally linked to cancers because when meat that contains nitrites is cooked to high temperatures, it allows for the creation of nitrosamine, a carcinogenic compound
  - Led the USDA to place limits on the amount of nitrites added to meat products
  - However, the U.S. National Toxicology Program has concluded that nitrite is not a carcinogen

## Grass-fed vs. Grain-fed Beef

- Cattle, regardless of how they're finished, spend a majority of their life on grass
- Grass-finished beef tends to be leaner, but regardless of finishing, all beef contains all the essential amino acids, protein, iron, and zinc
- Feeding cattle a grain-based diet for a short period of time helps to improve meat quality and makes for a more tender and juicier product
- Grain finished cattle tend to have slightly higher saturated fatty acid profiles than grass fed beef, but contain higher levels of the healthful monounsaturated fatty acid, oleic acid
- Beef from grass-finished cattle naturally contains about twice the concentration of omega-3 fatty acids than from grain-finished cattle.
  - A recent study, found grain-finished beef to contain 0.013 g fat/100 g beef of omega-3 fatty acids compared to grass finished beef with 0.024 g fat/100 g beef, while grain-finished cattle had an overall higher percentage of polyunsaturated fatty acids than grass-finished beef

## Plant vs. Meat protein

- No plant protein source contains all the essential amino acids the body needs
  - Lysine, Methionine, Leucine, and Tryptophan are each limiting essential amino acids that can all be obtained in meat, but with plants, you can only obtain 3 of the 4 necessary amino acids
- Plants based proteins require a greater amount of calories for the same level of protein, but lack many of the essential amino acids, minerals, and vitamins that meat provides
  - For example, 3 oz pork tenderloin contains 25 g of protein and 122 calories compared to 6.5 cups of broccoli that contains 25 g of protein and 176 calories
- Our diet has become increasingly plant-based over the last four decades, when obesity has also increased
- Plant based protein products are often highly processed with added fat, sodium, and other potentially unhealthy or unsustainable ingredients, and can reinforce unhealthy dietary patterns





- Meat & Poultry Nutrition
- Beef It's What for Dinner
- Pork Nutrition
- Meat Up
- The Meat We Eat

