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The Browning's Country Ham Story

Down-home style, from our farm to your table

It all started with a borrowed ham.

In 1970, Paul Browning and his wife, Reba, had just opened a restaurant in Paris, Kentucky. While visiting his father, William, at the family farm, Paul noticed several country hams hanging to cure in the smokehouse. Why so many? It seemed William's hams had become something of a neighborhood legend—dozens of folks around town had begun purchasing them each year.

Paul had an idea: why not serve one of those fine country-cured hams in his father agreed to give one up.

The start of something special

The country ham sold out at the restaurant in less than a week, so Paul begged William for another. A week later, they were out again. During the next curing season, Paul worked with his father to prepare more hams. That was fine for a couple of years—but then customers started asking for Browning's Country Ham to serve their families for the holidays. Paul went back to the farm and worked on curing enough hams for both the restaurant and customer requests, but word of mouth sold the ham faster than they could produce it.

Bringing the flavor home

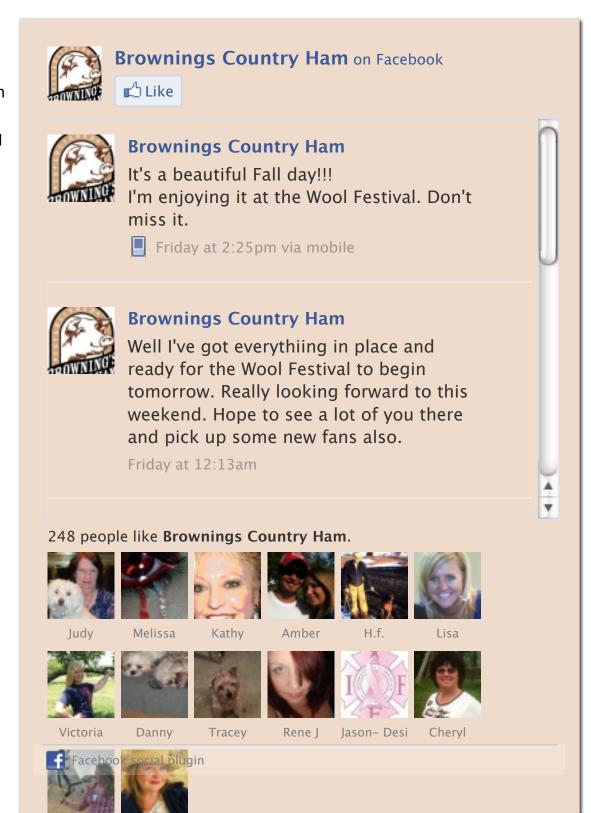
Soon, customers began remarking that while their home-cooked hams were good, they weren't as mouth-watering as those cooked at the restaurant. Reba came up with a plan to prepare restaurant-tasty hams, which required some sleepless nights as Reba and Paul took turns tending the ovens 24 hours a day over the holiday weeks.

As the business continued to grow, the Brownings received requests to ship their hams to families outside central Kentucky. Soon, they were shipping them across the nation. Over time, Reba expanded their offerings to include flavorful new products, and she also wrote herself a family cookbook.

Rooted in tradition, with a flavorful future

With business booming, Paul and Reba retired in the spring of 2011, relinquishing the reins of Browning's Country Ham to David Sponcil—a real-deal, down-home farmer himself. David has worked tirelessly to bring exciting modern developments to the company, all while retaining its wholesome, old-fashioned methods and values.

New developments include a remodeled website, a company Facebook page, and new restaurant? He had to poke and prod Mr. Browning a bit, but eventually his a presence at nationwide events and festivals to promote Browning's delicious, country-cured products. But the farming life is ingrained in David Sponcil—so you can rest assured that Browning's Country Ham will continue to deliver the downhome taste that made it famous.



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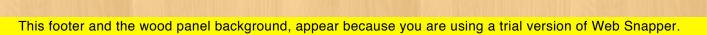
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