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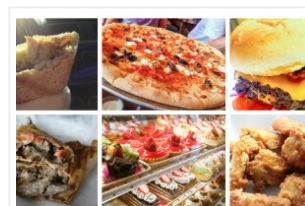
JUNE 9, 2014 BY SAQIB SHAFI

The Story of How Creekstone Farms Held Their Ground Against Islamophobia

PHOTO: A supporter of nationalist Buddhist monks wears a t-shirt calling for a ban on Islamic halal-slaughtered meat during a rally outside Colombo. (AFP: [Ishara S Kodikara](#))

Halal meat is often the target of Islamophobes as one of their petty tactics of bigotry. While Creekstone Farm's Halal operation isn't exactly something that's marketed out there, and I wondered if it was because of fear of potential problems from bigots and hate mongers.

EATING OUT



Where To Eat In Southeast Michigan and Halal Food at ISNA 2014



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Which BBQ Spots With Halal Meat Cross

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Creekstone Farms Premium Beef, an innovative market leader producing award winning Black Angus Beef is looking for quality team members to join our Arkansas City, KS team.

Halal Prayer Team Members

Individual would be responsible for reciting the Halal prayer over every head of cattle that are slaughtered at the facility. Will require the ability to be trained on bleeding cattle using a sharp knife. Qualified applicants will be a practicing Muslim and must possess at least 6 months work history.

Position is full-time and works a fluctuating schedule starting at 5:30 a.m. until production is complete (typically between 1:30 – 2:30 pm). Starting pay \$10.00 and after successful completion of 90-day introductory period will increase to \$11.00 with full benefits.

Applications are available onsite at any of the Creekstone Farms Security gates.

Must be able to pass a company physical and drug screen. EOE



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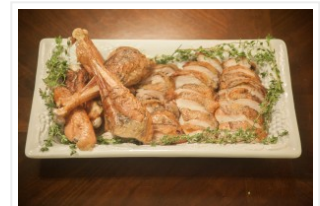
Contaminate with Pork and Which Don't

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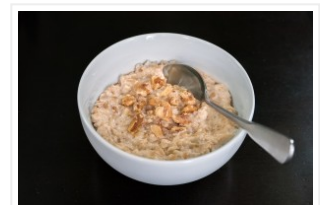
MAKE IT AT HOME



**Homemade Halal
Turkey Lunch
Meat is Why I
Wish Fresh Halal
Turkey Was
Available All Year**



**For Juicier
Turkey, Crispy
Skin and Better
Gravy, Dry-Brine
and Roast Your
Turkey in Parts**



**Want Breakfast or
Suhur That Keeps**

According to Rich Swearingen, head of international sales for Creekstone, the company already received backlash from Islamophobes in the Kansas area for posting the job ad to hire Muslim employees.

“Really?” I asked.

“Yeah,” Rich said depressed sounding on the phone. “It’s just very unfortunate that some people are so uneducated in our country.” He went on for a good five to six minutes about how upset the situation makes him and how ignorance is hurting the fabric of our country.

But this didn’t stop Creekstone from keeping Halal. They continued their Halal certification through the Halal Transactions of Omaha despite the Islamophobic backlash and still only hire Muslim

slaughtermen. In a way, they fought against it during a time when
 of hobbs go as far as document meat suppliers that go Halal on
 their blogs.

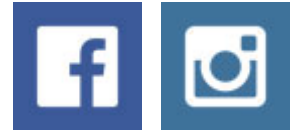
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This is what really shined about this whole ordeal for me. Sure, for
 ABOUT CREEKSTONE RECIPES CONTACT
 Creekstone, going Halal is primarily just business. They are a
 company, after all. But the rants Rich had and the disgust he shared
 for those who hate on any and everything Islam for no reason was, to
 me, genuine. Here was this southern man, American, white, non-
 Muslim telling me, an American, second generation Indian, born
 Muslim, how much he hates Islamophobia and the people that
 propagate it.

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Little boy who says he went to Heaven - then came back
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MILLIONS ARE EATING HALAL FOOD WITHOUT KNOWING IT
 How big brand shops and restaurants sell ritually slaughtered meat - but don't label it

President of the Oxford Union held over rape claims
 Ben Sullivan was arrested yesterday morning
 SEE PAGE FIVE

By Sean Poulter, Guy Adams and Mario Ledwith
 SUPERMARKETS and restaurant chains are selling halal meat to millions of customers without telling them.
 The switch to slaughtering animals in line with Islamic ritual averts money because the end product can be eaten by Muslims and non-Muslims alike.
 More than 10 per cent of all New Zealand lamb in supermarkets is from halal abattoirs - a fact not stated on labelling. Tesco, Sainsbury's, Morrisons, Waitrose and Marks & Spencer all confirmed yesterday they sell the imported meat. It also emerged that all chicken served by Pizza Express is halal - something made clear only on the company's website.
 Chains including Domino's, Q&A, Nando's, KFC, Asda and Sainsbury's use halal meat in some dishes.
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Daily Mail publishing a front page Islamophobic story on Halal Meat. [Image:

Islamophobia Watch

]

“You know it’s ironic,” I added, “because there are probably people who go against Halal meat but end up eating Creekstone beef at a high end restaurant only they have no idea it’s actually Halal.”

Rich laughed.

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I then asked, “would it be okay for me to reveal to the public that Creekstone’s entire operation is Halal? I don’t want any sort of backlash for your business, especially if some crazy Islamophobe starts calling for a boycott of your products of something.”

“People buy from us because of our quality,” Rich said, unaffected by the possibility of backlash. “That type of information is not going to deter our customers. They’re going to continue to buy from us, so go ahead and let others know.”

Here was a company that stood for its quality even in the face of bigotry, and that’s something I can get behind.

IN HALAL

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