Print This Article
E-Mail This Article



# SCIENCE
Notebook

Monday, March 27, 2006; Page A08

## A New Source of Good Fat?

Today, people who want to make sure they get enough heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids either have to eat certain fish, flaxseeds, or take dietary supplements. But researchers now report that they have created a possible alternative -- cloned pigs that produce the omega-3s themselves and may someday be a good dietary source of the nutrient.

The six cloned animals were created by transferring a gene called fat-1 to embryonic cells that give rise to connective tissues. Those genetically engineered cells were then used to create and grow the transgenic pigs, which, according to the study, had higher levels of the omega-3 fatty acids than normal pigs when samples of their umbilical cords, tails and ears were tested.

The higher levels of omega-3 fatty acids were not a function of the animal's diet, the researchers said, but were rather produced by the genetically engineered piglets themselves. Normally, pigs produce omega-6 fatty acids, which are associated with heart disease rather than heart health.

Enlarge This Photo

These piglets produce their own heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids. Normal pigs produce omega-6 fatty acids, which are linked to heart disease. (University Of Missouri At Columbia)

"Livestock with a healthy ratio of omega-3 to omega-6 fatty acids may be a promising way to re-balance the modern diet without relying solely on diminishing fish supplies or supplement," said author Jing X. Kang, of the Massachusetts General Hospital. Kang, who created the first animal rich in omega-3s (a mouse) several years ago, worked with researchers at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and the University of Missouri at

SAVE & SHARE
Tag This Article
Saving options
Powered by Del.icio.us

RSS NEWS FEEDS
Top News
Nation
What is RSS? | All RSS Feeds

E-MAIL NEWSLETTERS
View a Sample and Sign Up
Today's Headlines & Columnists
Daily Politics News & Analysis
Federal Insider
Breaking News Alerts
Manage Your Newsletters

TODAY IN SLATE
Arts & Life
Russell Crowe in My Viewfinder

I had to be in Los Angeles for a few days, so I wanted to capture the Hollywood experience ... More

FEAT
For C
Refin
Tim M Ticke
Laws
$145,
Get a
Custo
Get a
Cool
Earn