

Introduction

Think spam and we think 'pork'. And then, why pork? Any association might seem rather tenuous, until we recall other incongruities in life. How, for instance, the wolf and the Chihuahua are members of the same species occupying two ends of the canine spectrum. Contrast the characteristics of the two breeds. In 'keeping the wolf from the door', we are said to be warding off hunger. 'Keeping the Chihuahua from the door,' would suggest warding off something more akin to a 'slight craving'. Similarly, we might feel less wary of 'a Chihuahua in sheep's clothing'. And even less guarded against a sheep in Chihuahua's clothing.

We invest in a meat's flavour by curing ham, for example, or by hanging beef for 28 days. With spam, the investment is an industrial process employing a recommended procedure similar in practise to the disposal of nuclear waste. In both instances, the material is encased in metal - tin in the case of spam; lead in that of radioactive by-products. But from hereon, spam veers off the path of recommendation. Instead of expediting its burial safely deep underground as we do with radioactive waste, we opt to eat it.

Spam is a kind of dog meat for human beings to enjoy. A foodstuff that is appreciated easily as much as its type-of-email-message namesake.

Eggs, sure as eggs are eggs, are eggs.

Now, if we think of 'spam and eggs', we →



Spam was introduced by Hormel on July 5, 1937. The Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America states that the product was intended to increase the sale of pork shoulder, a cut which did not sell well.

