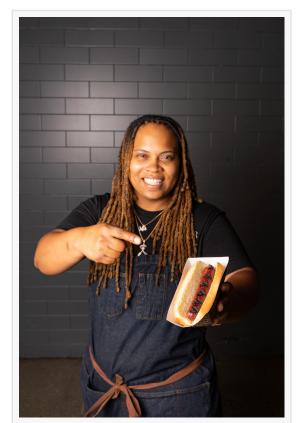


CHICAGO PITMASTER & FOOD NETWORK STAR DOMINIQUE LEACH LAUNCHES RETAIL LINE OF WAGYU DOGS NATIONWIDE WITH VANDER FARMERS

Owner of Chicago's Acclaimed Lexington Betty Smokehouse Announces the First of Multiple Premium Meat Product Releases for 2023

CHICAGO, IL, UNITED STATES, January 10, 2023
/EINPresswire.com/ -- Spearheading the BBQ revolution from her hometown of Chicago as a leading pitmaster, Chef Dominque Leach who owns South Side's Lexington Betty Smokehouse (named "The Best BBQ in Chicago" by Good Morning America) with her wife Tanisha Griffin, has teamed up with Vander Farmers, a family-owned company and the leading source of F1 American Wagyu in the Midwest, to formally launch her own line of WAGYU DOGS nationally on Tuesday, January 10th. The premium gourmet product received the USDA stamp of approval to distribute in a retail setting and are available now online for nationwide shipping through Lexington Betty's online store.

The release marks the first of multiple BBQ products to be announced for national distribution in 2023 by Chef Leach and Vander Farmers. Additionally, the LBS x



Chef Dominique Leach of Lexington Betty Smokehouse

Vander Farmers team are pledging a percentage of sales of all Wagyu Dogs sold for the first month of the launch to Chicago's 501C3 charity, <u>Coffee, Hip Hop & Mental Health</u> founded by Christopher LeMark, to help further mental health advocacy work across the city. "Mental health in the chef and restaurant industry is an important topic to me personally, knowing how hard it has been in my journey and what I've seen others endure as well, particularly in marginalized communities, which is why I'm supporting CHHAMH with this launch," says Leach.

The Lexington Betty Smokehouse x Vander Famers WAGYU DOG, which will retail for \$18.99 per pack of 8, completely breaks the mold on the traditional hot dog. Made from premium F1 Wagyu

beef (50% Japanese Black Cattle, 50% Holstein-Friesian Dairy Cow), the uncured and uncased dog has a heartier density and flavor without losing the beautiful snap you come to expect from a gourmet sausage. With a slightly salty-smokey and sweeter flavor profile than a normal hotdog due to the inherent and delectable marbleization of Wagyu, these dogs complement Chef Leach's famous BBQ sauce, can be dressed up with Tex-Mex ingredients like pico de gallo and jalapeños, or make for a show-stopping twist on the classic Chicago dog. (Product Fact Sheets available here.)

Leach, a classically trained chef turned nationally recognized pitmaster who was catapulted into the national spotlight on The Food Network's CHOPPED "Playing With Fire" season in 2021 as a judge/contestant, on Food Network Canada's FIRE MASTERS, has a personal mission to make the BBQ world more inclusive and hopes to inspire others like her to take on the field. "I want to reclaim a space in the BBQ cooking world and make it more inclusive for Black queer women, especially since it's been a male-dominated field for a long time and has lacked enough people who look like me. This line is exposing my craft in a whole new way, plus I get to honor my hometown of Chicago— the true home of the dog. I couldn't be more thrilled to work with the wonderful Vander family again and excited to introduce the Wagyu Dog to everyone near and far," adds Leach.

Vander Farmers, located in Sturgis, MI, prides itself on producing premium meats through humanely raised cattle, radical transparency, and sustainable practices. Look for more announcements from Dominique and Vander Farmers soon.

*WAGYU DOGS are available at https://www.lexingtonbetty.com for nationwide shipping & at Lexington Betty Smokehouse, located at 756 E 111th St. Chicago, IL and in local retailers soon.

Minimum Three Pack required for online orders starting at \$56.97 (8 dogs per pack).



Lexington Betty Smokehouse X Vander Farmers Wagyu Dogs



Wagyu Dogs Prepared by Chef Dominique Leach

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