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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
IPIC offers PQA 3.0 advisor sessions
National Pork Board will launch the new PQAPlus 3.0 program at World Pork Expo this June, and certified advisors will be needed immediately to conduct producer training and certification sessions. Because the content of the new program has changed significantly, advisors who are currently certified must successfully complete a 3.0 session by Aug. 31 of this year if they wish to remain certified as a PQA 3.0 advisor, according to Iowa State University Extension swine veterinarian Chris Rademacher. He says all current PQA Plus advisor certifications will expire on August 31, 2016, regardless of when the advisor most recently certified through the 2.0 program. This also means everyone needs to complete the two-page application form and be approved to attend one of these sessions. Right now there are seven advisor certification sessions scheduled in a variety of Iowa locations. Cost is $75 per person and includes refreshments, noon meal and all materials. Each session has a 15-person minimum and a 30-person maximum, with the application deadline approximately 10 days prior to the specific session date, or when the session is filled. No walk-ins are allowed for any of the sessions and individual spots for all sessions are not guaranteed until specific payment is accepted by IPIC. So if you’re interested in becoming certified as an advisor, or know someone who is, check out this release for more information and a link to the session and applications page
NEWS
Latest USDA hogs and pigs numbers
The quarterly USDA Hogs and Pigs Report released last week shows the total of 67.6 million head up slightly from a year ago, but down one percent from Dec. 1, 2015. Producers plan for 2.84 million sows to farrow from now through May of this year, and slightly more -- 2.91 million -- to farrow between June and August 2016. Iowa remains atop the inventory list at 20.2 million, with North Carolina second with 8.7 million and Minnesota third at 7.95 million. Figures come from the approximately 8,100 U.S. operators surveyed during the first half of this month, and based on their reports of inventories as of March 1. A short USDA release is here http://www.nass.usda.gov/Newsroom/2016/03_25_2016.php and you can see the actual report as a pdf document here http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/HogsPigs//2010s/2016/HogsPigs-03-25-2016.pdf

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Research continues on seaweed for pig diets
Although past research showed potential negative effects of brown algae in pig diets, including eventual weight loss, current use of seaweed and seaweed extracts as additives has been shown to enhance immune function and demonstrate prebiotic effects. They also have been assessed as possible antibiotic replacements. A short description is on the All About Feed website here http://www.allaboutfeed.net/New-Proteins/Articles/2016/2/Seaweeds-Good-for-meat-and-egg-quality-2754803W/. For additional information, see this article on types of available algae http://www.allaboutfeed.net/New-Proteins/Articles/2016/1/Brown-algae-studied-the-most-for-use-in-feed-2753747W/ and this article on research on the specific use of marine algae in livestock feed to reduce antibiotics http://www.allaboutfeed.net/New-Proteins/Articles/2016/3/Marine-algae-to-reduce-the-use-of-antibiotics-2777569W/

PRODUCTION TIP
Producing for the market
We’ve all heard the phrase, “The customer is always right.” It’s an admirable thought, and one that today’s pork industry representatives continue to follow. Whether a commodity producer, a niche producer, a packer, processor or retailer, all play an important role in the pork supply chain of providing all customers with their desired products.

IT’S A DATE
Continuing, PQA Plus® and TQA® producer certification sessions. See the IPIC website at http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAPlus.html for dates, locations and contact information.
Continuing. Food Safety Quality Assurance trainings for Iowa 4-H and other youth. See the IPIC website at http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/FSQA.html for dates, locations and contact information.

Ongoing through July 6. Common Swine Industry Audit sessions. No cost, but preregister to ensure your space at these limited attendance sessions, sponsored by IPIC, ISUEO and IPPA. http://www.iowapork.org/common-swine-industry-audit-training-sessions-offered-2/


DID YOU KNOW?
2016 Proven to Win Pig Sale is success
ISU’s Block and Bridle student group partnered with SGI (Swine Genetics International) this past Saturday for the successful “Proven to Win” live animal sale at the Hansen Ag Student Learning Center (HASLC) in Ames. According to club organizers, 138 hogs were sold at an average price of about $322 per head. Learn more about Block and Bridle here http://www.ans.iastate.edu/undergraduate/extracurricular/clubs/block-bridle and read about the HASLC here http://www.haslc.ag.iastate.edu/

FOR THE RECORD
IPIC website draws 700+ daily visits in February
Website statistics are all about numbers, but it’s usually quite difficult to tell a great deal about your visitors. Using the same tracking program over time can make it easier to make comparisons using defined metrics. For example, even though February 2016 had one more day than the same month a year ago, the average number of daily visits wouldn’t necessarily increase just because of that. However, the total number of visits and the average number of daily visits both increased this year: nearly 3200 more total visits and almost 90 more per day. Were you part of that increase? http://www.ipic.iastate.edu

NEWS NOW from the Iowa Pork Industry Center http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/
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