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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE

New Swine Nutrition Guide on the way

With the recent announcement from the U.S. Pork Center of Excellence (USPCE) of a two-year funding commitment for the National Swine Nutrition Guide, plans for the revision of this major pork producer nutrition resource are in place. Thanks to the United Soybean Board (through the soybean checkoff) this valuable resource will remain a staple for producers and others in the pork industry. Bob Thaler of South Dakota State University will chair the steering committee responsible for this effort. He's joined by these committee members: John Patience and Garland Dahlke, Iowa State University; Duane Reese, University of Nebraska; Brian Richert, Purdue University; Joel DeRouchey, Kansas State University; Eric van Heugten, North Carolina State University; Marcia Carlson, University of Missouri-Columbia; Mark Whitney, University of Minnesota; Scott Carter, Oklahoma State University; and Hans Stein, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign; and David Meisinger and Katie Beeler of USPCE. This multi-part project features a variety of information and education tools, including 33 fact sheets that will be posted on the Pork Information Gateway (<http://isu.porkgateway.com/>); an interactive producer tool for least cost ration formulation and calculated analysis of their rations based upon available ingredients and on the performance of the herd; a series of regional producer conferences, trainer development of these materials; and web based meetings on the subject. In addition, some of the information will be modified for use in USPCE's Swine Science On-line, the undergraduate minor in Swine Science that's currently under development.

If you're wondering who Katie Beeler is, she's the newly hired communication specialist for USPCE. A recent graduate of ISU, Katie comes from an Iowa pork producing family near Truro in Madison County. She just completed her degree in communications from ISU and brings to USPCE good communications experience through various internships during her undergraduate years. Part of her responsibilities includes the PIG Web site.

Sent 1-13-09

When preparing yesterday's issue of NEWS NOW, I was saving the best news for last. Unfortunately, that news didn't get included before the newsletter was sent. So, here are our important little news bits:

IPIC extension program specialist Colin Johnson and his wife Dawn welcomed their first child, Dane Price Johnson into the world on Jan. 7. Dane weighed 8 lbs, 10 oz. and was 20 inches long. Proud dad Colin told us, "All say that he is a good looking baby (of course his mother helped a lot with that)."

And, animal science professor and fellow 109 Kildee resident Tom Baas and his wife Cindy became third-time grandparents shortly before Christmas.

Please join us in extending congratulations and best wishes to these new extended IPIC family additions.

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NEWS

Welcome to Kendra Bolen

Our spring semester 2009 Science With Practice student started today, the first day of the semester. You can expect to read more from her during the next four months. Here's her self-introduction:

Hello! I'm Kendra Bolen. I'm a junior at Iowa State University majoring in Dairy Science with a minor in Journalism and Mass Communication. I grew up on a dairy farm in beautiful Northwest Illinois. Growing up, I was very active in Stephenson County 4-H and a member of the Lena-Winslow FFA chapter. I thoroughly enjoy showing dairy cattle at both the local and national levels. Since I began my career at Iowa State, I have been very involved with the Dairy Science club and the ISU dairy judging team. I looked forward to working with Sherry Hoyer and the Iowa Pork Industry Center this semester.

New federal agency to oversee Extension

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (also known as the 2008 Farm Bill) means several changes to research, education and extension administration, organization and funding structure at the federal level. The first, establishing an agency within the Department of Agriculture called the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, will happen soon. Along with that, all authorities of the current CSREES will be transferred to this new agency by Oct. 1 of this year. CSREES stands for Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, and is the federal home of extension. There's been some concern about the future funding and implied lessening importance of extension because the new agency doesn't specifically mention extension. As with all changes of this magnitude, public comment is being sought. Following the notice in the Federal Register on Jan. 2 (you can read it here in pdf version <http://sn.im/9l60j>) written comments on the establishment of the new institute are being accepted and must be received by the close of business Friday, Feb. 6, 2009 to be considered. See this page on the USDA-CSREES Web site for more information <http://sn.im/9l62b>

Measuring agriculture's sustainability

A new report on the importance, application and implications of measuring agriculture in U.S. agriculture is now available from Field to Market: The Keystone Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture. Released at the 2009 annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation, the "Environmental Resource Indicators" report includes information on data currently available regarding measurements of environmental, health, and socioeconomic outcomes of agriculture, and recommendations on improving the metrics used to more accurately illustrate agricultural sustainability. The metrics initially focus on a national scale for benchmarking purposes, using results for the 10-year period of 1997-2007. *Field to Market* is a diverse alliance representing the many links in the food chain, including grower organizations, agribusinesses, food companies and conservation organizations. This page on the Keystone Center Web site has links to a news release on the report, and links to the report itself in .html and .pdf formats <http://sn.im/9vy50> The authors caution that while it's too soon to draw major conclusions, their early work does show some positive trending.

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IT'S A DATE

Continuing. PQAPlus certification sessions. See the IPIC web site here <http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAPlus.html> for date, location and contact information.

Continuing. FSQA training and testing sessions for Iowa 4-H'ers. See the IPIC web site here <http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/FSQA09.html> for date, location and contact information

Continuing. 2009 Confinement Site Manure Applicator Workshops. These workshops are scheduled for January and February throughout Iowa. See the list of dates, times and locations here <http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/certification/2009ConfineSP277.pdf>

Jan. 22. Pork Quality Assurance Plus™ Advisor Training. Ensminger Room, Kildee Hall, ISU campus, Ames. Applications are requested by Jan. 15, 2009. Download the two-page application here <http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAPapp12209.doc> . For more information, contact Jane Runneals at IPIC by phone at (515) 294-4103 or by e-mail at janerun@iastate.edu

Jan. 28-29. Iowa Pork Congress. Hy-Vee Hall, Iowa Events Center. Des Moines. See IPIC in the Iowa State University area, booth 1127 along the north side of the building. See links to the exhibitor listing, seminar schedule, new product showcase and more on the IPC Web site <http://www.iowaporkcongress.org/>

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DID YOU KNOW?

ISU air quality research summary available

As ISU faculty and staff continue to work on air quality topics, the knowledge is collected and quantified, and results are clarified and shared with producers and others in various agricultural industries. A recent report from the ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences summarizes and describes five years worth of related research and extension activities. You can see the 10-page document in pdf version here <http://sn.im/9vbuu>

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FOR THE RECORD

Final COOL rule issued by USDA

Effective 60 days after the Jan. 15 publication in the Federal Register, the Country of Origin Labeling law known as COOL, goes into effect. You can read a news release on the USDA Web site here <http://sn.im/9w0k6> Links to the interim and final rule versions are on this USDA COOL Web site <http://www.ams.usda.gov/COOL> A quick look at the rule: Commodities covered under COOL must be labeled at retail to indicate its country of origin; the definition of a processed food item remains unchanged from the Aug. 1, 2008, interim final rule; regarding meats, it covers muscle cuts and ground beef, lamb, chicken, goat and pork; and, it outlines the requirements for labeling covered commodities and the recordkeeping requirements for retailers and suppliers. Have you seen any of this labeling? I just noticed, "Product of U.S." on the outside wrapping of a beef roast I bought at a local grocery store, although the store likely has been labeling such items for quite a while. Will this required labeling make a difference in consumer buying habits? Time will tell.

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