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Honors for ISU and IPIC-associated folks

Providing good news is something we like to do, and we have plenty of congratulations to share with you this newsletter. If you know any of the recipients, or see them at some time, please share your own good wishes as well.

-- IPIC Director John Mabry will receive the Gamma Sigma Delta Mission award at that agriculture honor society's ISU chapter meeting this Thursday. You can read about Gamma Sigma Delta at ISU here <http://www.ag.iastate.edu/gsd/>

-- Kent Schwartz of the ISU veterinary diagnostic lab received the Howard Dunne Memorial Award from the American Association of Swine Veterinarians for important contribution and outstanding service to AASV and the swine industry.

-- John Waddell of Sutton Veterinary Clinic in Illinois was named AASV's swine practitioner of the year. He's presented twice for the PorkBridge distance educational series coordinated by IPIC.

-- Pete Lammers, graduate student in animal nutrition; Patricia Anderson, graduate student in animal physiology; and Nick Boddicker, graduate student in animal breeding and genetics, won all three of the innovative research and teaching awards from the American Society of Animal Science's Midwest section.

NEWS

Quiznos adds animal-welfare focused buying policy

Quiznos joins fast-food restaurants McDonalds and Burger King in changing the requirements for its protein suppliers. Company officials said their new animal-welfare policy will primarily focus on egg, pork and turkey products. Quiznos will increase the percentage of those commodities purchased from suppliers who don't use crates or cages, and has removed eggs from three of the four cookies now on its menu. Read more on the CBS4Denver.com Web site here <http://sn.im/f3w4j>

Fewer pigs=higher prices=Return of profit? Maybe, maybe not

The March 27 Hogs and Pigs Report shows market and breeding herd numbers, and recent and near term farrowing estimated down as well. Ordinarily, less of something tends to increase its value, but in this case, economists are cautious. University of Missouri's Ron Plain says that while he expects this year's slaughter numbers to be down, he also expects production costs to rise. He estimates carcass prices to average close to \$63/cwt in 2009, resulting in losses of perhaps \$12 per head. Read more of

Plain's thoughts on the University of Missouri Web site here <http://sn.im/fcttc> ISU's John Lawrence says supply numbers may gradually increase over the next year, with possible profits in three of the next nine months. However, he expects average breakevens to stay around \$54 for the rest of this calendar year. Read more in his March Hogs and Pigs Report in the April edition of Iowa Farm Outlook <http://sn.im/fctfl>

Certification requirements for selling hogs

As packers/processors respond to consumer and marketplace desires and demands, pork producers need to be sure their required trainings and certifications are up to date. Two specific programs: Pork Quality Assurance Plus (PQAPlus) and Transport Quality Assurance (TQA.) Both were created and offered by the National Pork Board as voluntary programs, but already some packer/processors have moved to require their producer-suppliers have current certifications in order to continue selling animals to them. IPIC works with Iowa State University Extension swine field specialists to offer training sessions for both programs. Check out our Web page of dates and locations here <http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAPlus.html>

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IT'S A DATE

Continuing. PQAPlus and TQA 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

April 8. IPIC Field specialist in-service. Kildee Hall, ISU campus.

April 13-19. VEISHEA. One of the nation's largest student-run celebrations begins next week on the ISU campus. Learn more on the VEISHEA Web site at <http://www.veishea.iastate.edu/>

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DID YOU KNOW?

USDA to buy more pork

Agriculture secretary Tom Vilsack had some welcome news for pork producers last week. He announced that USDA will buy \$25 million worth of pork, and a total of more than \$90 million worth of three other commodities for federal food nutrition assistance programs. These programs include the National School Lunch and Breakfast, Commodity Supplemental Food, and Emergency Food Assistance. Bids will be publicly available and contracts awarded, based on purchase requirements such as specified grade, USDA-certified, and those grown/raised in America. Read more on the USDA Web site here <http://sn.im/fcrr> You can see the positive response from the National Pork Producers Council here <http://sn.im/fcs8t>

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FOR THE RECORD

Iowa State Fair 4-H swine weigh-in and verification set for this month

Beginning later this month, 4-H swine exhibitors will weigh pigs for the 2009 fair season. Each member who intends to show swine this year must have all those animals verified (and derby pigs weighed) during the week of April 25 to May 2. Locations and dates are available on the Iowa 4-H agriculture Web site here <http://sn.im/fcbcc> More information on the entire process is available here <http://sn.im/fcbkn>

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