

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE

- Congratulations to Iowa Farmer Today

NEWS

- IPIC is now on Twitter
- New genetic diversity paper from CAST
- Welcome, Science With Practice Student Sam Blakley

IT'S A DATE

- PQAPlus™ and TQA certification sessions
- Pig Cents for the Future

DID YOU KNOW?

- Update to Pfizer's online pig care simulator

FOR THE RECORD

- \$30 million more for pork purchases

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE

Congratulations to Iowa Farmer Today

Do you know where you were 25 years ago today? If you were an employee of the Cedar Rapids Gazette's Iowa Farmer Today newspaper, you likely remember exactly where you were and what you were thinking. On this date in 1984, IFT's first issue was born. Amidst financial woes, launching a brand new publication might not have been the best idea in some minds. But the staff and parent company realized a gem in the making and continued to find ways to tweak the publication, its coverage area, content and personnel. Several staff members have worked with IPIC and ISU Extension over the years, including Kevin Blind, Jeff DeYoung and Gene Lucht. We admire their IFT tenacity, perseverance and determination to "get it right" when speaking and writing to our common audiences. We salute their dedication and wish all continued success in the future.

NEWS

IPIC is now on Twitter

There's a link on the IPIC home page to our Twitter account, but if you'd rather go directly there, click here <http://twitter.com/iowaporkcenter> Don't know what Twitter is or how to use it? Here's a quick look: Twitter is an online program that provides opportunity for people to create an account; "follow" others using Twitter; provide links to online sources of anything you can think of, including photos, videos, blogs, news releases and academic papers; and is available at no cost to users. It's similar to a blog, but individual comment postings can be no longer than 140 characters. That might sound very limiting, but it encourages thoughtful postings and responses. IPIC's Twitter account was created Aug. 26, and has followers ranging from pork producers to agricultural writers to ag and pork-related media to Iowa's secretary of ag. Please take a look by clicking on the link in this paragraph. We've even been recognized as "Great new follow for ag. and modern family pig farmers" Thanks @FoodProvider!

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New genetic diversity paper from CAST

A new issue paper, "Animal Productivity and Genetic Diversity: Cloned and Transgenic Animals." from CAST (Council for Agricultural Science and Technology) is now available online <http://sn.im/rfx6w> at no charge. The paper describes cloning and transgenesis technologies, addresses their strengths and limitations, and provides a framework for discussion about their future use. More specifically, the 16-page document addresses topics including the cloning of farm animals for breeding and direct food consumption; disease resistance in transgenic animals; and the use of transgenics for improved food safety and quality, decreased environmental impact, and increased production efficiency.

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Welcome, Science With Practice Student Sam Blakley

Hello! I am Samantha Blakley. I am a sophomore at Iowa State University majoring in Agricultural and Life Sciences Education, and a background in beef cattle. I grew up on our family farm near Libertyville, Iowa, and was a member of 4-H and the Fairfield FFA Chapter. I enjoyed showing cattle at the Jefferson County Fair, where my younger brother and sister are still exhibitors. Here at Iowa State, I am involved with the Agricultural Education Club and Collegiate FFA. I am excited to be working with Sherry Hoyer through Science With Practice at the Iowa Pork Industry Center so that I can learn about the pork industry and how to educate others about agriculture.

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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. This includes a series of free certification sessions sponsored by IPIC, ISU Extension and Iowa Pork Producers Association.

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Sept. 9 and 10. Pig Cents for the Future program. 1 to 4:30 p.m. at both locations. Options and opportunities for pork producers in current economic conditions. There's no cost to attend, but please preregister to ensure adequate materials. Read more in the news release at this URL

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2009/jul/152901.htm> or download the brochure here

<http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/events/pigcents.pdf> .

- Sept. 9. Iowa City, Montgomery Hall on the Johnson County Fairgrounds.
- Sept. 10. Manchester, Community Center, 200 East Acers St.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Update to Pfizer's online pig care simulator

Pfizer Animal Health has announced the latest addition to its "Virtual Walking the Pens" pig health simulation. In this scenario, seemingly healthy pigs in a 2,400-head building are unexpectedly dying. The choices players make affect the facility and overall profitability, and individual and farm team scores are tallied for monthly and overall scores. You download the simulator to your own computer, and scores are available on the main Web site to those who've created accounts. Take a look and download the file from here <http://www.virtualwalkingpens.com/> to "play" the game.

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FOR THE RECORD

\$30 million more for pork purchases

A decision announced late last week was welcome news to U.S. pork producers. Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack said Thursday that USDA would purchase an additional \$30 million worth of pork products in FY 2009. These products are intended for federal food and nutrition assistance programs, and will help provide healthy and nutritious food for program participants as well as a financial boost for producers. According to a USDA news release about this decision, "Government food experts work to ensure that all purchased food is healthy and nutritious." That's a definition of pork in a nutshell. Good work, USDA. You can read the release on the USDA Web site here <http://sn.im/roaj3>

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

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