

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE

- See you at World Pork Expo this week

NEWS

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- Thinking of a switch to organic production?
- March pork exports were solid

IT'S A DATE

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FOR THE RECORD

- Six and counting

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE

See you at World Pork Expo this week

Just two more days and the annual pork extravaganza will be here. Located on the Iowa State Fairgrounds, the event's activities use several buildings and the Grand Concourse. With a move this year to focus more on producers and others in the industry, that also meant a date change. This year's event will be held Wednesday through Friday (June 3-5), with the trade show open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. the first two days, and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday. Free lunch returns on all three days at the "Big Grill" from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and three different bands will perform Thursday afternoon and evening. In addition to the trade show, food and music, the 2009 World Pork Expo Junior National Show runs from June 2 to 6, with shows starting on June 3. Check all the activities here <http://www.worldpork.org/events-activities/index.php> The main Web site is <http://www.worldpork.org/>. Hope to see you there!

NEWS

Making wind power work for you

In today's tough economic times, farmers want to make every dollar count. Using a renewable resource such as wind energy can be both environmentally and financially responsible. Two southeast Iowa pork producers are making wind energy work for them. Andy McCall of West Chester and Wayne Zieser of Washington both have a Vestas E-15 model wind turbine with a 35 kilowatt generator which produces about 60,000 to 70,000 kilowatt-hours annually. Read more about their use of wind power in this IPIC news release <http://sn.im/ihwt4>

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Thinking of a switch to organic production?

You'll want to read this IPIC news release first. <http://sn.im/hklj5> While there are numerous financial benefits to organic pork production, including a market segment with higher value pork that continues to grow, be aware of the potential liabilities such as generally lower productivity and greater variability. ISU professors Mark Honeyman (animal science) and James Kliebenstein (agricultural economics) say producers who are thinking about converting their operations to organic need to do their homework.

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March pork exports were solid

The latest monthly records from the United States Meat Export Federation (USMEF) for pork exports (March) shows that strong sales to Mexico helped keep the numbers high. Compared with figures from

March 2008, the total 2009 numbers were 16 percent higher in volume and 17 percent higher in value. The Mexico numbers were nearly twice as high as a year ago and the value was almost 75 percent higher, at just over \$65 million. Note that these numbers don't reflect the impact of H1N1 influenza on both production and the pork markets. You can read the article on the USMEF Web site here [http://www.usmef.org/TradeLibrary/News09\\_0513a.asp](http://www.usmef.org/TradeLibrary/News09_0513a.asp)

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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.

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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

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June 3-5. World Pork Expo. Iowa State Fairgrounds, Des Moines. Admission is \$15 per person at the door. Learn more and find links to registration and schedules on the WPX Web site here <http://www.worldpork.org/>

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June 30-July 2. Iowa State 4-H Youth Conference with the theme "Voyage to Greatness" and Animal Science Roundup, both on the ISU campus, Ames. IPIC offers three pork-related workshops for the 4-H conference and also will provide a session for swine roundup attendees.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Staying atop the leader board

If you're a golf fan, you know that being at the top of the leader board is *the place* to be. When you're on top, it means you're doing better than everyone else who's playing that day. Well, the Berkshire Swine Marketing and Production report has real staying power, too. Since its posting on the IPIC Web site nearly three years ago, it has remained one of, if not the most downloaded files on the site. Prepared by ISUE swine field specialist Larry McMullen as part of a grant from the Pork Niche Market Working Group, the report describes the Berkshire breed, its history, trade and breed associations, and niche programs developed for the breed. Want to take a look? Download your copy here <http://sn.im/1oykr>

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FOR THE RECORD

Six and counting

Florida, Arizona, California, Oregon, Colorado, Maine. These states have passed legislation, through a variety of methods, to phase out gestation crates in pork production operations. Here's a short article on the Web site of Pork magazine [http://www.porkmag.com/news\\_editorial.asp?pgid=675&ed\\_id=7565&ts=n11](http://www.porkmag.com/news_editorial.asp?pgid=675&ed_id=7565&ts=n11) Individually, these states have very little actual pork production, but the "elimination legislation" dominos are being placed strategically for the rest of the nation's operations.

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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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