

NEWS NOW from the Iowa Pork Industry Center
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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE

Iowa State Fair countdown

It's that time of year – "State Fair Time." The theme of this year's Iowa State Fair reminds us that the annual event is nearly here. Beginning this Thursday, Aug. 13, and running through Sunday, Aug. 23, this internationally-acclaimed temporary city offers something for nearly everyone. Attendance has topped the million-visitor mark for the past seven years, and officials hope to see that streak extended. IPIC folks, ISU Extension swine campus and field specialists and grad students will be helping with a variety of events during the fair, including the 4-H swine show and 4-H premier exhibitor contest. If you see any of us, stop and say hi. We're (almost) never too busy to visit a bit and look forward to becoming reacquainted with people we might see only once a year at the fair. There are changes at the fairgrounds ranging from the new exhibition hall just north of the 4-H Building in the southwest corner of the fairgrounds to a four-times-a-day ag magic show at the Animal Learning Center to seven new foods on a stick. Read about these items and more on the main Web page (featuring a count-down clock, of course!) at this URL <http://www.iowastatefair.org/>

NEWS

Workshops on agriculture industry competition

Planning for a first-ever joint effort involving both USDA and Department of Justice that will look at competition and regulatory issues in agriculture industry is under way. According to a USDA news release, a series of workshops will "*address the dynamics of competition in agriculture markets including, among other issues, buyer power (also known as monopsony) and vertical integration.*" Also, attendees will discuss appropriate roles for antitrust and regulatory enforcement in the industry. Goals for these workshops included promoting communication among interested parties and increase learning opportunities for members of the public, the Department of Justice and USDA. Input on topics to be discussed at the workshops is requested, comments should be submitted to the Department of Justice no later than Dec. 31, 2009. More information, including addresses for the comments, is available in the release on the USDA Web site here <http://sn.im/ouby2> The first workshop is set for early 2010.

Iowa Gov. Culver, others request pork-related assistance

Gov. Chet Culver joined eight other governors in asking President Obama's administration for immediate assistance in helping the nation's pork producers get through the nearly two-year-long economic crisis. The request was announced during a teleconference with pork industry leaders this past Friday. The

letter asked for action on three specific topics: an additional \$50 million in pork purchases for government feeding programs; removal of the spending cap on the Section 32 Program to enable additional USDA purchases of surplus agricultural products using previously appropriated funds; and work with trade officials and others to convince China to lift its “unwarranted” H1N1 ban on U.S. pork. Read a news release about the action on the Iowa Pork Producers Association Web site here <http://sn.im/pkz7y>

International Bacon Day

You'll want to get this on your calendar soon. Sept. 5 is the date for an event that really needs no reason. This self-named blog <http://internationalbaconday.blogspot.com/> provides updates on the holiday, a never-ending supply of unique recipes, bacon-related merchandise and a link to this blog <http://baconlinks.blogspot.com/> that provides even more bacon-centered Web sites. Not enough sites, yet? Try <http://willworkforbacon.com/> or <http://baconrecipes.blogspot.com/> or <http://baconpotw.blogspot.com/> (that's bacon photo of the week.) I don't know about you, but my mouth is watering just looking at these sites.

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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.

Aug. 13-23. Iowa State Fair. “State Fair Time.” Check it out here <http://www.iowastatefair.org/>

Aug. 21. Pork Quality Assurance Plus™ Advisor Training. Ensminger Room, Kildee Hall, ISU campus.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Census of Agriculture data by zip code

In an effort to make Ag Census data more usable and user-friendly, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has announced that some 2007 census data is now available at the ZIP code level on the Ag Census Web site here www.agcensus.usda.gov. This information is limited because in some instances, an operator's farm was located outside of the ZIP code to which the 2007 Census form was mailed.

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FOR THE RECORD

Effects of hammer mill screen size and grain source

The Australian Pork Cooperative Research Centre completed a study on the effects of two things on the growth of male grow-finish pigs 1) hammer mill screen size and 2) primary grain source. Researchers compared 2 mm and 3 mm hammer mill screen sizes, and compared sorghum and wheat as the primary grain source. Over a six-week period, a total of 864 pigs of Large White x Landrace, PrimeGro™ genetics were selected for this trial. Some key findings: pellet quality was reduced when sorghum was included in the diet, especially when using the 2 mm hammer; using the 2 mm hammer mill screen size for the wheat-based diet resulted in better overall feed efficiency; and growth performance was lower in pigs fed the sorghum-based diets. Conclusion? The 3 mm screen size should be used if sorghum is included in diets that will be processed through a hammer mill system. With a wheat-based diet, a 2 mm screen size will maximize feed efficiency. You can read the 15-page report on the Pork CRC Web site here <http://sn.im/pltec>

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