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

Free series of PQAPlus™ and TQA Certification sessions

IPIC, ISU Extension and Iowa Pork Producers Association have teamed up to provide a series of free training sessions for pork producers and others who need certification in the Pork Quality Assurance Plus™ and Transport Quality Assurance programs. The series begins this week and runs through Sept. 22, with seven sessions throughout Iowa. IPIC director John Mabry said the timing of this series is ideal. And, with IPPA's sponsorship, there is no charge to attend. Ordinarily, the fee is about \$25 per person for each session. "We appreciate the sponsorship of IPPA in helping provide and promote these certification programs in late summer," Mabry said. "This is a good time for anyone who needs certification in either or both programs to get that accomplished at no charge." If you're interested in attending, please preregister to ensure adequate materials for you. You can read more information, including the schedule and locations, in this news release <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2009/jul/152801.htm>

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NEWS

Downsizing the industry beyond the sow farm

ISU Extension livestock economist John Lawrence says that while the North American breeding herd is declining in numbers, it will take time for that downsizing to make an impact on producer prices. In the meantime, he suggests that culling and selling more animals earlier can help the bottom economic line. Packers, too, can play a role in helping ensure the long-term sustainability of the entire industry by considering removing any incentives for heavy carcasses and discounts for lighter weight carcasses. These actions by the supplier and processor can work together to get good quality product on the market while freeing up some space in pens. While not a silver bullet, it does provide for continued market access as long as demand is high. And hopefully, any necessary reduction in market supply will eventually help improve prices. You can read more in an article on the Iowa Farm Outlook Web site here <http://sn.im/qytqb>

Reducing pork supply: how to decide

If you're a pork producer, what kinds of incentives would help you choose whether to make changes in your operation? In an article on the Iowa Farm Outlook Web site, ISU livestock economist John Lawrence says controlling your own costs is a way to positively impact your economic situation. How to do that? Here are some suggestions that might work for you: Reduce sow numbers, wean at older age/heavier weight, consider optimal market weight for your operation, and look at cost and return for each site if you have more than one. Read the whole article here <http://sn.im/qyv56> Also, consider using Lawrence's

simple calculator spreadsheet for determining differences in sale prices/income when marketing at different weights, available here <http://snipr.com/1xei5>

Free software from IPIC

In these times of economic concern, remember that IPIC has no cost and low cost software, spreadsheets and calculators available. We continue to get requests from around the U.S. and world for the free Sow Longevity spreadsheets designed by ISU's Ken Stalder and Curt Lacey from the University of Georgia. In fact the latest request was from an owner-operator (who also is a consultant and manager) of 26 total sows in Botswana. The SL spreadsheets are available in English and metric measurements for breed-to-wean and farrow-to-finish operations, and in metric-only measurements for both operation types in Chinese and Portuguese. See the free tools on the IPIC Web site here <http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/software.html> The software and spreadsheets available for a free are listed on this page <http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/softwarepurchase.html> If you have questions about any of these or want more information, let us know.

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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.

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?

Blog aimed toward better food safety practices

Mention food safety practices and eyes glaze over. Everyone wants to eat food that's been safely harvested, processed, prepared and served, but common sense in some circumstances takes a back seat to quickness and lack of effort. A blog created and maintained by Kansas State University researcher Doug Powell addresses those issues with its unique name and format. Powell says his "Barf Blog" includes food safety news, commentary and podcasts for all, but especially one target audience. "We're really trying to get at all those teenagers who are working in food service and are the last people to touch your lunch," he said in an interview on Meatingplace.com. "Traditional food safety education is a complete waste of time and money." This article is at <http://sn.im/quop2>. Registration is required, but free. You can see the Barf Blog here <http://sn.im/quos9>

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FOR THE RECORD

Top ten for fall manure applicators

Do you like "Top Ten" lists? ISU Extension program specialist Angie Rieck-Hinz has put together a great list for those who apply manure in the fall. From reviewing your manure management plan to developing an emergency action plan, this list has you covered. See "A Top Ten List: Preparing for Fall Manure Application" on the Iowa Manure Management Action Group Web site here <http://sn.im/quodu9>

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