2004 Pork Month Story Ideas and News Sources
Iowa Pork Industry Center
Iowa State University, Ames, IA
http://www.ipic.iastate.edu

Thank you for your interest in Iowa Pork Industry Center and Iowa’s pork industry. We hope the following information and links listing will be helpful to you as you prepare articles for October, Pork Month, but please realize that the story ideas are appropriate for use at any time of year. The list is not an inclusive list of projects, research and programs coordinated or led by Iowa State University and ISU Extension specialists, but rather a brief look at the wide range of activities in which our specialists are involved. You may contact any of the listed specialists using the numbers and addresses provided, or contact me for more information. Thanks in advance for the opportunity to help you provide your audiences with the latest pork-related information.

Sherry Hoyer, communication specialist
Iowa Pork Industry Center
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011-3150
Ph. (515) 294-4496 or (800) 808-7675 (Iowa only)
E-mail: <shoyer@iastate.edu>

Iowa State University Web sites for news and story ideas

Iowa Pork Industry Center  <http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/>
IPIC news releases  <http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/newsreleases.html>
MidWest Plan Service  <http://www.mwpshq.org/>
ISU Extension, Ag & Natural Resources  <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/>
ISU Extension news releases  <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/newsrel/>
ISU College of Agriculture news releases  <http://www.ag.iastate.edu/aginfo/news/>
ISU Ag & Biosystems Engineering  <http://www.abe.iastate.edu/>
ISU Food Science & Human Nutrition news releases  <http://www.fcs.iastate.edu/fshn/news.htm>
2004 Pork Month Story Ideas

Pig genome sequencing moves forward. Efforts to further unravel the genetic differences among pigs and to understand the genetic control of traits of economic performance in the pig are under way. An international group of scientists has formed a consortium to raise funding for use in sequencing the pig genome. The genome includes 3 billion pieces of genetic code that, once fully known and understood, will help to revolutionize the selection of pigs and the management of different genetic lines. U.S. Pig Genome coordinator Max Rothschild says improvements in disease resistance, reproduction, growth, performance and meat quality also will be expected. See current information and the latest project updates on the Pig Genome Web site at this URL <http://www.genome.iastate.edu/pig>

For more information, contact Max F. Rothschild, C.F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor, Department of Animal Science and Co-director, Center for Integrated Animal Genomics, 2255 Kildee Hall, Iowa State University; (515) 294-6202; <mfrothsc@iastate.edu>

Determining value of composted manure on corn acres. Two ISU Extension field specialists are studying the effects of composted hoop building swine manure on corn. An Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship grant is allowing swine field specialist Terry Steinhart and ag engineering field specialist Greg Brenneman a real life look at how producers can more effectively use this naturally occurring source of nutrients. ISU staff members receive many questions regarding nutrient value and application rate of solid waste from hoop buildings, and the two plan to use results to help answer these questions. The project has several parts, including a check plot, a 10-ton rate of manure application area and a 20-ton application rate area. The plot also is divided into subplots with additional applied nitrogen rates of 30 and 60 lb. respectively. Brenneman also is involved with a study at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids to test a mixture of wood chips and liquid hog manure.

For more information, contact Terry L. Steinhart, ISU Extension swine field specialist, Keokuk County, 109 East Washington, Sigourney, IA; (641) 622-2680; steinha@iastate.edu>

Popular cash flow software is updated. The “Swine Budget & Cash Flow Projection Software” has been revised as an upgrade to the former Iowa State University MCS-10 budget evaluation spreadsheet. It can be used to evaluate a current or potential swine producing scenario in terms of both budget and cash flow. This spreadsheet combines all of the previous MCS series budgets (like farrow-to-finish and feeder pig finishing) into a single package, and adds a great new feature: users will be able to estimate the cash flow of a swine operation over a much longer (11 years) period of time than previous versions. This allows a longer and more efficient look into the future. The software will be available later this fall.

For more information, contact Ken Stalder, Animal Science Department, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011; (515) 294-4683; <stalder@iastate.edu>

IPIC certifies more than 70 National Swine Welfare Assurance ProgramSM educators in first year. Since the first-ever certification program in Iowa for the National Pork Board's Swine Welfare Assurance ProgramSM (SWAPSM) in August 2003, ISU continues to lead the way in training educators. SWAPSM was designed by an international team of producers and welfare experts to objectively benchmark and track welfare on swine farms. Certified SWAP[SM] assessors are in demand from producers of all sizes who want to show that their operations include animal welfare as a primary goal. This program is coordinated and taught by four ISU faculty members from ISU’s College of Agriculture and College of Veterinary Medicine.

For more information, contact James McKeen, Iowa Pork Industry Center, Iowa State University, Ames, IA; (515) 294-8792; <x2mcke@iastate.edu>
A strip till and manure application field day in Hardin County in early August drew 125 people. Demonstrations of minimum till injectors to reduce water and soil erosion, and of the relatively new concept of strip tillage attracted great interest from many people. This program was a great opportunity for all players in the industry to provide vital information on expectations and ways to meet those expectations in a common setting. Sessions in the daylong program featured discussions with Department of Natural Resources staff on land application of manure, nutrient management, pit agitation, manure sampling, residue management and calibration of manure application equipment followed by applicator demonstrations on bean stubble. Presenters also included ISU staff and representatives from the South Fork Watershed.

For more information, contact Kelvin Leibold, ISU Extension farm management field specialist, Hardin County, 524 Lawler St., Iowa Falls, IA, 50126; (641) 648-4850; <kleibold@iastate.edu>

Sow Longevity Spreadsheet helping pork producers worldwide. Customized farrow-to-finish and breed-to-wean spreadsheets in English and Metric units of measure have been developed to help pork producers accurately determine how long to keep a breeding herd female in their herds. Producers enter operation specific financial and production information in the appropriate form and get information they can use in their operations. To date the software has been widely distributed throughout the U.S. and the world. Users from 17 U.S. states and from 26 different countries (from six continents) have one or more of the four different versions. The software users have indicated they control or have influence on over 20 million sows in production. This free tool is helping these producers make better production and business decisions regarding the replacement rate and the number of parities or length of herd life that is required for a sow to be a profitable investment. IPIC’s Ken Stalder and his University of Tennessee colleague Curt Lacey worked together on these spreadsheets, including recent revisions.

For more information, contact Ken Stalder, Iowa Pork Industry Center, 109 Kildee, Iowa State University, Ames, IA; (515) 294-4683; <stalder@iastate.edu>

A new lab will help researchers determine what's actually in the air. A new lab building (the only one of its kind in the U.S.) is designed so scientists can measure the impact of various livestock diets by precisely measuring emissions. As lead researcher of the Animal Emission Laboratory, Wendy Powers says animals of all species can be fed individually or in groups, with emission measurements collected the same way. The building has 8 rooms, each capable of housing the appropriate number of pigs, cattle, poultry or horses, based on species and growth stage. Money and in-kind contributions for the lab totaling $700,000 came from the ISU College of Agriculture and the Department of Animal Science.

For more information, contact Dr. Wendy Powers, Animal Science, 109 Kildee, Iowa State University, Ames, IA; (515) 294-1635; <wpowers@iastate.edu> Check out her research Web site at <http://www.ans.iastate.edu/research/nutrientlab.html>

Livestock judging team continues to do well. The ISU Livestock Judging Team carries on a long and proud tradition. From the team’s first competition in 1900, young men and women have chosen to spend time outside class to study, practice and compete in various regional and national contests. Most recently the team took top honors at the National Barrow Show in Austin, Minn. by finishing ahead of 14 competing schools. This year’s team is comprised of nine students from Iowa, one from Minnesota and one from Wisconsin, and coach Clint Schwab, animal science graduate student from Colorado.

For more information, contact Clint Schwab, Department of Animal Science, 119 Kildee, Iowa State University, Ames, IA; (515) 294-5910; <crschwab@iastate.edu>
Updated hoop building publications from MidWest Plan Service now address gestating, farrowing and finishing. MWPS, headquartered at ISU, now has new and revised publications on hoop barn use specifically for pork producers. Alternative Systems for Farrowing in Cold Weather (new), Hoop Barns for Grow-Finish Swine (revised) and Hoop Barns for Gestating Swine (revised) are among a six-part hoop building series available from MWPS. These publications are $5 each, or $24 for the entire series. For more information, contact Jay Harmon, Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, 202 Davidson Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011; (515) 294-0554; <jharmon@iastate.edu>

“Esto es para ustedes de parte de el centro de al Industria porcino de Iowa.” (“This is for you from the Iowa Pork Industry Center.”) Thanks in part to financial support from IPIC, Hispanic workers in northwest Iowa gained a greater understanding of information necessary to work in swine farrowing and nursery units. This pilot project was designed to begin to meet the needs of area employers for a knowledgeable semi-skilled workforce, while providing accurate and appropriate information to current and potential workers. To ensure adequate delivery and discussion among the Spanish-speaking students, all instruction was done in Spanish. Four students completed the course, held twice weekly at the Iowa Lakes Community College Swine Farm near Emmetsburg. Instructors were from Iowa State University, Land O’ Lakes, and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Partners in the project were the Iowa Lakes staff and the National Pork Board. Continuation of the course is under consideration. For more information, contact Jerry Weiss, ISU Extension swine field specialist, Pocahontas County, 305 N. Main, Pocahontas, IA 50574; (712) 335-3103; <weissj@iastate.edu>

Using ICN to help improve swine husbandry skills of farm workers. A 12-session program comprised of three separate series helped more than 150 producers gain new knowledge and a better understanding of how and why things happen in swine production operations. IPIC planned, coordinated and helped teach the sessions, held at about a dozen sites weekly February through April of this year. Each series focused on a separate phase of production (Breeding/Gestation, Farrowing, Grow-Finish), and involved four two-hour ICN meetings for a total of 24 contact hours. The attendees represented over 40 production entities, with an average of 72 people per series. This initial effort met with resounding positive response, and plans are under way for a similar offering in 2005. For more information, contact Colin Johnson, Iowa Pork Industry Center, ISU, Ames, IA, 50011; (515) 294-2340; <colinj@iastate.edu>

Manure Nutrient Value Software aids in determining commercial fertilizer needs. Livestock producers can use a new software program to help determine nutrient values from all types of manure. The Manure Nutrient Value Calculator (V1.0) is a Microsoft ® Excel (version 97 or newer) spreadsheet that’s available on floppy disk from IPIC. IPIC’s Ken Stalder and program specialist Garland Dahlke developed the program that uses data on available manure, including form, quantity and analysis results, to provide recommendations of remaining commercial fertilizer needs as well as a financial breakdown based on manure and commercial fertilizer values. In addition to seeing calculator results on-screen, users also may print a summary of that information from the program, which can be used by producers as they work with neighbors, ISU Extension field specialists, crop consultants and others to develop manure and nutrient management plans for their operations. Cost is just $10, and to date, more than 45 people from 17 states are using the program. For more information, contact Ken Stalder, Iowa Pork Industry Center, 109 Kildee, Iowa State University, Ames, IA; (515) 294-4683; <stalder@iastate.edu>