NEWS NOW from the Iowa Pork Industry Center  
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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE  
Iowa pork industry leader honored by ISU animal science department  
Former IPIC advisory board member Steve Kerns was honored by the animal science department as its most recent ISU Animal Science Hall of Fame inductee. Steve, his wife Becky, and sons Karl and Matt farm near Clearfield. As an ISU student, he was one of the first in the nation to do ultrasound scanning of pigs, and his swine interest expanded to various areas of swine breeding. He became a pork industry innovator in the use of frozen boar semen and now also works with cloning in pigs. He’s been a Landrace breeder and purebred genetic supplier for nearly 40 years, and owns the AI stud, International Boar Semen, in Eldora. He has supplied genetics to many foreign countries and he has consulted pork producers in many countries as well. In addition to leadership responsibilities with IPPA, Steve also has worked with the National Pork Board and National Pork Producers Council, and in June 2009, was recognized for his support as a member of our advisory board. Our congratulations to Steve, and thanks for choosing to work with IPIC to make the Iowa pork industry better.

NEWS  
Phytate production explained  
A team of European scientists now has the knowledge and understanding of how phytate is produced in plants, which they hope will lead to improved plant-based livestock diet inputs. Because phytate is not naturally digestible by many animals, the phytate phosphorus in feed becomes part of the manure applied to land. This can lead to pollution. To counteract that, the enzyme phytase is added to the feed to help animals absorb more of the phosphorus. You can read more about this research by the Spanish and U.K. team on the All About Feed website here http://sn.im/nnphytatesolve

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IPIC Science With Practice student in news article  
Remember hearing from Sara Morine back in January about her Science With Practice position here at IPIC? Well, the SWP program – and Sara – were featured in an article in the Iowa State Daily last week. As part of the program requirements, SWP students prepare a poster for display and presentation near the end of that semester. The spring 2010 semester poster session was Wed., April 28, and was the subject of an article in the April 30 edition of the Daily. It’s quite an accomplishment for the program to be featured in the student paper, and even more so for Sara to be one of three participants to be interviewed for the article. Way to go, Sara! You can read the entire article on the Daily’s website here http://www.iowastatedaily.com/articles/2010/04/29/news/doc4bda5e3d5c664229796508.txt
PRODUCTION TIP
Foaming pits, caution needed
Over the past several months, reports of foaming manure pits, and flash fires and explosions had made the news. And they've made some producers uneasy. Until the cause or causes are determined, researchers have developed lists of precautions for producers. ISU Extension ag engineer program specialist Kris Kohl recommends the following actions to hopefully reduce the risk of fires and explosions for deep pits:

- Check pits for foam - if present be careful
- Turn off pilot lights on heater during the summer - they use half a gallon of propane a day and make the building hotter
- If you need to pump a foaming pit, do not agitate it. The foaming action has already agitated the pit and it will pump very clean
- Turn up the ventilation during wash down or pumping when foam is present

Larry Jacobson from the University of Minnesota has created a special website section on foaming and pit pumping safety at http://www.manure.umn.edu/applied/health_safety.html#PitPumpingSafety
There's also a news article on the AgriNews website featuring work by Jacobson and colleagues here http://www.agrinews.com/foam/in/manure/pits/is/a/perplexing/problem/story-2207.html

IT'S A DATE
Continuing. FSQA training and testing sessions for Iowa 4-H’ers. See the IPIC web site here http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/FSQA10.html for date, location and contact information.

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Continuing. PQA Plus® and TQA® producer 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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Cost is $75 per approved applicant. Registration deadline is May 7 with fee due from approved applicants by May 12. Download the application form here http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAPapp051910.doc

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June 2-4. PQAPlus® advisor recertification sessions. These are for people who initially became PQAPlus® certified advisors in 2007, and need to recertify. Each session is limited to the first 30 people who register and pay the $50 fee. See locations and times on the IPIC website here http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/events.html#june10 Download the application form here http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAPRecert.doc

DID YOU KNOW?
Goodbye to first pig cloned in Japan
At 9 years, 8 months of age, the oldest cloned pig in the world was euthanized last month. Xena was cloned from fetal pigskin cells and born July 2, 2000. Researchers said natural causes led to her being unable to stand on her own. You can read more in a news article on the Japan Today website at this URL http://www.japantoday.com/category/national/view/1st-cloned-pig-in-japan-euthanized

FOR THE RECORD
Carbon footprint of pork production
The term "carbon footprint" is a description of the environmental impact of an entity. This impact is measured by greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, with the most recent numbers available from 2007.
According to the U.S. EPA, just 2.8 percent of GHG emission in the country came from animal agriculture, with pork production accounting for one-third of one percent of the total. Research by the American Meat Institute shows that while production from U.S. animal agriculture has risen, overall livestock-related GHG emissions per production unit have declined. To see this another way, compare pork production’s 0.33 percent to the 2.65 percent generated by humans’ municipal sewage treatment plants and solid-waste landfills. Want to learn more? Read this article on the website of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians http://www.aasv.org/news/story.php?id=4142 or the Pork Checkoff’s fact sheet “Today’s Pork: An Eco-Friendly Choice” at this URL http://www.pork.org/documents/porkscience/carbonfootprint.pdf