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- ISU’s Iowa corn nitrogen rate calculator is updated

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Congratulations to ISU animal science folks
During the awards recognition portion of this afternoon’s fall convocation for ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the animal science department will be well represented. Leo Timms is one of the first recipients of the Dean Lee R. Kolmer Award for Excellence in Applied Research; Joe Sebranek will be recognized in a medallion ceremony for the Morrison Chair in Meat Science; and the following folks will be honored with the Dean’s Citation for Extraordinary Contributions to CALS: Dan Morrical, Jay Lampe of the swine farms, Joe Detrick from the dairy farm, and Marshall Ruble of the beef teaching farm. Congrats! We’re proud to work with you.

NEWS
ISU Extension swine field specialist opening
We know we can’t replace our two recently retired ISU Extension swine field specialists (Larry McMullen in eastern Iowa and Jerry Weiss in northwest Iowa.) However, a newly posted job opening for that same position type will allow IPIC to continue working with and serving those in Iowa’s pork industry. This continuous, full-time position will serve west central Iowa, with office location and specific counties to be determined. A bachelors degree in a specified area is required, with masters or PhD (depending on classification) preferred. If you’re interested, or know of someone who might be, please visit this URL to learn more about the position description and the application procedure. http://cl.lk/nn0910issueswspec
Don’t delay, application deadline is Oct. 7, 2010.

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Sow preference study: in or outside gestation stalls
Recent research conducted by Prairie Swine Centre in Saskatchewan showed that sow preference for spending time in stalls versus outside the stalls is variable, much like the animals themselves. Research scientists Harold Gonyou says researchers studied eight groups of approximately 25 sows each, housed in walk-in/lock-in stall gestation pens. About 95 percent of the sows would leave their stalls during gestation. Of the entire number, about 40 percent spent less than two percent of their time outside. Others, however, would spend most of the time outside (80 to 90 percent in some cases.) Larger, older sows seemed to be outside the stalls more than younger ones, which leads to more research questions: are there dominance/social hierarchy issues? Were the stalls too narrow for comfort for the larger sows? In an interview on Farmscape (linked from here http://www.farmscape.ca/f2ShowScript.aspx?id=23463&g=Research+Shows+Some+Sows+Prefer+Stall
Gonyou explains. Also, you can read about the study in the PSC’s spring 2010 issue of “Centered on Swine” at this URL http://www.prairieswine.com/publications/cos-15.html starting on page 9.

PRODUCTION TIP
New organic program handbook from USDA
Anyone interested in organic agricultural production will want this new resource from USDA: National Organic Program Handbook. The handbook provides guidance and instructional documents to help those who provide those who own, manage, or certify organic operations in complying with the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations. The handbook is available as a free download from the USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service website here http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/NOPProgramHandbook. You can read, download and print each individual part of the document or the entire document itself. Note, this new handbook replaces the “Document Control Master List” page previously available on the NOP website.

IT’S A DATE
Sept. 7. Environmental Regulations and Program Assistance Update. 1 to 4:30 p.m., 260 Scheman Building, Iowa State Center, ISU campus, Ames. $10 at the door. Also available through webinar format. To view online: go to http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/iowapork/ and enter as a Guest by typing your first and last name in the box and clicking “Enter Room.” Please test your computer equipment prior to the meeting by going to the same URL and clicking on “help.” If you can’t get to the online meeting room, call Robin or Floyd at (515) 294-8658 for technical assistance.

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DID YOU KNOW?
ISU Swine Disease Conference registration now available
Registration for the 18th annual Swine Disease Conference for Swine Practitioners is now available. One big change for this year: all registrations are being done online. Running from 9 a.m. Nov. 4 to 3 p.m. Nov. 5, the conference features experts on a variety of timely topics, including a special speaker in the Roy Schultz Lecture Series. Dr. Hans Nauwynck of the University of Gent will present information on how understanding the pathogenesis and immune response of PRRSV infection is vital in creating more efficient PRRS vaccines. Registration by Oct. 15 is $225; it increases to $275 after that date. Start with this URL for links to the schedule and registration form. http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/swinedisease/home.html

FOR THE RECORD
ISU’s Iowa corn nitrogen rate calculator is updated
Following the addition of response trials from the 2009 crop year, the Iowa nitrogen (N) response database in the corn nitrogen rate calculator was recently updated. This reflects a newly developed regional approach for determining corn N rate guidelines, so you’ll want to take a look. The online calculator and links to related publications and information is on the ISU agronomy extension website at this URL http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/soilfertility/nrate.aspx

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