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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Congratulations to ISU animal science folks and Iowa 4-H’ers
At today’s University Convocation, Elisabeth Lonergan will receive the ISU Award for Mid Career Achievement in Research and Hongwei Xin will receive the ISU Award for Outstanding Achievement in Research.

At the National Barrow Show last week, 140 individuals and 17 teams competed in the National Barrow Show Contest, with the ISU team finishing 3rd overall, placing 1st in placing and 5th in reasons. ISU also exhibited the Grand Champion purebred truckload and Reserve Champion overall truckload with Durocs, Reserve Champion purebred truckload with Berkshires, and Champion light weight crossbred truckload with its crossbreds. Sales of ISU breeding stock brought in $1800 for Duroc gilt 4th in class: $1000 for Duroc gilt 6th in class and $800 for Duroc boar 7th in class.

Nearly 100 Iowa 4-H’ers participated in the 2010 4-H/FFA State Livestock and Meats Judging Contests on campus in late August, with winners announced last week. Scott County 4-H fielded both the first and second place senior livestock judging teams, with the first team headed to the national contest in Kentucky and the second team representing Iowa in the National Western Stock Show in Denver. The third place senior team from Buchanan County will go to the American Royal in Kansas City. Louisa County’s first place meats team will go to the National 4-H Meats Contest in Kansas.

Our congratulations to all.

NEWS
ISU Extension livestock ag economist candidate presentations
Four candidates for the ISU Extension livestock economist position formerly held by John Lawrence have been invited to campus for interviews this month. As part of the interview process, each candidate will provide an extension presentation. Candidate names, current locations and links to the respective archived presentations are linked from the IPIC homepage http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/. To date, two candidates have interviewed: Amy Hagerman of Texas A&M University (presentation here http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/p37855764/) and Jason Franken of University of Missouri (presentation here http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/p49173095/) Watch the IPIC website for info on the remaining two candidates and their presentations.
Another ISU alum takes charge at Iowa DNR
Following the recent resignation of Rich Leopold (who received a master's degree in animal ecology from ISU) from his position as director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Gov. Chet Culver turned to another ISU alum to serve as interim director of that agency. Pat Boddy, who had been deputy director of Iowa DNR, took over when Leopold began his new job with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services this month. Boddy earned two degrees from ISU -- a bachelor’s degree in agricultural engineering and a master’s degree in water resources -- and brings more than 25 years of related experience to her new job. You can read more in this news release from the Governor’s office http://www.governor.iowa.gov/index.php/press_releases/single/881/

PRODUCTION TIP
Minnesota producer makes ladder use safer
Ever needed to use a ladder in a pen, but worried about pigs knocking it over, or worse, injuring you? Tom Rahm knows the feeling. That’s why he worked on a device that protects the ladder and the climber, while keeping pigs away. This safety item, known as “LadderGuard” PVC pipe and thin steel cables with a small electrical shock is Rahm’s answer. It fits over the top of the ladder and rests under the bottom step, so the climber doesn’t touch it. Pigs that bump up against the ladder and the battery-powered fencer get a small shock that won’t hurt them but will serve to keep them away. You can read more about this device and see a photo of it on the Agri-News web site here http://www.agrinews.com/farmers/invention/makes/hog/barns/safer/story-2893.html

IT’S A DATE
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.


Nov. 4-5. ISU Swine Disease Practitioners Conference. Scheman Building, Iowa State Center, Ames. Registration is $225 by Oct. 15; $275 after that date. Conference begins at 9 a.m. Nov. 5 and ends at 3 p.m. on Nov. 5. For registration and more information, see the conference Web site http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/swinedisease/home.html

DID YOU KNOW?
National Pork Board redesigns website
With this summer’s redesign of the National Pork Board website, users will find an easier to navigate look and a lighter color and feel. Although the new format was announced during the 2010 World Pork Expo, I wanted to wait to highlight the changes here until I’d had time to “test-drive” it for a while. I like that the search feature seems to be better equipped to deal with single word searches, and that a longer news portion is visible on the homepage. While I would prefer less movement on the homepage that can be distracting (the main photo and corresponding text portion appears to switch every five seconds,) I do like seeing several topic areas on that page. Give the site a try at http://www.pork.org/ and be sure to let them know what you think. The site is there for you, members of the pork industry.

FOR THE RECORD
Big numbers continue at ISU and CALS
ISU continues to wow prospective students, to the record tune of 28,682 students this fall. The College of Veterinary Medicine has a record 587 students and ISU undergrads total a record 23,104 with CALS undergrads numbering 3,298 with 70 percent of ISU’s undergraduates -- 16,084 students - from Iowa. And while not a record enrollment, this year’s CALS total topped last year’s, which was the highest in 30 years. You can read more about ISU enrollment here http://www.news.iastate.edu/news/2010/sep/2010enrollment and more about CALS enrollment here http://www.ag.iastate.edu/news/releases/888/ and while departmental major numbers for this school year aren’t yet available, the total undergrad and graduate animal science majors for the 2009-2010 school year were the highest in CALS – 793 and 92 respectively for a total of 885. See more in last year’s Fact Book here http://www.ir.iastate.edu/factbk.html

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