THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
- Scanning team provides numbers and information

NEWS
- Sow Longevity spreadsheets still in demand
- Food safety claims: myth vs. science

PRODUCTION TIP
- Be safe during Pork Month

IT'S A DATE
- PQA Plus® and TQA® producer certification sessions
- Swine inservice/professional development
- ISU Extension annual conference
- ISU Swine Disease Practitioners Conference

DID YOU KNOW?
- PQA Plus® numbers keep climbing

FOR THE RECORD
- 2010 ISU CALS Career Fair could be largest yet

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Scanning team provides numbers and information
During the summer of 2010, the ISU scanning team traveled to 26 county fairs where members scanned 1726 pigs. Team coordinator Colin Johnson said he, grad student Nick Siedelmann and recently retired ISU Extension swine specialist Larry McMullen travelled 4828 miles in this county fair scanning series. The team also scanned 252 derby pigs at the Iowa State Fair. If you've been following these annual reports, the county fair total might seem a bit low. However, Kyle Schulte of Biotronics, Inc. handled scanning duties at 17 additional county fairs. (Kyle began work for Biotronics, Inc. after completing his M.S. degree at ISU. He was featured in the CALS STORIES magazine in fall 2009 – see page 9 – http://www.ag.iastate.edu/stories/archives/2009fall/Stories_2009Fall.pdf) The scanning measurements (typically loin eye area and back fat depth in swine shows) can be used by individuals and families to aid in genetics decisions for their operation. The numbers also help determine carcass placings in the county fair contests, and are used by Extension staff members who hold post fair result/evaluation programs for youth hog show entrants to learn about the pigs they showed. The service has been offered on a cost basis to Iowa county Extension staff since at least 2001.

NEWS
Sow Longevity spreadsheets still in demand
This free software tool is available in three languages, and in English and metric measurement formats for both breed-to-wean and farrow-to-finish operations. Owners, managers, consultants, veterinarians, marketers, genetic researchers, and other industry professionals use these spreadsheets to help make decisions on how long to keep sows in their breeding herds. As of Oct. 1, recipients from 41 foreign countries, 23 U.S. states and six Canadian provinces with influence over more than 32 million sows have requested and received at least one of the versions. If you'd like to receive any of these spreadsheets, complete the appropriate online form on the IPIC Web site here http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/software.html#spreadsheets

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Food safety claims: myth vs. science
Do you read or hear about food safety claims in popular or social media, and wonder about the accuracy and source of those claims? Take a look at the Myth vs. Science™ part of the Food Systems Insider website here http://www.foodsystemsinsider.com/MythvsScience.aspx You also can register (it’s free)
to receive regular issues of Food Systems Insider's e-newsletter. FSI is brought to you by Vance Publishing, provider of PORK magazine.

PRODUCTION TIP
Be safe during Pork Month
Safe pork production includes an awareness of the potential for manure pit fires and explosions, and what better month to highlight that importance than October -- Pork Month – and -- Fire Prevention Month. ISU Extension ag engineers remind people that liquid manure storage will create by-products of manure gases. By understanding the decomposition process of the stored manure, and how to safely agitate and pump pits, producers and their employees can minimize the possibility of injuries and flash fires. Learn more about safely working with liquid manure pits in this news release on the ISUE website http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2010/sep/162001.htm

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.

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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?
PQA Plus® numbers keep climbing
Since the PQA Plus® program began in 2007, more than 350 professionals in the pork industry have been certified by ISU/IPIC faculty members. With the certification period of three years expiring for those who were certified in 2007, IPIC has begun offering advisor recertification sessions. As of September 2010, 90 people have completed this recertification process at ISU. PQA Plus® helps guarantee the safety and high quality of U.S. pork products by aiding producers in measuring, tracking and constantly improving animal well-being. Nationwide, more than 50,000 U.S. pork producers have been PQA Plus® certified by one of the certified advisors.

FOR THE RECORD
2010 ISU CALS Career Fair could be largest yet
On October 19, we'll know whether the ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences career fair has hit a new high in recruiting companies. According to a news release this week, around 160 employers already signed up and career services director Mike Gaul expects five to ten more to register between now and the Oct. 19 show which will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Lied Recreation Center on campus. How diverse is the potential employer list? Gaul says the mix includes Alaska Fish and Game; German plant breeding company KWS SAAT AG, and a California plant development firm Cibus US LLC. You can see the entire list with respective website links here http://www.career.ag.iastate.edu/agcareerday/career.php

NEWS NOW from the Iowa Pork Industry Center www.ipic.iastate.edu