THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE

- Cooperation is key to PRRS control

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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE

Cooperation is key to PRRS control

ISU's Butch Baker reminds people that PRRS (Porcine Reproductive & Respiratory Syndrome) is one of the most prevalent and economically threatening diseases for hog operations in the U.S. He’s the featured speaker for this month’s podcast, The Hub, provided by Hubbard Feeds. (You can listen to the audio here http://gw.vtrenz.net/?UHXTH0S33D or you can read the transcript of the audio here http://gw.vtrenz.net/?JEU8QDMNAE:CJBXT5E78Q=ssID:757680431) You might recognize the published and most quoted cost of PRRS is estimated to be greater than $5 for every pig produced in the U.S., but most likely that number is higher. PRRS likes cold and wet conditions once it’s outside the pig, with November thru March especially favorable for the virus in this part of the country. It’s not hardy in the environment although it can survive well in cool and cold water for up to two weeks. Increasing density of growing pigs means increasing likelihood that virus spread will occur. None of this is likely new news to you. But sometimes a reminder is all that’s needed to refocus our attention. Biosecurity is vital to helping stop PRRS, and other diseases. Don’t let your guard down. Contact your veterinarian for assistance with control options. If IPIC can help, let us know.

NEWS

More money for Scottish livestock ID pilot

The Scottish government has increased funding for its mandated electronic identification pilot to help keep the program affordable. Earlier this month the government raised its financial support 20 percent above its original $8 million. The Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society (SAOS) will use the money to further develop work on the Scottish Electronic Identification Project (EID) by extending the reporting system to farms, markets, ferry terminals and abattoirs. A news release on the Scotland Government website characterizes the EID as a "simplified system to electronically identify all animals – a move which will help reduce bureaucracy and keep trade efficient." You can read the entire release here http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/11/09115827

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USDA loan repayment program helps Iowa veterinarians

Five Iowa veterinarians are among the more than 60 recipients of the 2010 Veterinary Medicine Load Repayment Program. Successful applicants are required to commit three years of veterinary service in a specifically designated veterinary shortage area. These shortage areas in Iowa are described and defined by Iowa state veterinarian David Schmitt. For 2010, seven areas were so defined and five
applicants were offered the opportunity to participate in this program. Four of the five designated areas are for private practice veterinarians and the fifth is for public practice, specifically to work with current students in the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine and with food supply veterinarians on diagnostic and food safety capabilities. Although USDA-NIFA doesn’t release the names of VMLRP awardees, you can read more about the program and Iowa’s designated shortage areas here http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/animals/in_focus/vmlrp/vmlrp_shortage_situation_iowa.html

.......................................................... PRODUCTION TIP

Keep vaccines working for you
Vaccination is an effective means of preventing disease in the pig herd when used appropriately and judiciously. Keys to successful vaccination lie in vaccine profiling, timing and method of administration. The vaccines used must match the disease profiles that will challenge the herd. Vaccination must occur at a time prior to the potential disease exposure. To maintain vaccine efficacy, proper dosage of all pigs in a group is critical. Above all, design and implement vaccine programs and protocols with the assistance of your herd veterinarian.

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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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Nov. 30. Animal Welfare Symposium. Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center, Columbus, Ohio. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Keynote speaker Temple Grandin, ISU Extension dairy veterinarian Jan Shearer and others will speak at this second annual symposium. Registration is $40 per person ($125 for with continuing education credit) or $25 for students. Read the program brochure and online registration information on the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine website http://vet.osu.edu/preventive-medicine/AnimalWelfareSymposium

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January and February 2011. Confinement site manure applicator workshops. Check for dates, locations and times around Iowa here http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/certification/11confdates.html

.......................................................... DID YOU KNOW?

November meal choice: Turkey or McRib?
As Daylight Saving Time ends and we look forward to the coming holiday seasons, what better time to consider jazzing up a family meal? Now that McDonalds has returned the McRib sandwich to its menu, consider swapping out the traditional turkey for this individually wrapped piece of history. According to a news release from one of the McRib’s biggest supporters, the sandwich is made of 100% USDA-quality pork. And because the Pork Checkoff was instrumental in the first national availability of the McRib, NPB is excited to be along for the ride. Well, the Pork checkoff logo is on special tray liners at all participating McDonalds nationwide. You can read more about the NPB and the McRib here http://www.pork.org/News/1090/PorkCheckoffSupportsReturnofMcRibNationwide.aspx And if you want to find a “participating location” quickly, go to the McRib locator here http://www.kleincast.com/maps/mcrib.php But you’ll want to hurry because McRib is scheduled to be on menus only for a few more weeks.

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GIPSA rule costs: dollars and jobs
The proposed USDA rule on restrictions on buying and selling livestock and poultry would cost American farmers and consumers a lot, according to a recent study. The study, done on behalf of NPPC and national meat, beef and turkey organizations, showed a job loss of more than 22,000 and a drop in gross domestic product (GDP) to the tune of $1.5 billion annually. In the pork industry alone, ongoing
direct and indirect costs could total more than $401 million. According to the livestock groups, this GIPSA rule (called that because it would be administered by Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration) would restrict marketing agreements between producers and meat packers, dictate the terms of production contracts and require additional paperwork, among other things. Read a three-page executive summary of the report here http://nppc.org/uploadedfiles/GIPSAExecutiveSummary-Final2.pdf Or, read the entire 76-page document here http://nppc.org/uploadedfiles/GipsaReport-Final2,2010-11-09.pdf

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