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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Year-end wishes
In central Iowa, our first official blizzard of the season has come and gone, leaving behind snow and frigid temperatures and wind chills. This is finals week at Iowa State, meaning the start of winter and several days of vacation await many of us. As usual, NEWS NOW takes a break, too, at the end of the calendar year. IPIC continues to be available to you as usual, by phone (515-294-4103 or 800-808-7675—Iowa only); e-mail (ipic@iastate.edu) or fax (515-294-5698.) Just be aware that the ISU campus is partially shut down Dec. 23-Jan. 2, and our response might be a bit slower than usual. [See this article for more information on the campus info http://www.iastate.edu/Inside/2010/1209/prep.php Remember that subscription to NEWS NOW is free and your e-mail address is not shared. Consider sharing the newsletter with others in the industry – either by forwarding your e-mail copy or sending the URL on the IPIC website where all copies of the newsletter are stored in pdf format. http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/newsreleases.html#newsnow See you next on Jan. 10, 2011!

NEWS
Hormel plans stock split
Assuming its shareholders agree next month, Hormel Foods will do a two-for-one stock split for the first time in a decade. CEO Jeffrey M. Ettinger says the company is “excited to announce this proposed two-for-one stock split following a decade of strong performance.” According to a Q&A section on the website (linked from this news release page http://www.hormelfoods.com/newsroom/whatsnew/20101213.aspx) the proposed split is a sign of confidence in continued sales and earnings growth. Also, it could make the stock price more attractive and manageable for more individual investors who may wish to own part of the Hormel business.

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NPB seeks 2011 interns
Holiday break means different things to different people, but for college students it often means filling out internship applications. If you’re a student interested in working for the National Pork Board (or know of someone who is), here are the details on the 2011 intern program. Four full-time paid positions will run from approximately May 16 through August 12; all are based at the NPB office in Clive, Iowa. For descriptions on each position (two for science and technology and one each for communications and producer services/outreach) and the application procedure, go to the NPB website here
Note: while there is no official application deadline, NPB says resumes will be reviewed until mid-February and candidates will be interviewed through March.

PRODUCTION TIP
Don’t let weather trump biosecurity
Now that Iowa has experienced real winter weather, it’s time for a biosecurity reminder especially regarding PRRS. Early winter traditionally is a time for PRRS activity. As one of the most economically devastating diseases in the pork industry, any efforts to keep disease -- including PRRS -- out of your herd are worthwhile. Remember that biosecurity in your operation is paramount to keeping disease out of your facilities and your animals. It’s critical to monitor traffic and people, maintain rodent control, and manage manure haulers, pig traffic and feed and supply vehicles. Check with your veterinarian on procedures and requirements. If you need a quick reminder of ways to increase biosecurity on your farm, take a look at this “Top Ten” list from National Pork Board
http://www.pork.org/News/514/Feature190.aspx

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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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

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DID YOU KNOW?
Welfare conference presentations now online
If you weren’t able to attend the Second Annual OSU Animal Welfare Symposium in late November and consequently missed hearing from Temple Grandin, Charlie Arnot and ISU’s Jan Shearer, don’t worry. All the presentations are now posted on the conference website here http://vet.osu.edu/preventive-medicine/2nd-annual-osu-animal-welfare-symposium-agenda You can read about the speakers, and watch and listen to the introduction, presentations and panel discussion.

FOR THE RECORD
Record production in Germany
The German Statistical Office (Destatis) reports that country could see record pig slaughter numbers this year, based on figures to date. Between June and September more than 14.6 million pigs were slaughtered in the commercial slaughtering sector. This is a 5.6 percent or 774,000 head increase on the same period in 2009. By the end of September there were 43.2 million pigs slaughtered in Germany, which is 1.7 million more than in the previous year. As a result of the increased slaughter numbers, pork production has risen. In July-September 2010, production increased by 5.5 percent to 1.36 million metric tons from 71,300 million metric tons. In the third quarter of 2010, around 2 million metric tons of meat were produced from commercial slaughterhouses in Germany; that’s 4.2 percent more than in the same quarter a year earlier. This page on the Destatis website shows livestock numbers for May 2010 and September 2009 http://cl.lk/1lnb22