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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Next up: Iowa Pork Congress
In just a little over two weeks, we'll be together again at the Iowa Pork Congress in Des Moines. This is the largest winter swine tradeshow and conference in the country, and draws exhibitors and attendees from around the U.S. and beyond. IPIC and IMMAG will anchor the ISU portion of the trade show, where you can plan to take in a short video, learn about production software or visit with colleagues and friends. We’re located in the same area as previous years, booth 1127 along the north wall of Hy-Vee Hall in the Iowa Events Center. You can attend seminars focusing on environmental regulations and nuisance cases, legislative issues, foreign trade, genetics and PRRS. Iowan Jolene Brown will present the keynote address titled "When Pigs Fly." Producers also can attend PQA Plus® and TQA® certification sessions. Check it out here http://iowaporkcongress.org/ and we’ll see you there.

NEWS
Nutrient labels for some meat and poultry products
Forty of the most popular cuts of meat and poultry will be required to have a new segment the beginning of next year. Nutritional information similar to that found on other food packages will be available on packages of these cuts, and other whole raw cuts will offer that information either through package nutrition panels or at point-of-purchase for consumers. According to a late December news release from USDA, the nutrition facts panel will include the following information: number of calories and the grams of total fat and saturated fat a product contains. And, any product that lists a lean percentage statement, such as "76% lean," on its label also will list its fat percentage, making it easier for consumers to understand the amounts of lean protein and fat in their purchase. You can read and learn more in the news release http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/12/0673.xml

On-farm research program seeks farmer partners
The annual ISU On-Farm Research and Demonstration Grant Program is looking for farmers to cooperate on a variety of field topics. Geared toward conservation and sustainability, the program pairs farmers with ISU researchers for on-farm work. Proposals are due Feb. 23 for this program jointly offered by ISU College of Agriculture and Life Science, the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at
PRODUCTION TIP
VCPR is vital for production operations
In the ever-expanding world of acronyms, VCPR might sound like a mouthful. While it’s difficult if not impossible to pronounce as a world, VCPR is important and worth knowing. A valid “Veterinary Client-Patient Relationship” is a component of the PQAP program, and a vital part of every operation. A herd veterinarian plays a critical role in protecting both animal health and the health of consumers. An appropriate VCPR serves as the basis for medication decision-making on the farm. If your PQAP certification expires this year, check the IPIC website for a recertification session near you http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAP.html

IT’S A DATE
Continuing. FSQA training and testing sessions for Iowa 4-H’ers. See the IPIC web site here http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/FSQA11.html for date, location and contact information

Continuing. PQA Plus® and TQA® producer certification sessions. See the IPIC web site here http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAP.html for date, location and contact information.

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?
Canada producers have low carbon footprint
An article on MeatPoultry.com reports the pork producers in the Quebec province of Canada have a carbon footprint lower than the world average. Carbon footprint is defined on the Merriam Webster dictionary website as, “the amount of greenhouse gases and specifically carbon dioxide emitted by something (as a person's activities or a product's manufacture and transport) during a given period.” It’s used as one measure of how environmentally sustainable various practices and activities are. An official of Quebec’s pork producers organization said the goal of the study (that found the footprint of 4.16kg of CO2 produced per kg of pork carcass) was to be able to compare the province’s producers with similar systems. You can read the article here http://www.meatpoultry.com/News/News%20Home/Global/2011/1/Quebec%20hog-growing%20carbon%20footprint%20below%20world%20average.aspx?NewsLetter=true
An article on the Encyclopedia of Earth website lists the global average carbon footprint at about 4 tons of CO2-eq per year. See that info here http://www.eoearth.org/article/Carbon_footprint

FOR THE RECORD
Employee management workshops set this winter
A successful agricultural operation needs more than a good owner/manager, quality animals and appropriate facilities. Knowing the “how, when and why” of employee management also is a vital component that not everyone can claim. IPIC and the Iowa Beef Center at ISU are coordinating and hosting employee management workshop series this winter designed to provide this information. Participants will learn about useful tools for employee management and have time during the sessions to formulate plans to implement the tools. Presenters also will provide management resources and
opportunities for discussion among those at the sessions. People will attend three sessions, with a fee for meals during the sessions. Learn about the session content, speakers, dates, locations and preregistration needs in this release http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2011/jan/150601.htm

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