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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Iowa Pork Congress—two days and counting
I know Iowa Pork Congress was mentioned here in the most recent issue, but I think it’s well worth mentioning again. Pork Quality Assurance Plus and Transport Quality Assurance certification, confinement site manure applicator training, and educational sessions on PRRSV, business modeling, contracting, genetic improvement, and more are on the docket. Why spend lots more money and travel time when this is available at little or no charge? Check out all the action on the IPC website http://iowaporkcongress.org/ and make arrangements now to be in Des Moines at the Iowa Events Center, Hy-Vee Hall on Wednesday or Thursday (or both days) this week. Find us in booth 1127 and say hi.

NEWS
Smaller feed particle size and increased digestibility?
It’s fairly common knowledge among feed professionals and producers that feed particle size impacts nutrient and energy digestibility. What you might not be aware of is some recent research by Hans Stein of the University of Illinois that shows a finer grind might improve digestibility and the producer’s bottom line. From Stein’s page on the UIUC website, here’s some background: “For many years it has been common practice to recommend grinding to an average particle size between 650 and 700 microns. Newer research has indicated that feed conversion may be improved by 3 to 5% if corn particle size is reduced from 650 to 450 microns.” Read more on the page and by following links there http://nutrition.ansci.illinois.edu/node/458

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Spring Ag Career Day coming soon
The spring ag career day for ISU’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will be open for business on Wed., Feb, 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Memorial Union on the ISU campus. The spring edition of the job/career fair was started three years ago to supplement the winter fair, considered the largest of its type in the nation. Open to all ISU students, alumni and the general public, this year’s fair is expected to draw 80 to 85 companies and organizations. You can see the list of confirmed attendees here http://www.career.ag.iastate.edu/agcareerday/career.php
PRODUCTION TIP
Connection and communication are keys to your success.
The farm is just the start of the food chain. Have you ever thought about the importance of all the players in the food chain and the need for communication throughout the chain? As a pork producer, you have a critical role in ensuring the delivery of safe, wholesome and affordable pork to the consumer. Farm-Transport-Market-Harvest-Processing-Distribution & Retail-Food Services-Consumer. It’s imperative to make your own connections and share your story with others. Where are your opportunities to connect?

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

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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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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?
Beginning Farmers Conference set at ISU
Are you interesting in learning more about the issues and resources involved in beginning a farming career? Or do you know someone who is? If so, you’ll want to check out the 6th annual Beginning Farmers Conference that’s set for Saturday, Feb. 12 at the Scheman Building at the Iowa State Center in Ames. Organized and hosted by the ISU student group, “Beginning Farmer Network,” the conference runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. with featured speakers Iowa Ag Secretary Bill Northey and Successful Farming editor Loren Kruse. Three one-hour breakout sessions provide additional information on topics ranging from commodity marketing and tax management, to farm succession and land leasing operations, and networking breaks provide opportunities to use the information. Registration is $40 per person before Feb. 1 and $50 per person after that date, and covers all materials lunch and breaks. You can register online or by calling 515-294-6222. You can download the conference schedule and registration information here http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/_repository/2011/beginningfarmer/pdf/agenda.pdf

FOR THE RECORD
Science With Practice student(s)
This semester brings a new student in the Science With Practice program to IPIC. Please meet her:

Hello! My name is Megan Bonzer and I am the new spring 2011 Science with Practice student. This semester I will be working closely with Sherry Hoyer and the Iowa Pork Industry Center staff on programs such as Sow Bridge and Pork Bridge as well as news releases and bulletin board updates. Currently I am currently a senior at Iowa State and will graduate this upcoming May with a degree in Animal Science. Throughout high school, I was involved in 4-H and FFA and began to grow a strong passion for the swine industry. While attending Iowa State, I have participated in Block and Bridle Club,
intramurals sports, and have taken on many internship opportunities. I’m eager to spend the rest of the semester learning more about the swine industry and what it has to offer.

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And speaking of Science With Practice, I am so embarrassed to admit that I inadvertently never included the paragraph from my fall semester student, Mackenzie Dierks. So, here’s her paragraph of information (and my red-faced apology):

Greetings! I am Mackenzie Dierks, the new IPIC Science with Practice student for the fall 2010. I am looking forward to this semester of working with Sherry Hoyer and learning more about the Iowa pork industry. I currently study at Iowa State University, with a senior in Agricultural Studies and International Agriculture as well as working towards a minor in German. I am from Clive, a suburb of Des Moines. My family also has a century farm in northeast Iowa that I spent most of my weekends on when I was growing up. I am a member of the International Agriculture Club (IAAS-ISU) at the University and also volunteer on the school radio station.

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