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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
ISU Animal Industry Report available
The 2011 ISU Animal Industry Report is now available online. This annual report features a variety of animal industry-related research done at ISU, and this year's edition has more than 90 articles organized under nine categories. The entire report, including a table of contents, is available on the AIR portion of the ISU animal science department website here www.ans.iastate.edu/report/air. Animal science department chair Maynard Hogberg says the 2011 AIR is dedicated to past editor Daryl Strohbehn. “Stro” retired in 2010 after 36 years as an ISU Extension beef cattle specialist. He was a leader and a doer in the beef cattle industry in Iowa and the U.S. and it’s fitting that he’s honored with the dedicated in recognition of his accomplishments. “The research covers topics such as improving production efficiencies, environmental quality, animal product quality and food safety,” Hogberg says. “These all are important aspects of keeping animal agriculture strong and viable, and contributing to Iowa’s economy and quality of life. As in past years, the report includes articles from researchers on campus and out in the state, on research that relates to the beef, dairy, poultry, sheep and swine industries in Iowa, also with sections on animal products, companion animals and the environment. A variety of professionals conducted the research for this report, including ISU faculty, staff and graduate students; visiting scholars; ISU Extension field staff; and collaborators from other universities and professors.

NEWS
2011 Quick Facts on pork industry
This book of pork industry information is available through the National Pork Board’s website. “Quick Facts: The Pork Industry at a Glance” is newly updated and includes answers to questions like these: What is the No. 1 pork item on restaurant menus? What is the U.S. pork industry's carbon footprint? This URL http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/5bb6aa6d#/5bb6aa6d/1 takes you to the first page of the document, where you can read or skim online, print, share it with others, view the table of contents or download it as a pdf.

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2011 Iowa Pork Regional Conferences
Plan now to attend one of the four locations of this year’s conference series. This year’s dates of March 8-11 follow the same schedule and will be at the same respective locations as in 2010, with all sessions
running from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Attendees will learn about pig health and growth numbers, and get updates
on ventilation management and disease research projects. Speakers are IPIC associate director and
ISU Extension swine veterinarian James McKean speaking on “PRRS Control Strategies and Regional
Projects” and “Pig Production after the Removal of Growth Promotion Drugs;” Ron Ketchum of Swine
Management Services presenting, “Benchmarking Sows and the Post-Weaned Pig;” and local ISU
Extension swine program specialists who’ll present timely information on ventilation management and
the scheduling of a ventilation trailer for on-site training workshops. To preregister for free attendance,
call Iowa Pork Producers Association at 800-372-7675 no later than two business days prior to the date
of the location you want to attend. Dates and locations are:

- Tuesday, March 8, Sheldon, Northwest Iowa Community College
- Wednesday, March 9, Carroll, Carroll County Extension Office
- Thursday, March 10, Nashua, Borlaug Learning Center
- Friday, March 11, Ainsworth, Marr Park

PRODUCTION TIP
Benchmarking sows and the post-weaned pig
Many factors impact the cost of a weaned pig. To assess that cost, Swine Management Services (SMS)
maintains a database which benchmarks and reveals trends in weaning age and weights, production
costs and performance in the industry. Data is collected from farms across the country for this database.
To learn more about the relevancy of weaned pig weights to performance and the importance of
collecting appropriate close-out details, attend the Iowa Pork Regional Conferences. Ron Ketchum of
SMS will talk on this specific topic.

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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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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March 8-11. Iowa Pork Regional Conferences. Preregister at least two days ahead of site you wish to
attend at no charge. Otherwise, it’s $5 at the door. See news item above for details.

DID YOU KNOW?
Better skills can mean better results in related areas
Recent research seems to indicate that developing and honing a variety of skills in the breeding,
gestation and farrowing areas of the sow herd can pay big dividends in other areas of the business.
According to this article in National Hog Farmer magazine, a comparison of sow herd numbers in
several areas, calculated by AI technicians, shows positive results of continuing and increasing attention
by the AI technicians. In addition to identifying and addressing skills and techniques of those in charge
of breeding, the results also illustrate the importance of reviewing procedures, trying new techniques
and keeping close track of the variables associated with the herd. Little differences can lead to big
impacts. You can read the article here
http://nationalhogfarmer.com/genetics-reproduction/swine-heat-detection-ai-skills-impact-farrowing-rate-
0110/?cid=mostpopular
FOR THE RECORD
SowBridge educational series begins 4th year
This successful distance education offering will begin its fourth year on March 2, and it's not too late to register. This program is intended for people involved in managing or caring for boars, sows, and/or their litters, including operation owners, employees, technicians, managers, and technical service providers. SowBridge is designed to improve the understanding and application of various tools, techniques and technologies involved in daily care of the breeding herd and piglets. Input and suggestions from past participants helps ensure that the program provides value. People from the U.S., Canada, Australia, Ireland and West Indies took part in the past year’s program, and they told organizers they appreciated having all employees participate in the sessions without requiring any travel or other expenses. With the live phone presentation and slideshow viewed on computer, participants do not need internet access and can take part from anywhere. The program year includes 12 monthly sessions, each about 45 minutes in length. The registration fee of $250 in U.S. dollars (with quantity discounts available) provides access to one phone line and all session materials for the year. Note: materials, delivery process, and program costs are slightly different for those with non-U.S. mailing addresses, so please contact Sherry Hoyer (shoyer@iastate.edu or 515-204-4496 for more information.)

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