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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Personnel updates
Congratulations to ISU animal science professor Mark Honeyman who’s been named interim director of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at ISU on a short-term basis effective today. He has coordinated the Research and Demonstration Farms for 26 years, led many center-funded projects and interdisciplinary teams, primarily related to alternative livestock production systems and pork niche markets, and recently was named associate director of ISU’s BioCentury Research Farm. In 2008 he led creation of the ISU Compost Facility, and has worked with us at IPIC on several projects, including the two “Feeding Bioenergy Coproducts to Swine” factsheets (IPIC11a and IPIC11b available on our website http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/publications.html)

Also, Matt Swantek begins as swine program specialist for west central Iowa next week. He will be located in Carroll County and has his first official ISU Extension meeting later this month when we all meet for ISU Ag and Natural Resources Extension professional development and IPIC professional development.

NEWS
Value-added opportunities for pork producers worldwide
At this year’s Banff Pork Seminar, attendees heard from Andrzej Sosnicki (of PIC North America) that the virtual sky is the limit when it comes to value-added opportunities for pork producers. Consumer preference, desire and demand will shape the marketplace and, correspondingly, the actions and reactions of pork producers around the world. Specifically in North America, Sosnicki said the key food trends driving changes in production and processing include personal awareness of age, health and wellness, portion control and the widely used terms of natural, organic and healthy. You can read more about his thoughts on the Meristem website here http://www.meristem.com/meeting/bps_2011-inside_bps.htm#12

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New pork information on eXtension website
There’s another online source of pork industry-related information now available. Called the “Hogs, Pigs and Pork” site, there’s a variety of topics and subject areas, accompanied by links to extension and
other online resources from around the country. The site is organized by domain editors of the Pork Information Gateway and the U.S. Pork Center of Excellence. A release from Iowa State's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has more information here [http://www.ag.iastate.edu/news/releases/920/](http://www.ag.iastate.edu/news/releases/920/) and you can find the new eXtension site here [http://www.extension.org/swine](http://www.extension.org/swine)

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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:

- Tomorrow, 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
Antimicrobials – what’s next?
Farmers strive to provide the best care for their pigs and place value on the pork products they provide to the world’s consumers, and proper administration and management of livestock medications is a vital component of this care. However, with increasing public interest in the use of growth promoting antimicrobials in feed, producers are considering possible changes. At this week’s Iowa Pork Regional Conferences, IPIC’s Dr. James McKean will offer potential strategies for reducing the impacts of losing growth promotants in pig production if policy warrants.

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](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](http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAPlus.html) for date, location and contact information.

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March 8-11. Iowa Pork Regional Conferences. To attend at no charge, preregister at least two days ahead of site you wish to attend by calling Iowa Pork Producers Association at 800-372-7675. Otherwise, it’s $5 at the door. More info above.

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March 22-24. ISU Extension and IPIC professional development sessions. ISU campus, Ames.

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March 29. PQAPlus® Advisor recertification session. Attendance limited to first 30 who register and pay $50 fee. Session is in Kildee Hall. Download the application form here [http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAPRecert032911.docx](http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAPRecert032911.docx) Call IPIC for more information 515-294-4103.

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DID YOU KNOW?
Small actions can mean better numbers
Keeping pigs healthy helps your operation’s bottom line. Seems like common sense, doesn’t it? Sometimes all we need is a reminder to help our operations stay at the appropriate numbers. In an article on the National Hog Farmer website, Jeff Kurt and Paul Ruen from the Fairmont Veterinary Clinic share tips for your breeding and weaning operation: Keep accurate records to know when you’re hitting your breeding targets, increase weaning age to lower numbers of lightweight pigs, ensure clean environments for newly weaned pigs, provide easy access to water and vaccinate animals before weaning. You can read the rest of the article here http://nationalhogfarmer.com/health-diseases/how-to-help-pigs-thrive-0215/

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FOR THE RECORD
USDA online atlas offers non-metro mapping
USDA has introduced an online mapping tool that captures a broad range of demographic, economic and agricultural data on rural areas across the country. The Atlas of Rural and Small-town America provides a visual interpretation of county-level, economic and social conditions in these four areas: people, jobs, agriculture, and county classifications. Overall, it includes mapping of more than 60 statistical indicators, and you can view the entire country or zoom into specific regions, states, or county areas. The entire atlas is available to the public. To learn more and try out the atlas yourself, go to the main page on the USDA’s Economic Research Service website here http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/ruralatlas/

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