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More honors for ISU folks

IPIC director John Mabry was honored at the National Pork Industry Forum earlier this month with the Pork Checkoff's Distinguished Service Award. This annual award recognizes the lifelong contribution to the pork industry of an outstanding leader. Read more on the NPB website here http://www.pork.org/News/1160/PorkCheckoffHonoredJohnMabrywithDistinguishedServiceAward.aspx

Alex Ramirez, assistant professor in VDPAM, received the American Association of Swine Veterinarians Foundation Hogg Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded annually to an AASV member who has been accepted into a qualified graduate program to further his or her education after years as a swine practitioner. Alex brings a unique perspective to discussions on human and animal health because of his education and experience in veterinary medicine and public health areas. He received undergraduate and DVM degrees at Iowa State, and obtained a Master's of Public Health at University of Iowa. He plans to complete his Ph.D. at ISU this year. An AASV news release has more info here http://www.aasv.org/news/story.php?id=4747

ISU professor of animal science Tom Baas received the honorary Master Pork Producer award, presented annually by the Iowa Pork Producers Association. According to IPPA, this award recognizes individuals who have worked tirelessly in their professions to make positive impacts on Iowa’s pork producers, and who’ve exhibited outstanding and distinguished service to the betterment and success of Iowa’s pork industry. Read more in the IPPA news release here (go to page 31) http://www.iowapork.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=36DfZ6qKETM%3d&tabid=702

NEWS
ISU faculty member reappointed to USDA Task Force
Hongwei Xin, professor of agricultural and biosystems engineering and director of ISU’s Egg Industry Center, has been reappointed to a two-year term on USDA’s Agricultural Air Quality Task Force. The task force was created by Congress in the 1990s to assist the USDA on issues related to agriculture’s impact on air quality and the environment. Members are nationwide leaders in farming, industry, health and science. Xin’s ISU research and extension programs have focused extensively on air quality in animal feed operations with emphasis on the measurement and mitigation of air emissions. You can read more in this news release on the ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences website
Pork exports start 2011 in positive way
The U.S. Meat Export Federation says January exports of pork (and beef) are well above those of a year ago, even though numbers are down from December. In Japan alone, pork purchases were nearly 30 percent higher in volume and almost 25 percent higher in value compared to January 2010. Asian, Central American and Australian/New Zealand markets did especially well. Undoubtedly, the recent New Zealand and Japan earthquakes will impact current and future exports, but the actual effect isn’t yet clear. You can read more about the January exports on the USMEF website here http://sn.im/nnporkexports0111

PRODUCTION TIP
TQA program good for animals and the industry
Thousands of pigs are transported across this country every day from farm to farm and from farm to harvest. The careful handling of pigs affects the health and well-being of pigs as well as the carcass quality at harvest time. Practicing low stress handling by designing and preparing facilities and transport vehicles and training caretakers is critical to the safety and efficacy of moving pigs. The Transport Quality Assurance (TQA) Program is an educational training tool that ISU swine specialists offer to the industry. Learn more about the program on the National Pork Board website here http://www.pork.org/Certification/10/tqa.aspx. Also, check the IPIC website http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAPlus.html for TQA (and PQAPlus®) producer certification sessions.

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/PQAPlus.html for date, location and contact information.

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

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) Call IPIC for more information 515-294-4103.

DID YOU KNOW?
Iowa pork operation honored for environmental efforts
Ranch Creek Farm, owned and operated by Peter and Aaron Juergens from Dedham, is one of just four operations recognized as Environmental Steward Award winners during the recent National Pork Industry Forum. According to a news release from National Pork Board, it’s important to recognize the positive environmental impact pork producers can have. Pork producers are natural protectors of the environment because they realize that taking good care of the environmental and natural resources is not only the right thing to do, but it’s also smart business. Part of the recognition includes an educational video about the operations. You can read the NPB news release here http://www.pork.org/News/1156/NationalPorkBoardHonors2010PorkIndustryEnvironmentalStewardAwardWinners.aspx and you can watch the video about the Juergens’ operation here http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=1486152507889
FOR THE RECORD
IPIC website maintains worldwide appeal
February is a short month, but it was long on interest for the IPIC website. According to one program which tracks visits, the number of visits from the Russian Federation alone was up nearly 25 percent from January to February. To be exact, visits rose from 570 (of January’s 10,323) to 707 (of February’s 9573.) Even more interesting: the stats for February are short three days’ worth because of a tracking software change.

NEWS NOW from the Iowa Pork Industry Center www.ipic.iastate.edu
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