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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Maintain strong biosecurity protocols
It’s easy to ease off biosecurity regimens if one isn’t careful. Assuming that “just this once” makes it okay can lead to a world of problems, literally. You set up, directed and led the adoption of these protocols for a reason, and there’s no reason to back off now. In fact, IPIC associate director Jim McKean says biosecurity is more important than ever. Foot-and-Mouth Disease, African Swine Fever and Classical Swine Fever (hog cholera) have made their presence known in a variety of countries, including Mexico, and it takes only one lapse to open the door to the U.S. You can read more in this IPIC news release http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2010/may/152701.htm And remember to take the necessary precautions before and after traveling to locations where people from other swine operations gather, whether that be the World Pork Expo or your neighbor’s property. We’re all in this together, and each of us can -- and should -- help thwart the movement of disease.

NEWS
Taste those tenderloins now
Time is running out to nominate your favorite breaded pork tenderloin and the restaurant where it’s made. The Iowa Pork Producers Association’s annual contest closes June 11. The person who nominates the winning restaurant will win $100. The winning restaurant will receive $200, a plaque to display in the establishment and statewide publicity. You can read more about the contest (this is the 8th year) and how to nominate your favorite T-loin in this release on the IPPA website http://sn.im/ippatenderloincontest Or go straight to the nomination form here http://www.iowapork.org/Portals/iowapork/2010%20Best%20BPT_ad.pdf Remember, one entry per household.

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Practical helps for dealing with seasonal heat
In the latest edition of "Hog Handling Update: Tips for Better Pig Handling" Elanco’s Matt Ritter offers timely tips for treating livestock well in the coming months. This special report (Practical tips for beating the heat) has been updated for 2010, including the National Pork Board’s Livestock Weather Safety Index chart, reminders and cautions for proper communications with those who will load and unload the pigs, and recommended procedures. While nothing is really new, the reminders can help you reinforce good practices in your operation. Want to learn more? You can sign up for this free newsletter on the Elanco website here http://www.elanco.us/hoghandling/index.do
PRODUCTION TIP
PQA Plus®, TQA® certification sessions at World Pork Expo
Pork Quality Assurance Plus® and Transport Quality Assurance are voluntary programs that not only provide a wealth of information, but help provide access to those packer-processors who already or will require the certification from their producers. Iowa Pork Producers is partnering with IPIC to provide one session of each at next week's World Pork Expo. The first 50 who register for each session will be able to attend, AND will be able to attend WPX at no charge. ISU Extension swine program specialists will do the trainings: Mark Storlie: PQA Plus® from 10 a.m. to noon, and Terry Steinhart: TQA from 1 to 4 p.m. You must preregister for this training by calling Tyler Bettin at IPPA (515) 225-7675 or (800) 372-7675 or by e-mailing him at tbettin@iowapork.org.

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/FSQA10.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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June 3-4. PQAPlus® advisor recertification sessions. These are for people who initially became PQAPlus® certified advisors in 2007, and need to recertify. See locations and times on the IPIC website here http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/events.html#june10

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June 23-25. Advanced Reproductive Management Seminars. Learn from the experts at any of three sessions, designed for those who own, manage or work with breeding herd operations. Sponsored by ISU Extension, IPIC, Iowa Pork Producers Association, University of Nebraska Extension and Nebraska Pork Producers Association. Cost is $35 per person for the program which runs from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Contact Dave Stender for June 23 (Norfolk, Neb.) or June 24 (LeMars) at dstender@iastate.edu OR contact Mark Storlie for June 25 (Waverly) at mstorlie@iastate.edu

DID YOU KNOW?
White House blog
The White House has a blog with different people writing on an occasional basis. Ag Sec Tom Vilsack wrote the May 26 entry. If you want to bookmark or save as a favorite, here’s the URL http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog The main page also has links to other administrative blogs in a list on the right side, including: Council on Environmental Quality, Office of Science and Technology, and U.S. Trade Representative.

FOR THE RECORD
2010 ISU Research and Demonstration Farms Field Days
The 2010 schedule for ISU Research and Demonstration Farms field days is available. These popular events give the public the opportunity to see research projects in progress, talk with the researchers involved in the experiments and view the latest in modern agriculture. This year’s schedule, which begins in just a couple of weeks, includes the 75th anniversary celebration at the Muscatine Island Research and Demonstration Farm. You can read more about the schedule in this release on the ISU CALS website http://www.ag.iastate.edu/news/releases/863/