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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Changes at IPIC and ISUE
Effective Aug. 1, the ISU Extension swine field specialist numbers are down two: Larry McMullen from east central Iowa retired Jan. 31 and Jerry Weiss from northwest Iowa retired July 31. Both brought a wealth of experience and knowledge to IPIC and the Extension organization, and we hated to see them go. But when the fishing trips and horseback riding are calling, we couldn’t stand in their way. Our congratulations and best wishes to both! Although the eventual plan is to hire one new swine field specialist, in the meantime the five folks left (three full-time and two half-time positions) will be available to answer all your questions and help you just as before. Although not yet updated to reflect Jerry’s recent retirement, this map shows the areas for each of the other field specialists. Feel free to ask any of them for assistance. And, effective July 1, my job also changed in a couple of ways. First, I’m now full-time, and second, my communication position has expanded to include the Iowa Beef Center at ISU. As with any change in responsibilities, it will take me a while to get acclimated and feeling comfortable with taking on new challenges. But, I’m looking forward to working with the ISU Extension beef field specialists and others in Iowa’s beef industry, in the best agriculture state and at the best land grant university in the nation.

NEWS
Slide on in to the Iowa Pork Tent
There’s a new food item at the Iowa Pork Tent for the 2010 Iowa State Fair (it starts Thursday) that you won’t want to miss. The “Ground Pork Slider” features two ounces of grilled fresh ground pork on a cocktail bun, and can be ordered as part of a dinner or individually. Iowa Pork Producers Association (IPPA) says this new item, the first since Pork Chop on a Stick® debuted in 1999, will be competitively priced, and could be one of the least expensive food items at the fair. IPPA’s goal is to sell 1,000 of the sliders this year. Hmm. New item, low price, great product? I say 1,000 won’t be nearly enough to feed the appetites of fairgoers this year.

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Manure helps create fish food
This is one of those strange but true news pieces. A biotechnologist from South Australia has discovered a way to turn pig manure into components that can help feed water fleas. So what, you ask? Well, water fleas can become fish food. Andrew Ward’s research was funded by the Environmental Biotechnology Cooperative Research Centre. The manure is initially fed into an airtight, two-stage
A digester that breaks down the chemical compounds, kills potentially dangerous bacteria and producing methane bio-gas and other nutrients to stimulate microalgae growth. Studies showed manure to be a safe nutrient source for large scale production of algae. You can read more in this article and see some photos from the research project on the Fresh Science website. [http://freshscience.org.au/?p=1829](http://freshscience.org.au/?p=1829)

PRODUCTION TIP

Doing Things Right conference

Do you know the laws, rules and regulations that apply to your farm? Do you know where to turn for assistance in keeping up with respective changes to those obligations on the state and national levels? The Coalition to Support Iowa’s Farmers (CSIF) invites you to learn more at a special “Doing Things Right: Farming for the Future” Conference set for Aug. 24 in Fort Dodge. The daylong event is free, but you’ll want to preregister to assure your spot because space is limited. The program starts at 9 a.m. at the Best Western Starlite Village. After lunch attendees will go by bus to the AJ and Kellie Blair farm near Dayton for the remainder of the program. Buses will return people to the Starlite. Learn more on the CSIF website here [www.supportfarmers.com](http://www.supportfarmers.com) See the event schedule with registration information here [http://www.supportiowasfarmers.org/images/winfo.pdf](http://www.supportiowasfarmers.org/images/winfo.pdf)

IT’S A DATE

Continuing, PQAPlus® 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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Aug. 16. Pre-proposal deadline for Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture’s summer 2010 RFP. See the RFP on the Center's site [http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/research/rfp/2010RFP.pdf](http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/research/rfp/2010RFP.pdf) for more information. Submissions are due by 5 p.m.

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Sept. 2. PQAPlus® advisor recertification session. 8:30 a.m. to noon, Ensminger Room, Kildee Hall, ISU campus, Ames. For people who became certified during initial training in 2007. Cost is $50 for first 30 people. Application form is here [http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAPRecertReg.doc](http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAPRecertReg.doc)

DID YOU KNOW?

Amino acids in weanling pig diets

The August 2010 issue of Soybean Meal INFOsource e-newsletter includes a brief description of a recent study on the standardized ileal digestibility (SID) of amino acid (AA) in five ingredients used in weanling pig diets. Hans Stein and Grant Petersen of the University of Illinois did the study, which used 12 weanling barrows fed six different diets. Five diets featured one source of protein (corn, soybean meal, corn gluten meal, high protein distillers dried grains, and field peas) and one was N-free. The researchers concluded that the SID value of all AA in corn gluten meal and soybean meal are similar; however, the SID values for AA in high protein distillers dried grains were less than corn and soybean meal. You can read more in the e-newsletter here [http://www.soymeal.org/infosource/august10/page2.html](http://www.soymeal.org/infosource/august10/page2.html)

FOR THE RECORD

New Iowa Ag Statistics webpage

If you’re looking for some Iowa-specific agriculture-related information, or you’re interested in learning more about our state’s ag resources, characteristics and commodities, here’s the URL you need [http://www.ers.usda.gov/StateFacts/IA.htm](http://www.ers.usda.gov/StateFacts/IA.htm) Provided by USDA’s Economic Research Service (ERS) this page provides information ranging from population, income, education and employment to farm
characteristics, financial indicators and top commodities. In addition to the webpage itself, all the same information is available in an Excel-based spreadsheet from a link on that page. The data is current, with the most recent update (as of today) on July 30.

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