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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
NPB scholarships for college upperclassmen
We know classes are just beginning for fall semester 2010, but the National Pork Board already is requesting applications from current college juniors and seniors who want to work in pork production management or similar fields, or who plan to attend graduate school and major in a swine-related discipline. NPB animal science director Mark Knauer (he received a B.S. in agricultural education and studies and M.S. in animal breeding and genetics here at ISU) says encouraging young people to pursue careers in the swine industry helps ensure a continuing source of knowledgeable experts. Scholarships range from $2,000 to $5,000, with preference to applicants who are members of families associated with pork production and/or marketing, those who have been active in industry youth leadership programs with swine emphasis, and those who have swine-specific internship experience. Application deadline is Oct. 1 with notice to successful applicants in December. Scholarship information is here http://www.pork.org/filelibrary/Scholarships/2010NPBNationalScienceScholarshipGuidelines.pdf and the online application form is here http://www.pork.org/Resources/1035/ScholarshipEntryForm.aspx

NEWS
Proposed PRRS control project in Iowa
The ISU College of Veterinary Medicine and IPPA are working together on a PRRS (Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome) control project in Iowa County in Iowa. The county’s location, history of locally active producers, and mixture of feed-to-finish and farrow-to-finish operations made it an opportune area to begin this project. An initial interest meeting was held for producers earlier this month, and many of those agreed to continue with the project development. All sites with commercial pigs in the specified area (north and west of Highway 151 to Highway 6, and along Highway 149 as it bisects Iowa County) are to be included, and five vets from local practices will assist producers with the project. IPIC associate director and ISU Extension swine veterinarian James McKean says the project has four primary objectives:

- To demonstrate and develop steps needed to implement a regional PRRS control program
- Study the impact of PRRS virus movement within a prescribed area over time
- Study the impact of pig movement on the PRRS virus into and within the study area
- Reduce the prevalence of the PRRS virus within the selected area

IPPA is partially funding the project and ISU will offer a biosecurity risk assessment tool to participating producers to help them better understand risks with PRRS virus movement. For more information, contact IPPA at 800-372-7675 or McKean at 515-294-8792.
New online undergraduate program in swine science
Swine Science Online is the first ever online undergraduate program in swine science, now available through Iowa State and five other universities (Colorado State University, North Carolina State University, South Dakota State University, the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and the University of Missouri.) Six courses will be taught this fall ranging from basic swine science to swine business and records analysis. Following completion of required and elective courses, SSO students may apply for a certificate from U.S. Pork Center of Excellence, the entity offering the program. See more about SSO on the USPCE website here http://cl.lk/nn082310swinesci

PRODUCTION TIP
Environmental regulations and assistance program
Iowa Pork Producers Association, ISU Extension and Phibro Animal Health are offering a program designed to help producers learn the latest on regulations, rule-making, policy and nuisance cases that can affect their operations. The agenda for this program (free for those preregistered for in-person attendance by Sept. 3) also includes an update on ISU research, programs and information on environmental strategies. Speakers are IPPA legal counsel Eldon McAfee and ISU ag and biosystems engineering professor Jay Harmon. The program runs from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at 260 Scheman at the Iowa State Center in Ames. Cost is $10 per person when registering at the door. People also can view the program live through a web connection. To view online: go to http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/iowapork/ and enter as a Guest by typing your first and last name in the box and clicking “Enter Room.” Please test your computer equipment prior to the meeting by going to the same URL and clicking on “help.” If you can’t get to the online meeting room, call Robin or Floyd at (515) 294-8658 for technical assistance.

IT’S A DATE
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.

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

Sept. 7. Environmental Regulations and Program Assistance Update. 1 to 4:30 p.m., 260 Scheman Building, Iowa State Center, ISU campus, Ames. Free for those preregistered by Sept. 3, $10 at the door. Preregister by calling IPPA at 800-372-7675. Also available for online viewing; see “production tip” above for details.

DID YOU KNOW?
Belgian supermarket suppliers to use chemical castration
One year after EU officials approved the castration vaccine Improvac, suppliers to Belgium’s largest supermarket chain agreed to use vaccination as standard procedure with male pigs they raise. Following the original approval, tests on a variety of alternatives were conducted on more than 2,500 animals and results showed the chemical method was effective at reducing boar taint. Because boars need less feed to grow efficiently, feed costs and feed waste will be lower meaning potentially lower feed costs and more environmentally friendly production. Read more on the Pig Progress website here http://cl.lk/nn082310chemcast

FOR THE RECORD
Software web page attracts attention
In the past month alone, IPIC’s software web page has garnered more than 140 views. That’s roughly 10 percent of the total “unique page views” on the site. (Note: unique page view means at least one page was viewed in individually identified visits to the website by a computer/ISP address.) IPIC’s software page includes free downloads of calculators, spreadsheets and informative sheets, along with links to registration forms for a variety of free software offerings and a link to the page with software available for a fee. Programs are added here as they’re ready for public use. Be sure to take a look to see what might be helpful in your operation: http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/software.html

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