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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE (written by new Science With Practice student Kara Christensen)
New Adventures Found in the Iowa Pork Industry Center, Spring 2012
With a new semester comes a new found opportunity for the students at here at Iowa State University. I, Kara Christensen, have the honor to begin my semester as the Science With Practice student working with Sherry Hoyer here in the Iowa Pork Industry Center. I hail from a small farm outside Adel, Iowa, where we maintain a small herd of beef cattle and a steady custom baling operation. I am still in my first year here at Iowa State pursuing a degree in Animal Science with minors in Meat Science and Food Science. I am excited to be able to work and learn here at IPIC this semester, and have the opportunity to learn about the vast pork industry from a business perspective.

NEWS
Inaugural Practice with Science Award in UK
The first-ever Practice with Science Award given by Oxford Farming Conference (OFC)/Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE) at the conference’s 2012 event went to PiGIS, a pig grading information system established in Northern Ireland. The system was created by the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) and CAFRE College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise. It’s designed to help pig producers and processors improve returns with real-time statistical analysis. The online tool allows farmers to see a history of the pigs they send to slaughter and position themselves in comparison with other producers, helping them make informed decisions. Read this release from OFC. http://www.ofc.org.uk/news/pig-grading-system-wins-ofcrase-practice-science-award The research team presented a paper on the system at the conference earlier this month.

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Need to recertify as a PQAPlus® Advisor?
We would like to set a date this spring to offer the recertification training, but we need enough people to make it worthwhile. This half-day session is only for those who have already successfully completed the initial advisor training and that three-year period is up this year. If your certification is set to expire this year and you want to recertify, please contact us and provide your preferred dates -- week or month ranges are fine. You can email ipic@iastate.edu or call 515-294-4103. (If you’re in Iowa, you can call our PORKLine at 800-808-7675. As soon as we have a sufficient number of people available, we’ll set date, time and location.

PRODUCTION TIP
Monitor building during winter weather
It's cold outside and that cold air is trying to come in. In that past, frozen waterlines were a common and guaranteed component of the workday. However, even today with climate controlled barns, it is possible for cold drafts to enter the barn (i.e., above or through the curtain) and freeze a waterline. Monitor points of air inlet and condensation to ensure that waterlines avoid freezing bursting. A larger winter issue is possible during times when the barn is empty for cleaning and restocking. While the stored manure and heater may keep the barn appearing warm, be sure to monitor it.

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.

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Continuing. FSQA training and testing sessions for Iowa 4-H’ers. See the IPIC web site here http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/FSQA12.html for date, location and contact information

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January – February 2012. Iowa Confinement Site Manure Applicator Workshops. See interactive map and list of dates and locations here http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/certification/confdates.html

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Feb. 1. Spring Ag Career Day at ISU. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union on the ISU campus. Now in its fifth year, the spring ag career day will offer students and the public opportunity to meet with about 100 potential employers.

DID YOU KNOW?
Free email subscription for USDA ag statistics reports
In conjunction with the Cornell University ag library, USDA offers free subscriptions for more than 100 reports from various statistical agencies. Most of these reports contain statistics for individual states, as well as regional and U.S. totals. You can sign up for whichever reports you’d like, and the reports arrive in your in box within minutes of the release time. Also, auction reports from across the nation are available in the same manner. To view the reports available and subscribe to your choice, visit this page on the USDA website http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/subscriptions

FOR THE RECORD
NPB offers scholarships to current college students
All juniors and seniors in college who plan to pursue a career in swine production management or a related field, or will be seeking to attend graduate school and major in a discipline with an emphasis on swine, are invited to submit an application for one of 19 available scholarships sponsored by the Pork Checkoff, PIC and Pioneer. You can check out all the information, including links to a printable application form and an online application section, on the National Pork Board website http://www.pork.org/Research/1307/PorkIndustryScholarships.aspx including links to application form and to online application page. Specific guidelines are found here http://www.pork.org/filelibrary/Scholarships/2012NPBAnimalScienceScholarshipGuidelines.pdf Don’t delay -- deadline is Feb. 15.

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