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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Dr. Rothschild goes to Washington
Max Rothschild is one of 13 people selected for the 2011-12 year of the Jefferson Science Fellowship with the U.S. Department of State. Those named to this prestigious list are to advise and educate by using professional experience to increase understanding among policy officials on scientific issues. They also advise policymakers on possible options to solutions for international scientific issues. Rothschild has been at ISU for nearly 31 years and is the first ISU faculty member to be named a Jefferson Science Fellow. Read more in this CALS news release http://www.news.iastate.edu/news/2011/apr/rothschild

Congratulations to Max!

NEWS
View Animal Feeding Forum presentations online
Didn’t get to the April 6 “WATT Online Animal Forum: Feeding the Globe”? Don’t worry. Five presentations from the forum are available for online viewing through July 6 at no charge. Simply sign up or sign in from this website http://www.wattevents.com/AnimalFeedForum11/Home.aspx Then choose from these options: Innovations from R&D in animal agriculture by Dr. Leo den Hartog, Nutreco, Netherlands; What animal breeding can contribute by Dr. Pieter Knap, Genus/PIC International, Germany; Directions to better feed utilization by Stefaan Van Dyck, Kemin AgriFoods, Worldwide; World feed ingredients outlook - impacts of China, Energy (Ethanol) and Speculation by Tim Brusnahan, Richard A. Brock & Associates, Inc., USA; and The Role of Eggs in Meeting World Food Needs by Dr. Simon Shane, industry consultant.

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Higher production costs and lower profits
Production costs continue to rise as concerns mount regarding eventual profit levels – or lack thereof. Increases in feed and feed ingredient prices are more obvious, but some less easy to see still pack a mighty punch to the bottom line. For example, legislation that impacts food safety, animal well-being or the environment can help reduce potential income. Transportation costs also affect prices received and expenses incurred. An article in the March-April issue of Pig International takes a look at the economics involved in pork production throughout the world. Read “high pig production costs bring profits warning” at this URL http://www.piginternational-digital.com/piginternational/20110304_1?pg=1&search_term=higher%20pig&search_term=higher%20pig#pg12

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PRODUCTION TIP
BCS – more than a football acronym
Body Condition Scoring (BCS) is a method through which farms can assess the overall health and well-being of animals. In swine, a common BCS system involves assigning a condition based on 5 point scale. Body condition score is a factor of muscle and, more importantly, fat content of the pig. The ideal body condition is a 3. A BCS of
1 is too thin, while a BCS of 5 is too fat. Animals too thin or too fat can have compromised health and production losses. Diagrams available for training to assess BCS can be found at: http://nationalhogfarmer.com/mag/farming_sow_condition_scoring/index.html Note that the information on this page is correct and current even though it was first written five years ago.

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.

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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 8-10. World Pork Expo. Des Moines, IA. See more here http://www.worldpork.org/

DID YOU KNOW?
Pork Chop Open is July 19
The annual Lauren Christian Pork Chop Open is set for July 19 at Veenker Memorial Golf Course in Ames. We’re finalizing our contact lists and news release, but whether you’re a veteran of the tournament or considering it for the first time, put it on your calendar now! The tournament is the primary fundraiser for the Lauren Christian Endowment at Iowa State, helping provide scholarship and fellowship funds for deserving undergrad and graduate animal science students. Cost remains the same as the past few years: $85 per person or $340 per four-person team, and includes lunch, refreshments and the evening picnic meal. Sponsorships and donations are available, including golf hole, prizes and auction items. Need more information? Let us know. ipic@iastate.edu

FOR THE RECORD
More “fallout” from earthquake and tsunami
The economic issues relating to the “no-entry” zone near Japan’s Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant have now extended to livestock. The no-entry zone is a 20-kilometer radius around the plant, and farmers are unable to get to their livestock to feed the animals. So the national government has decreed that all livestock and poultry remaining in that area will be culled. Prior to the catastrophic events of March 11, there were about 31,500 hogs, 3,400 cows and 630,000 chickens in that area. You can read more on the Mainichi Daily News website here http://mdn.mainichi.jp/mdnnews/news/20110513p2g00m0dm006000c.html

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