THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
- Many congratulations for ISU folks

NEWS
- Positive B. suis test in North Carolina feral swine
- Enviropigs – end of the line

PRODUCTION TIP
- Providing fresh water is imperative

IT’S A DATE
- PQA Plus® and TQA® producer certification sessions
- FSQA training and testing
- PQA Advisor trainings
- Think Tank on Animal Agriculture
- Iowa Swine Day
- IPIC advisory board

DID YOU KNOW?
- New blog on food safety, public policy

FOR THE RECORD
- 2011 Pork Powerhouse list

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Many congratulations for ISU folks
We’re big on recognizing our peers, colleagues and students at ISU as you may have noticed in past issues of NEWS NOW. This is no exception.

Congratulations, two times over, to Jay Harmon. He just received a three-year grant from the Leopold Center for the small farm farrowing alternative of an insulated circular tent (known as a yurt) to be located at the ISU Allee Farm near Newell (read more here http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/grants/xp2012-04) AND this summer he’ll begin a two-year term on the board of trustees of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers.

Animal science graduate student Cassie Jones was selected as the 2012 Agri-King Outstanding Animal Science Graduate Student. (She works with John Patience.)

Spring awards ceremony of Gamma Sigma Delta (the honorary society for agriculture) featured these animal science folks: Doug Kenealy – 2012 Distinguished Achievement in Agriculture Award, Bob Rust – 2012 International Mission Award, Phil Spike – 2012 Mission Award for Teaching and Jack Dekkers – 2012 Mission Award for Research. Curtis Youngs is the organization’s vice president.

NEWS
Positive B. suis test in North Carolina feral swine
North Carolina State University research has found positive Brucella suis tests in feral swine in that state. Even though the U.S. swine brucellosis control and eradication program eliminated that disease from commercial pig populations in the 1990s, this is the first positive test for feral pigs since testing began several years ago. Animals exposed to the brucellosis bacteria are considered infected and capable of transmitting bacteria to other animals and people. This finding underscores the importance of keeping the feral population under control and of recognizing the clinical signs of the disease in humans. NC State research professor of wildlife infectious diseases Suzanne Kennedy-Stoskopf said the symptoms in humans are not specific to brucellosis, so any contact with feral swine carcasses or meat should be reported to one’s physician. More info is in this article on the Pork Network website http://www.porknetwork.com/e-newsletters/pork-daily/Brucellosis-raises-red-flag-in-NC-feral-swine--147337305.html

Enviropigs – end of the line
After several years in the making and refining, the University of Guelph’s Enviropig program is ending. Beginning in the 1990s, the genetically modified herd was developed to efficiently digest dietary phosphorus, leading to
lower feed costs and lower phosphorus levels in manure. Progress was reported in this newsletter in October 2001 (Of mice and pigs), February 2003 (Enviropigs—good for humans, too?) and March 2010 (Enviropig™ considered officially “not toxic” in Canada.) And although the university is phasing out the herd, it is looking for a commercial market. You can read an article on the GuelphMercury website here http://www.guelphmercury.com/news/article/697778--enviropig-herd-coming-to-an-end-at-the-university-of-guelph And here is the official website of the herd http://www.uoguelph.ca/enviropig/

PRODUCTION TIP
Providing fresh water is imperative
If pigs do not have adequate clean, fresh water they will not eat. The simple presence of a waterer indicates nothing about the quantity or quality of that water. The flow rate (pressure) and placement of the waterer is important and varies depending on the stage of production. For young pigs, adjust the height of nipple waterers to the shoulder height of the smallest pigs and adjust water pressure to less than 20 psi. Provide one cup waterer per 20 pigs or one nipple waterer per 10 to 15 pigs. For the requirements of other stages, see p.90 in the PQA Plus Manual here (http://www.pork.org/filelibrary/PQAPlus/PQAPlusEdBook.pdf)

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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April 30. Think Tank on Animal Agriculture. IPPA executive director Rich Degner is the speaker.

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June 28, Iowa Swine Day. Scheman Building, ISU campus. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. $25 per person by June 15; $35 per person after that date. See more information and registration links here. Read a news release.

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June 29. IPIC advisory board meeting. Kildee Hall.

DID YOU KNOW?
New blog on food safety, public policy
ISU VDPAM associate professor Scott Hurd has started a blog that looks at food safety and animal science topics as they’re related to public policy. Hurd, who also works with the College of Veterinary Medicine’s Food Risk Modeling and Policy Lab, is former deputy undersecretary of food safety. He says his goal for the blog is to provide some science for inclusion in public policy discussions. You can see and subscribe to his blog here http://scotthurd.blogspot.com/

FOR THE RECORD
2011 Pork Powerhouse list
Five of the top 25 are based in Iowa. Although this list was released in the fall, the contents are still interesting when viewed in light of export trends and herd size. The list itself is a pdf file available here http://www.agriculture.com/uploads/assets/promo/external/siteimages/PorkPowerhouses2011b.pdf You can read
the article by Betsy Freese that accompanied the list release here http://www.agriculture.com/livestock/hogs/pk-powerhouses-midwest-sows-on-rise_283-ar19461

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