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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE

Welcome to fall 2011

Just as summer means the end of the state’s fair season is near (with Clay and Guthrie still to occur), it also means the beginning of the school year at Iowa State. While IPIC is not directly connected with formal education offerings, we are planning for upcoming educational and informational opportunities for producers and others associated with the swine industry. New student and staff employees are coming on board over the next few weeks, and we’ll all be learning from each other as we work to bring you what you want and need to know in the swine and pork production world. If you have ideas, questions, comments or suggestions for us, please share. Use comment/question links on our website (www.ipic.iastate.edu), post on our Twitter page (http://www.twitter.com/IowaPorkCenter  @IowaPorkCenter), send a direct email (ipic@iastate.edu) or use my contact information at the bottom of this newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you and working with you in the coming months.

NEWS

Improved humane handling at FSIS-inspected plants

A directive issued last week by USDA is aimed at improving the humane treatment and slaughter of livestock at all facilities inspected by FSIS (Food Safety and Inspection Service.) The document includes new instructions for the inspection personnel to ensure treatment minimizes animal excitement, pain, injury and discomfort. The wording includes a definition of egregious inhumane treatment: “any act or condition that results in severe harm to animals, which includes the excessive beating or prodding of disabled livestock, stunning animals and allowing them to regain consciousness, or any treatment causing unnecessary pain and suffering.”

Read more in this release on the USDA-FSIS website http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/NR_081511_01/index.asp

Danish develop new pig model for milk production

Scientists at Aarhus University in Denmark have developed a pig model that allows them to investigate with more accuracy the factors influencing milk yield. With larger litters, milk (and colostrums) production is not always adequate, so researchers are hoping to learn more about optimal feeding of sows during those times. This unique perspective on sow physiology is expected to provide knowledge currently unobtainable in other ways, leading to reduced piglet mortality. You can read the entire article on the Aarhus University website here http://agrsci.au.dk/en/nyheder/artikel/trailblazing-research-provides-new-knowledge-about-sow-milk-production/

PRODUCTION TIP
Less feed, lower costs, better efficiency
The largest cost input in raising pigs is feed. Any tactics that reduce the amount and cost of feed consumed per pound of pork produced can help decrease costs. Also, improved feed efficiency will result in less potential environmental impact due to less manure. Iowa State University is coordinating a $5 million study looking at ways to improve feed efficiency, with swine nutrition faculty member John Patience leading the project. One of the first major goals of the project is to create a book of swine feed efficiency research, which will be facilitated through an international conference in early Nov. Producers and others interested in the topic should stay tuned for information and educational opportunities that result from the conference and the grant activities.

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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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October. Pork Month!

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Nov. 8-9. The International Conference on Feed Efficiency in Swine. Hilton Hotel/Qwest Center. Omaha, Neb. Cosponsored by Iowa State University and Kansas State University. See more information, including registration and lodging details on the event website http://www.ans.iastate.edu/ICFES/

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DID YOU KNOW?
Farming for the Future conference
If you’re interested in ways to grow your livestock farms successfully and responsibly, plan now to attend the “Farming for the Future – A Plan for Your Family’s Farm” conference on Sept. 9. This one-day event is sponsored by the Coalition to Support Iowa’s Farmers (CSIF) and features several topics ranging from rules and regulations update to livestock, crop and feed outlook. In addition to individual speakers, two panels of farmers and industry-related experts will share their experiences and information. The conference will be held from 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. in the Scheman Building at the Iowa State Center in Ames. Register by Sept. 3 and attend at no charge. See the registration form linked from the CSIF website here (http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=pu4bm6fab&oeidk=a07e410uc4l0a2caa3f)

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FOR THE RECORD
ISU Farms progress reports available
The 2010 progress reports for the ISU Research and Demonstration Farms are now available on the ISU CALS website here http://www.ag.iastate.edu/farms/progress_report.php. Eleven years worth of reports for the 14 farms in the system are organized by year with individual links to each farm’s specific articles by year as they are available. Each article is in pdf format. The 2010 section contains links to more than 160 articles for 10 farms. This same page also has links to a variety of topics and information in the left column.

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