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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
It’s fall and you know what that means
Yes, classes have started and there’s more congestion in the hallways and on the campus sidewalks (see below.) It’s time for harvest and planning for next year. And, it’s time for football and tailgating. And that means the 2012 Iowa Pork Producers Association’s tailgating competition is here. New this year, the Iowa Pork Playoffs promotion invites participation by all Iowa State and Iowa fans through online submission of a favorite recipe and its inspiration, and a photo for posting on the IPPA website. Entries will be judged on the ability of each contestant to “communicate their passion” for their pork recipe, according to a news release from IPPA. A winner will be selected from all entries prior to each ISU and UI home football game throughout the season. Weekly winners for both the Cyclone Pork Playoffs and the Hawkeye Pork Playoffs will be announced during the respective pregame radio show and if you attend ISU games, look for that winner on the Jack Trice Stadium video board. What’s at stake? Pork certificates, grilling gift baskets, and more. See more info on the IPPA website here http://www.iowapork.org/AllAboutPork/2136/IowaPorkPlayoffs.aspx And if you need help in deciding which recipe to enter, bring samples to 109 Kildee. We’d be very happy to offer our opinions. The contest runs through Nov. 20.

NEWS
USDA survey of hog numbers
The USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service is surveying farmers for the quarterly Hogs and Pigs Report. While not all producers will be asked to take part, those who do receive the survey should complete it accurately and honestly, and submit it promptly to NASS. Submission can be done by mail, fax or online. Those who receive a survey and don’t return it will be contacted by NASS representatives to provide their answers in person or by phone. From a USDA news release, “As with all NASS surveys, the information collected in the September surveys is kept strictly confidential, as required by federal law. NASS will not publish any individual’s information. By law, individual information is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act and is not shared with anyone, including other government agencies.” You can read more in this release http://www.nass.usda.gov/Newsroom/2012/08_29_2012.asp
Ag Student Learning Center gets financial boost
A groundbreaking ceremony for the Jeff and Deb Hansen Agriculture Student Learning Center was held this past Saturday at the location of the center, south of campus where the animal science’s equine program currently is located. The ceremony recognized both the Hansens (who provided an initial $2 million gift earlier this year) and Farm Credit Services of America, who provided a $200,000 gift. Construction could begin later this fall and completion is planned for next year. See more about the facility in this CALS release http://www.ag.iastate.edu/news/releases/1041/

PRODUCTION TIP
Being green
As the original recyclers, pork producers will soon be applying manure to fields. Using manure as a fertilizer provides nutrients for future crops. Be sure to test manure before application, and always use proper safety precautions. For more information visit a great ISU resource, the Iowa Manure Management Action Group (IMMAG).

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.


DID YOU KNOW?
ISU student numbers on the rise
Look for some record attendance numbers at ISU this fall. Until the official count is released sometime this month, we can share estimates and they’re pretty powerful numbers. Undergraduate enrollment in the department of animal science is estimated between 1,040 and 1,050; undergrads in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) could top 4,000; and the ISU total will be more than 31,000 students. Stay tuned for the official announcement.

FOR THE RECORD
Three 2012 Pork Industry Scholars at ISU
Three of the 15 Pork Industry Scholarship winners for 2012 are attending Iowa State University this fall (that’s 20 percent!) and one of those three is a runner-up. Karl Kerns received a $3,500 award and the other two ISU students – Ryan Fahn of Portsmouth and Monica Newman of Menasha, Wisc. -- received $2,000. Congratulations to these three for their achievements in earning scholarships from the Pork Checkoff and PIC! We look forward to hearing great things about each in the future.

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