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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
ISU awards include IPIC and related folks
Faculty and staff from IPIC and associated departments were included in those honored during the 2012 Iowa State University awards celebration last month. Chief among them: IPIC’s John Mabry received the award for “Outstanding Achievement in Extension or Professional Practice.” From animal science, faculty members Curtis Youngs, Jack Dekkers, Hank Harris and Chris Tuggle were recognized; as were staff members Dave Baker with the Beginning Farmer Center and Mike Anderson with the state 4-H staff, and faculty member Pat Halbur of VDPAM. Our congratulations to all!

NEWS
Animal science teams continue to do well
The swine teaching farm added to the ISU award tally at last month’s National Barrow Show with Grand and Reserve Grand crossbred load awards, and Grand Overall Award. The farm’s Berkshire boar and gilt both won their respective breeding stock classes. And this past weekend, the livestock judging team brought home high team
overall honors from the Ak-Sar-Ben Stock Show and Rodeo, outdistancing the second pace Kansas State team by 65 points. Team members won all four divisions (reasons, cattle, hogs and sheep) and five members placed in the top ten overall.

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Video of winning Environmental Steward Iowa operation
In the last issue, we told you about Reed Family Farms of Ottumwa – one of four recipients of the 2012 Pork Industry Environmental Stewards award. Now, you can see a short video (about 6 min. running time) of their operation. Go to this URL on the National Hog Farmer website to see why the operation is deserving of the honor:

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Using parity for sow housing decisions
With many food service and grocery companies choosing to eventually stop buying pork from companies that use gestation stalls, what’s a producer to do? One problem with pen gestation is that aggression among “unfamiliar” animals often leads to fighting and potential injury. Limiting or lessening that aggression is desirable, and University of Minnesota researcher Yuzhi Li says sorting sows by parity may help in that area. You can read more in this UM news release

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LNA livestock judging opportunity
If you’ve always wanted to show livestock but were hesitant to try your luck in the ring, the ISU Block and Bridle club has just what you need. The club is hosting the “Faculty/Grad Student/Alumni Little North American Livestock Competition” on Saturday, Oct. 20. For a mere $10, you can choose one of these species to show (beef, sheep, swine, dairy or horse) and get a shirt to wear! If you’re still not sure you want to show, why not sign up a current faculty or staff member for $10? If they don’t want to show, they can pay $20 to Block and Bridle to remove their name from the list. This is a great way to make some money and have fun at the same time. Registration deadline is this Friday, Oct. 5, so don’t delay. Questions? Contact Lisa Nelson at ljnelson@iastate.edu

PRODUCTION TIP
Rodent control is vital
As fields are harvested and the weather turns cooler, rodents start looking for alternative housing. Keep biosecurity measures in place by cleaning up around buildings and bait stations stocked as these visitors begin looking for new winter residences indoors and away from winter weather extremes.
IT'S A DATE
Continuing. PQA Plus® and TQA® producer certification sessions. See the IPIC website 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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Oct. 27. Chuckwagon breakfast. Kildee Hall. Part of ISU Homecoming. See the Homecoming schedule here
http://www.isualum.org/index.cfm?nodeID=27296&audienceID=1

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DID YOU KNOW?
"Save our bacon"
This program, created by the National Pig Association (pork industry organization in the United Kingdom,) is designed to draw attention to what's termed an "unavoidable" world shortage of bacon and other pork products next year. One hope is that supermarkets will pay more for the products to help producers remain in the industry. The following part of the NPA website is devoted to the "Save our bacon" campaign and features news updates and correspondence from a variety of folks including members of the British Parliament. http://www.npa-uk.org.uk/Pages/NPA_news.html (For the domestic update, see “For the Record” immediately below.)

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FOR THE RECORD
We've got bacon, yes we do
Don't worry bacon lovers. According to the U.S. Meat Export Federation there will be no shortage of bacon in the United States for the coming year. How the drought will affect meat prices at the retail counter is still unclear at this point. USDA showed bacon prices at $4.61 per pound in August, up a quarter from July but actually down a dime from the year before. Read more in this release from the Des Moines Register.
NEWS NOW from the Iowa Pork Industry Center www.ipic.iastate.edu
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