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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy update
The Jan. 18 deadline for the extended public comment period for the Iowa Nutrition Reduction Strategy has passed, and you can now see all the submitted comments on the strategy website. http://www.nutrientstrategy.iastate.edu/ A good place to begin on this website is the approximately 5 minute welcome video (linked from the left column.) If you would rather view a shorter introduction to the entire effort, go to the “strategy documents and videos” link in that same column and watch the 3 minute video by John Lawrence in which he explains the requirement from EPA for all states on the Mississippi to develop such a strategy. Take some time to learn more about this effort: watch videos and presentations, read news releases and peruse the 2,000+ pages of comments. If you have questions, comments or suggestions, see the contacts page for the name, title, affiliation and phone numbers of point persons from each of the three entities responsible for the strategy.

NEWS
NPB offers Sow Housing Seminar Series
National Pork Board has worked with professionals from academics and industry to develop a series of eight online seminars that focus on key topics related to changes in sow housing. This series will be held for four consecutive weeks, on Tuesday and
Thursday of each week, beginning on Tuesday, March 26. All sessions run for 45 minutes, starting at 1 p.m. Central Time and are available at no charge. Ken Stalder and Jay Harmon from Iowa State join Don Levis, Rob Know, Harold Gonyou, Joel DeRouchey, Ron Bates and Steve McWiliams presenting topics ranging from forming sow groups to genetic considerations to economics of conversion. Learn more about the series, speakers, topics and registration on the NPB website http://www.pork.org/Resources/3703/SowHousingOptions.aspx

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Meet Steph Carlson
Howdy! My name is Steph Carlson and I am participating in the Science With Practice program this semester. As a student at Iowa State University (ISU), I have chosen to major in Animal Science and will graduate in May. My interest in animal science stemmed from growing up on a family farrow to finish hog farm near Stratford. Although I chose ISU for its great academics, I have found that I am gaining skills that go beyond the classroom by getting involved in student-run organizations on campus and industry-related internships. I’ve been particularly active in the ISU Block and Bridle Club and ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Student Council. I have taken on various roles that have allowed me to interact with many impressive members of our agricultural industry. I honestly enjoy working with farmers and can’t imagine a profession other than one directly related to them; I’m really looking forward to this experience with the Iowa Pork Industry Center.

PRODUCTION TIP
Keep an eye on estrous
The estrous – or heat -- cycle in sows and gilts normally is 21 days, but can range from 18 to 24 days. Every herd is different in its estrous distribution because the estrous cycle may be influenced by health, body condition, age and climate. To keep your sows productive and cycling, provide optimum environment and nutrition conditions. This means regular checking of health and feed needs, and making changes as necessary.

IT’S A DATE
Continuing. PQA Plus® and TQA® producer certification sessions. See the IPIC website at www.ipic.iastate.edu/events.html for date, location and contact information.

Continuing. Food Safety Quality Assurance trainings for Iowa youth. See the IPIC website at www.ipic.iastate.edu/events.html for date, location and contact information.

January – February 2013. Iowa Confinement Site Manure Applicator Workshops. See interactive map and list of dates and locations here http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/certification/confdates.html
Feb. 25-28. 2013 Iowa Pork Regional Conferences. 1 to 4:30 p.m. at all locations. Preregister and attend for free. See more info at http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/news/RegionalConference2013.html

- Monday, Feb. 25 – Carroll, Carroll County Extension Office
- Tuesday, Feb. 26 – Sheldon, Northwest Iowa Community College, Building A, room 119
- Wednesday, Feb. 27 – Nashua, Borlaug Learning Center
- Thursday, Feb. 28 – Iowa City, Johnson County Extension Office

Feb. 25-28. PQA Plus special sessions. Held 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., prior to Iowa Pork Regional Conferences in same locations. (See above.) Preregister and attend for free. Contact Iowa Pork Producers Association at 800-372-7675 or email schristensen@iowapork.org

DID YOU KNOW?
Iowa Swine Day 2013 set
Following a successful return to Iowa State University last year, Iowa Swine Day already is on the 2013 calendar for June 27. Different topics, different speakers, and different format combine for a “not to be missed” educational opportunity. Take a peak at the info on the website http://www.aep.iastate.edu/iowaswineday/ and plan to register starting March 1.

FOR THE RECORD
RUSLE2 and Iowa P-index workshop
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is offering an introductory workshop for livestock producers, consultants and agency staff to learn how to use the RUSLE2 and Iowa P Index software to complete manure and nutrient management plans in Iowa. The workshop will be held March 20 at the Polk County Extension Office in Altoona. Registration is limited to 30 people and each participant must bring a Microsoft Window compatible laptop with a CD-ROM drive and Microsoft Excel Software installed on the computer. Participants will need to have the administrative rights to the computer to be able to install the software. Specific workshop topics, additional requirements and registration information is available at: http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/introrusle2/about.html If you have questions please call Kapil Arora at 515-382-6551 or Angie Rieck-Hinz at 515-294-9590.

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