THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
- Congrats to Iowa veterinarians and students

NEWS
- New cutout value estimates schedule
- Iowa Swine Day program set
- Animal antibiotic use increases in Denmark

PRODUCTION TIP
- Simple spreadsheet for niche producers

IT’S A DATE
- PQA Plus® and TQA® producer certification sessions
- FSQA training sessions for Iowa youth
- Webinar series on sow housing options
- Iowa Swine Day

DID YOU KNOW?
- Everything old is new …

FOR THE RECORD
- Fewer pigs in the UK in 2012

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Congrats to Iowa veterinarians and students
The American Association of Swine Veterinarians honored five of its own during the group’s annual meeting earlier this month, and four of those five have Iowa ties. Young Swine Veterinarian of the Year Award winner Amber Stricker received two degrees from ISU and currently practices at Suidae Health and Production, Inc. near Algona; Technical Services/Allied Industry Veterinarian of the Year Award recipient Brad Thacker earned a degree from ISU and worked in VDPAM, starting in 1994; Howard Dunne Memorial Award winner Jeff Zimmerman earned three degrees from ISU and currently works in VDPAM; and Meritorious Service Award winner Craig Rowles of Carroll received his DVM from ISU and has served on the IPIC Advisory Board. The fifth award, “Swine Practitioner of the Year,” was given to Barry Kerkaert of Pipestone Veterinary Clinic in Minnesota.
And, two of the four students who were named winners of the $2,500 Lois Britt Memorial Pork Industry Scholarships are from Iowa. Sterling Schnepf of Granville is a senior in animal science here at Iowa State and Janae Mogler of Alvord is a sophomore at South Dakota State University. This scholarship is jointly provided by the CME Group and NPPC. Our congratulations to all!
NEWS

New cutout value estimates schedule
Starting on April 1 (no fooling) USDA-AMS will start releasing new wholesale pork cutout value estimates based on mandatory packer reporting. And, this will continue on a timely basis, unlike the current “ease-in” period. Since Jan. 1 packers have been submitting their data twice a day, but USDA maintained a one-week delay in the publishing of those numbers. Apparently the new system is working properly, so the more current release timing begins in less than two weeks. You can read more of what Ron Plain and Scott Brown of University of Missouri say in their March 1 weekly hog outlook column (Link goes to the Better Farming website.)

---

Iowa Swine Day program set
Make plans now to attend the 2013 Iowa Swine Day in Ames. Set for Thursday, June 27, at the Scheman Building in the Iowa State Center, the $60 fee (prior to June 14) gets you a morning of four presentations to the entire group, an afternoon of three sets of breakout sessions, plus lunch, refreshments and a copy of the conference notebook. Find all the details, including links to registration options, here
http://www.aep.iastate.edu/iowaswineday/homepage.html

---

Animal antibiotic use increases in Denmark
An article on wattagnet.com says antibiotic use in Denmark last year (2012) was 5.5 percent higher than the previous year. What makes this even more interesting is the decrease in pork production in Denmark over the same period: 2,008,000 tons in 2011 compared with 1,916,400 tons in 2012. Read this article here
http://www.wattagnet.com/157629.html

PRODUCTION TIP
Simple spreadsheet for niche producers
The Baseline Niche Production Records spreadsheet (Excel template) is an easy one-page method for producers to get baseline performance numbers. Enter your numbers, and then email the closeouts to your ISU Extension and Outreach swine program specialist for compilation into the ISU Niche Production Database. Receive a summarization of your annual production for reporting purposes upon request. Download your copy from the IPIC website here
http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/software/NichePerformanceResultsIPIC2013.xls
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.

---
March 26-April 18. National Pork Board webinar series on sow housing options. No cost, but please preregister. Information and registration links are on the NPB website http://www.pork.org/Resources/3703/SowHousingOptions.aspx

---
June 27. Iowa Swine Day. Scheman Building, Iowa State Center, Ames. Cost is $60 when registered by June 14. See details and registration links http://www.aep.iastate.edu/iowaswineday/homepage.html

DID YOU KNOW?
Everything old is new…
Well, okay, Enviropigs™ aren’t really old, but the “new” is that there’s a new line of the transgenic pigs that passes on genes more reliably than a previous genetic line. You might remember that Enviropigs™ digest phosphorus in feedstuffs more efficiently, meaning less is excreted in manure. That in turn can mean lowering of environmental phosphorus levels. You can read more about the entire project on the University of Guelph website here http://www.uoguelph.ca/enviropig/
[And, just a reminder that the Enviropig project was first mentioned in NEWS NOW nearly a dozen years ago: From the Oct. 15, 2001 issue of NEWS NOW (where you’ll notice the name was misspelled, a mistake corrected in subsequent updates on the topic): Of mice and pigs
Canadian and Danish researchers have developed a new pig. Yes, you read that correctly—a new pig. The Environpig efficiently digests dietary phosphorus, which leads to these positive results: lower feed costs and lower phosphorus levels in manure, thus more environmentally friendly hence the name, “Environpigs.” The mice aspect? Canadian researchers developed these pigs by splicing the promoter-enhancer region from a mouse salivary gland protein gene together with the enzyme phytase, which allows animals to digest phosphorus. This composite gene, designed to direct the secretion of phytase into the saliva of pigs, was first tested in mice and found to be successful. Then, Danish researchers from the Institute for Molecular and Structural Biology of the University of Aarhus "borrowed" a gene from the E. Coli bacteria, combined it with mouse DNA and implanted the transgene into pig embryos, which were transferred into surrogate sows. No word yet on the taste of the pork from these animals.]
FOR THE RECORD
Fewer pigs in the UK in 2012
According to an article on the businessweek.com website, the United Kingdom’s hog population is the smaller since 2000. As of Dec. 1, 2012, there were 4.2 million head, which was down 2.4 percent from a year earlier. Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) statistics did show a slight increase in the number of breeding hogs, so the decline may be on the way to reversing. Just as in the U.S., the increasing cost of feed may well have had a negative impact on number of head. You can read the entire article here http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-03-14/u-dot-k-dot-pig-herd-is-smallest-since-2000-as-feed-costs-increase

NEWS NOW from the Iowa Pork Industry Center www.ipic.iastate.edu
Editor Sherry Hoyer, phone 515-294-4496, shoyer@iastate.edu
Find and follow IPIC on Twitter at http://www.twitter.com/IowaPorkCenter
@IowaPorkCenter

--To subscribe to NEWS NOW, send your name, e-mail address and the message "NEWS NOW subscribe" to shoyer@iastate.edu
--To unsubscribe, reply to this message with the words "NEWS NOW Unsubscribe" in the subject line.
--To change your e-mail address, please include both your former address and new address.
--To request further information or suggest topics for this newsletter, e-mail shoyer@iastate.edu

Information from this newsletter may be shared and reprinted at no cost, as long as this newsletter is credited as the source.