THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
- Congrats to ISU faculty, staff and students

NEWS
- Coming soon -- spreadsheet to estimate cost of breeding decisions
- Iowans among environmental steward winners

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- PQA Plus® and TQA® producer certification sessions
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- Iowa Swine Day

DID YOU KNOW?
- CAST continues to provide papers, publications

FOR THE RECORD
- Number of U.S. hog farms is decreasing

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Congrats to ISU faculty, staff and students
Animal science faculty and grad students fared well during the spring 2013 Midwest ASAS meeting in Des Moines. Our congratulations to these folks: Nick Boddicker, Dorian Garrick, Jim Reecy and Jack Dekkers -- National Pork Board Swine Innovation (Abstract) Award in Research; Ken Stalder, Tom Baas and Jodi Sterle -- National Pork Board Swine Innovation (Abstract) Award in Education; Emily Arkfeld -- third place in the Graduate M.S. Oral Competition, and Nick Boddicker -- Animal Science Young Scholar. Department faculty and staff also were well-represented at the spring semester convocation for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences with the following three individual and one team awards: Outstanding Achievement in Teaching Award -- Steven Lonergan; Early Adviser Award -- Josh Selsby; Professional and Scientific Outstanding New Professional Award -- Amanda Chipman; Team Award -- Residual Feed Intake group (including current faculty members Jack Dekkers, Anna Butters-Johnson, Nick Gabler, Elisabeth Huff-Lonergan, Steven Lonergan, John Patience, Max Rothschild, and Chris Tuggle) as well as the staff of the Lauren Christian swine breeding farm.

NEWS
Coming soon -- spreadsheet to estimate cost of breeding decisions
IPIC’s Ken Stalder and graduate student Caitlyn Abell have designed a spreadsheet
that can be used to estimate total costs associated with genome-enabled selection. The Excel-based spreadsheet also can help seedstock suppliers and producers with making breeding program decisions. This free spreadsheet will be available through the IPIC website soon. Keep an eye on www.ipic.iastate.edu. If you’d like to be on an email list to receive news items and releases from IPIC as they’re available, simply reply to this email or send a new email message to shoyer@iastate.edu with the subject line “subscribe more info”

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Iowans among environmental steward winners
Ryan and Lana Reed of Reed Family Farms in Ottumwa are among the four recipients of the 2012 Pork Industry Environmental Steward Award presented earlier this year by the National Pork Board. Other winners are from Pennsylvania, Oklahoma and Minnesota. Read more about each and about the award on the NPB website here http://www.pork.org/News/3786/PorkCheckoffHonors2012PorkIndustryEnvironmentalStewards.aspx

PRODUCTION TIP
Waste to worth webcast this week
If you make or influence environmental management decisions on livestock farms, you might want to attend the web portions of the “Waste to Worth: Spreading Science and Solutions” conference this week. The webcasts begin this Wednesday morning and end Friday. This URL is for the live webcast schedule and includes links to each time segment, the entire agenda and proceedings. http://www.extension.org/pages/67496/live-webcasts-waste-to-worth-2013 If you haven’t previously attended such a virtual conference, be sure to visit the “first time viewer” link to get the correct access information. Note especially that all times provided are Mountain Time, so add or subtract the correct number of hours for your time zone.

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.

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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.

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Through 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

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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?
CAST continues to provide papers, publications
The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology -- or CAST -- continues to provide a wealth of information through providing free online access to a variety of papers, reports and other publications. Two of the more recent offerings are the 2012 annual report (eight straight years available here http://www.cast-science.org/about/annual_reports/) and the issue paper, “Food, Fuel, and Plant Nutrient Use in the Future” available as a pdf download here http://www.cast-science.org/publications/?food_fuel_and_plant_nutrient_use_in_the_future&show=product&productID=271532

FOR THE RECORD
Number of U.S. hog farms is decreasing
Although this has been talked about by proponents of various sized operations for some time, the latest USDA annual report has the “official” tally. There were 68,300 U.S. farms with hogs last year, down 800 from the year before. And of these 68,300 farms with hogs, 8,100 were contract growers, meaning they didn’t own the hogs they were raising. You can read the entire report with much more detail online here http://usda01.library.cornell.edu/usda/nass/FarmLandIn//2010s/2013/FarmLandIn-02-19-2013.txt To see a list of all publications available, start with CAST’s publication page http://www.cast-science.org/publications/

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