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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Propane conservation for pork producers
Managing fuel costs should always be a priority, and the recent propane cost increase really brings home that point. ISU ag and biosystems engineering professor Jay Harmon says ventilation management is key to successful propane conservation. He highlights and explains five tips for producers (proper ventilation rate, temperature adjustment, heater adjustment, ventilation adjustment when using brooders and leak seals) in this news release http://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/keys-conserving-propane-pork-producers The release also has a link to the publication,” Managing swine ventilation controller settings to save energy” available here http://farmenergy.exnet.iastate.edu/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2012/03/PM-2089T.pdf

NEWS
Preliminary ag census info coming
USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service will release preliminary results of the 2012 Census of Agriculture later this month. This is somewhat later than usual, due to the lapse in federal funding last fall. This Feb. 20 report includes an initial look at state and national findings, and is due to be released during the Ag Outlook Forum. Information about this release is on the USDA NASS website
Western Canada Provinces to pilot insurance program
Beginning this spring, cattle and hog producers in Western Canada (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba) will be able to purchase livestock price insurance. The "Western Livestock Price Insurance Programme" is a four-year pilot to help protect against unexpected price declines. In 2009, Alberta began a price insurance program for producers there and this new pilot expands that effort. Read more in this release from the Saskatchewan movement http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=5a19e2bb-e207-42e7-94caf0df9fbdab3a and the new insurance program website http://www.wlpip.ca/

PEDV updates: more Canadian cases, new strains in U.S.
Recent news in the world of PEDV shows changes in some cases of strains of infected U.S. herds, as sequenced by Iowa State's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, as well as at least two now-confirmed cases in Canada. This Jan. 30 release from ISU's lab describes the sequencing test available and its identification of strain differences http://vetmed.iastate.edu/sites/default/files/vdl/news/New%20PEDV%20strain%20identified%20in%20US%20swine%201-30-14.pdf This article from PorkNetwork has the latest Canadian farm infection information http://www.porknetwork.com/enewsletters/pork-daily/PED-virus-spreads-to-second-Canada-farm-243399191.html?utm_source=3560C3148245I5X&utm_medium=eNL&utm_campaign=Pork+Network+Daily_20140204&utm_term=pedv&utm_content=Edit And, the Canadian Swine Health Board website offers ongoing news and notices on PEDV as well as other health-related topics http://www.swinehealth.ca/news.php

PRODUCTION TIP
Walk the pens
Modern pig barns make routine chores of checking feed, water and ventilation much simpler to conduct on a daily basis. One task that easily can be rushed is that of individual pig observation. To minimize stress and ensure the health and wellbeing of all pigs, walking in each pen on a daily basis is encouraged. Acclimating pigs to caretaker interaction also will benefit handling and transportation efforts during moving and load out.

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 4-H and other youth. See the IPIC website at www.ipic.iastate.edu/events.html for date, location and contact information.

Feb. 24-28. 2014 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/RegionalConference2014.html

DID YOU KNOW?
Learning to earn a living
As a student, I’d occasionally wonder when or where I would ever use some of the information from my college courses. Well, Josh Faivre didn’t have that problem. As an employee on ISU’s Ag450 Farm, he and other students were in charge of managing that farm. Known as a unique learning opportunity -- it’s the only student-managed farming operation at a land-grant university -- the farm was featured in an Iowa Public Television piece. He and others explain the significance of this opportunity, and how the experience will help him in his chosen career -- farming with his family. You can watch the 10-minute video here http://www.iptv.org/mtom/story.cfm/feature/11321/mtom_20140110_3920_feature/video

FOR THE RECORD
Confinement site manure applicators reminder
Confinement site manure applicators should make plans now to attend their required two-hours of annual training to meet manure applicator certification requirements in 2014. A complete list of meeting dates and locations can be found at http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/certification/confdates.html. You can even click on the calendar icon for your county workshop and save it directly to your calendar. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is hosting 63 workshops in 59 different county extension offices in January and February of 2014 to help producers meet their certification requirements. This year's program will feature land application rules from DNR; Butch Baker will discuss PEDV and keeping it out of farms and advances in knowledge; and Dan Andersen will talk about the latest in foaming manure pits. In addition, extension field specialists will be leading producers through an interactive learning experience in responding to a manure spill. By attending one of the live workshops you will get a chance to work with your fellow livestock producers to do some problem solving to address a manure spill scenario, learn the importance of emergency preparedness and have a little fun with this exercise. If by chance you have not yet attended your two hours of training in 2013, don’t delay. Contact your local extension office as soon as possible to make an appointment to watch the training
video. If you miss training in your 3-year license, you have to take and pass the remedial exam in order to be eligible to renew your license upon completion of the three-year certification cycle. If you have questions about certification requirements please call Rachel Klein at 515-294-6685 or Angie Rieck-Hinz at 515-294-9590.

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