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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Three finalists for ISU animal science department chair
Following Maynard Hogberg’s retirement announcement last year, a search committee has been looking through applications from those interested in becoming the next chairperson of ISU’s animal science department. Three finalists for the position have been named, and members of the public are invited to attend the open forums for each, all of which will be held at 10 a.m. in the Ensminger Room in Kildee Hall on campus. The finalists and their presentation dates are:
Mark McGuire University of Idaho, Friday, March 7
James Reecy, Iowa State University (current faculty member), Tuesday, March 11
Andre-Denis Wright, University of Vermont, Friday, April 4.
You can read more about each candidate in this ISU/CALS news release http://www.cals.iastate.edu/news/releases/open-forums-set-animal-science-department-chair-candidates-iowa-state-university

NEWS
Feed vs. food: facts for choices
A new resource from the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology explains the importance of understanding the animal feed versus human food issue. "Animal Feed vs Human Food: Challenges and Opportunities in Sustaining Animal Agriculture Toward 2050" is available in video and text format from CAST. The video is just under
Can essential oils help sick pigs?
Essential oils are often used in beauty and wellness products, but a team of University of Illinois researchers is investigating their possible use in fighting disease in pigs. Specifically, the group used three essential oils (known as plant extracts) and a control diet as treatments for E. coli and PRRS (porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome) in weanling pigs. They used extracts from garlic, ginger and pepper, and found animals fed any of the extract diets had lower frequency of diarrhea and were more efficient (gain); and those challenged with PPRS showed lower viral loads and lower concentrations of inflammatory indicators. Read more in this UIUC news release http://news.aces.illinois.edu/news/beneficial-anti-inflammatory-effects-observed-when-plant-extracts-fed-sick-pigs

Multicultural customers demanding more pork
Multicultural consumers are enjoying pork more frequently than the average consumer, according to Pork Checkoff's consumer tracking study. The Checkoff’s “Pork. Be Inspired” campaign appears to be relating well with ethnic consumers, According to the latest research, Hispanic, Asian American and African American consumers report a significantly higher belief in pork's creativity and inspiration in the kitchen. Especially important is the growth in the fresh pork market with a 5.6 percent increase in consumer spending within the past year. The tracking study is conducted twice each calendar year and participants are a good representation of the U.S. See more findings in this news release http://www.pork.org/News/4540/InterestinPorkSpansManyCulturesEthnicities.aspx#.Uv5uo2JdV8E

PRODUCTION TIP
Benefits of biotechnology
With the 2013 World Food Prize forum in Des Moines came a lot of renewed interest in the place of biotechnology in food production. Most of the discussion revolves around crops, but what about pigs? Where’s its place? The benefits of biotechnology in livestock production can be the same as that in plants. It’s about improving the efficiency of growth, health and nutritional content. While modernly described “Bt” pigs aren’t in production today, research is continually underway in genetic engineering of pigs that will someday be more resistant to diseases or even designed for human
medical purposes. Exciting!

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

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March 13. Pork Production Seminar. Arrowwood Resort Conference Center, Okoboji. Contact Dave Stender for more information at dstender@iastate.edu

DID YOU KNOW?
Pork Industry Environmental Stewards Award applications
Do you practice beneficial environmental management and would you like to help others become better? Or do you know someone who fits this description and should be recognized for those efforts? Consider submitting an application for the Pork Industry Environmental Stewards Award. It’s for anyone with a pork operation of any size who works hard and practice environmental stewardship. The application or nominations should be postmarked by March 31, 2014. A national committee reviews the application and four winners are declared. The Pork Checkoff and National Hog Farmer magazine cosponsor the award. More info and a link to the application forms are on the National Pork Board website http://www.pork.org/Programs/2366/EnvironmentalStewards.aspx

FOR THE RECORD
USDA-NASS Hogs and Pigs Report update
USDA plans for obtaining data for the March 28 Hogs & Pigs Report include a biosecurity factor. To help reduce risk of spreading PEDV, the agency says it will call producers who hadn’t responded by the Feb. 28 deadline. In the past, USDA would do on-farm visits to those in the surveyed area who did not send in the completed questionnaire. Producers are reminded that any data gathered is held in strict confidence and can never be shared with anyone under penalty of Federal law. The data is also exempt from Freedom of Information Act requests, according to USDA. Results from the March Hogs & Pigs Report will be released on March 28 and will be available online at www.nass.usda.gov after 3 p.m. Eastern Time that day.