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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Congratulations to Iowa State faculty and staff

Animal science department chair Maynard Hogberg was honored by National Pork Board with its Distinguished Service Award. This annual award recognizes lifelong contribution to the pork industry by an outstanding leader. Read more about Maynard’s leadership to the pork industry and his varied experiences in this NPB release http://www.pork.org/News/4569/PorkIndustryHonorsDrMaynardHogbergwithDistinguishedServiceAward.aspx

During the spring awards program of ISU’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Maynard was one of several folks from animal science and related areas to be honored as well. He received the Dean’s Citation for his work on creating, funding and constructing the Hansen AG Student Learning Center. He was joined on the award list by Jay Harmon, ag and biosystems engineering, -- outstanding achievement in extension and outreach award; Nikki Ferwerda -- excellence in teaching by a lecturer; Stephanie Hansen -- early achievement in teaching; Aileen Keating -- early adviser and early achievement in research; Howard Tyler -- learning community coordination; and Julie Roberts -- merit award for achievement and service. (The entire list is available on the CALS website here http://www.cals.iastate.edu/news/releases/isu-college-agriculture-and-life-sciences-recognizes-outstanding-faculty-and-staff-0)

Our congratulations to all for jobs well done!
NEWS
CSIF annual report now available
In 2013, the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers received more than 350 new assistance requests and facilitated about that many requests for continuing support. Read more about the organization's record-setting year and some specific educational opportunities it provided for Iowa farmers in the 2013 Annual Report. The 4-page publication can be downloaded as a pdf document using the PDF link at the left side of the top green bar on this page http://viewer.epageview.com/Viewer.aspx?docid=beaefbbd-56c1-43da-8ddb-a2e4010d6a71#page=1

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Iowa pork operation honored for environmental efforts
Russell Brothers LLC, of Monticello was one of four recipients of the Pork Industry Environmental Stewards Award during the National Pork Industry Forum this year. Now in its 20th year, the award recognizes, “producers who demonstrate a firm commitment to safeguarding the environment and to serving their local communities.” Part of their unique approach to environmental attention: A 50-kilowatt wind turbine helps the farm conserve electric energy by generating 60 to 80 percent of the farm’s needs. Read more about the Russells and the other three award recipients on the NPB website here http://www.pork.org/News/4561/PorkIndustryEnvironmentalStewardsHonoredatPorkForum.aspx

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Two Iowa State students are NPPC scholarship winners
ISU sophomores Drew Mogler (from Alvord) and Matt Kerns (from Clearfield) each received a $2,500 scholarship from National Pork Producers Council earlier this month. Named after the late NPPC president, the Lois Britt Memorial Pork Industry Scholarship annually honors four outstanding youth in the pork community who intend to pursue careers in the industry. The other two recipients are from Purdue University. If Matt’s name sounds familiar here, it’s probably because his brother, Karl, received the same scholarship two years ago. Read more in this NPPC release http://www.nppc.org/2014/03/nppc-awards-pork-industry-scholarships/

PRODUCTION TIP
Growing pigs and fertilizer
Iowa is the pig state but to be more specific, it is the “pig growing” state. With assets of feed, farmers and packing capacity, Iowa is the ideal location for pork production. The “Tall Corn” state also needs plenty of fertilizer to produce the bushels of corn and soybeans fed to pigs. Approximately 10 finishing pigs from weaning to market provides the nutrient needs of an acre of Iowa cropland on a semi-annual basis. And a half-section of land (240 acres) benefits from a 2,400-head pig barn. What a match!
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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DID YOU KNOW?
New issue: Ag policy review from CARD
The winter 2014 issue of CARD Agricultural Policy Review features a number of current topics, including one from Chad Hart and Lee Schulz on the increasing retail meat and drop demand: “With the general economy posting some positive numbers now, consumer demand continues to rebuild out of the depths of the past recession. The general demand trend across agriculture is positive, moving right along with other consumer demands.” See links to individual articles in this issue and more on the center website here http://www.card.iastate.edu/ag_policy_review/

FOR THE RECORD
U.S. and Canadian hog inventory update
In the March 5 “United States and Canadian Hogs” report, figures show a slight decrease for U.S. hogs and a slight increase in some areas for Canadian hogs. The Dec. 1 total U.S. inventory was 65.9 million, down 1 percent from the Dec. 1, 2012 numbers and down 2 percent from Sept. 1, 2013. The Canadian inventory for all hogs and pigs as of Jan. 1 this year (12.7 million) was up 1 percent from a year ago and up 1 percent from two years ago. See the entire report with comparisons back to 2008 in text version here http://usda01.library.cornell.edu/usda/nass/USCH//2010s/2014/USCH-03-05-2014.txt

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