THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
- A champion is gone

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- Ontario producers vote for stalls

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- Evaluating records

IT’S A DATE
- PQA Plus® and TQA® producer certification sessions
- FSQA sessions for 4-H and other youth
- Pork Quality Assurance Plus Advisor certification
- World Pork Expo
- Lauren Christian Pork Chop Open
- Iowa Swine Day

DID YOU KNOW?
- CSIF annual report now available

FOR THE RECORD
- ISU meat judging team repeats

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
A champion is gone
The pork industry lost a great friend and the Iowa Pork Industry Center lost a great champion with the passing of Dr. James McKean this past week.

Dr. McKean was one of the “founders” of IPIC, shepherding the pork industry’s need for unbiased, science-based information through the portals of process at ISU and the state legislature to the legislation that formed what the Iowa Pork Industry Center is today. He served as associate director (with a stint as interim director) from when the center began in 1994 until his death.

Dr. McKean’s contributions to the pork industry also are evident from his work at the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine over a 40-plus-year career. He was the driving force behind the ISU-CVM Swine Disease Conference, and his contributions toward disease eradication programs are known throughout the pork industry. As ISU Extension swine veterinarian he worked with extension professionals at all levels, from county staff to field staff to state staff, to strengthen the industry through animal health improvement programs.
His work with swine commodity groups, such as the Iowa Pork Producers Association and the National Pork Board, continues to have lasting positive impacts for the pork industry. In addition to leading the way toward disease eradication, Dr. McKean has been a true leader in the development and implementation of quality assurance systems for the pork industry. The current PQA Plus and TQA programs bear his stamp of science-based, producer implemented approach to quality assurance systems.

Over his career Dr. McKean took every opportunity to work with all segments of the pork industry. He also was a tireless supporter of the Iowa pork producer. Thanks to his leadership, the Master Pork Producer Program of the IPPA (a program designed to recognize Iowa pork producers with programs of excellence) more than two generations of pork producers have been recognized and featured.

The effects of Dr. McKean’s efforts and successful programs have been recognized in some of the many ways in which he was honored. He was recognized as an Honorary Master Pork Producer by the IPPA, Extension Veterinarian of the Year by the Association of Extension Veterinarians, the Howard Dunne Memorial Award winner by the AASV, and was named a Master in Pork Production by National Hog Farmer.

Dr. Jim McKean will truly be missed, but his contributions toward successful pork production will continue for all.

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NEWS

CAST 2013 annual report available
The annual report from the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) for 2013 is now available for reading and downloading from that website. It includes information on board meeting summaries, Ag quickCast articles, the 2013 CAST Communication Award, social media presence reports and more. Find links to all annual reports from 2005 at this URL https://www.cast-science.org/about/annual_reports/

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Ontario producers vote for stalls
Pig Progress magazine reports that Ontario Pork delegates voted last month to continue using sow stalls until "it is proven through proper documented research that there is another system that will provide better welfare." Read that article here www.pigprogress.net/Breeding/Housing/2014/4/Ontario-pork-producers-vote-to-keep-sow-stalls-1502966W/ Learn more about the Ontario Pork organization on its website here http://www.ontariopork.on.ca/Home.aspx

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PRODUCTION TIP

Evaluating records
Statistical evaluation of production records can reveal averages, variations and trends.
But what do these charts, tables and graphs really mean? As long as productivity is steady or improving, major adjustments in management are probably not needed. But when key performance parameters start to decline, either a problem may be developing and changes need to be made or the record input was inaccurate. Setting an intervention point where management changes need to occur when a production number is out of range (i.e., feed intake) helps to identify health or other challenges in the herd before they worsen.

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.


June 4-6. World Pork Expo. Iowa State Fairgrounds, Des Moines. See more information https://www.worldpork.org/


June 26. Iowa Swine Day. Scheman Building, ISU campus, Ames. See the event website http://www.aep.iastate.edu/iowaswineday/

DID YOU KNOW?
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 here http://viewer.epageview.com/Viewer.aspx?docid=beaefbbd-56c1-43da-8ddb-a2e4010d6a71#page=1 can be downloaded as a pdf document using the PDF link at the left side of the top green bar on that page.
FOR THE RECORD
ISU meat judging team repeats
The ISU meat judging team defended its championship at the Southeaster Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest this past weekend, with member teams finishing in first and third places. Twelve teams with 70 contestants took part, and ISU brought home a total of 10 first, second, third and fourth place finished, including 10 individual awards by five members. Team members are Breanna Branderhorst, Matt Schulte, Jordy Berger, Patrick Frank, Ty Sexton, Erika Edwards, Amanda Patterson and Brian Patterson.

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NEWS NOW from the Iowa Pork Industry Center www.ipic.iastate.edu
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