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FOR THE RECORD
- Register now for Allen D. Leman Swine Conference

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
A new twist on sow housing
For the past year, ISU researchers have been collecting information on a new -- yet actually quite old -- housing option for sows and piglets at the ISU Allee Research and Demonstration Farm near Newell. This northwest Iowa location is the site of the “yurt project” that already has housed eight litters of pigs in two groups since the research began in 2012. A traditional yurt is a portable dwelling used for thousands of years by nomadic people in central Asia. For the Allee Farm project, researchers used a large round tent with a plastic barrier to protect it from manure and chewing. Cost was $12,000 and it was easy to set up. If you’re curious (and who wouldn’t be?) about how this type of housing can work for sows and pigs, plan to attend a field day at the farm on Aug. 15. Self-guided tours start at 5:15 p.m. with a meal and program to follow. The field day is hosted by the ISU Research and Demonstration Farms, in collaboration with ISU Extension and Outreach, the Leopold Center, IPIC and the Illinois State University Department of Agriculture. Learn more in this news release on the Leopold Center website. http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/07-22-2013/livestock-field-day-features-niche-markets-and-yurt

NEWS
Pigs help add value to low test weight wheat
Pork producers with low test weight wheat may be able to increase the value of that feedstuffs by using it in some swine diets. Bob Thaler of South Dakota State University says feeding mycotoxin-free light test weight wheat strategically can help financially, even with poorer feed efficiency. "Lightweight wheat can also be the sole grain source for grow-finish pigs and gestating sows. However, producers can blend it with normal test weight corn to offset the energy reduction of the diet if they want," he said. And be sure to use a scale on your feed mill or grinder mixer when including light test weight grain because you need to use weight — not volume — as accurate measures. Read more in this article on National Hog Farmer website [http://nationalhogfarmer.com/nutrition/feeding-low-test-weight-wheat-pigs](http://nationalhogfarmer.com/nutrition/feeding-low-test-weight-wheat-pigs)

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Connect with agriculture at Iowa State Fair
With assistance from eight other organizations, the Iowa Food & Family Project ([http://iowafoodandfamily.com/news/2013/get-connected-farming-iowa-food-family-project-iowa-state-fair](http://iowafoodandfamily.com/news/2013/get-connected-farming-iowa-food-family-project-iowa-state-fair)) will offer a variety of opportunities for this year's Iowa State Fair goers to "Get Connected to Farming." From watching a Lego sculpture being built to helping prepare 250,000 meal serving for "Meals from the Heartland" to contributing to the Iowa Food Bank Association to going on an age-related scavenger hunt, there's something for everyone. Sponsors (Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Pork Producers Association, Farm Credit Services of America, Midwest Dairy Association, Syngenta, Iowa Food Bank Association, Iowa Grocery Industry Association and United Soybean Board.) hope fair visitors will learn more about food and farming in Iowa. Read more in this article on the Wallace’s Farmer website [http://farmprogress.com/story-connected-farming-iowa-state-fair-9-100840-spx_0](http://farmprogress.com/story-connected-farming-iowa-state-fair-9-100840-spx_0)

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PRODUCTION TIP
Evaluating weaning age
Piglet weaning time is a crucial stage in the production cycle of raising pigs. The age, weight and health status at the time of weaning lays the foundation for the pigs’ success during the growout period. These factors also influence the efficiency and cost of raising pigs. The early diet for a weaned pig is very complex and expensive. Considering costs of feed ingredients and conversion with the growing performance and reproductive efficiency, evaluations of weaning age add meaningful information for producer decision-making.

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IT’S A DATE
Continuing. PQA Plus® and TQA® producer certification sessions. See the IPIC website at [www.ipic.iastate.edu/events.html](http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/events.html) for date, location and contact information.

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Continuing. PQA Plus® 2.0 Advisor trainings. See the IPIC website at www.ipic.iastate.edu/pqaplus2.html for dates, locations and registration deadlines.

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Aug. 8-18. Iowa State Fair. 2013 Theme is “Nothing Compares.”

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Aug. 6-27. (Tuesdays.) Animal Science Research webinars. No cost online sessions offered by National Pork Board. All sessions start at 1 p.m. central time. Register here http://www.pork.org/Resources/2456/AnimalScience.aspx

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Sept. 9-12. SafePork 2013. Portland, Maine. Registration is $575 per person. IPIC associate director James McKean is conference chair and Annette O’Connor from ISU’s VDPAM is scientific chair. See conference information here http://www.safepork2013.com/

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DID YOU KNOW?
Smithfield video on sow housing
With little fanfare, Smithfield Foods, Inc. released a video on You-Tube last week illustrating how the company houses pregnant sows. The four and a half minute video (see it here https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=UUvzy1gnYXD5WLjlsKb-ZrCQ&v=lDkadoJgktc) uses footage from company sow farms along with information on the entire process from selecting sows for breeding to weaning. The video had nearly 5,000 views registered in its first 5 days.

FOR THE RECORD
Register now for Allen D. Leman Swine Conference
You probably think there’s a lot of timely, current and helpful information on the National Pork Board website. But do you really know how much? If you look just at the “News” section (found here http://www.pork.org/News/Default.aspx) you’ll find a list of publications on a variety of topics in the left column, including the very recent Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus issue. And most of the named publications have multiple years of content available for viewing and downloading at no charge.

NEWS NOW from the Iowa Pork Industry Center www.ipic.iastate.edu
Editor Sherry Hoyer, phone 515-294-4496, shoyer@iastate.edu
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