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- Congratulations

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- PQA Plus® and TQA® producer certification sessions
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- World Pork Expo
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- Using unmanned aerial vehicles in agriculture

FOR THE RECORD
- Saskatchewan contingency fund for PEDv cases

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Congratulations
The National Pork Board has announced the recipients of the 2014 Pork Industry Scholarships, and three of the honored 18 are Iowa State students. Jordan Bjustom of Clarksville and Matt Kerns of Clearfield are joined on the list by Molly Frank of Dexter, Minnesota. As one of the top three, Matt will receive a $5,000 scholarship. The other 15 will each receive $2,000.
Several Iowa State animal science folks were honored at this spring’s Gamma Sigma Delta awards ceremony: Mission Awards went to Lee Kilmer for teaching, Anna Johnson for extension, Doug Kenealy for international, and Chris Tuggle for research, and Hank Harris received the Alumni Award of Merit. Animal science students honored were Aislin Pomfret, who received the Sophomore Scholarship, and Brady Zuck, who received the Senior Scholarship.
And finally, we’re not too modest to share that this issue of NEWS NOW is the first of the 14th year. That’s right, on April 30, 2001, the very first issue was sent out. Little did we realize the longevity that this twice-monthly collection of brief reads and resource links would boast in the years to come. And while format and content may adapt, our commitment to bringing accurate and timely info to you through this newsletter doesn’t change. Thanks for helping us remain relevant.
NEWS
Farmland (the movie) is coming to Ames
“Farmland” shows the story of six young farmers from around the United States. The film shares the real life experiences of these farmers, including their passion for agriculture. A public screening set for Thursday, May 8 at 7 p.m. at the Cinemark Movies 12 theatre in Ames is supported by Zoetis and the Iowa Beef Industry Council. A campus screening and discussion time will be set for this fall when the film is scheduled to get to campuses across the country. See the film’s two-minute trailer on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uu3BOK5yN5o You can purchase tickets through the theatre website here http://www.cinemark.com/theatre-detail.aspx?node_id=1551&showtime_date#5/8/2014 Learn more from the director and farmers in this article on the Brownfield Ag News website http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/04/17/farmland-reaction-surprises-filmmaker/

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Iowa State University is near top of international ranking
When it comes to agriculture and forestry universities, Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings has Iowa State near the top in a worldwide comparison. This British organization’s annual university ranking puts Iowa State University in fifth place, besting Oregon State, Purdue, Texas A&M, Ohio State and University of California, Berkeley. The rankings measured the university’s academic reputation, employer reputation and citations per scientific journal papers. Iowa State has two years of record undergraduate enrollment in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and 16 years of a placement rate above 97 percent. Last year, Iowa State was ranked tenth. Read more about Iowa State’s numbers and the rest of the top five universities on the ISU CALS website http://www.cals.iastate.edu/news/releases/iowa-state-university-ranked-among-top-universities-world-agriculture-and-forestry

PRODUCTION TIP
Pork quality: good for everyone
Pork quality is a factor of the yield, wholesomeness and eating characteristics of pork. High-yielding carcasses return a premium to producers. Low-yielding carcasses are a result of gut fill, high fat content, or trim loss associated with bruising or injury. The eating characteristics of tenderness, juiciness and marbling are just a few of the many consumer benefits provided by pork producers using appropriate genetics, feeding and management practices.

IT'S A DATE
Continuing. PQA Plus® and TQA® producer certification sessions. See the IPIC website at http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAPlus.html for dates, locations and contact information.
Continuing. Food Safety Quality Assurance trainings for Iowa 4-H and other youth. See the IPIC website at http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/fsqa14.html for dates, locations and contact information.

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


DID YOU KNOW?
Using unmanned aerial vehicles in agriculture
Have you ever wanted to crop scout your field from up above? Have you thought about using an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)? Although UAVs are mostly used in the military, Rory Paul, founder and CEO of Volt Aerial Robotics, has found a few ways to implement this technology with farmers. UAVs could be used in field mapping, crop scouting, population counting and potentially crop dusting. To learn more about this technology, go to http://unitedsoybean.org/article/agriculture-gives-unmanned-aerial-vehicles-a-new-purpose-2/ (By the way, UAVs are also known as drones.)

FOR THE RECORD
Saskatchewan contingency fund for PEDv cases
Although no cases of porcine epidemic diarrhea virus have been confirmed on a farm in the province, the government there is helping industry provide a financial backstop for dealing with the disease should it occur. Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart have contributed $200,000 to be matched by Sask Pork to assist the pork sector with containment and eradication contingency measures in the event of a first PED virus break on Saskatchewan hog farms. See more info on the Sask Pork website http://www.saskpork.com/html/whats_new/index.cfm?view=article&wnID=51

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