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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Congratulations to ISU animal science colleague

Animal science professor Curt Youngs is helping ISU continue its string of excellence in teaching. He’s the 8th ISU faculty member in the past nine years to receive the USDA’s Food and Agricultural Sciences Regional Excellence in Teaching Award. One of 10 professors nationwide recognized at the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) meeting this month, Youngs’ research and teaching has focused on embryo development and survival in domestic farm animals, embryo transfer, and other applied reproductive technologies like artificial insemination. Youngs said he’s passionate about helping his students succeed, and does so by improving his own teaching and advising. You can read more in this CALS release http://www.cals.iastate.edu/news/releases/animal-science-professor-earns-national-usda-teaching-award

NEWS
Pork exports increase slightly in September
The U.S. Meat Export Federation reports that pork export value rose in September, helping the year-to-date total break the $5 billion mark. Even though pork volume declined, higher prices contributed to a 7 percent increase that month. Mexico continues to be the leading volume destination for U.S. pork and leapt ahead of pace with volume up 17 percent and value up 35 percent. As an aside, beef and lamb exports also increased in September. See a release on the USMEF website
NSR offers three internships for 2015
The National Swine Registry invites applications for three internships in 2015, running from Mid-May through mid-August. All are full-time positions with a weekly stipend and covered travel expenses. If you’re interested, or know someone who might be, visit the website at http://nationalswine.com/about/about_positions/internships.php to read the descriptions and find out how to apply. There’s also a link to a brochure featuring all three positions. The NSR is based in West LaFayette, Indiana.

PRODUCTION TIP
Keep vaccines working for your operation
Vaccination is an effective means of preventing disease in the pig herd when used appropriately and judiciously. Keys to successful vaccination lie in vaccine profiling, timing and method of administration. The vaccines used must match the disease profiles that will challenge the herd. Vaccination must occur at a time prior to the potential disease exposure. To maintain vaccine efficacy, proper dosage of all pigs in a group is critical. Above all, design and implement vaccine programs and protocols with the assistance of your herd veterinarian.

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.

Nov. 13-14. 2014 Swine Disease Conference for Swine Practitioners. Scheman Building, Iowa State Center, Ames. Cost is $285. See the agenda, list of topics and speakers, and links to register and a networking event. www.extension.iastate.edu/registration/events/conferences/swine/

Jan. 28-29. Iowa Pork Congress. Iowa Events Center, Des Moines. See IPIC and other ISU folks in booth 1127.

DID YOU KNOW?
Swine industry career distance education opportunities
If you’re interested in starting or advancing a career in the swine industry, start with these two programs offered through the U.S. Pork Center of Excellence by the National Pork Board:
-- Swine Science Online (swinescienceonline.org) is an undergraduate level certificate program in swine science taught by instructors from AG*IDEA institutions, culminating in a 12-credit USPCE Swine Science Online Certificate.
-- Professional Swine Manager (USPorkCenter.org/ProfessionalSwineManager) is taught by community college instructors experienced in pork production. It focuses on technical skills with courses that qualify as credit toward an associate degree.

FOR THE RECORD
New strategic plan for National Pork Board
After more than a year of planning and development, National Pork Board recently released a new strategic plan to run from January 2015 through 2020. Focused on people, pigs, and the planet, this plan is consumer-centered through collaboration with industry and supply chain partners. The plan outlines three goals for the next five years: build consumer trust, drive sustainable production, and grow consumer demand. The overall vision is to elevate U.S. pork as the world protein of choice through working to do what is right for people, pigs, and the planet. Read more in this release on the NPB website http://www.pork.org/national-pork-board-introduces-2020-strategic-plan-focused-people-pigs-planet/

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