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- Up, up, up

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
To beginnings
January is a time of newness -- new year, new resolutions, new efforts. For two ISU animal science professors, it’s time for a new kind of beginning: life after retirement. Today is Maynard Hogberg’s final day as professor and chair of the animal science department, and this coming Friday is the last day for John Mabry as professor. John also served as IPIC director from 2002 - 2012. Both will remain as emeritus faculty, retain their ISU email addresses, and have office space in 301 Kildee Hall. Neither wanted much “fuss” about their retirement, and lucky for us, both were kind of overruled in that area. Everyone is invited to a come-and-go reception for John here in 109 Kildee Hall on the ISU campus this coming Friday, Jan. 9, from 10 a.m. to noon. Maynard’s reception is set for Friday, Jan. 16, from 3:30 to 6 p.m. in the Campanile Room in the Memorial Union on the ISU campus. (See more info on his event here http://www.event.iastate.edu/event/34751/?sy=2015&sm=01&sd=16&featured=1&s=d)
If you're not able to attend in person, please consider sharing your thoughts and congratulations with them individually.
Our thanks to John and Maynard for providing great leadership for IPIC and the animal science department, and our best wishes for a wonderful retirement. We’re all better for your presence
NEWS
Register now for two distance education programs
Registrations for two successful distance education programs for specific segments of
the pork industry are now open at Iowa State University. SowBridge, for people who
work with boars, sows and their litters, begins its seventh year, and PorkBridge, for
those affiliated with grow-finish facilities, begins its ninth year, both in early February
2015. Cost for both is same as past years -- SowBridge is $250 for 12 sessions, and
PorkBridge is $125 for 6 sessions. Read more about the programs in this news release
http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/news/PBSB15.html See individual program pages (updates
added as they are available) http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/sowbridge.html and
http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/porkbridge.html

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CSIF conference registration now open
The Coalition to Support Iowa’s Farmers will host its annual conference Friday, January
23, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Quality Inn & Suites in Ames. The conference
theme, “The Risk and Reward of Livestock Production,” will feature breakout sessions
with several farmers who have found unique opportunities in the livestock industry. It
also will include a panel of experts focusing on the financial feasibility of raising
livestock today and what lenders are looking for in potential borrowers. No cost to
attend, but preregistration is required. See the agenda and link to register on the CSIF
Registration deadline is Jan. 19.

PRODUCTION TIP
Be weather-wary
Today is likely the first day of the first “big” winter storm of the year in Iowa. Below zero
temperatures, winds of more than 30 miles per hour and snowfall approaching 6 inches
means it definitely is winter. However, we know that adverse winter weather can strike
at any time. Remember to keep feed and supply deliveries current in order to ensure
availability during times of closed roads or power outages. Also, plan on alternative
options for delayed marketings of pigs or the delivery of new pigs. Being wary of what
winter can bring helps in being prepared, for your family and your operation.

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.

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Jan. 9, 2015. 10 a.m. to noon. Come and go reception for former IPIC director John Mabry. Stop by 109 Kildee Hall and wish him well on his final day before retirement at ISU.

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Jan. 16. Retirement reception for Maynard Hogberg, retiring chair of the department of animal science. 3:30 to 6 p.m. Campanile Room in the Memorial Union, ISU campus.

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January to February 2015. Iowa Confinement Site Manure Applicator Workshops. See the brochure with list of dates and locations. Call the ISU County Extension and Outreach office where you plan to attend for exact locations and times, and weather-related changes to the schedule.

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DID YOU KNOW?
Cyclone Swine Spectacular -- save the date
Building upon the inaugural event a year ago, the Iowa Pork Producers Association’s 2015 Cyclone Swine Spectacular promises even more of a good time for participants. Held in conjunction with the ISU Block & Bridle Club Spring Market Hog Show, the Feb. 28 event is open to any youth ages 8 to 18 (as of Jan. 1, 2015) interested in swine production. Get a free t-shirt just for signing up, and plan to take part in as many of the activities as you like. Essay and photo contest entries are judged prior to the event, set at the Hansen Ag Student Learning Center at ISU, but judging, extemporaneous speaking and knowledge bowl contest are part of the day. Photo and essay entries are due Feb. 13, registration for everything else can be done now or at the show. See more information, including rules, guidelines, and details on the market hog show are on the Cyclone Swine Spectacular portion of the IPPA website here http://www.iowapork.org/IowaPorkYouthTeam/4205/CycloneSwineSpectacular.aspx

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FOR THE RECORD
Up, up, up
Take a quick look at the USDA summary document for the Dec. 23, 2014 Quarterly Hogs and Pigs Report, and you'll notice the word “up” in nearly every early statement. U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs -- “up” 2 percent from a year ago and “up” 1 percent from Sept. 1. Breeding inventory -- “up” 4 percent from 2013 and “up” 1 percent from September. Market hog inventory - “up” over 2013 and last quarter. September-November pigs crop -- “up” 4 percent from 2013. You can read this document here http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Todays_Reports/reports/hgpg1214.pdf
Apparently producers have weathered the PEDv storm, at least for now, and are pushing full steam ahead to get numbers back. What does that ultimately mean? See what the Livestock Marketing Information Center says http://www.lmic.info/current_situation_and_analysis/current-situation-and-analysis-12282014

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