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- Iowa confinement site manure applicator workshops
- Iowa Pork Regional Conferences

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- Still time to register for ‘Bridges programs

FOR THE RECORD
- Bacon, it’s just the ticket!

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
ISU judging teams start 2015 in good fashion at Denver
The ISU Livestock Judging Team brought home 5th place honors at the National Western Contest in Denver in January, including finishing 2nd in hog division and 5th in the carload contest. High placing individuals were Giddian Kappeler (6th overall and 8th in cattle), Jeremy Maass (7th in carload), and Elizabeth Heaton (8th in sheep and goats.) The Meat Judging Team also competed at the National Western, finishing 8th in reasons, 10th in beef judging, and 12th overall. Carl Frame was 6th in beef grading and Breanna Saso was 7th in beef judging and lamb judging. Next up for this team is the 37th Annual ISU Meat Evaluation Contest hosted by the ISU Meat Lab on Feb. 21.

NEWS
ISU well represented on new IPPA youth team
Two current ISU students and one future ISU student were named to the 2015 Iowa Pork Youth Leadership Team during last week’s Iowa Pork Congress in Des Moines. ISU ag studies major Christy Calderwood is the newly named Pork Queen and new Youth Ambassador Alex Conover is double majoring in animal science and public service and administration in agriculture. New Pork Princess Emily Cook is a senior at South Hardin High School and plans to attend ISU next fall to major in agriculture business and international agriculture. Each of them receives a $4,000 scholarship from IPPA and all will represent IPPA at a variety of pork-related educational and
promotional events during the coming year.

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Irish research on lowering antibiotic use shows promise
Results from a recent research project in Ireland that looked at the effectiveness of reducing antibiotic use through specific feed additives shows promise. The project was a cooperative effort among three entities: the Irish research institute Teagasc, University College Dublin and the Dutch feed additive producer FRAmelco. Conducted on a commercial 300-sow farm where both PRRS and H1N1 were confirmed, the test involved an experimental group and a control group. The focus was on the effect of using FRA products for digestive and respiratory problems three to four weeks after pigs were moved from weaning to finish units. Those in the experimental group received only a combination of additives; the control group received the same additive combination and antibiotics. Early results showed that removing antibiotics did not reduce the food conversion ratio. Final results should be available later this month.

PRODUCTION TIP
Keeping an eye on estrous in your herd
The estrous – or heat -- cycle in sows and gilts normally is 21 days, but can range from 18 to 24 days. Every herd is different in its estrous distribution because the estrous cycle can be influenced by health, body condition, age and climate. To keep your sows productive and cycling, provide optimum environment and nutrition conditions. This means regular checking of health and feed needs, and making changes as necessary.

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/FSQA.html for dates, locations and contact information.

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.
Feb. 23-26. 2015 Iowa Regional Pork Conferences. 1 to 4:30 p.m. at all locations. Preregister and attend for free. No-cost PQA Plus training offered 9:30 a.m. to noon at all locations. More information coming soon.

DID YOU KNOW?
Still time to register for 'Bridges programs
The first sessions of two successful distance education programs for specific segments of the pork industry happen this week, but there’s still time for you to register for either or both. SowBridge, for people who work with boars, sows and their litters, begins its seventh year on Wednesday, and PorkBridge, for those affiliated with grow-finish facilities, begins its ninth year the following day. SowBridge participants pay just $250 for the twelve monthly sessions, and PorkBridge costs $125 for the six sessions held every other month for a year. Entities with more than one location may pay lower fees for each subsequent registration from that same entity. Each registration provides access to one phone line per session and all program materials. The programs are sponsored by a group of 11 state universities, including ISU. Contact Sherry Hoyer for more info or to register.

FOR THE RECORD
Bacon, it’s just the ticket!
New Hampshire has an intriguing new lottery game using bacon-scented scratch-n-sniff tickets. This new “I Heart Bacon Scratch Ticket” went on sale Jan. 5 and has a grand price of $1,000. If you love bacon, or even just the smell of bacon, this game is a winner. Buy a ticket, scratch it and inhale the “priceless” aroma of that scrumptious cured meat. Tickets are $1 and even if you don’t win cash, you smell something wonderful. By the way, to promote the new game, lottery officials handed out free tickets AND new bacon strips last week. Iowa Lottery: are you paying attention? You can read more about this NH lottery game here http://www.nhlottery.com/News/2015/Smell-of-Bacon-in-the-Air-New-Hampshire-Lottery-La

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