THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
- IPPA scholarship application deadline approaches

NEWS
- Study shows pigs can regulate sulfur levels when fed DDGS
- Iowans honored in final Environmental Stewards program

PRODUCTION TIP
- Develop your EAP now

IT'S A DATE
- PQA Plus® and TQA® producer certification sessions
- FSQA sessions for 4-H and other youth
- PQAPlus 2.0 Advisor certification session

DID YOU KNOW?
- NPB announces new Pig Farmer contest

FOR THE RECORD
- Number of Iowa farms down, size up

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
IPPA scholarship application deadline approaches
IPPA is offering 12 scholarships to Iowa residents who’ll attend an Iowa two- or four-year post-secondary school this fall and major in an agriculture field with pork industry interest. Six are in the amount of $1,000 each for new college students and six are $1,500 for returning students. Application deadline is April 1, so please share this information with qualified young folks. Also, IPPA and the Iowa Purebred Swine Council together offer two $1,000 State Fair scholarships, one each to an incoming freshman (deadline May 1) and a returning student (deadline April 1). This page on the IPPA website has information on these scholarships and other opportunities with the organization. You’ll want to bookmark it for future reference.
http://www.iowapork.org/IowaPorkYouthTeam/1131/ScholarshipOpportunities.aspx#.VN5g-HQ5Cpo

NEWS
Study shows pigs can regulate sulfur levels when fed DDGS
A recent study in Hans Stein’s laboratory at University of Illinois showed it’s possible for pigs that eat diets including distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS) to regulate sulfur retention. A coproduct of the ethanol industry, DDGS can be high in sulfur, thus limiting the level that can be fed to pigs. This study included experimental diets having DDGS with two inclusion levels of sulfur along with a control diet. Stein said that the
results of this research should give producers more confidence about incorporating DDGS into swine diets. "What these results tell us is that even DDGS with a high sulfur content can be fed at up to a 30 percent inclusion rate without negative effects because pigs have the ability to regulate sulfur retention and excretion," he said. Read more in this news release on the lab website http://nutrition.ansci.illinois.edu/study-pigs-can-regulate-sulfur-retention-when-distillers-dried-grains-are-included-diet

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Iowans honored in final Environmental Stewards program

The National Pork Board’s 2014 Pork Industry Environmental Stewards were announced during the 2015 Pork Industry Forum in early March, and an Iowa couple was among the top winners. Bruce and Jenny Wessling of Grand Junction. The award, which is cosponsored by National Hog Farmer magazine, is in its 20th year and recognizes producers dedicated to safeguarding the environment and contributing to their local communities. This is the final award winning class for the program, which provided the foundation for a new program, “America’s Pig Farmer of the Year” that officially begins April 1. (See “Did you know?” item below.) Read more about the ES program and the Wesslings on the NPB website http://www.pork.org/pork-checkoff-honors-2014-pork-industry-environmental-stewards/

PRODUCTION TIP

Develop your EAP now

A well-documented, well thought-out, well-distributed Emergency Action Plan (EAP) is an indispensible tool in reducing the overall impact of an emergency on your operation. The National Pork Board has information on defining and developing an EAP that’s right for you, from identifying the need to ensuring the right people get the right training. Start by looking for info and links to download forms on the NPB website here http://www.pork.org/emergency-action-plan/

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.

April 15. PQAPlus 2.0 Advisor Certification session. Hansen Ag Student Learning Center, Ames. Applicants must submit two-page form by April 1. Download form here http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/events/PQAP2app041515.docx
DID YOU KNOW?
NPB announces new Pig Farmer contest
The National Pork Board announced its newest award earlier this month. The “America’s Pig Farmer of the Year” program will honor the U.S. pork producer who best excels at raising pigs while using the “We Care” ethical principles and shares with the public how that’s done. Although the announcement says the nomination window opens April 1 for six weeks, links to the online form and accompanying information is available on the website here http://americaspigfarmer.com/ Look for “contest” and submit your entry by May 15. While this event does not replace the Environmental Stewards Award program (see news item above for Iowa winner) the ESA is now retired and no longer available.

FOR THE RECORD
Number of Iowa farms down, size up
The March 4 issue of Iowa AgriNews (provided by USDA-NASS) has information on the state's farms, acres in farms, corn and soybean estimates, and crop values. The total number of farms decreased by 500 from a year ago, while the average farm size of 347 acres is up one acre from 2014. Links to AgriNews reports from January 8, 2010 through now are on this page http://nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Iowa/Publications/Agri-News/index.asp Each has a specific focus and is available for viewing, downloading and printing as a pdf document.

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