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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
ISU students fare well in NPB scholarship competition

Four undergraduates with Iowa/Iowa State connections are among the 21 college students receiving scholarships from the Pork Checkoff. ISU senior in animal science Matt Romoser was one of the top two candidates and will receive a $3,500 scholarship. He plans to pursue a masters degree in reproductive biology at ISU after completing his bachelors program. Benjamin Smith, animal science/ag systems technology major, and Morgan Pittz, animal science major, each received a $1,000 scholarship, as did Hayden Williams of Iowa Falls who’s a student at Wabash College. Read more on the NPB website http://www.pork.org/pork-checkoff-announces-recipients-2015-pork-industry-scholarships/

NEWS
Final year for Smithfield-funded grants

This is the final year of the Smithfield-funded grant program for projects that advance and enhance swine production in Iowa. Approximately $225,000 remains in the fund with proposals due to the Iowa Attorney General’s Farm Division by June 1. More info, including background of the program, descriptions of previously funded projects, and links to application forms, is on the Iowa AG website here https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/for-farmers/
Make your education plans now
The Professional Swine Manager Program is targeted towards current pork production employees, with a secondary audience of current community or technical college students wishing to enter a pork production unit after graduation. This program focuses on technical skills and will be rooted in hybrid distance education courses with hands-on learning provided by on-farm experience. The major objective of this program is to connect pork production knowledge and hands-on application with information acquired for a national certification. Learn more about upcoming courses, dates and costs here http://www.usporkcenter.org/Projects/505/ProfessionalSwineManager.aspx

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PRODUCTION TIP
Effective rodent control pays dividends
It’s spring and you know what that means -- rodents are on the move. As weather changes, don’t forget to check the rodent control you’re using for your buildings. Effective rodent control relies on keeping rodents out, preventing access to feed and baiting/trapping. Diligent rodent control should be a routine task on the farm because rodents can compromise biosecurity and health of the herd. Develop a customized plan of preventing entry, storing feed and cleaning spills, and effective baiting. Then, write down the actions on a calendar and check your calendar and your buildings on a regular basis.

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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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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.

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April 15. PQAPlus 2.0 Advisor Certification session. Hansen Ag Student Learning Center, Ames.

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DID YOU KNOW?
“Ultimate Guide to Bacon”
If you've ever wondered how bacon is made, the North American Meat Institute (NAMI) has a video for you. The “Ultimate Guide to Bacon” is the latest addition to NAMI’s Glass Walls video series, that also features inside tours of livestock processing plants and explanations of how other meat products are made. Animal welfare expert Temple
Grandin leads and narrates these videos, all of which are available on NAMI’s Meat News Network. In addition to the short (less than 3 minutes) video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Z-sbwt1GgM (note that it starts playing automatically when you go to that page), you can view and download the 12-page publication by the same name https://www.meatinstitute.org/index.php?ht=a/GetDocumentAction/i/111466

FOR THE RECORD
Latest ISU research farms reports available
The 2014 ISU Research Farms Progress Reports are now available online. The exceptions are those from these farms: McNay, Agricultural Engineering and Agronomy Research Farms, Central Iowa Farms, and the BioCentury Farm, all of which will be posted by the end of this month. Want to see what’s new? Go to this page on the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences website http://farms.ag.iastate.edu/farms and choose any of the farms listed.

NEWS NOW from the Iowa Pork Industry Center http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/
Editor Sherry Hoyer, phone 515-294-4496, shoyer@iastate.edu
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