THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE

- IPIC helps welcome international visitors

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- Human gene helps pigs “grow their own”
- Swine influenza numbers in Scotland and Ireland

PRODUCTION TIP

- Closeouts provide valuable information

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- PQA Plus® and TQA® producer certification sessions
- Iowa State Fair
- Biofilter Conference

DID YOU KNOW?

- And the study shows …

FOR THE RECORD

- IPIC website is gateway for the world

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE

IPIC helps welcome international visitors

Iowa Pork Industry Center and the ISU animal science department often have welcomed and hosted international groups, but two recent visits show the importance that such visitors place on the knowledge, experience and personnel they find here. In early July, a Danish group led by Dan Jørgensen spent a few hours with ISU folks in a dialogue on animal welfare, food safety, economics, environment, and production issues. Jørgensen, who is Denmark’s Minister for Food and Agriculture, also presented a session to animal science grad students, faculty and staff that day. And in late July, a seven-member team from Shandong Newhope Liuhe Group, Ltd, in China, traveled here with a representative from the Iowa Economic Development Authority. The team, which included the company president, met with Jay Harmon, John Mabry, Alex Ramirez and others from animal science and VDPAM. New Hope is a leader in China in feed sales and meat processing volume, and is increasing its pork industry business.

NEWS

Human gene helps pigs “grow their own”

A recently published research report seems to indicate that a specific human gene can help pig cells become a pacemaker. Scientists from the Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute in Los Angeles injected the human gene TBX18 into pigs that had a heart condition causing a very slow heart rate. The result? Some ordinary heart muscle cells were converted into specialized cells that kept the heart beating in regular rhythm, acting as
a pacemaker for two weeks. One of the scientists said, “We also are the first to reprogram a heart cell in a living animal in order to effectively cure a disease.” However, while the study shows future promise for human patients with similar diseases, the British Heart Foundation said applications of the research won’t mean immediate changes in approach. You can read more in a release on the BBC website http://www.bbc.com/news/health-28325370 or read the entire research article published in Science Translational Medicine here http://stm.sciencemag.org/content/6/245/245ra94.full.html

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Swine influenza numbers in Scotland and Ireland

Merial Animal Health reports that fully one-third of surveyed hog farms in Scotland and Northern Ireland are positive for swine influenza. The Scottish data came from blood samples in 2012 and 2013, and the Northern Irish data was gathered at that country’s two main slaughterhouses in 2011. A company spokesman said the actual prevalence could be higher than 34 percent, due to negative results at slaughter from animal antibody prevalence. Because the disease can increase abortion and still birth rates, as well as decrease conception rates and lactation, it’s important to determine accurate infected herds. Read more in this release on the WattAgNet website http://www.wattagnet.com/Swine_influenza_in_a_third_of_Scotland__Northern_Ireland_herds.html

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PRODUCTION TIP

Closeouts provide valuable information

When a group of pigs is sold and the room or barn is emptied, the records are “closed out.” Compiling accurate records is a constant effort, but it's essential to accurately monitor performance. Completing the records for each group of pigs is key to helping recognize variations among groups. It’s important to not only to have complete data, but also to analyze closeouts to account for explainable sources of variation from group to group. Learning what can and should be changed for future groups makes good economic sense. IPIC has software that can assist producers with these financial tasks. See offerings here www.ipic.iastate.edu/softwarepurchase.html

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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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Aug. 7-17. Iowa State Fair. "Nothing Compares"

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Aug. 20. Biofilter Conference. Iowa State University. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration is $50 when done by Aug. 12; increases $20 after that date. See more info on the conference website http://www.aep.iastate.edu/biofilter/

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DID YOU KNOW?
And the study shows …
Of four alternatives to surgical castration of piglets outlined by scientists from Aarhus University in Denmark, none are easy to implement at the present time. This is one of the conclusions of a major study into alternatives to surgical castration, which scientists at Aarhus University prepared for the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration. Following the Aarhus study, a summit hosted by Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries earlier this year resulted in a declaration of castration without anesthetics would be banned in Denmark by 2018. The four alternatives? Entire male production, immunocastration, sperm sexing, and breeding against boar taint. Read more in the 163-page publication http://web.agrsci.dk/djfpublikation/djfpdf/dcarapport42.pdf or take a quick read of this release on the Pig Progress website http://www.pigprogress.net/Breeding/Management/2014/6/No-easy-alternatives-to-surgical-castration-of-piglets-1535634W/

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FOR THE RECORD
IPIC website is gateway for the world
The IPIC website recorded more than 74,000 hits during the month of June through approximately 15,500 visits. Nearly 680 individual .pdf files were downloaded from 100 separate pages on the website. And who visited the site? At least 60% were from the United States and 14% from international visitors, including more than 4,700 who came to the site more than once. In fact, there were 44 countries that recorded five or more visits in this month alone. The top search phrases that led visitors to the site: paylean for pigs, pig farming pdf, and internal multiplication.
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