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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Final NEWS NOW for 2015
It’s December and that means seasonal notes are in store. First, a reminder that NEWS NOW is not sent at the end of the calendar year, so this is the final issue for 2015. We enjoy bringing a bit of news to you the rest of the year on a regular basis and hope you’ll consider sharing your email copy of the newsletter or sending on the URL for the newsletter archive http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/newsreleases.html#newsnow
Second, remember that even though NEWS NOW takes a break, IPIC continues to be available to you as usual. Call us at 515-294-4103 or 800-808-7675 (Iowa only); Email us at ipic@iastate.edu or fax at 515-294-5698.
Finally, our warmest wishes for a great holiday season and good start to 2016. May your choices and decisions bring peace, prosperity and well-being to your family and your operation.

NEWS
German pork exports up through September
Exports from Germany showed a slight increase by volume for the period January through September this year. This 1 percent increase came even though the primary export market country of Italy had a 3 percent drop. Higher volume purchases by Poland the Netherlands made up for Italy’s drop. Increases from China and South Korea also helped push the year-to-date total higher than 2014 numbers. See this page on the UK’s AHDB (Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board) website
Helping next generation remain in the industry
Two families from near Hedrick in southeast Iowa have added two new finishing buildings to the family operation. Jim and Joan Sterling, son Josh Sterling, and daughter and son-in-law Jaime and Andrew Vandehaar decided to work together to keep their farm and pork operation in the family, and shared the new construction with more than 250 attendees at an open house in late November. The farm has been in their family since 1946, and Jim Sterling said they’re proud to be able to keep those traditions going with the help of Coalition to Support Iowa’s Farmers and others. You can read the entire article on the IPPA website http://www.iowapork.org/se-iowa-hog-barn-open-house-draws-strong-support/

PRODUCTION TIP
Take care
In two weeks, winter actually arrives. Until then, days become shorter and skies tend to stay darker and cloudier. It’s regular practice to start chores in the dark morning and finish in the dark afternoon/evening. Did you know that decreased exposure to sunlight can lead to seasonal depression and mood variation? Be sure to take time to enjoy family and extracurricular activities during the coming holidays and winter season, and remember that enjoying time off the job can help with better productivity on the job. The Iowa Concern Hotline offers information, assistance and referrals for a variety of areas, including a specific page on caring for yourself and others http://www.extension.iastate.edu/iowaconcern/caring.html. You can call the toll-free number 800-447-1985, look through the lists of “Frequently Asked Questions,” chat online through the website http://www.extension.iastate.edu/iowaconcern/ or browse through the wealth of resources linked from the site. Any personal information provided through any of these avenues is kept confidential, and all Iowa Concern services are available 24 hours a day 7 days per week at no charge.

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.

Dec. 11. Confined Manure Pit Safety Webinar. Provided by Iowa Farm Bureau. 1 p.m. Details, including computer needs, on the IFB website https://www.iowafarmbureau.com/Article/Webinar-Confined-Manure-Pit-Safety More info about this program under “News” above.
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DID YOU KNOW?
New IPPA position for Bettin
Tyler Bettin, producer education director for Iowa Pork Producers Association since February 2008, has taken a new position there. He’s now the state public policy director, taking over for Cody McKinley, who moved to National Pork Producers Council as director of state and national relations last month. Tyler has been the face of IPPA for many events and educational opportunities offered jointly with IPIC, and we will continue to appreciate his thoughtful manner and cooperative attitude as producer education director until a replacement is named sometime next year. Thanks to Tyler for always keeping the Iowa pork producer at the forefront of every decision and for looking to ISU to help do just that.

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FOR THE RECORD
Iowa ranks high in USDA Organic Survey
The USDA-NASS 2014 Organic Survey shows Iowa is 10th high state in the nation for organic sales, and is 6th in number of organic farms. Our 612 farms are 4 percent of the national total. Some hogs and pigs-specific information: With nearly 3,400 organic hogs, Iowa’s organic hog numbers 39 percent of the national inventory making it the top state. More information about the survey itself, including links to the full report and data by state and county, is available on the AgCensus website here http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/Organic_Survey/

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NEWS NOW from the Iowa Pork Industry Center http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/
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