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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
ISU 2016 Animal Industry Report is here
The latest edition of the Iowa State University Animal Industry Report is now available in its entirety on the digital repository portion of the ISU Library website. The primary AIR link is http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ans_air/ which allows the viewer to see locations of current and recent downloads, and to choose any specific AIR year. To go directly to the 2016 edition, use this URL http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ans_air/vol662/iss1/ This year’s compilation has more than 80 individual articles, including 16 in the swine category. Take a look at recent ISU research pertaining to the animal industries, and be amazed.

NEWS
Warthogs and bush pigs and RELA, oh my!
Scottish researchers are making inroads in the ongoing fight against African swine fever through the use of advanced genetic techniques. In domesticated pigs, the RELA gene is associated with ASF infection, and causes the animal’s immune system to overreact. But that same gene in warthogs and bush pigs is a different version (known as an allele) that may decrease the immune response and possibly explain why the wild animals are more resilient to ASF. Scientists from the Roslin Institute modified individual letters in the domesticated pigs’ RELA gene, converting it into the allele of the warthog. The next step in this research is to conduct controlled trials to determine whether these new animals actually demonstrate improved resilience to ASF. Read more in this National Hog Farmer article http://nationalhogfarmer.com/health/pig-s-
genetic-code-altered-tackle-african-swine-fever or read the research report itself in the February 2016 Scientific Reports journal  http://www.nature.com/articles/srep21645

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U.S. pork can head to South Africa
Thanks to ongoing work by National Pork Producers Council and the Obama administration, the U.S. can now ship a variety of pork products to South Africa. The former ban is only partially lifted, though, so NPPC says it will continue to work with government officials for complete access. See more info on the agreement on the NPPC website here http://www.nppc.org/2016/02/south-africa-now-taking-u-s-pork/
This link to the FSIS website (of USDA) has specifics on all the products now being accepted by South Africa, including pork http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products/export-library-requirements-by-country/S-Africa

PRODUCTION TIP
Estrous is everything
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 may 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.

Ongoing through July 6. Common Swine Industry Audit sessions. No cost, but preregister to ensure your space at these limited attendance sessions, sponsored by IPIC, ISUEO and IPPA. http://www.iowapork.org/common-swine-industry-audit-training-sessions-offered-2/

DID YOU KNOW?
Seafood diet for piglets
University of Aarhus researchers say results from a recently conducted feeding trial for newly weaned piglets have some surprisingly positive results, due mostly to the nature of the feedstuffs being tested. In addition to fish meal and extruded soybean meal, the study looked at two formulations of starfish meal. Yes, you read that correctly -- the scientists fed starfish meal, combined with extruded soybean meal, in two of four diets. For this project, 96 pigs were housed individually beginning one week after weaning, and assigned to one of the four diets for a 14-day period. What happened? In short, a higher level of starfish meal had a somewhat negative effect on performance while the lower level starfish meal resulted in equal performance to pigs on the control diets.

Want to know more? See the research article on the ScienceDirect website here http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0377840115300687  For history on Aarhus researchers using starfish and other seafood in pig diets, see information on the University’s website from 2013 http://dca.au.dk/en/current-news/news/show/artikel/soestjerner-og-muslinger-undersoeges-som-mulige-proteinkilder-for-hoens-og-svin/

FOR THE RECORD

Saving more smalls
Determining how piglets grow during gestation may be a big step forward for Kansas State University researchers who want to reduce the number of small pigs -- or runts -- in litters. John Gonzalez, assistant professor of animal sciences and industry at Kansas State, said they’re looking at stages of muscle development in utero and whether there are options for changes in sow feeding to address potential nutrient needs of some the unborn pigs prior to farrowing. Also, when producers do get small pigs, what types of specific nutrition and management strategies might be used, or how might these pigs eventually be marketed to increase economic investment. See the Kansas State news article for more info https://www.k-state.edu/media/newsreleases/feb16/runts2216.html

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