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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Welcome back
A likely record number of enrolled students began classes last week at ISU. Official numbers won’t be available until next month, but about 36,000 students were expected for a ninth consecutive year of growth here. Want more numbers now? Check this page on the ISU website http://www.inside.iastate.edu/article/2015/08/20/facts

Also, a welcome back of sorts to NEWS NOW. Due to the nearly two-week run of the Iowa State Fair and commitments galore there, the originally scheduled Aug. 17 issue of the newsletter is being combined with the Aug. 31 issue. This means more info than usual, and that’s always good.

NEWS
New Science With Practice student at IPIC this fall
Hello everyone! My name is Amber Howell, and I am a senior at Iowa State University, majoring in animal science. I am the new Science with Practice student for Fall 2015
with the Iowa Pork Industry Center. I grew up in the small southeast Iowa town of Wapello, and I’ve had two internships in the past two summers relating to the pork industry. Here at Iowa State I am a member of the Dairy Science Club, the secretary of the Animal Behavior and Nutrition Club, and on the Bacon Expo Committee. I also enjoy working at the Iowa State Swine Teaching Farm, and now with Science with Practice. I am looking forward to working on the communications side of the industry as I have had a lot of on-farm experience.

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EPA/DNR work plan on schedule
The Iowa DNR recently completed the second year of a five-year work plan agreement with EPA to implement the federally authorized National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program in the state. The agreement is for DNR to inspect about 20 percent of operations needing NPDES permits, and after two years, about 41 percent of them have been completed according to DNR’s chief of field services and compliance. Information about the agreement, and the materials and reports associated with it, are on the DNR website here http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/LandStewardship/AnimalFeedingOperations/EPADNRWorkplanMaterials.aspx You can see the latest report dated August 1, 2015, through the link at the bottom of this page “Obj 7.1 & 7.2 IDNR AFO Workplan Annual Report Aug 2015” Or go directly to the 146-page .pdf document through this link http://www.iowadnr.gov/Portals/idnr/uploads/afo/IDNR_AFO_Workplan_Annual_Report_Aug_2015.pdf

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Most rented U.S. farmland owned by non-farmers
According to a report released today by the USDA’s NASS, 80 percent of the more than 353 million acres of rented farmland are owned by non-farming landlords. The TOTAL (Tenure, Ownership, and Transition of Agricultural Land) survey is the only NASS survey that collects agricultural landlord data and this 2014 survey covered the 48 contiguous states. You can see the entire report, the landlord sample report form and operator report form, as well as questions and answers about the survey itself on the USDA’s Ag Census website here http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/TOTAL/

PRODUCTION TIPS
Evaluating weaning age
Piglet weaning time is a crucial stage in the production cycle of raising pigs. The age, weight and health status at the time of weaning lays the foundation for the pigs’ success during the growout period. These factors also influence the efficiency and cost of raising pigs. The early diet for a weaned pig is very complex and expensive. Considering costs of feed ingredients and conversion with the growing performance and reproductive efficiency, evaluations of weaning age add meaningful information for producer decision-making.
On “your” farm research
Successful farmers try new things every year, whether it be new genetics, new feed ingredients, new management practices or new equipment. Nothing is more valuable than taking public or private products and research, and placing them in your own farm’s real-world conditions. Have you tried something with insignificant or ill-measured results? ISUEO swine program specialists in your area can help you design and monitor a valid on-farm trial. Talk with your specialist today.
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/swine

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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Oct. 21-22. International Conference on Feed Efficiency in Swine. Hilton Hotel, Omaha

DID YOU KNOW?
Free on-demand webinar on the new VFD Zoetis and livestock industry experts have partnered to create and make this no-cost webinar available to all. The content focuses on the Veterinary Feed Directive and its regulatory powers, including roles, responsibilities, timing and requirements for producers, feed suppliers and others. You’ll need to register to access the video, but there’s no cost and no obligation. Start here http://www.porknetwork.com/webinars/zoetis-vfd-webinar

Animal science professor back in class
Many of our readers know Tom Baas, animal science professor housed in 109 Kildee, because of industry connections or youth swine shows. Fewer may know about his forced time away from work during the past year. This article in the Iowa State Daily student newspaper provides a look at a journey he took that started in Pork Month last year. http://www.iowastatedaily.com/news/academics/article_163ebbbc-49ee-11e5-
Tom is now back in his office teaching and advising students, and has a study abroad trip already planned for next May.

FOR THE RECORD
U.S. and Canadian inventory up
Herd numbers continue to increase for both the U.S. and Canada, according to the latest U.S. and Canadian hog inventory report. For June of this year, combined inventory of all hogs and pigs was up 7 percent from a year ago and up 3 percent from two years ago. Total inventory was 80.1 million, with 7.15 million in breeding inventory. This also was up, 1 percent over both 2014 and 2013 numbers. Individually, U.S. total inventory was 66.9 million and Canada was 13.2 million. You can read more in the Aug. 20 report here http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/USCH//2010s/2015/USCH-08-20-2015.txt

North Central SARE invites farmer-rancher grant applications
Farmers and ranchers in Iowa and the rest of the north central region of SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program) are invited to submit grant proposals that show how they can use and share ideas on sustainable agriculture options. This 2016 North Center Region program has three types of grants: individual with a $7,500 maximum; team of two (two farmers and/or ranchers from separate operations working together with $15,000 maximum; and group for three or more people from separate operations working together with a $22,500 maximum. In total, $400,000 is available for this program. Applications are accepted online and are due Dec. 3, 2015. More information about the program and links to application and submission details is on the NC SARE website here http://www.northcentralsare.org/Grants/Our-Grant-Programs/Farmer-Rancher-Grant-Program

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