THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
- Heat detection poster now available

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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Heat detection poster now available
Cooperation could be our middle name here at IPIC. In the latest example of working with external partners to create and disseminate educational materials for the industry, IPIC’s Colin Johnson worked with the Pork Checkoff, PigChamp, Inc., Babcock Genetics, and National Hog Farmer magazine on a new poster. “Heat Detection” is an easy to follow poster complete with definitions, photos and descriptions. One side of the poster is in English and the other is in Spanish. It’s a great size to post in barns and break rooms, and includes phone numbers for all the partners in the project. The poster is being sent out by National Hog Farmer as part of the magazine, and it’s available from each of the partners as well. We are proud to work with NHF and the others to develop usable and useful pieces like these. If you don’t receive NHF and you’d like a copy of the poster, contact any of the partners: Pork Checkoff – 800-456-7675; PigChamp, Inc. – 866-774-4242; Babcock Genetics – 507-288-3312; National Hog Farmer – 952-851-4710; or IPIC – 515-294-4103.

NEWS
New paper on biofuels from CAST
The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) has released a new CAST Commentary, Convergence of Agriculture and Energy: II. Producing Cellulosic Biomass for Biofuels. The paper looks at the future of biomass production, including possible changes in cropping systems. Much of today’s biofuels is in the form of ethanol derived from corn, but CAST executive vice president John Bonner says changing current practice is almost certainly necessary. “To advance agroecosystem production beyond that achievable with existing practices, new knowledge, new systems, and new genetic resources must be created … CAST is pleased to present this document as part of the ongoing biofuels discussion,” he said. You can download the entire paper (in pdf format) from the CAST Web site at this URL http://www.cast-science.org/displayProductDetails.asp?idProduct=145

Largest university ag career fair is at ISU
Nearly 150 employers will be at the ISU Ag Career Day event tomorrow. Although the total number of
employers is down from 2006 (limited space is due to renovations in the Memorial Union), the even continues to be a hotbed of recruitment activity for students with agriculturally related career plans. Mike Gaul heads career services in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He said the maximum number of exhibiting companies was reached within two weeks of that registration. The event is open to the public, and runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Great Hall and Campanile Room. You can see a list of participating companies here www.career.ag.iastate.edu/agcareerday/career.php

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Feeding strategies for weaned pigs
There’s more to a good nursery program than simply creating and maintaining a proper nutritional program and feed budget, say Kansas State University swine specialists. You need the right strategies for management that fit your operation and your animals. Feed and water intake, phase feeding, ingredient quality, as well as proper sow feeding considerations, are important parts of your overall plan. You can read the whole article on this topic (by Joel DeRouchey, Mike Tokach, Bob Goodband, and Jim Nelssen of KSU and veterinarian Steve Dritz) by going to this URL on the National Hog Farmer Web site http://nationalhogfarmer.com/mag/farming_feeding_strategies_weaned/

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IT’S A DATE
Oct. 25. PQA PlusTM Advisor training session. This is full with a waiting list. Here’s the link to the registration form for the next IPIC-scheduled session on Dec. 13 http://snipr.com/1r68w

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Nov. 8-9. Swine Disease Conference for Swine Practitioners. Scheman Building, Iowa State Center, Ames. Early registration (before Oct. 19) is $210. Fee is $245 after that date. One-day registration rates and extra proceedings copies are available for a charge. Web site has links to registration form and agenda here http://snipr.com/1rrqr

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Dec. 12. Pork Niche Market Working Group. 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Ensminger Room, Kildee Hall, ISU campus. Learn more about PNMWG on its Web site http://valuechains.org/pnmwg/

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DID YOU KNOW?
University of Illinois has Farm Bill analysis tool
As part of its set of FAST (Farm Analysis Solution Tools) in Microsoft Excel spreadsheet format, University of Illinois Extension ag economist Gary Schnitkey has developed a new tool to compare different versions of the Farm Bill and their potential financial impact on farmers. The spreadsheet is available for free download from the UIUC Web site at this URL http://www.farmdoc.uiuc.edu/pubs/FASTtool_special.asp?ID=51 Note: you'll need Excel version 2000 or higher to use this spreadsheet (or any of the others from UIUC.) A user guide also is available.

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FOR THE RECORD
NPB looking for potential checkoff board members
The National Pork Checkoff Board is looking for a few good nominations. The board is now accepting nominations to fill five, three-year terms as director. Candidates also are being sought for two open seats on the Board’s Nominating Committee to serve two-year terms starting next year. Any person who is a producer and has paid all Checkoff assessments due, OR is a representative of a producer/company that produces hogs/pigs, is eligible to serve on the National Pork Checkoff Board. The Pork Checkoff Nominating Committee will solicit, interview, evaluate and recommend candidates to the Pork Act Delegate Body at the annual meeting March 2008. A slate of eight producers will be elected and
submitted to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture who will appoint five producers to serve 3-year terms on the National Pork Checkoff Board. If you’re interested, or know of someone else who is, don’t delay. The application deadline is Dec. 1. To apply, send your information to the National Pork Checkoff Board either by mail to 1776 NW 114th St, Clive, IA 50325; by telephone to Lorraine Garner at 515-223-2637, or e-mail LGarner@pork.org. More info is available on the NPB Web site at this URL http://snipr.com/1s