THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE

- ISU releases swine genetic markers

NEWS

- Program coordinator sought for QMS work
- National Pork Board prepares 2008 budget
- USDA proposes "naturally raised" standards

IT'S A DATE

- CALS seminar on hog CAFOs and sustainability
- Pork Niche Market Working Group
- IPIC Advisory Board meeting
- PQA Plus™ certification sessions
- Iowa Pork Congress

DID YOU KNOW?

- National survey: more concern for humans, less for farm animal welfare

FOR THE RECORD

- Hogs and Pigs questionnaire on the way

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE

ISU releases swine genetic markers

Swine genetics researchers at Iowa State University continue to lead the way in their field. Just last week, ISU announced the release and public availability of DNA markers in four swine genes. The ISU Research Foundation signed a license agreement with GeneSeek of Lincoln, Nebraska, that permits the company to use these four markers: MC4R - controls growth and leanness; PRKAG3 - controls meat composition; CAST - affects meat tenderness and quality; and HMGA1 - highly associated with backfat and lean growth. Max Rothschild, C.F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor in Agriculture at ISU and director of the Center for Integrated Animal Genomics, says that while the four markers differ in their effects, multi-gene combinations are best. "Breeders and producers will want to work together to develop the combinations that work best in their specific herds," Rothschild said. "Using all four would be beneficial for overall line development to improve growth, leanness and meat quality." By taking advantage of the technology afforded through use of these markers, producers can better plan for the growth and stability of their operations. For example, the "fast" growth form of MC4R can shave three days off the time to market weight, while the "lean/efficient" growth form of the same marker reduces backfat and amount of feed necessary to get to market weight. Combining the "lean" form of MC4R with HMGA1 can provide a tool for significant leanness in breeding stock. You can read the ISU news release at this URL http://snipr.com/1ukqi If you want more information, contact Rothschild by e-mail at mfrothsc@iastate.edu

NEWS

Program coordinator sought for QMS work

IPIC is looking for the right person to lead the development and delivery of a one-year-old high-profile quality and environmental management system program for pork producers in Iowa. According to the job description, "The successful candidate will also lead the development of teaching materials and user-friendly templates, coordinate ISU faculty and staff participating in the program, recruit participants, deliver the educational program, and assure proper follow-up with participants to monitor success. The program is dynamic and will evolve with the needs of the Iowa pork producers to compete in a rapidly changing market place." This program will assure regulatory compliance and improved performance on environmental measures, secure market access and strengthen customer confidence, and enhance producer profitability and management skills. It will involve written materials, training workshops, and personal follow up with participants. Candidates must have a minimum of a B.S. degree in Ag Production/Management or closely related field, with four years of related experience (or an M.S. degree
in the mentioned areas with two years of experience). This is a half-time, term appointment set to begin
Jan. 1, 2008 and end Dec. 31, 2011. If you're interested or know of someone who is, please use the
following Iowa State University URL for additional information and links to the online application forms.
http://snipr.com/1uksx

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National Pork Board prepares 2008 budget
Completed at a mid-November board meeting, the $51 million budget will focus on five areas: competitive
advantage for U.S. pork, safeguard and expansion of international markets, domestic pork expenditures,
trust and image of U.S. pork industry, and the development of human capital. NPB president Lynn
Harrison says about 20 percent will go directly to state pork organizations to both conduct their own
Checkoff-sponsored activities and to partner with national programs. What's new in this budget? One
appropriation that will help NPB work with other food-chain partners to provide consumers with better
understanding of modern pork production and how it contributes to a safe food source. Also, the group
added financial support for a genome sequencing research project designed to help scientists make
specific use of the pig gene sequencing work being led by researchers at the University of Illinois, USDA
and others. Learn more in a news release on the NPB Web site here http://snipr.com/1u7jy

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USDA proposes "naturally raised" standards
The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service has proposed a voluntary standard for a naturally raised
marketing claim for livestock and meat. It's been published in the Federal Register and public comments
are being sought. Aimed at producers who choose to operate a USDA-verified program involving a
naturally raised claim, the proposed standard will establish minimum requirements. The naturally raised
marketing claim also will also be a voluntary program. (You can) read a news release, the Federal
Register posting, and the proposed standard's language from links on this AMS Web page
http://snipr.com/1ubh4

IT’S A DATE
Dec. 5. College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Seminar, "Hog CAFOs and Sustainability:
Local Development and Water Quality in Iowa" presented by Jan. Flora of the ISU sociology Department.
1:10 p.m., Ensminger Room, 1204 Kildee Hall, ISU campus.

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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Dec. 12. IPIC Advisory Board meeting. 2 to 6 p.m. Ensminger Room, Kildee Hall, ISU campus.

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Continuing. PQA Plus™ certification sessions. A two-hour training session for pork producers or
individuals who need PQA Plus™ certification. Cost is $25 and preregistration is encouraged. See IPIC’s
events page for locations, times and specific contact information. www.ipic.iastate.edu/events.html

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Jan. 23-24. Iowa Pork Congress. IPIC coordinates the Iowa State University area on the trade show floor.
Learn more about the show, speakers and displays on the IPC Web site here
www.iowaporkcongress.org/

DID YOU KNOW?
National survey shows more concern for humans, less for farm animal welfare
Results of a recent survey of more than 1,000 Americans indicate that while people are concerned with
farm animal welfare, those concerns are far outweighed by concerns for human welfare and farmers. The
study was done by the American Farm Bureau Federation in cooperation with Oklahoma State University.
According to an article by OSU assistant professor of agricultural economics F. Bailey Norwood, social issues were important to those surveyed. "... the financial well-being of U.S. farmers was found to be twice as important as the well-being of farm animals. Human poverty, the U.S. health care system, and food safety were found to be more than five times more important than farm animal well-being." The rest of the article is on the SFBF Web site here http://snipr.com/1ukah

FOR THE RECORD
Hogs and Pigs questionnaire on the way
During the first half of December, 13,000 pork producers will be contacted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service for the Dec. 27 Quarterly Hogs and Pigs Report. Participants can respond by mail, phone, Internet or personal interview. All information is confidential, and no individual operation or producer can be identified in the state- and national-level data that's published. The Dec. 27 report will be available on the NASS site here http://snipr.com/1ubsa

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