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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Warm wishes from IPIC
It almost doesn't seem possible that this is the final NEWS NOW for 2007. The fall semester at Iowa State has just concluded, and as usual, we also take a break at this time of year. We'll be back in early 2008 with our next issue scheduled for Jan. 14. We hope NEWS NOW remains a positive addition to your world. At last count, nearly 300 addresses are on the NEWS NOW subscription list, but if you know of someone who'd like to subscribe please send this issue to them and encourage them to follow the directions at the end of this message. Remember that we don't keep names, addresses, phone numbers or any other contact information – just e-mail addresses – so potential subscribers can be assured they won't be solicited or bothered by anything else. Even though this newsletter is on break, IPIC continues to be available to you by phone, fax and e-mail. Contact us with your questions, concerns and suggestions as they arise. We're planning a great 2008.

NEWS
Want a free trip to a national sustainable agriculture conference?
Thanks to support from Chipotle Grill, the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State is offering 10 Iowa farmers the opportunity to attend the 20th anniversary National Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education conference, "Advancing the Frontier of Sustainable Agriculture." The meeting is set for Mach 25-27 in Kansas City. The Leopold Center will pay registration, lodging, and travel expenses (up to $750) for each selected farmer. More information and links to the Application form are available on the Leopold Center's Web site here http://snipr.com/1v8bh. Applications are due Jan. 21 and the winners will be selected by Jan. 30.

First Canadian cloned pigs born
A news release last week announced the births of three litters of cloned pigs at McGill University in Quebec, Canada. Of the 17 total piglets born, 10 are under close watch as they grow and develop. Dr. Vilceu Bordignon, director of the Large Animal Research Unit at the University's Macdonald campus, says seven of the piglets were euthanized and autopsied to determine whether any abnormalities related to the cloning were present. The remaining 10 are being treated as ordinary pigs, with no special treatment. This $1 million research project was funded by the University and three other Canadian organizations. You can read the original news release on the McGill University Web site here http://snipr.com/1v6do
New U.S. trade office in China
The USDA has just opened its fourth agricultural trade office on mainland China to assist in marketing and promoting U.S. agricultural products. Officials say it just makes sense to devote more resources to work in that country. "It is one of the world's largest economies and the fifth largest market for U.S. agricultural exports," says A. Ellen Terpstra, Deputy Under Secretary for USDA's Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services. You can read a news release on the USDA Web site here http://snipr.com/1vezb

Manure applicator certification sessions begin next month
If you're among the nearly 4,000 currently certified manure applicators in Iowa, you'll want to be sure to schedule your annual continuing instruction soon. Commercial applicators can receive their three hours of required annual continuing instruction on Friday, Jan. 4 via satellite downlink from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at county Iowa State University Extension offices. There's no fee, but you must register with the office where you plan to attend the workshop. You can read and print the brochure from the IMMAG Web site here http://snipr.com/1vfjt Confinement site applicators or anyone interested in learning about applying manure should plan to attend a two-hour workshop in January or February 2008. There's no cost to attend, but currently certified applicators who are fulfilling their continuing education requirements will pay an annual education fee of $25. To find a location and date that work for you, see this page on the IMMAG Web site http://snipr.com/1v8cy You can view dates by alphabetical county listing or choose specific counties from the Iowa map on that page. More than 80 workshops will be held in 73 counties. If you have questions about any of these trainings, contact your local county ISU Extension office or visit the manure applicator certification portion of the IMMAG Web site here http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/mac.html

IT'S A DATE
Continuing. PQA PlusTM certification sessions. A two-hour training session for pork producers or individuals who need PQA PlusTM 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

Dec. 20. Increasing Niche Pork Profits Discussion Group. Personnel from Iowa State will provide information on year 2006 results from the National Research Initiative grant, "Niche Pork Herd Health and Production Cost Management Project" including controlling feed and non-feed costs and benchmarking principles. Registration deadline is past, but for project information and results, contact Dave Stender by phone at 712-225-6196 or by e-mail at dstender@iastate.edu

Jan. 4. Commercial manure applicators certification workshop. You must register at the county ISU Extension office where you plan to attend. Read the brochure on the IMMAG web site here http://snipr.com/1vfjt

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/

January and February. Confinement site manure applicator certification workshops. See the listing of dates and locations here http://snipr.com/1v8cy

DID YOU KNOW?
Have you visited our Web site recently?
If you’ve been to www.ipic.iastate.edu in the past 30 days, you’re among the 786 absolute unique visitors who recorded 2,562 page views and spent an average of just over 3 minutes per visit. You probably were using Microsoft Internet Explorer as your browser (nearly 79% did), and more than 60% of you use higher speed connections (T1, DSL or cable) to access the Internet. Just in November, people from 81 countries came to the site, including Oman, Latvia, Tuvaku, Slovenia, Cyprus, and Turkey. How did you get to the site? Surprisingly, it’s fairly evenly divided among the three methods: direct traffic (you came directly from an offline source); referring sites (you clicked on a URL in another Web site); and search engines (you searched for a word or phrase and clicked on a URL in those search results that brought you to our site.) Based on these numbers, you might think we probably know your name, e-mail address and other contact information, but don’t worry. These statistics and others in a couple of programs I use to monitor Web traffic and use don’t have the capability or the capacity to determine who you are. These programs are helpful to me in pointing out important pages, current areas of interest, and whether the content provided is what people are seeking. If there are items you want to see or things you want to know that aren’t on our pages, let me know. I’d love to see these numbers increase.

FOR THE RECORD
Canadian worried about cost of M-COOL
A researcher from the George Morris Centre in Ontario, Canada’s Independent Agri-Food Think Tank, says implementation of mandatory country of origin labeling in the U.S. could create financial burdens for producers in his country. Dr. Al Russell said in an interview with FarmScape that while both Canada and the U.S. will experience increases in processing costs due to M-COOL provisions, it ultimately could mean less income for Canadian producers. “That cost is very likely to end up being just simply worked through the procurement system to lower pricing for Canadian product,” he said. You can read a short news piece or listen to the audio of the interview through links on the FarmScape Web site here http://snipr.com/1vets

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