THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE

Awardees, recipients and honorees at Iowa Pork Congress

The 2008 Iowa Pork Congress is history, but for some, the experience is just beginning. For example, Dave Moody from Nevada officially took over as association president at the end of the annual meeting. Jennifer Leistikow, daughter of Kevin and Deanne Leistikow from Readlyn, was crowned the 2008 Iowa Pork Queen; Kourtney Determan, daughter of Steve and Barb Determan of Early, is the 2008 Iowa Pork Princess; and Emily Staudacher, daughter of Rene Staudacher of Indianola, will serve as the 2008 Iowa Premier Pork Youth Ambassador. Chef Shad Kirton of Absolute Flavors Catering in Des Moines won top prize in the Taste of Elegance competition with his "Maple Bourbon Glazed Ribs" and will be invited to compete in the National Pork Board’s National Taste of Elegance competition this spring in San Diego. The 2007 Honorary Master Pork Producers are Rep. Sandy Greiner of Keota and Dr. Maynard Hogberg, chairman of the ISU Animal Science Department. Greiner is a former member of the IPIC Advisory Board.

More than 5,000 determined folks attended the event, one of the largest of its kind in the country. An expanded trade show area, simulcast sessions, and new interactive seminars sparked interest from throughout North America. Our congratulations to IPPA for another job well done. You can read news releases and find more information on the 2008 event at this URL on the IPPA Web site http://iowaporkcongress.org/media_2008.php

NEWS

Future of agriculture panel discussion

Interested in what the future of agriculture holds? Plan to attend a panel discussion on the subject Feb. 12 in the Curtiss Hall auditorium on the ISU campus. The event is sponsored by the Sustainable Agriculture Student Association and the ISU Committee on Lectures. Panelists are Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture director Jerry Dewitt, Coalition to Support Iowa’s Farmers director Aaron Putze, and Iowa Farmers Union vice president Kevin Miskell. Moderator will be Jerry Perkins, Des Moines Register Farm Editor. The discussion begins at 7 p.m.

University of Minnesota offers energy efficiency Webcast

As energy costs rise, profit margins tend to decrease. How can you determine the best use of energy-efficient dollars for your operation? The University of Minnesota’s quarterly Webcast series, PorkCast Online, addresses the issue with some practical ideas from ISU’s Jay Harmon. Offered jointly with the Minnesota Pork Board, the next series program will be held Feb. 5 from 1 to 2 p.m. “Prioritizing Your
Energy Investment” will include tips and ideas on saving significant dollars in these areas: ventilation management, lighting, insulation, and rebate programs. These programs are free and past programs are archived on the PorkCast Online Web site. For information on how to join the program or to view past programs, go to this URL http://snipr.com/1ygp0

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New entrepreneurial professorship at ISU’s Vet Med College
One of the nation’s first professorships in veterinary entrepreneurial studies can be found at Iowa State University. According to an ISU news release, “Dr. Donald D. Draper, University Professor in biomedical sciences, has been named the first holder of the Dr. David R. Trask Professorship in Entrepreneurial Studies.” Plans also call for funding for associated entrepreneurial programs, including a special curriculum, speaker series, internships and an endowed chair in veterinary entrepreneurship. The college established an entrepreneurial studies program in veterinary medicine eight years ago and this new funding from Trask provides ISU students and faculty with increased emphasis and opportunities in the entrepreneurial area.

IT’S A DATE
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 Web site for locations, times and specific contact information http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAPlus.html

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

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Feb. 18-27. “Healthy Pigs, Healthy Operations” Iowa Pork Regional Conferences. Cosponsored with Iowa Pork Producers Association. Topics include case studies of disease intervention, products and strategies to consider in feeding pigs in a bio-fuels world, and mortality management and troubleshooting the composting process on your farm. Five locations throughout Iowa, with program running 4 to 8 p.m. at all locations. See the IPIC web site for more information www.ipic.iastate.edu/events.html

DID YOU KNOW?
Diet adjustment aids swine birthrate and birth weight
Results from recent studies on dietary influences on swine birthrate and weight indicate that placental growth can be enhanced through supplementation. Specifically, adding arginine (an amino acid vital for tissue protein growth) between 30 and 114 days of gestation show an amazing positive response. Compare with a control group of sows, an additional 0.83 percent arginine increased the number of piglets born alive by two pigs per litter, and increased the total litter weight of pigs born alive by 24 percent. The study was funded by USDA’s Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, and conducted by a team of scientists from Texas A&M University and Texas Tech University. You can read the news release about this study on the USDA Web site here http://snipr.com/1ygn0

FOR THE RECORD
Small processing group thinks big
The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at ISU wants to help small Iowa meat processors start, and stay, in business. The Small Meat Processors Working Group has been working on this issue by including representatives from a variety of related industry groups such as the Iowa Meat Processors
Association, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation and the Iowa Department of Economic Development, as well as existing local locker owners. Three workshops that focus on marketing and business planning skills for small meat processors are set for this spring and summer: April 21 in Spirit Lake, May 15 in Ames, and June 11 in Cedar Falls. You can learn more, including how to contact the working group leader, in this release on the Leopold Center Web site http://snipr.com/1ygq2

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