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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Coproducts fact sheet series in the works
As the use of corn for ethanol grows, pork producers are asking about the use of coproducts from the ethanol-making process. IPIC is helping provide information to producers in the form of a new series of fact sheets titled, "Feeding Bioenergy Coproducts to Swine." IPIC director John Mabry says the first publication in the series is now available. "Distillers Dried Grains with Solubles (DDGS) includes current Iowa ethanol production facts and statistics, as well as information on DDGS composition, quality, variability and nutrient availability. It also offers strategies for producers considering the use of DDGS in swine diets. We know producers want and need this type of information, and we're pleased to be able to provide current facts for decision-makers." Animal science professor Mark Honeyman and research assistant Pete Lammers prepared the DDGS fact sheet and are developing additional topics for inclusion in the series. The entire series will be available in .pdf format on the IPIC Web site only, beginning with the DDGS fact sheet numbered IPIC 11a. To read and download the publication, go to http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/publications/IPIC11a.pdf

NEWS
ISU's Dekkers speaks at London conference
ISU professor Jack Dekkers was one of the noted speakers at the annual London, Ontario Swine Conference held in April. Dekkers' primary areas of research are quantitative genetics and animal breeding with application to swine and poultry genetics, and the title of his presentation reflects that expertise. "New Tools to Make Genetic Progress" was part of the session on new developments in key pork production topics. You can find links to presentation papers from conferences held 2001-2007, as well as detailed information on this year's conference on the conference Web site here http://snipurl.com/1lfpr

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Canadian farmer demographics similar to U.S. stats
There are fewer of them, they're getting older and nearly half have a second job. This might sound like a description of American farmers. Actually, the 2006 census of agriculture in Canada shows many similarities between farmers in that country and those in the United States. Statistics Canada reports 71,000 fewer farms than the previous census in 2001, and 19,000 fewer farmers in that same time frame.
There are now about 229,000 farms and about 327,000 farmers. The average age of farmers increased from 50 to 52, and nearly half of them (more than 48 percent) have an off-farm job or business. And this interesting fact: The census also found that more than two in every five farms (44.2 per cent) did not have enough income last year to cover their operating expenses." You can read a news release on the CBA Web site here http://snipurl.com/1kz4s You also can look through the census information and results on the Statistics Canada Web site here http://www.statcan.ca/english/agcensus2006/index.htm

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Iowa DNR director to speak on campus
Rich Leopold, Iowa DNR director, will present information on DNR issues to interested college of Agriculture faculty and staff during a June 1 open forum. The forum starts at 1 p.m. in room 1951 of the Food Sciences Building on the ISU campus. The room is also known as the Center for Crops Utilization Research Theatre.

IT'S A DATE
Continuing through June. Food Safety Quality Assurance training and testing sessions for 4-H'ers. See the list of dates and locations on the IPIC Web site here http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/FSQA07.html

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May 30, May 31 and June 1. Pork Quality Assurance Plus Advisor training. ISU College of Veterinary Medicine, Ames. The response has been overwhelming and all three sessions are effectively filled. Stay tuned for future training dates at Iowa State.

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June 4-6. Advanced Techniques for Swine Veterinarians. AASV summer conference, College of Veterinary Medicine, ISU, Ames. This conference is open to AASV members. Cost is $225 and 14 hours of continuing education are available. Read more here http://www.aasv.org/summerconf/

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June 6. Sow Housing Forum. Des Moines Downtown Marriot Hotel. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The forum will address the diverse management aspects of individual and group housing of sows. Cost is $60 per person. Read more on the National Pork Board Web site here http://www.pork.org/Producers/sowHousingForum.aspx

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June 7-9. World Pork Expo. IPIC and ISU will have a display. Come see us in booth 2920 in the Cattle Barn. Read more about the annual event http://www.worldpork.org/

DID YOU KNOW?
Unusual pig-related news
Want a break from the standard news releases about pork production? A unique site provided by Pig Progress magazine, PIGculiar News offers tidbits like these: "Pig born with only hind legs," "Pot bellied pigs get married," and "Year of the pig – maybe not so lucky." My favorite so far? "Pigs cause chaos in Serbian house" Apparently, pigs that escaped from their pens in January of this year set a Northern Serbia farmer's house on fire. After entering the home the pigs knocked over the television in the living room causing the tube to break and start a fire. No people were hurt, but the pigs didn't make it. You can read more on the site at http://www.pigprogress.net/pigculiar_news

FOR THE RECORD
June area survey includes Iowans
Approximately 5,500 Iowa producers will be contacted next month as part of a nationwide survey by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Information from this confidential survey will provide USDA with timely and accurate data for farmers to use when making business and operational decisions.
Iowa producers will be surveyed as part of three distinct efforts: the annual June Area survey looks at land use and agricultural activities, the quarterly Hogs Survey, and the June Agricultural Survey – also known as the Crops/Stocks Survey. Selected producers will be able to respond in several ways – by mail, telephone, Internet, or during a personal interview. All collected data is only published as state- and national-level information, so no individual operation or producers are identified. You can read more about the surveys on the USDA NASS Web site here http://snipurl.com/1lea4

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