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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
New faces at IPPA
The Iowa Pork Producers Association welcomes two new staff members and invites you to do the same.
The newly created producer outreach director position was filled in early January by Cody McKinley, and Tyler Bettin joins IPPA this month as producer education director. And, we're excited about working with the new folks. Cody will work with National Pork Board and National Pork Producers Council as he focuses on the development, implementation and supervision of producer outreach programs, and will help provide a face on IPPA programs and efforts. He's originally from Walker, Iowa, and graduated from ISU in December 2007 in ag business. Tyler is from Mankato, Minnesota and recently graduated from Mankato State University. He'll be responsible for development of education programs for producers, help promote and administer pork quality improvement programs such as PQAPlus, and will plan seminars and Master Pork Producer activities at the Iowa Pork Congress. IPPA executive director Rich Degner says, "We're very happy to have Cody and Tyler as new staff members at IPPA, having them become knowledgeable about the association's programs and efforts, and helping serve Iowa pork producers and the Iowa pork industry." By the way, former IPPA producer education director Ali Smith, left IPPA in late January for private industry, a change that includes both a new job and marriage. We congratulate her on the move and wish her well.

NEWS
USDA extends comment period on "naturally raised" labeling
Late last month, USDA extended the comment period for its proposed voluntary standards for "naturally raised meat marketing claim" through March 3, 2008. For more information, see this main page on the USDA-ARS Web site www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/stand/naturalclaim.htm. Comments may be sent by regular mail, fax or e-mail, and must be received on or before March 3. You'll need to reference "Docket No. AMS-LS-07-0731" in writing at the top of the letter or email "Re: Docket No. AMS-LS-07-0131." Include your name, address, and if appropriate, affiliation(s) and/or interest(s) in the issue. To read the more than 1,100 comments already received on this topic, check out the comments page here http://snipr.com/1zhcz

Value-added producer grants available
Since its authorization in 2001, the USDA Value-Added Producer Grant program has awarded more than
900 grants to independent producers, agriculture producer groups, farmer- and rancher-owned cooperatives, and majority controlled producer-based business ventures. The FY08 program has approximately $18.4 million in competitive grant funds available, with applications due March 31, 2008. Working capital grants of up to $300,000 and planning grants up to $100,000 are available. Several Iowa producers and farmers have received grants in the past. For information, including links to forms and previous recipient lists, go to http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm

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The importance of pork in China
As disease outbreaks and inflation worries take their toll on Chinese pig farmers, the government is trying to make sure there's no shortage of that country's most popular meat on consumer tables. Pork makes up an estimated 65 percent of the meat eaten by the Chinese. But weather and related transportation issues, along with higher grain prices and lower supplies, have led to much higher prices. So much so, that reports of "porkjacking" are occurring more frequently. Read more about pork's impact in China's economy in this article on Newsweek.com http://snipr.com/1z6kc

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Science With Practice students at IPIC this semester
Please meet the two students working here at IPIC this semester as part of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' 'Science With Practice' program:

"Hi! My name is Cindy Walter and I'm in my second year here at Iowa State University majoring in Public Service and Administration in Agriculture with an emphasis in Agriculture Education. I'm from Farragut in southwest Iowa. I grew up on a family farm where we raise cattle, hogs, corn, and soybeans. I started working with the Iowa Pork Industry Center in January as a Science with Practice (SWP) student. Through SWP, I have the opportunity to work closely with IPIC faculty and staff on specific projects and/or work assignments, earn money and earn academic credit while fulfilling work responsibilities. I am working closely with Sherry Hoyer, Communication Specialist, writing news releases, promoting upcoming events and much more. I hope to learn more about everything that IPIC has to offer and more about what there is in the communications world. So far I've worked on several projects such as Sow Longevity reports, new releases, preparations for Iowa Pork Congress and the annual ISU Animal Industry Report. I'm looking forward to all that I get to do in the up coming months."

"Hi, I'm Samantha Morine. I am a sophomore majoring in Public Service and Administration in Agriculture. I grew up on a hog farm near Lamont in northeast Iowa. As a second semester Science With Practice student, I am excited to continue to participate in the learning through work program. This semester I will be able to work with Sherry Hoyer in order to better understand the Iowa Pork Industry Center. I have already had the opportunity to attend the Iowa Pork Congress and am now working with the SowBridge and PorkBridge programs. So far it has been a great experience to work closer with Extension and I am eager to be able to make more connections through working with the IPIC."

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

Continuing. Food Safety Quality Assurance Training and Testing sessions. See IPIC Web site for locations, times and specific contact information http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/FSQA08.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 biofuels 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?
Healthy Pigs, Healthy Operations
The 2008 Iowa Pork Regional Conferences are on their way to a location in your part of the state. This year's series will take place Feb. 18-19, and 25-27, from 4 to 8 p.m. Locations, in order are: Ainsworth (Marr Park), Oelwein (Community Center), Sioux Center (Corporate Center), Carroll (County Extension Office), and Dows (Community Center). The theme of “Healthy Pigs, Healthy Operations,” features topics specifically designed for the owner-operator and other decision makers of swine operations. Speakers and topics include: Locke Karriker of ISU College of Veterinary Medicine, “Case Studies of Disease Intervention;” Mark Bertram, First Choice Livestock, “Feeding Pigs in a Biofuels World: Products and Strategies to Consider;” and local ISU Extension swine field specialists, “Mortality Management and Trouble Shooting Composting.” For more information on locations and how to register see the IPIC Web site here www.ipic.iastate.edu/events.html


FOR THE RECORD
2008 Iowa master matrix map posted
According to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa counties that have adopted a construction evaluation resolution are able to use the state’s master matrix. However, in order to continue to use the matrix, counties must readopt the resolution annually only between Jan. 1 and Jan. 30. The master matrix is a scoring system that can be used to evaluate the siting of permitted confinement feeding operations. Producers in counties that have adopted the matrix must meet higher standards than other permitted facilities. Before producer construction plans can be approved, those plans must earn points on the master matrix for choosing sites and using practices that reduce adverse impacts on the environment and the community. Producers must have 50% (440 points minimum) of the total score and at least 25% of the available points in each of the three subcategories of air, water and community impacts to pass the master matrix. You can keep track of which counties have readopted the construction resolution for 2008 by checking this page on the IDNR Web site www.iowadnr.com/afo/files/08ceremap.pdf As of Jan. 31, only 12 counties had NOT passed the resolution for this year


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