THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
- Congratulations to James McKean

NEWS
- Pigs help cut pesticide use
- ISU develops online database of published environmental info
- Helpful hints for employees (and supervisors)
- DMACC team win IPPA Student Taste of Elegance contest

IT'S A DATE
- PQA Plus™ certification sessions
- FSQA sessions for 4-H youth
- Farming Matters forum
- Exploring Opportunities: A Conference for Aspiring Pork Producers

DID YOU KNOW?
- Singing for their livelihood

FOR THE RECORD
- USDA outlook is for increasing pork exports

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Congratulations to James McKean
IPIC Associate Director James McKean has been named the winner of the Pork Checkoff’s Distinguished Service Award. The announcement came during the 2008 National Pork Industry Forum in St. Louis, Mo. this past week. This annual award recognizes the lifelong contribution to the pork industry by an outstanding leader. A quote from the vice resident of science and technology for the Pork Checkoff, Paul Sundberg, epitomizes the reasons McKean was selected for this honor. “Jim certainly has a passion for the industry but the thing that's also very evident whenever Jim is in a meeting is that there is a level of passion for the producer and for the farm and for the veterinarian that works on the farm. All of those things work together and he always brings to the table the perspective of whether it will work for all producers, locally and then what affect will it have on the entire industry.” National Pork Board president Lynn Harrison said, “Jim is an exceptional player in the pork industry (and) ...is dedicated to the industry as a whole, dedicated to the local producers and dedicated to the local community.” McKean also is an ISU University Professor and ISU Extension swine veterinarian. You can read more about the honor in a news release on the NPB Web site at this URL http://snipr.com/21eo4

The National Pork Board and the Iowa Pork Industry Center add our congratulations. We are honored to be associated with this industry leader and are grateful that others recognize his many contributions to the field as well. You are welcome to send your own well wishes to him at this e-mail address x2mckean@iastate.edu

NEWS
Pigs help cut pesticide use
In the first year of battle against beetles in his apple orchard, Jim Koan says the score is “Pigs 1, Beetles 0.” Koan, who owns Almar Orchard about 10 minutes from Flint, Mich., says it’s taken some time and a variety of methods, but using Berkshires as pesticides seems to be saving his apples from the quarter-inch-long plum curculio. The adult female curculios cut flaps in skin of newly formed apples and lay eggs inside. The beetle larvae burrow into the young fruit, making the apples drop in mid-summer, effectively ruining the crop. The larvae then go from the fruit on the ground into the soil where they pupate for 10-12 days before emerging as adults to start the cycle anew. Thanks to a one-year grant from USDA and some good old-fashioned thinking, Koan has hit upon a successful formula. Take one boar and three sows, and let the group loose in specific areas of the orchard. The pigs eat the fallen apples, which effectively clears the orchard of the pest. Koan and Dave Epstein, a tree fruit pest-management specialist at Michigan State University who has worked with Koan on the original project have applied for a four-year USDA.
grant to continue this research. Read more about Koan and his “pigs as pesticide” project on the MSNBC web site here http://snipr.com/213te.

---

ISU develops online database of published environmental info
A team from Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering has created a searchable online database of papers published from 1960 – 2006 on environmental management options and practices that are specific to U.S. pork production, according to team leader associate professor Robert Burns. The database is publicly available, and offers simple and advanced search capabilities. Search categories include topic category, keyword, investigator names, and research institution. Results include the paper summary, citation and abstract; as well as funding source and other info. You can see and try out this interactive tool on the National Pork Board Web site here http://snipr.com/21f9v NPB plans to update the database as new research results and published papers are available.

---

Helpful hints for employees (and supervisors)
If you’ve ever worked for someone, chances are that you've also had some questions or concerns about your supervisor. In his "Dear Boss" column on the Pork magazine Web site, Don Tyler uses a question and answer format to show both sides of this partnership. Though it's on a swine industry site, most topics are applicable to nearly all workplace situations. Tyler is founder of Tyler & Associates, an Indiana-based firm that works with clients in personnel areas including employee, management and family business structured operations. In 2000, he spoke at an IPIC-sponsored seminar, "Finding and Managing Employees: Sources and Resources for the Potential Employer." Check out the list of questions and answers here http://snipr.com/20g42

---

DMACC team win IPPA Student Taste of Elegance contest
Six teams of culinary students from two Iowa community colleges competed in the 2008 Iowa Pork Producers Association (IPPA) Student Taste of Elegance competition earlier this month. For the third consecutive year, a team from Des Moines Area Community College placed first, winning a $500 scholarship for the school. Each of the three team members, Dean Luttrell from Ankeny, Randal Lehman of Johnston and Julie Drew from Ankeny, won a $100 scholarship for their winning entrée, “Braciollatini (Pork Roll.)” For this contest, teams had two hours to prepare their best pork entrées using fresh pork muscle cuts. Entries were judged on taste, appearance, and design. The annual competition serves as a learning competition and an opportunity for culinary students to measure their progress, and is open to any Iowa college with a culinary arts program.

--------------------------------------------------------

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

---

March 25. Farming Matters: A forum for Iowa crop and livestock farmers. Gateway Hotel and Conference Center, Ames. Presented by Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers. Registration is $35 per person by March 14 and $50 each after March 14. Topics include effectively managing rising energy and input prices, communicating livestock issues and enhancing relations between farmers and neighbors, and a review of livestock rules and regulations. See more information and links to registration form on the IPIC Web site here http://snipr.com/203em
April 1. Exploring Opportunities: A Conference for Aspiring Pork Producers. 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Quality Inn and Suites, East 13th St., Ames. Cosponsored by IPIC, IPPA, Farm Credit Services and the Beginning Farmer Center. No cost to attend when preregistered by March 28; $20 per person after that date. Preregister by calling IPIC at 800-808-7675. On the IPIC web site, see the program agenda here www.ipic.iastate.edu/events/ExploringOpportunities.408.pdf and read about the speakers here www.ipic.iastate.edu/events/Presenter.Information.408.pdf.

DID YOU KNOW?
Singing for their livelihood
British pig farmers are hitting the airways to help encourage consumers there to buy pork products and help keep the producers in business. A "new" song that parodies the 1968 Tammy Wynette classic, "Stand by your Man" was recorded in a London studio by a group of 30 farmers. National Pig Association (NPA) general manager Barney Kay says one recent survey shows 95 percent of producers are thinking of stopping production; while other surveys show consumers are willing to pay more to keep them in business. See the 4-minute video here http://snipr.com/21euh. Learn more about how and why the video/audio recording was done also on the NPA's "Pigs Are Worth It" Web site at this URL http://snipr.com/21eut.

FOR THE RECORD
USDA outlook is for increasing pork exports
The U.S. Meat Export Federation’s examination of the USDA's pork trade outlook forecast for the next 10 years offers some interesting numbers. Of the five largest pork importers (Japan, Russia, Hong Kong/China, South Korea and Mexico) Hong Kong/China will move from fifth to third place with a 105 percent of 136,000 metric tons to 299.8 million metric tons. The 10-year outlook covers 2008-2017, and is simply "a scenario based on what would be expected to happen under a continuation of current farm legislation and specific assumptions about external conditions." Read more from this report on the USMEF Web site here http://snipr.com/21f7p.

NEWS NOW from the Iowa Pork Industry Center www.ipic.iastate.edu
Editor Sherry Hoyer, phone 515-294-4496, shoyer@iastate.edu

--To subscribe to NEWS NOW, send your name, e-mail address and the message "NEWS NOW subscribe" to shoyer@iastate.edu
--To unsubscribe, reply to this message with the words "NEWS NOW Unsubscribe" in the subject line.
--To change your e-mail address, please include both your former address and new address.
--To request further information or suggest topics for this newsletter, e-mail shoyer@iastate.edu.

Information from this newsletter may be shared and reprinted at no cost, as long as this newsletter is credited as the source.