THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
- New software available at World Pork Expo

NEWS
- Iowa pork producer named to National Pork Board
- ISU College of Agriculture is AWE inspiring
- Three Iowa Staters honored by National Hog Farmer

IT'S A DATE
- Food Safety Quality Assurance training and testing sessions
- Advanced Techniques for Swine Veterinarians
- Sow Housing Forum
- World Pork Expo
- IPIC Advisory Board

DID YOU KNOW?
- Pigs are in, according to Canadian writer

FOR THE RECORD
- P.O.R.K. Academy is at World Pork Expo this year

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
New software available at World Pork Expo
By this time next week, we will have launched our latest software program, "Sow Tracker." To be among the first to see what it can do, come by our booth at the World Pork Expo, 2920 in the Cattle Barn. IPIC director John Mabry says this entry level software is one you'll want to consider owning. It's designed to assist swine producers in managing the breeding, farrowing and weaning aspects of their swine production programs. There are more than fourteen reproductive data management reports for producers to use in assisting them in management of their swine farrowing operation. The program is written in MS-Access® and is compatible with USB printers. It has the capability of converting data from some popular reproductive data management software applications, and data can be extracted for upgrading to more comprehensive software applications. Pricing is a one time fee, based on whether the user will share data. We'll have the software and people to demonstrate its uses at our booth. You'll be able to purchase the software if you like, or take home a brochure with ordering information for later.

NEWS
iowa pork producer named to National Pork Board
Tim Bierman of Larrabee has been appointed to a three-year term on the National Pork Board by Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns. The appointment was made last week. Bierman joins five others (from North Carolina, California, Montana and Missouri) who make up the 15-member NPB. You can read the official news release on the USDA Web site here http://www.ams.usda.gov/news/newsrel.htm.

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ISU College of Agriculture is AWE inspiring
ISU's College of Agriculture offers agriculture students a unique opportunity to experience life on an Iowa farm. The Agricultural Weekend Experience (AWE) is available this summer. In it, students travel to Iowa farms and learn firsthand about agriculture. They stay with a host family while touring several farming, dairy and ethanol operations. The program's goal is for students to gain valuable experience and a better understanding of Iowa agriculture. AWE is free to students and is co-sponsored by the College of Agriculture and the ISU Agricultural Endowment with the cooperation of several Iowa Farm Bureau county offices. This summer, students can choose from tours in western Iowa (July 13-15) and northern Iowa (July 13-15) with both running from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. If you know of an ISU student who's interested, contact: Ivy Ulmer in the Ag Communications Service by e-mail at ulmerivy@iastate.edu
If you're interested in participating as a farm host for future AWE weekends, let Ivy know that, too.
Three Iowa Staters honored by National Hog Farmer

Three with ISU College of Agriculture connections recently were honored by National Hog Farmer magazine as “The Masters of the Pork Industry.” Al Christian, superintendent of Iowa State’s Swine Teaching Farm; Roy Schultz, veterinarian from Avoca who earned a farm operations bachelor’s degree in 1957; and Alan Sutton, a Purdue animal science professor who earned ISU animal science bachelor’s and master’s degrees in 1966 and 1968 were included in the May 15 issue. They’re part of a group of 10 described as a “very special, handpicked group of pork industry visionaries” to be profiled. You can read the article here [http://nationalhogfarmer.com/mag/farming_masters_2/]

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]

June 4-6. Advanced Techniques for Swine Veterinarians. AASV summer conference, College of Veterinary Medicine, ISU, Ames.

June 6. Sow Housing Forum. Des Moines Downtown Marriott Hotel. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m

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/]

June 18. IPIC Advisory Board meeting. Kildee Hall, ISU campus. 2-6 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW?

Pigs are in, according to Canadian writer And it’s not just pigs, it’s pork – good tasting with a price tag to show it. A reporter for the Toronto Globe and Mail has written an article describing some of the latest “fashions” in the pork-eating world, and explaining how chefs are working magic with this once-ignored meat. Rich Pirog from the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at ISU is quoted in the article, too, about how some of pork’s traditional good flavor was bred out when fat was being bred out of the animals. But now, fat and the taste it helps produce are back. Duroc, Red Wattle and Berkshire are among the breeds being cultivated for the new high-end market. As Pirog says, “Certain chefs are looking for pork that has a unique story to it, a lineage or a place-based story or a family-farm story.” You can read the entire article online at this URL [http://snipr.com/1mkap] But beware, it will make you hungry!

FOR THE RECORD

P.O.R.K. Academy is at World Pork Expo this year

Instead of occurring before World Pork Expo, this year’s P.O.R.K. Academy will be held as a series of seminars during the annual show. ISU is well represented, with featured speakers for one-third of the individual sessions. Plus, Rex Hoppes and Megan Ritter from the Coalition to Support Iowa’s Farmers also will speak. General session topics are: employee care, market and weather outlook, and education and environment. Check the daily schedule for specific locations and times.

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