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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Managing price risk for optimal returns
As pork producers, we know you want the best possible returns on your investments. From contracts to marketing plans, every little bit of information can help. That's why we urge you to consider attending the seminar, "Managing Prices for Optimal Pork Returns," sponsored by the Iowa Pork Producers Association later this month. This daylong program will help you learn how to control hog prices and feed costs, evaluate contracting choices, develop a proactive marketing plan, optimize overall profitability margins, improve fiscal planning and supplement packer agreements. Program speakers include John Lawrence and representatives from Commodity & Ingredient Hedging, LLC. For the preregistration fee of $10, you'll learn about futures and options contracts and controlling your returns through margin management, and you'll use a hands-on marketing simulation to practice making price and margin management decisions. The fee includes lunch, with the program running from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 23. It will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 8600 Northpark Drive in Johnston. Read more about the program agenda and download the registration form on the IPPA Web site http://snipr.com/1pj4b On-site registration is $20.

NEWS
Pigs on parade
I would expect the location of this subject to be Iowa, Indiana, Illinois or even North Carolina, but instead, these pigs are on parade in – Seattle! According to an article on the Web site of the North Seattle Herald-Outlook, you can find 100 painted pigs throughout the city. http://snipr.com/1pj54 They were created to honor the 100th anniversary of the city's famous Pike Place Market. And this isn't the first "Pigs on Parade" in this northwest city. Six years ago, the first celebration appeared to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the vote to save the market in 1971. The original pig, Rachel, still stands at a main entrance to the market. As a piggy bank, Rachel collects donations which are used to pay for services for low income folks in the area. When I was in Seattle for a conference a couple of years ago, there were people taking photos of Rachel every time we visited the Market. Here's the URL for this year's Pigs on Parade http://pigsonparade.org/ Want to buy one? They'll go on sale Oct. 12 – during Pork Month.

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Some Iowa manure applicators need certification
August often signals the beginning of manure applications to farm land in Iowa. And Iowa State extension program specialist Angie Rieck-Hinz reminds producers that applicators who haul or handle manure from confinement site facilities with more than 500 animal units, as well as all commercial manure applicators, are required by Iowa law to be certified to do so. Confinement site applicators must attend two hours of annual training to maintain their three-year license. Producers who do not own livestock, but who haul and land apply manure to their own fields from a confinement facility with more than 500 animal units also must be certified to apply manure as a confinement site applicator. It's estimated that nearly half of Iowa's confinement site applicators still need to attend training this year to meet their yearly training requirements. Commercial manure applicators, who must be associated with a commercial manure service, must attend three hours of training or take and pass an exam annually. To learn more about these certification requirements, including completion and filing of appropriate forms and fees with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, go to the Manure Applicator Certification Web page on the Iowa Manure Management Action Group Web site at http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/mac.html

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Manure management clinic offered at ISU field lab
Service providers, commodity partners, Extension field staff and others interested in manure management issues in Iowa should consider attending a special clinic next month. The purpose of the clinic is to train those who work with manure management issues, through a combination of classroom and field activities. Topics for the two-day course include feed management, livestock facilities, mortality composting, and pathogens and antibiotics in manure. The course will be held at the Field Extension Education Lab (FEEL) near Ames on Aug. 28-29. Preregistration is required, and class size is limited to the first 60 who register. Cost is $175. Producers are welcome to attend. The clinic is approved for 5.5 nutrient management and 4.5 soil management Certified Crop Adviser credits. For more information, people can contact Angie Rieck-Hinz at 515-294-9590. Online registration, a clinic brochure and clinic directions are available on the ISU Agribusiness Education Web site here http://www.aep.iastate.edu/feel/manure.html.

IT’S A DATE
Aug. 9-19. Iowa State Fair. This year's theme is "Sounds Like Fun!"

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Aug. 17. Pre-proposal deadline for Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture's summer 2007 RFP. See the RFP on the Center's site http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/research/rfp/2007RFP.pdf for more information. Submissions are due by 5 p.m.

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Aug. 23. PQA Plus™ producer certification sessions.
1 p.m. Cherokee, County Extension Office. Cost is $25 per person for the two-hour session. For more information or to register, contact Dave Stender by e-mail at dstender@iastate.edu or by phone at 712-225-6196.

7 p.m. Creston, Union County Extension Office. Cost is $25 per person for the two-hour session. For more information or to register, contact Jerry Weiss by e-mail at weissj@iastate.edu or by phone at (712) 335-3103.

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Sept. 6. PQA Plus™ Advisor Training. Ames. This session is full. Consider applying for the next session, set for Oct. 25 in Ames. Application form is available here http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAPapp1025.doc

DID YOU KNOW?
Iowa State Fair results online
Even if you can't get to the Iowa State Fair in time to see everything, you can still check on competition results via the Web site. In fact, here's the URL for 2007 fair results http://iowastatefair.com/competition/results.php?cat=1 You can search by category or contest name, and everything is organized chronologically. Today and tomorrow, several Iowa State University campus and
field staff are at the fair, helping with the 4-H derby, market and breeding swine contests. Some of us also assist with the 4-H scholarship program, Premier Swine Exhibitor. This program offers three scholarships to 4-H’ers who have completed either their junior or senior years in high school. It combines scores from five categories: Showmanship, best show ribbon earned at the state fair, interview, exam and skillathon. Winners are announced after the swine show competitions.

FOR THE RECORD
Japanese clone fourth-generation pig
An accomplishment hailed by some as a promising step toward "mass cloning" of pigs for the purpose of diseased human organ replacement, the successful creation of a fourth-generation cloned pig was announced in Japan last week. The team from Meiji University responsible for this cloning said the lone male pig had been born in July. Team leader Hiroshi Nagashima said this effort "proves" that large mammals can be recloned several times over. You can read the rest of an article on the AHN Web site here http://snipr.com/1piz5

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