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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Livestock production report
Last week the Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production (IFAP) released a report following 2½ years of study on "...effects of industrial farm animal production on public health, the environment, rural communities, and animal welfare." According to its Web site, the commission was formed "...to conduct a comprehensive, fact-based and balanced examination of key aspects of the farm animal industry." The report includes these six recommendations: ban the non-therapeutic use of antimicrobials in food animal production to reduce the risk of antimicrobial resistance to medically important antibiotics and other microbials; implement a disease monitoring program for food animals to allow 48-hour trace-back of those animals through aspects of their production, in a fully integrated and robust national database; treat IFAP as an industrial operation and implement a new system to deal with farm waste to replace the inflexible and broken system that exists today, to protect Americans from the adverse environmental and human health hazards of improperly handled IFAP waste; phase out the most intensive and inhumane production practices within a decade to reduce the risk of IFAP to public health and improve animal wellbeing (i.e., gestation crates and battery cages); federal and state laws need to be amended and enforced to provide a level playing field for producers when entering contracts with integrators; and increase funding for, expand and reform, animal agriculture research. As might be expected, the announcement of the commission’s findings and the report itself were met with differing opinions from proponents and opponents of modern agriculture practices. You can find links to the full report, summary, list of commission members, meeting schedule and more on the IFAP Web site here http://snipr.com/279gh Two other viewpoints: Animal Agriculture Alliance http://snipr.com/279k9 and National Pork Producers Council http://snipr.com/279kl. Be informed -- take some time to read the findings and responses. The future of animal agriculture depends on those willing to speak, listen and work cooperatively.

NEWS
Awards and recognitions for ISU folks
University award recipients for 2007-08 in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences have been selected and will be officially announced in the fall. Here’s the list: Joe Sebranek, University Professor, professor of animal science and food science and human nutrition will be named Charles F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Steven Hoff, professor of agricultural and
biosystems engineering will be honored with the Louis Thompson Distinguished Undergraduate Teacher award; Lara Moody, extension program specialist in agricultural and biosystems engineering, will receive the P&S Outstanding New Professional Award, and James Russell, professor of animal science, will receive the Regents Award for Faculty Excellence. And, here’s an update on the ISU meat judging team: Members finished first in pork judging; third in beef grading, overall beef and total reasons; fifth in overall contest placing, beef judging, specifications; seventh in total placing; and eighth in lamb judging at the 2008 Southeastern Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest in April. Team members are Tonina Desimone, Bonsall, Calif.; Laura Rosenbohm, Peoria, Ill.; Garrett Skaar, Story City; Isaiah Spath, Hampton; Jordan Steen, Garner; and Crystal Wagner, Le Mars. You might remember that Laura was a Science With Practice student employee in our office during the fall semester.

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Cheap pork provides little financial benefit to producers
Pork is inexpensive, and consumers are reaping that benefit, but farmers who are able and willing to wait out the economics of changing supply and demand will see improved returns long term. “Producer costs have gone up because of increased grain prices, but they have offset some of this by improving pig production and survivability. Strong competition from overseas meat has, however, taken its toll.” Sound familiar? That’s a quote from a news story on the Press Web site, a daily paper from Christchurch, New Zealand. In fact, the head of New Zealand Pork, Sam McIvor, said pork markets will rebound and returns will improve. “If we look ahead over the next six months we are seeing liquidation of herds the world over and that will start to tell in production,” he said. Read the entire release at this URL http://snipr.com/2772n

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Disease detectors invisible to the human eye
The latest episode of the USDA’s CSREES Partners Video Magazine features information and current research in the world of nanotechnology. Nanotechnology is the science of studying and producing materials and devices of nanometer size—about the size of a small molecule or individual atom, and has application for nearly everything we do, eat, touch, see and learn. “The Science of Small” is 30 min. long and features four research projects. You can read about the projects on this USDA-CSREES Web site http://www.csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/news/2008news/05011_partners_nano.html Here’s a direct link to one of the reports applicable to agriculture and farms, called Disease Detectors http://snipr.com/26nb1 (Note: if you don’t have software or Internet connection capable of viewing the video, text versions of the video transcript for this and all other videos are available on the site.

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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

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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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May 19-21. Mitigating Air Emissions conference. Des Moines. Coordinated by ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and ISU Extension; IPIC is among the sponsoring partners. See more at this URL http://www.abe.iastate.edu/wastemgmt/mitigation.html

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May 19-20. Ultrasound Training and Certification Conference. Sponsored by the National Swine Improvement Federation. Contact Tom Baas at tjbaas@iastate.edu for more information.
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June 5-7. World Pork Expo. See what’s planned during this 20th anniversary event online at http://www.worldpork.org/

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DID YOU KNOW?
Patents and new technologies at ISU
Ever wonder about what’s happening technology-wise at Iowa State? Are there new products or processes that might eventually make your life or business better? If you have an e-mail address, you can sign up for notifications from the Iowa State University Research Foundation, Inc. (ISURF) and the Office of Intellectual Property & Technology Transfer. Go to the ISU Technology Transfer Web site (http://snipr.com/26mz8) and look around, or simply go to the “subscribe page” http://snipr.com/26mxk and click on the “Create new account” link. You’ll enter your name, company and e-mail address, and then choose which areas you’d like to know about. Everything you enter is confidential, and none of it is shared. There’s more on this site, too, from sample agreements to economic development information. You also can search by terms, titles, references, etc. with entry dates going back to at least 1950. Even if you don’t want more e-mail messages, this site is always available for your use. You might be surprised at what you find.

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FOR THE RECORD
Happy anniversary to us
NEWS NOW is 8 years old. Begun as a class assignment during my graduate school years, this newsletter has become so much more than I imagined at that time. Word of mouth and electronic forwarding helps keep the subscription list growing. It’s a way to keep in touch with our various client and audience groups throughout Iowa, the U.S. and the world, and we ask only two things from our subscribers: please provide your current e-mail address and add my e-mail address to your address book. My goal is to eliminate all of the “undeliverable” and “returned” e-mail messages I get when an address isn’t correct or an Internet Service Provider (ISP) considers the original message SPAM. If you change your e-mail address, please include the old as well as the new. The only list I maintain is of the e-mail addresses for NEWS NOW, so without your former e-mail address, I don’t necessarily know which old one to delete. As always, please consider sending your suggestions, concerns, comments and ideas. Communication is a two-way street and I look forward to hearing from you. P.S. Starting with volume 7, NEWS NOW issues are posted in pdf format on our Web site here http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/newsreleases.html#newsnow To see other issues not listed, simply change the appropriate number in the URL. For example, the final issue from volume 7 is at http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/newsnow/NNv7n18.pdf The issue you’re now reading will be at http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/newsnow/NNv8n1.pdf

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