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- Ag Career Day 2008 has record number of employers

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Congratulations to Rich Degner
Our friend and colleague Rich Degner, along with his wife Nancy, will be honored at the annual Iowa State University Alumni Association’s Honors and Awards ceremony this Friday with the George Washington Carver Distinguished Service Award from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. This award was established in 2005 to honor ISU alumni and/or friends who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in writing, teaching, research, or leadership in the agricultural, food, environmental, social, and life sciences. Rich, executive director of the Iowa Pork Producers Association, earned a bachelor’s and a master’s degree from ISU. According to information on the award Web site, Rich coordinated the first Iowa retail pork promotion mission to Japan in 1989, currently serves on the board of directors of the U.S. Pork Center of Excellence on the ISU campus, and is dedicated to Iowa’s livestock industries, especially pork. Rich and Nancy have set up an ISU scholarship endowment in animal science and the first student recipients were named in spring 2008. The public is invited to the awards ceremony, set for 1:30 this Friday afternoon in the Scheman Building. You can read more about Rich and Nancy, and other awardees on the ISUAA Web site here http://www.isualum.org/honorsandawards We are honored to work with him, and wish him the best.

NEWS
Trichinae-free pork certification program for U.S. producers
Although most Americans realize that U.S. commercial pork is virtually free of Trichinella spiralis, trading partners including Russia and the European Union continue to have concerns in that area. With a final regulation for implementation of a program where producers certify their pork is trichinae-free issued this month, the National Pork Producers Council and exporters hope those concerns will be put to rest. This certification program is included in the 2008 Farm Bill, along with an annual authorization of $1.5 million. See a news release from NPPC here http://www.nppc.org/News/PressRelease.aspx?DocumentID=23812 You also can read the Federal Register entry from Oct. 10, 2008 at this URL http://snipr.com/4jf8k

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Pork-related grants for ISU folks
Here’s information on two grants recently awarded to ISU faculty in the areas of pork safety and subtherapeutic antibiotic usage: Chris Tuggle, Jack Dekkers and James McKean received approximately $49,000 from the National Pork Board for “Identifying Genes Associated with Salmonella Shedding to
Increase Pork Safety Through Improved Genetic Resistance. Steve Carlson received approximately $30,000, also from the National Pork Board, for “Effects of Subtherapeutic Antibiotics on Antibiotic Resistance and Virulence Gene Transfer in Bacteria in the Swine Intestine.” These and similar efforts help researchers provide necessary information for producers and others associated with the pork industry to make informed decisions.

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Some Dutch grocery chains say no to “castrated” pork
Aldi and Lidl will no longer stock pork from castrated piglets, thanks to efforts by the animal group “Pigs in Peril” in Holland. That group also is suing two other food retailers for their role in castrating piglets without anesthetics. Researchers at Wageningen University earlier this year said “boar taint” is hereditary and can be bred out of pigs. Read a short news release on the Dutch News Web site here http://snipr.com/4jaqd

IT'S A DATE
Continuing. PQAPlus certification sessions. See the IPIC web site here http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAPlus.html for date, location and contact information.

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Oct. 25. Chuckwagon breakfast, sponsored by ISU Animal Science department. Plan to meet past, present and future students, faculty and staff at this annual Homecoming event. It’s set for 8 to 10 a.m. in the pavilion, and is open to anyone affiliated with the department, including families. Time for the ISU vs. Texas A&M football game is 6 p.m.

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Oct. 27. Think Tank on Animal Agriculture. Cardinal Room in the Memorial Union. Speaker is ISU Extension climatologist Elwynn Taylor, with the topic, “Our Changing Climate: How Does It Happen?” Social at 6 p.m, dinner at 6:30 and presentation at 7. Register by this Friday, Oct. 24 with Ardella Krull at amkrull@iastate.edu Cost is $20.

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Nov. 6-7. Swine Disease Conference for Swine Practitioners. Scheman Building, Iowa State Center, Ames. Registration is $210 per person when registered by Oct. 17. See conference Web site for more information and registration details http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/swinedisease/home.html

DID YOU KNOW?
Illinois pork companies help fight hunger
Two Illinois pork production companies were recognized for donating more than 3 tons of ground pork to the “Pork Power: Partnering to Fight Hunger in Illinois initiative” this year. Cargill from Beardstown and Professional Swine Management from Carthage donated the animals for the pork that will help the Central Illinois Foodbank provide more than 28,000 servings of pork to people in the 22 counties served by the Central Illinois Food Bank. Processors reduced their fees for this ongoing project, and pork, corn and soybean producers have provided funds to reimburse participating processors. You can read more in this article http://snipr.com/4jb0f on the Web site of the Hancock County Journal-Pilot in Illinois.

FOR THE RECORD
Ag Career Day 2008 has record number of employers
Ag Week at ISU ends tomorrow with a record-breaking Ag Career Fair. More than 160 employers have reserved space at this year’s event which runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Great Hall and Campanile Room in the Memorial Union, as well as outdoors – outside the north entrance to the Union. Employers know that ISU students make great employees, and that’s evidenced both in the increasing number of career fair employers and current Ag Career Services statistics showing about 98 percent of recent College of Agriculture and Life Sciences graduates are employed or pursuing advanced degrees. Read
more in this news release http://snipr.com/4j6xi You can see the list of employers that will be at the Career event here http://snipr.com/4j6vn

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