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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Swine Nutrition Research Meets Economic Value at Iowa State University
The way Iowa State University animal science associate professor John Patience sees it, pork producers who don’t include nutrition and diet information as part of their whole farm plan are missing the boat. Patience, who came to ISU in 2008 following a 21-year stint at Prairie Swine Centre in Saskatchewan, Canada, said it’s crucial for producers to integrate the design of their feeding program into the plan of the whole farm. It’s a good idea to be flexible, too, when it comes to alternative feed ingredients. You can read more of this news release here http://sn.im/g3ben Some of you heard John speak at this year’s Iowa Pork Regional Conferences. John is nothing if not positive about the future of the pork industry, especially in Iowa, and his enthusiasm was contagious at the conferences. If you missed them, take a look at his presentations (in.pdf version) on our Web site here http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/presentations.html Presentations are organized alphabetically by presenter last name, and then chronologically with newer presentations at the top of the list. You’ll want to bookmark this page to keep up with presentations from a variety of sources that are added as they become available. For instance, presentations from John and other speakers at the recent Iowa Feed and Nutrition Seminar will be available this week.

NEWS
Swedish Post-doctoral Research Associate Now at Home in Iowa
Swedish post-doctoral research associate Linda Engblom and her family are calling ISU home for the rest of 2009, thanks to ISU animal science professor Ken Stalder. After meeting Engblom and learning of her research with sow longevity at the European Association for Animal Production in Stockholm, Sweden, in 2005, Stalder decided to recruit her to join the IPIC staff on a temporary basis. Read the rest of the story here http://sn.im/g3bbp

Livestock transport changes on our horizon?
The EU Commission currently is writing proposals to legislate changes in livestock transportation. Specifically, the possible changes include both a limit on transportation time and the introduction of using satellite tracking for haulers. Anyone who follows trends and regulations in Europe realizes that what happens there more often than not eventually happens here in the U.S. You can read a bit more on the Pig Progress Web site here http://sn.im/gal4d

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Piglets benefit from diets with DDGS
You might already know of the positive link between including DDGS in diets of grow-finish pigs, but did you know there’s also a good reason for feeding it to piglets? Research by the USDA’s ARS (Agricultural Research Service) unit here in Ames showed that weanling pigs fed a diet supplemented with DDGS increased their immune response. The change, which could make the pigs more resistant to illness, was evident rather quickly. After just one week of the four-week feeding trial, researchers noticed an increase in cytokine expression in the pigs’ small intestines which was linked to DDGS consumption. Cytokines regulate the intensity and duration of immune responses, and increased expression could explain earlier findings that pigs eating DDGS-supplemented diets have lower incidences of ileitis. ARS research leader Brian Kerr was joined in this study by ARS physiologist Tom Weber and ARS microbiologist Cherie Ziemer. You can read more about this and other DDGS studies on the ARS Web site here http://sn.im/g0owh

IT’S A DATE
Continuing. PQAPlus™ and TQA 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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Continuing. FSQA training and testing sessions for Iowa 4-H’ers. See the IPIC web site here http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/FSQA09.html for date, location and contact information

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April. 27. Think Tank on Animal Agriculture. Cardinal Room in the Memorial Union. Speaker is Tom Sauber, Research Director at Pioneer, a DuPont Company, with the title, “What are animal scientists doing at a plant genetics company?” Sauber will provide an overview of Pioneer’s global research efforts and key areas of animal science research, and focus discussion on opportunities to enhance crops to better meet the needs of animal agriculture. Event social is at 6 p.m, dinner at 6:30 and presentation at 7 p.m. Register by this Thursday, April 23 with Ardella Krull at amkrull@iastate.edu Cost is $20, payable at the door.

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DID YOU KNOW?
PQAPlus™ and TQA sessions at World Pork Expo
IPIC and the Iowa Pork Producers Association will offer PQA Plus™ and Transport Quality Assurance training at this year’s World Pork Expo. One session of each will be held on Thursday, June 4, with PQA Plus™ in the morning and TQA in the afternoon. No charge, but preregistration is necessary and attendance is limited to the first 100 preregistered. See the IPPA Web site for more info http://sn.im/gae3p To pre-register or for more info, contact IPPA at 800-372-7675 or e-mail Tyler Bettin at tbettin@iowapork.org

FOR THE RECORD
Vilsack wants comments on NAIS
A roundtable discussion on the National Animal Identification System last week kicked off a listening tour hosted by U.S. Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack. He acknowledged that many comments were offered and received prior to NAIS implementation, but says issues and concerns remain. He wants those who must take part in the program to share their views, cautions and suggestions as animal traceability continues to move forward. You can read a news release here http://sn.im/ga3n2 As USDA-APHIS finalizes the listening dates, locations and other details, look for them on the APHIS Web site here www.aphis.usda.gov and in the Federal Register.