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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
On home soil again
The day after ISU’s spring graduation, IPIC staff member Colin Johnson accompanied a group of students on a three-week trip to the country that many people call his second home – Denmark. Note: Farms.com has posted some daily blog entries from the students. Search www.Farms.com for “ISU students” to find those entries.) Now that he’s home, he shares some insight on the group and the trip:
“For the fourth year I’ve had the privilege of guiding a Study Abroad course for ISU students to observe agricultural practices in this small Scandinavian country. It’s always a joy to see the development of students as they see new farming practices, question various EU regulations, and adjust to the culture. While on the trip, students are inundated with agricultural issues from various perspectives, farmer, government and society. Of course we expose them to the productivity of Danish sow herds and tour an abattoir. Ken Stalder from our office joined the group for a portion of the trip this year, and together we could share many new insights to Danish and EU directions in the pork industry with the students. It’s always very rewarding and enlightening to travel. But I’ve coined a phrase I’ll share: “Home is where the farm is.” And the best farms for me lie here in Iowa. It’s great to know of the sustainable future for Iowa agriculture and our farm families - I can’t say that about everywhere. While we know there are industry differences in these two countries, I leave those in our industry with one item to ponder: feed cost in the USA is up 55% vs. a year ago, in Denmark it’s up 86%. Can they still be raising pigs?”

NEWS
Sow culling rates remain high in Great Britain
According to the June 2008 report from the British Pig Executive (a subsidiary of the UK’s Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board that’s comprised of England pig levy payers, and functions similarly to state and national pork producer associations in the U.S.) the sow culling rate continues to climb. Though the sales primarily are in response to sustained high feed costs, the farmers also are enjoying higher cull sow prices. The first three months of 2008 show the culling rate is 37 percent more than the same period a year ago, while cull prices are at an 11-year high. You can read the entire report in .pdf format on the BPEX Web site here http://snipr.com/2dj0l

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Canadian pork okay for Russian import
Yesterday marked the reopening of Canadian pork to Russian markets, a move hailed by Canadian officials as a positive development for that country’s economy and swine-related industry. The market had been closed April 1 because of Russian concerns about fraudulent export documents. The loss of that market had drastic potential economic impact on Canada because 2007 exports to Russia were more than $140 million. You can read more in a short article on the Web site of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency here [http://snipr.com/2dit3](http://snipr.com/2dit3)

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Time for grilling – and prizes
The Iowa Pork Producers Association is accepting nominations for its annual “Iowa’s Best Breaded Tenderloin” contest. The person who nominates the winning restaurant will win $100 and the winning restaurant will win $200 and a plaque to display the award, along with statewide publicity through IPPA. Important numbers: this is the sixth year of the contest; any restaurant, tavern or café that serves breaded pork tenderloins is eligible to be nominated; an establishment must receive at least two nominations to be considered for the $200 prize; nominations are limited to one per household; nominations must be received by June 18, 2008 to be considered; and establishments may not nominate themselves. So, get out there and taste! Nomination forms are available on the IPPA Web site [www.iowapork.org](http://www.iowapork.org) The winner will be announced this fall.

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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](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](http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/FSQA08.html)

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June 10. Advanced Swine Reproduction Seminar. Marina Inn, 510 E 5th Street, South Sioux City, Neb. Registration is $25 per person, which includes materials and a pork loin lunch. Meal not guaranteed for those not preregistered by June 5. Contact Dave Stender by e-mail at dstender@iastate.edu or by phone at 712-225-6196.

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June 11. Swine Breeding Herd Management Seminar. Waverly Civic Center, 1200 1st Street N.E., Waverly. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration is $25 per person which includes lunch and materials. Meal not guaranteed for those not preregistered. Contact Mark Storlie by e-mail at mstorlie@iastate.edu or by phone at 563-425-3331.

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June 16, 17, 26. Retrofitting hog facilities for niche production field days. June 16 is at the Larry Miller farm, 2338 185th St., Dana, Greene County; June 17 is at the Tom Miller farm, 1135 Kentucky Ave., Winfield, Henry County; June 26 is at the Mark and Valerie Olson farm, 1283 180th St., Sac County. See more info and travel directions on the IPIC Web site [http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/events.html](http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/events.html)

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June 24-26. Iowa State 4-H Youth Conference with the theme “Ignite the Flame!” ISU campus, Ames. IPIC offers three pork-related workshops.

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DID YOU KNOW?
New swine nutrition faculty member for ISU
With help from $100,000 in support funds from the Iowa Pork Producers Association, ISU will welcome a swine nutrition expert to its animal science faculty later this year. John Patience, currently leading the
research program at the Prairie Swine Centre in Canada, officially will join ISU on Sept. 1 as an associate professor. According to IPPA executive director Rich Degner, the IPPA considers its contribution as a very important investment to help Iowa producers. The funds will help Patience develop a nutrition research program around Iowa swine industry priorities that include swine nutrition. Animal science department head Maynard Hogberg says Patience will be a great addition to the existing livestock nutrition program, including an interdepartmental graduate program. The position also will have extension responsibilities, and Patience says he’s excited about being able to work with those in academia, production and related swine industries. You can see a photo and read more about Patience on the ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Web site http://snipr.com/2ec7m

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FOR THE RECORD
State groups share good news about agriculture
Probably all of either know or know of someone who thinks eggs come from cartons, hamburgers come from plastic-wrapped packages, and vegetables come from cans – really. The connection between people and the origination of their food has been lost, or at least relaxed, to the detriment of agriculturists everywhere. However, several groups around the country are working locally and regionally to address this lack of knowledge. For your own interest and for sharing with those who might be agriculturally challenged, take a look at three such efforts. You’ll be glad you did. “Ohioorktour.com” is provided by the Ohio Pork Producers Council; “Growinginagriculture.com” is supported through the Soybean Checkoff; and “Coalition to Support Iowa’s Farmers” is supported and provided through combined efforts of six Iowa farm and commodity organizations -- Iowa Cattlemen's Association, Iowa Corn Growers Association, Iowa Farm Bureau, Iowa Poultry Association, Iowa Pork Producers Association, and Iowa Soybean Association.

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