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- ISU farm field days begin this week

FOR THE RECORD
- Resources for weather-related concerns on the farm

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Is it time for a walk-through?
Feed prices are high. Optimism is low. People wondering where to begin and whether to end. As pork producers, lots of factors can impact your bottom line and weigh on your peace of mind: weaning age, sow condition, pig flow, ration management, health management and labor management. From a walk through the barns or a look through the books, another eye always helps. In this crucial time, we at IPIC want you to know that we’re ready to help however we can. Please contact Colin Johnson via our Iowa PORKLine at 800-808-7675 or your ISU Extension swine field specialist (find yours here http://snipr.com/2k20u) with questions or assistance requests. We know that you can’t necessarily get away from your farm to see other operations, and consequently don’t always know about other efficiencies that might exist in the industry. Our job is working with you, for you, and helping contribute to the success of your operations.

NEWS
Celebration for the best of the wurst at ISU
For years, Iowa State University and ISU Extension have hosted and offered an annual sausage and processed meats short course on campus. Next month marks the 30th anniversary of the event, which draws attendees from around the world. The international aspect includes the course’s sausage maker, Klaus Kreibig. As “wurstmacher” or sausage maker, he’s traveled from Germany to assist in teaching the course for more than 20 years. ISU animal science professor Joe Cordray has led the course since 1995. To commemorate the course’s 30th anniversary former graduate students are invited to return to campus to manufacture products for the Wurstfest and former instructors will be recognized. To learn more about the celebration, read a news release here http://snipr.com/2jxhd. Want to know more about the course? Go here for information and photos from the 2007 event http://snipr.com/2jxkb

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New Web site offers alternatives to manure handling
An integrated group of researchers and scientists at the University of Illinois has developed a new Web site to share alternative methods of handling livestock manure. Paul Walker of Illinois State University coordinates the program called Swine Waste Economical and Environmental Treatment -- SWEETA. The website focuses on a systems approach for processing and land-applying liquid swine manure, and it also
is applicable to liquid dairy and beef cattle finishing manure stored below slatted floor pits or in slurry stores and/or lagoons. You can see it at this URL http://snipr.com/2jus2

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USDA lowers commercial pork production numbers
In its May issue of the Livestock, Dairy and Poultry report, USDA has lowered forecasts of pork production by a total of 325 million pounds for 2008 and 2009. More hogs were slaughtered in Canada than exported to the U.S. for slaughter, and U.S. producers are starting to trim their breeding herds because of higher feed costs. And, while swine imports will rise this year, they’re expected to reverse course in 2009. You can read more in the LDP report, starting at this URL http://snipr.com/2k139

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 This is the last month for these sessions.

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June 17, 26. Retrofitting hog facilities for niche production field days. Today’s event 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

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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, all of which are full as of today.

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July 7. New Dimensions in Livestock Risk program for livestock producers. Sponsored by Iowa Farm Bureau Federation with help from IPIC. Attendance is free for those preregistered by June 30, or $25 at the door. See the conference Web site for more details http://www.ifbf.org/newdimensions.aspx

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July 15. Lauren Christian Pork Chop Open. Veenker Memorial Golf Course and Farm Bureau Pavilion, ISU campus. Ames. Golf begins at 10 a.m. at Veenker and dinner is at the Pavilion at 5 p.m. Cost is $75 per person or $300 per four-player team, with registrations due July 8 or when the 32-team field is filled. Read a news release here http://snipr.com/2zm9 Download the registration form here http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/events/LCPCOregform08.pdf

DID YOU KNOW?
ISU farm field days begin this week
The annual series of research and demonstration farm and home garden field days at ISU Farms provide opportunities for the public to see research projects in progress, talk with researchers and see the latest in a variety of modern agriculture techniques and plans. Those attending farms with livestock operations are asked to observe several precautions if they’re coming from another such operation. There also are guidelines for visitors recently returned from trips abroad. And, new state law regarding smoking on public property means that, effective July 1, 2008, no smoking by anyone is allowed on the ISU farms. See a list and description of the field days and a link to the 2008 field days brochure on the ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Web site here http://snipr.com/2k2c7
FOR THE RECORD
Resources for weather-related concerns on the farm
Here’s a list of Web sites with links to a variety of information, education, suggestions and advice regarding possible problems facing livestock farmers after the past few weeks’ worth of weather woes. The list is not complete, but we hope it will provide a place for you to start in your search for appropriate and timely information. Please use as you see fit, and forward to others who might also benefit. And let us know if you need more assistance.

Livestock and farm buildings after a flood (Jay Harmon, ISU) http://snipr.com/2jzsp
Managing manure storage structures during wet weather (Robert Burns, ISU) http://snipr.com/2jzw2
The nation’s wet spot (Elwynn Taylor, ISU) http://snipr.com/2k09h
Floods: 2008 (online presentation by Elwynn Taylor, app. 15 minutes long)
   http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/floodupdate13june2008/
Using flood-damaged grains (Dan Loy and Charles Schwab, ISU) http://snipr.com/2k0c0
Disposing of sand, silt and debris on farm fields (Iowa DNR) http://snipr.com/2k0f3
Check manure storage structures (Iowa DNR) http://snipr.com/2k0f9
River observations (National Weather Service) http://snipr.com/2k0nk
Plan for flooding and report ag losses to USDA-FSA (Iowa Ag Sec. Bill Northey) http://snipr.com/2k0p0
Iowa concern hotline (Margaret VanGinkel, ISU Extension) http://snipr.com/2k0pr and
   http://snipr.com/2k0ql NOTE: Iowa Concern Hotline phone number is (800) 447-1985.
FEMA response to Midwest disasters http://snipr.com/2k1y3
EDEN (Extension Disaster Education Network) resources http://snipr.com/2k1yn

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