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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Farm Progress Show displays inform and educate
The 2008 Farm Progress Show opens tomorrow morning just a few miles down the road from Iowa State University. Based for the first time at its biennial Iowa home for the next 20 years of shows, the show grounds are just north of Highway 30 east of Boone. See here for maps and directions. http://www.farmprogressshow.com For three days, this part of central Iowa will host visitors from around the world. While many of those attending do so for the crop and associated agronomic information, we hope they'll take time to stop in the ISU and ISU Extension hoop building to see how we’re helping producers and consumers, adults and children, lenders and borrowers, rural and urban dwellers. Located near the center of the building is the combined area for IPIC, the Iowa Beef Center and a few other livestock displays. You’ll learn about the economics of locating various livestock operations, and the positive economic impact that animal agriculture has on the entire state of Iowa. Please stop by if you’re in the neighborhood, and see what ISU has to offer. If you’re not able to attend, you can see the displays here http://www.extension.iastate.edu/shows/fps08/exhibits.html The hoop building is located at the intersection of Central Avenue and Seventh Street.

NEWS
ISU grad goes to Newsham Choice Genetics
The newest breeding and genetics specialist at Newsham Choice Genetics is an ISU alum with IPIC ties. Doug Newcom earned his M.S. (animal science) and Ph.D. (major in animal breeding and genetics, and a minor in statistics) and did much of his research work under Tom Baas in our office. Doug was unique and very personable, and he truly left his mark. In fact, there’s still a hard hat and a white frock bearing his name in our store room. Before moving to Newsham, Doug had been director of research and development for Genetic Improvement Services of North Carolina. You can read more in this release on the Newsham Web site http://snipr.com/3jp7x

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Oat groats show potential for weaned pig diet
Making sure that weaned pig diets have appropriate nutrition and high digestible energy levels with affordable costs can be challenging. A recent Canadian study looked at the use of high-oil oat groats for nutritional value and growth performance effects. If the positive nutritional value could be confirmed, oat groats with high oil content might be a possible alternative for weaned pig diets. The oats were ground to 9/64” and used in a diet containing 94.6% oats, 5% premix and an indigestible marker (0.4%). The 192 pigs in the study were divided into groups of four pigs each and fed one of four diets over a period of four
weeks. Final results showed that while the high oil groats were apparently well-ingested, there was no significant effect on growth performance, feed intake and feed conversion. With no advantage of these groats over wheat, questions arose as to whether different grinding of the oats would lead to better feed and growth numbers. You can read more about this study on the Engormix.com Web site here http://snipr.com/3jpfp Note that you need to register to use the site; however, registration is free and only requires an e-mail address and a password.

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Congratulations to ABE colleague Hongwei Xin, professor of agricultural and biosystems engineering at ISU, has been named an American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers Fellow for his leadership and contributions in teaching, research and outreach. He is recognized worldwide as an authority on animal environmental issues. Some of his work involves helping with the updating of ventilation designs for animal feeding operations. Hongwei also has done some video script translation and narration for IPIC, and is featured in the Chinese version of our most recent Swine Export video.

IT’S A DATE
Began Aug. 5. Hog Margin Maker Workshop, various dates and locations. See the list here http://www.ifbf.org/New_rm.pdf Free for IFBF members with this coupon (http://www.iowafarmbureau.com/New%20Dim_coupons.pdf) otherwise the cost is $25 per person. This hands-on workshop will cover price risk management tools, including hedging, options, Livestock Gross Margin and Livestock Risk Protection insurance. (Note: the Pella location for Aug. 25 has been cancelled.)

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Aug. 25. Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling Webcast. Offered at more than 30 ISU Extension county offices from 7 to 9 p.m. No cost to attend. Learn about responsibilities, recommendations and potential impacts on pork and beef production from ISU experts. See the list of sites and respective contact staff members at this URL http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/content/coolwebcastsites.pdf

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Aug. 26-28. Farm Progress Show. East of Boone along Highway 30. IPIC will host a display in the Iowa State University hoop building. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday. Gate admission is $10. See more info, including maps to the site on the FPW Web site http://www.farmprogressshow.com/

DID YOU KNOW?
Sow slaughter is slowing in U.S. and Canada
As corn and related feed costs rose over the past several months, so did hog slaughter numbers. In fact, U.S. sow slaughter had been running nearly 10% higher than a year ago, despite the fact that our industry’s size and composition make it difficult to quickly leave and enter production. High slaughter typically means lower market prices, and although that had been the case, more recently prices have been increasing. Also, the Canadian buyout program hasn’t totally accomplished its goal of reducing the sow herd by 150,000. Right now about 120,000 sows have been liquidated as part of the program that requires a herd to stay out of production for three years. But we all know these numbers don’t tell the whole story. Weather-related crop issues this fall could spell a whole new set of worries and high feed prices. You can read more in this story on the Pork Magazine Web site http://snipr.com/3jpku

FOR THE RECORD
Premier Swine Exhibitor winners
One of the most interesting and impressive responsibilities I’ve had at the Iowa State Fair is the opportunity to serve as interviewer for the Premier Swine Exhibitor contest. Originally a scholarship competition, it’s now an award contest open to 4-H’ers who have finished 11th or 12th grades and who are
showing hogs at the state fair. The interview is one of five segments of the contest, and counts for 25% of the total score. It’s not a knowledge test, but rather a way for 4-H’ers to show how well they can communicate their thoughts and opinions, and to demonstrate their awareness of the pork industry. My congratulations to all who entered this year’s contest.

The 2008 winners, their respective home counties and the award amount are as follows:

1. Bethany Olson of Hamilton County $1,000
2. Calvin Hartz of Scott County $500
3. Cheyenne McNichols of Greene County $250

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