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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Sending warm thoughts and appreciation your way
Winter doesn’t officially arrive for nearly a week, but here in central Iowa it might as well be winter right now. Cold and strong winds mean wind chills below zero, and ice under the snow means extra careful walking and driving, and watchful eyes from everyone who’s outdoors. ISU students shiver as they quickly traverse campus to get to their semester final tests this week. And, as usual, NEWS NOW takes a break at the end of the calendar year. We hope NEWS NOW remains a positive addition to your world, and if you’re wondering about a gift for someone in the industry, consider forwarding the newsletter to that person with encouragement to follow the “subscribe” directions at the end of this message. Remember: we don’t keep names, addresses, phone numbers or any other contact information – just e-mail addresses – so potential subscribers can be assured they won’t be solicited or bothered by anything else. Even though this newsletter will be on break, IPIC continues to be available to you by phone, fax and e-mail. Contact us with your questions, concerns and suggestions as they arise. We’re planning a 2010 and hope to see you in the New Year. Look for the next NEWS NOW on Jan. 11.

NEWS
British Pig Executive learning program
You might be familiar with internships and scholarships offered by various industry groups to those of college age. In an article in the November issue of the British Pig Executive’s newsletter, read how their learning process goes further. At this URL http://sn.im/nn121409bpex read the story of the most recent winner of the Nuffield Farming Scholarship.

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Pfizer is first with vaccine
A Pfizer Animal Health product, FluSure XP, is the first animal health SIV vaccine licensed under new USDA guidelines. An article on the National Hog Farmer Web site describes the latest tool in the H1N1 flu battle http://sn.im/nnh1n1pfizervac, the Pfizer Animal Health Web site provides information on the vaccine, its composition, background and research. See it here http://sn.im/nnflusure

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New USDA help-desk for small meat and poultry processors
USDA has announced the opening of a new resource for operators of small and very small meat, poultry and processed egg products establishments seeking help with agency requirements. The help desk support USDA’s "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" initiative by offering a one-stop location for processor questions on making sure those products are safe and properly labeled. The resource is open for toll-free phone calls from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday (except for federal holidays) by calling 1-877-FSISHelp (1-877-374-7435). The staff also is available by e-mail at InfoSource@fsis.usda.gov

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Nutrient Management newsletter form NHF
Industry magazine National Hog Farmer has created “Nutrient Management,” a free e-mail newsletter that offers a wealth of information on animal waste issues. To subscribe to the newsletter that addresses issues including, “… storage, disposal, environmental impact and the economic opportunities created through nutrient and energy values” go to this URL http://subscribe.nationalhogfarmer.com/subscribe.cfm?tc=NNWEB and check the appropriate box.

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New weight groupings in Hogs and Pigs Reports
Beginning with the Dec. 30 quarterly Hogs and Pigs Report, USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is changing the group weight ranges for market hogs and pigs. The changes will align NASS data with international trade data and will allow a more uniform analysis of the North American hog inventory. The current market weight group under 60 pounds will be changed to under 50 pounds, and the current market weight group 60-119 pounds will be changed to 50-119 pounds. Other market weight groups will remain the same. Also, the Dec. 30 report will include national- and state-level data for the new weight groups dating back to March 2008 in order to allow for historical analysis of the new weight groups. The Hogs and Pigs report is available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

IT’S A DATE
Continuing. PQA Plus® and TQA producer 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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Dec. 15. Pork Niche Market Working Group. (Postponed from Dec. 9) 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Best Western, 2500 University Blvd, Ames. Read more about the group here http://www.valuechains.org/porkniche

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January and February. 2010 Confinement Site Manure Applicator Certification Workshops. See the complete listing of dates and locations on the Iowa Manure Management Action Group Web site here http://sn.im/confmanure2010

DID YOU KNOW?
List of resources for pork producers
IPIC has compiled a list of resources for producers who want information and assistance with production, financial, economic and legal issues. See the list on the IPIC Web site here http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/resources.html This list isn’t complete and additional online resources will continue to be added. If you have questions, or suggestions on other items to add, please let us know. You can reply to this e-mail or use the e-mail link on the page.
FOR THE RECORD
International visitors to IPIC Web site
In November alone, the IPIC Web site www.ipic.iastate.edu hosted visits from viewers of 87 different countries. Sixty-nine of those countries (over 79 percent) had more than one visit. While we’re pleased to see the repeat business, we hope we’re providing information, resources and links that pork producers in Iowa and worldwide want. If you have suggestions for content, let us know. In the meantime, please join the more than 10,000 viewers of our site last month in finding new knowledge.

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