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THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
The official “thank you” party
If you spent any time on the ISU swine teaching farm, swine nutrition farm, beef nutrition farm or in the ISU meat lab in the past several years, you’ll want to be in Kildee Hall this coming Friday afternoon. From 3 to 4:30 p.m. honorees Al Christian, Dan Johnson, Rod Berryman and Randy Petersohn will be recognized at a joint retirement reception in the Kildee Hall atrium, with a short program set for 4 p.m. These four are sure to have a great time visiting with those who’ve known and worked with them during their respective ISU careers. Our congratulations and deep appreciation to all four on a job well done.

NEWS
Symposium on importance of fat quality in processing
Register now for “Role of Fat Quality in Pork Processing” symposium sponsored by National Pork Board. This daylong program is set for Jan. 19, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in West Des Moines. Attendance is free, but you must preregister by tomorrow, Jan. 12. Learn more and find preregistration information in the brochure on the NPB web site here http://www.pork.org/Documents/Fat Quality Flyer.pdf

New segment in this newsletter
Starting with this issue, NEWS NOW will feature a production tip. Whether in the form of an idea, a reminder or a suggestion, these short entries will help inform all readers of the breadth and depth of knowledge, skill and understanding necessary to be part of today’s pork industry. If you have questions or comments on any of the tips included, or suggestions of future topics, please let us know. My contact information is at the bottom of each newsletter. The production tip will immediately follow this “News” section. Read on for this issue’s tip.

PRODUCTION TIP
Keeping it clean
Biosecurity: a simple word everyone has written into their management plans, but how easily it can be ignored or broken. In this new year, let’s remind ourselves and our farm staff of the importance of keeping...
disease out of the herd. Numerous studies on the economic cost of disease can be cited, but we all know the effect of disease on individual farms. Winter is an opportune time for biosecurity to be sacrificed by people tracking snow and manure into facilities in a rush to get out of the elements. Biosecurity on your farm is not worth sacrificing simply to get out of the winter air a few minutes sooner. Also, remember the importance of thorough truck washing and drying, each of which can be a challenge in cold weather. Reject trucks/trailers that are not clean upon arrival at your farm. Remember, it’s your livelihood on the line.

IT’S A DATE
Continuing. FSQA training and testing sessions for Iowa 4-H’ers. See the IPIC web site here http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/FSQA10.html for date, location and contact information

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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

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Jan. 15. Retirement reception for animal science staff members. Honorees are Al Christian – Swine Teaching Farm; Randy Petersohn – Meat Lab; Dan Johnson – Swine Nutrition Farm; and Rod Berryman – Beef Nutrition Farm. Kildee Hall atrium. 3:30 to 5 p.m. with a program at 4 p.m.

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Jan. 19. Symposium: Role of Fat Quality in Pork Processing. West Des Moines. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. No cost, but preregistration by Jan. 12 is required. See the brochure at http://www.pork.org/Documents/Fat Quality Flyer.pdf. Preregister by calling the National Pork Board at 800-456-7675.

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Jan. 25. Think Tank on Animal Agriculture. The Broiler restaurant, Ames. Speaker is Wesley Buchele, professor emeritus of agricultural engineering, with the topic, “Engineering for Animal Agriculture Profits.” Social time 6 p.m., dinner, 6:30 p.m., program 7 p.m. Register by noon Thursday, Jan. 21 with Julie Roberts at jrober@iastate.edu. Cost is $15.18 for predetermined meal choices, or pre-order from the menu.

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DID YOU KNOW?
New Canadian hog marketing venture
A new joint venture between Manitoba Pork Marketing and SPI Marketing Group is expected to reduce marketing costs in two provinces. The new “Hog Administrative Services” also known as H@MS, will eventually lower the per-unit cost of marketing hogs in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. In an interview on Farmscape.com, Manitoba Pork CEO Perry Mohr said that by combining volumes of hogs and resources, it should be possible to offer a high level of service to producers in both provinces at reasonable cost. Read the transcript or listen to the audio through links here http://sn.im/nn011110hogmktall

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FOR THE RECORD
New profiles on Ag Census Web site
USDA-NASS has posted updated information on its new section featuring county-level farm and ranch operator demographic profiles. Based on availability, up to seven profiles for each county in the United States are now posted via links from this Web site http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/. In addition to race, ethnicity and gender information, the profiles include county-level counts of farms and farm operators, as
well as economic data such as total value of sales and government payments. This marks the first time the profiles summarize information by race, ethnicity and gender. These profiles are from the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

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