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- Virtual niche pork farm tours and niche pork discussion

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE
Time for the Iowa Pork Congress
It’s January in Iowa, which means snow, wind, ice and the Iowa Pork Congress. This annual event features the largest swine trade show in the Midwest and educational opportunities galore. IPIC and IMMAG are at booth 1127 (near the eating area!) and you’re welcome to stop by and visit, or sit for a while in our comfortable chairs. See a list of selected activities and topics under “NEWS” below. Campus and field faculty and staff will be available at different times, and you’re cordially invited to sign a congratulatory poster for ISUE swine field specialist Larry McMullen who’s retiring at the end of the month.

NEWS
Things to see and do at Iowa Pork Congress
1. Feed sample micron analysis: IPIC will provide these. IPPA members can receive one free micron test. Additional tests are $10. ISU staff and field specialists will provide and demonstrate the feed screenings both days of the tradeshow. IPIC/ISU booth: 1127

2. PQAPlus and TQA trainings. Both on Wed., Jan. 27 in Room 3, HyVee Hall lower level. PQAPlus 10 a.m. to noon; led by Larry McMullen; TQA: 1 to 3 p.m.; led by Dave Stender. No cost for either.


5. Trade Show: Wed., Jan. 27 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thur., Jan. 28, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. HyVee Hall.

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New semester, new Science With Practice student
Please meet our spring semester 2010 Science With Practice student. And if her last name sounds familiar, it’s probably because her older sister Samantha was in the same position here two years ago.

Hello, I’m Sara Morine and I am the spring semester Science With Practice student working with Sherry Hoyer at the Iowa Pork Industry Center. I am excited to have this experience working with IPIC and am eager to learn more about the Iowa pork industry. A little about me: I am a freshman majoring in Animal Science with a minor in International Agriculture. I grew up on a small farm located just outside of Lamont, Iowa, where we raised hogs and horses along with producing crops. I was very active in 4-H, FFA, and other clubs, and I started showing livestock in at a young age. At ISU I am involved in Block and Bridle and Dance Marathon, and stay busy following Cyclone wrestling. Go State!

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PRODUCTION TIP
Keep an eye on corn in bins
If you have corn in a bin this winter, check it more often than you normally would. The amount of fines in corn this year can be abnormally high, and they usually “land” in the middle of the corn bin. In some cases, the fines can impede airflow and begin to spoil, and you wouldn’t necessarily know it simply by smelling. In such cases, even though there’s spoilage, it smells okay because the air is not flowing through the fines in the center of the bin. And, once the spoiling process starts, it does not take long before the quality of the whole bin is destroyed.

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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://snipr.com/confmanure2010

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Feb. 1. Climate Change Web cast. 7 to 9 p.m. The ISU Extension and ISU Biobased Industry Center’s session features feature leading economists in energy economics and agricultural policy: James Bushnell, Pat Westhoff, Dermot Hayes and Chad Hart. Not charge, but preregistration is required to attend one of the host sites. See more, including the site location list here http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/info/meetings.html

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DID YOU KNOW?
Netherlands retailer to offer only “pig-friendly pork”
The Netherlands’ retailer, Albert Heijn, will stop selling conventionally-raised pork next year. The retailer will instead market only pork from animals raised according to the requirements of the Dutch animal welfare organization, Dierenbescherming," under an agreement with the meat processor Vion. The welfare requirements include more space for pigs and a decrease in maximum transportation times. This intermediate product is expected to increase consumer demand and encourage more participation by pork producers. You can read more on the Pig Progress Web site here http://www.pigprogress.net/news/dutch-retailer-moves-to-selling-pig-friendly-pork-3841.html

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FOR THE RECORD
Virtual niche pork farm tours and niche pork discussion
You're invited to take a virtual tour of a niche pork operation, and take part in a discussion on key management topics that are important for successfully raising niche hogs. This series of three sessions will be held in a combination online/teleconference format on Feb. 3, Feb. 10 and March 25. Registration is free; you will need to pay for the long distance phone call that's part of these programs. ISU Extension, IPIC, IPPA and Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI) join the Pork Niche Market Working Group in sponsoring the sessions. Preregistration is strongly encouraged because enrollment may be limited. See more information including details on how to register in the program brochure on the PFI Web site here http://www.practicalfarmers.org/assets/files/virtual%20niche%20tour%202010.pdf

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