

## Snouts & Tails – Volume 11, No. 3

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### 1. IA DNR Cutting Reminder Letters for Annual MMP Updates

Source: Eco Newswire, April 23. Link: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/news/eco/09apr23eco.pdf>

Contact: Ken Hessenius at [kenneth.hessenius@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:kenneth.hessenius@dnr.iowa.gov)

DES MOINES – In the interest of efficiency, the DNR is looking for innovative ways to cut costs so that vital services with an environmental benefit can be maintained. Consequently, the DNR will no longer send reminder letters to 5,590 livestock and poultry producers who must submit annual manure management plan updates to the agency.

“We have developed some alternative ways for producers to receive this information,” said Ken Hessenius, supervisor of the Spencer DNR field office. “Time was a big part of this decision. We would rather spend our staff time providing technical assistance and emergency response.

“While we would like to continue notifying producers, we’re confident that most Iowa producers are familiar with the MMP requirements, including the need to update their manure management plan annually with the DNR,” said Hessenius. Like driver’s licenses, the updates are due on a staggered basis each month throughout the year.

Each facility will be notified of their annual due date through a final letter, which DNR field offices started sending out in March.

However, Hessenius says producers should not respond to the letter by sending in their updates immediately. “It’s important to wait until shortly before the month that it is due, because annual updates need to include changes in the plan up to the due date.” Producers will also be able to

check the DNR Web site at [www.iowadnr.gov/afo/mmp\\_dates.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/afo/mmp_dates.html) if they forget their due date. By early summer, producers will be able to access an online database that will include information about their facility and the due dates.

Since 2002 when a change in state law required the annual updates, the DNR has routinely sent a courtesy reminder letter to each facility 45 days before the update is due. Hessenius estimates the DNR will save nearly 1,000 hours by no longer sending the reminders. “Time spent for data analysis and processing the letters, along with money spent on printing and mailing can be better used to help producers protect water quality,” he said.

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Storlie view: I encourage you to check the website and write on your calendar when each MMP (site) is due. While IA DNR may provide a reminder or a notice of violation, those who do not respond will face fines.

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## 2. World Pork Expo, June 3-5

World Pork Expo will be held June 3 to 5. Please note this is a change from past years as the 3<sup>rd</sup> is Wednesday, thus Wednesday to Friday. For additional information regarding seminar topics, speakers, tickets, trade show, and breed shows, please visit the web site: <https://www.worldpork.org/>

--- Added opportunity ---

The Iowa Pork Producers Association and ISU Extension swine specialists are offering PQA Plus<sup>®</sup> and TQA<sup>®</sup> certification sessions free of charge at World Pork Expo.

When: Thursday, June 4

PQA Plus – 10 a.m. - noon

TQA – 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Where: Walnut Center, Iowa State Fairgrounds, Des Moines

Registration begins 30 minutes prior to each session.

Sessions are limited to the first 100 pre-registrants. To pre-register or if you have questions, contact IPPA at (800) 372-7675 or [tbettin@iowapork.org](mailto:tbettin@iowapork.org).

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*“There is only one success – to be able to spend your life in your own way”*

- Christopher Morley (1890 – 1957)

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### 3. PIN tag for Breeding Stock

Do you use ear tags for your breeding stock? If you do not, you may need to start. If you do, you may want to make your next tag order to be PIN approved tags. Johnsonville Sausage announced that beginning September 1, 2009 all breeding animals they purchase must be individually identified with an official National Animal Identification System (NAIS) tag bearing the premises identification number of the breeding farm.

A producer can purchase official Premises Identification Number (PIN) tags bearing the premises identification number of the breeding farm from approved distributors. The PIN Tag must be applied by the producer to all breeding stock before these animals enter harvest channels.

The PIN tag is an official means to identify breeding stock entering harvest channels that will enhance the traceability of these animals back to the source premises. The tag can also function as a management tag for breeding stock in a production system. Producers may order the official NAIS PIN tag with or without management numbers by contacting the distributors of USDA-approved tag manufacturers. At the time this letter is written, Destron-Fearing and Allflex have been approved to produce these tags; but other manufacturers have expressed an interest in gaining USDA approval. Producers will be required to supply their premises identification number with the order. For more information on PIN tags, visit <http://www.pork.org/PorkScience/SwineID.aspx?c=PINtag>

Premises registration is the backbone to the NAIS and will allow the pork industry to respond quickly and efficiently to an animal health emergency. The pork industry has registered over 80 percent of estimated pork production sites in the United States. For more information on premises registration and the NAIS, visit [www.pork.org/swineidplan](http://www.pork.org/swineidplan) or [www.usda.gov/NAIS](http://www.usda.gov/NAIS)

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Storlie view: Talk with your buyer of cull sows and boars. If they market sows to Johnsonville, you will need PIN tags by Sept. 1, 2009. The PIN tag is a specific pink color which has been approved by USDA and the packing industry. Color is not an option, pink was chosen to stand out at the harvest plant.

For operations which do not use sow tags, they will need to place a PIN tag into cull sows just prior to marketing to Johnsonville or another company requiring a PIN tag. Purchase of PIN tags with management numbers (sow number) will make greatest use of the tag investment.

If you are not marketing to Johnsonville directly nor indirectly (buying stations), you do not need PIN tags at this time. However, I would strongly recommend obtaining your premises ID number and consider switching your management tags to PIN based tags because consumers and retailers continue to ask for more transparency to assure that animal health, food safety and animal welfare base requirements are met.

From farm to plate, the production portion (farm) will be asked to provide more documentation that illustrates that they meet the requirements of the customer. The food chain will see continued requests for greater verification, much like packer processors have had to enhance their protocol in the past 5-10 years. As consumer trust fades, documentation provides confidence and must become a part of your business.

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*“Forget injuries, never forget kindness”*  
- Confucius (551 BC – 479 BC)

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#### 4. Corn Quality ... Monitor Your Grain Storage

Article: Time to Check and Make Decisions About 2008 Corn

By Charles Hurburgh, ISU, Dept of Ag and Biosystems Engineering

This is an important topic for operations that store corn on farm or purchase corn, given the maturity, quality and handling issues of the 2008 corn crop. **This type of corn has roughly half the storage life of normal corn under the same moisture and temperature conditions.**

At that time the corn was coming out of the field very wet, with soft texture, low test weight, and low protein content. These were consequences of the cool wet growing season; much of Iowa corn did not ever reach full maturity. Elevators and producers alike filled bins with wetter-than-normal corn, up to 24 percent moisture in some cases. There were also cases of emergency piles of 18-22 percent corn that did not get picked up until January.

Corn in bins that were aerated and monitored to stay below 30F and that had the center cores removed are generally in good condition, while unaerated bins and piles have gone already to 75-100 percent damaged kernels.

Iowa is not alone in this problem. Below is some good advice from Dr. Ken Hellevang, North Dakota State University.

The estimated allowable storage time, AST, decreases rapidly at warmer grain temperatures. For 26 percent moisture corn, the AST for normal corn is about 90 days at 30 degrees, 35 days at 40 degrees, and only 12 days at 50 degrees. For 22 percent moisture corn, the AST is about 190 days at 30 degrees, 60 days at 40 degrees, and only 30 days at 50 degrees. For 20 percent moisture corn, the AST is very long at 30 degrees, is about 90 days at 40 degrees, and 50 days at 50 degrees. Immature, cracked, and broken corn kernels are more prone to deterioration than good quality corn, so corn this year may be more prone to storage problems.

Warming of the grain will normally be limited to a couple feet near the bin wall and a few feet at the top of the bin. Monitor grain temperature in these locations to determine when to operate the aeration fan. Bin temperature cables help monitor grain temperature but only detect the temperature of the grain next to the cable. Grain has an insulation value of about R1 per inch so

grain insulates the cable from hot spots just a few feet from the cable.

Cover aeration fans when they are not operating to prevent wind from warming the corn. Wind blowing into an uncovered aeration fan or duct will aerate the corn, warming it to temperatures near the daily maximum. This occurs because there tends to be more wind during daylight hours than at night.

**The active period for grain spoilage begins in mid to late February.** Use every opportunity to keep the grain cold. Take some grain out of every bin in the near future. This will indicate if there are problems starting. Wetter corn can bridge over the unloading slide. It is better to know and solve this now rather than in warm weather when grain may be heating rapidly.

Once the grain temperature cannot be maintained below 30F, wet corn (anything over 17 percent) will have to be dried or sold. Spoilage will happen rapidly. Natural air will work if the bin has 0.5 cfm/bu or more of airflow and the moisture is less than 20 percent. Otherwise, use heated air.

Ethanol plants are sensitive to mold damage; damage interferes with enzymes and fermentation. Livestock feeders should consult nutritionists or veterinarians to screen damaged or blended corn for mycotoxins. Mycotoxins are not normally associated with storage but the combination of corn properties, high moisture, and less drying could create these issues in highly damaged corn.

Expect careful grading of corn for the rest of this marketing year. There is already considerable damaged corn in commercial elevators, from temporary piles that were not covered or aerated. This will leave much less flexibility for blending of off-grade corn from farm bins. All users are going to be on the lookout for poor quality grain this year. If you have very high moisture corn still in storage, above 22 percent moisture, plan to sell or dry it before the end of February.

**Bottom line: Act now to check, move, or dry 2008 crop corn.** This corn will be difficult to manage for the rest of the year. Damaged corn will be hard to market and will get worse quickly.

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*“Men are not prisoners of fate, but only prisoners of their own minds”*  
- Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945)

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## 5. Beef and Pork Whole Animal Buying Guide

[Beef and Pork Whole Animal Buying Guide \(PM 2076\)](#), is a new publication that has been developed by the Small Meat Processor Working Group. The publication will help people understand the various cuts of meat and that the total animal weight is not equal to the pounds of processed meat. Also included in the publication is information on safe storage and handling.

The working group is making the guide available from the ISU Extension online store at [www.extension.iastate.edu/store](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/store) .

Building consumer awareness is only one aspect of the accomplishments of the Small Meat Processor Working Group, which is part of the Value Chain Partnerships project coordinated by the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. The working group, organized three years ago by ISU rural sociology graduate student Arion Thiboumery and Joe Cordray, Extension meat specialist, brings processors, regulators, educators and business consultants to a discussion table where they identify small meat processor needs and the resources to address those needs.

For additional information regarding the Beef and Pork Whole Animal Buying Guide or the Small Meat Processor Working Group, please contact Arion Thiboumery, graduate assistant, (515) 294-2882, [arion@iastate.edu](mailto:arion@iastate.edu) or Joseph Cordray, Animal Science, (515) 294-4266, [jcordray@iastate.edu](mailto:jcordray@iastate.edu)

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Storlie view: Regardless if you are a conventional or niche pork producer, this guide will benefit your efforts if you market pigs to family or friends that are processed at a local locker. A guide with color pictures is available free as a pdf or purchase for \$6.50. A black and white version may be purchased for \$1.00. This is an excellent consumer education tool.

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## 6. Manure Issues

### **\* IA DNR is no longer sending out reminders for Annual Manure Plan Submission**

MMP submission due dates for sites by county are available on the web:

[www.iowadnr.gov/afo/mmp\\_dates.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/afo/mmp_dates.html)

### **\*\* Factsheet on *Selling and Buying Manure in Iowa* is available**

The latest Iowa Manure Manager Series fact sheet, *Selling and Buying Manure In Iowa*, has been finalized and posted to the web at: <http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/pubs/imms/vol10.pdf>.

### **\*\*\* Resource for information on manure, manure plans, etc.:**

- IMMAG Web site at <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/immag/mac.html>

- DNR Web site at <http://www.iowadnr.com/afo/appcert.html>

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**Managing Tough Times** is an ISU resource to address economic challenges for Families/Households, Businesses/Communities, and Farms.

Visit the Site address: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/toughtimes/>

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## 7. USDA initiative for Iowa Organic Producers

Iowa farmers transitioning to organic production or already certified as an organic producer may qualify for a new initiative providing more than \$1.4 million in financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which is administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

According to EQIP Program Coordinator Dave Brommel, producers must submit applications by May 29 to be included in the initial ranking for funding. "However, EQIP signup is continuous so producers may submit an application to their local service center at any time," he said.

Organic producers can receive up to \$20,000 per year or \$80,000 over six years through this initiative. Due to increased costs for some conservation practices related to organic operations, NRCS is increasing the standard payment rate up to 60 percent for some practices. Under the Organic Initiative, required minimum core conservation practices will be determined by specific resource concerns. The core practices are: Conservation Crop Rotation, Cover Crop; Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Prescribed Grazing, and Forage Harvest Management. Other practices offered through this Initiative include: Animal Mortality Facility, Composting Facility, Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed, Contour Farming, Contour Buffer Strips, Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge-Till, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment, Fence, Field Border, Pasture and Hay Planting, Pipeline, Heavy Use Protection Area, Stripcropping, Watering Facility, and Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation.

The 2009 Organic Initiative is a nationwide special initiative to provide financial assistance to National Organic Program (NOP) certified organic producers as well as producers in the process of transitioning to organic production. All applicants must have an organic system plan that meets the NOP guidelines. For more information go to [www.ams.usda.gov/nop/](http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/). Organic producers may also apply for assistance under general EQIP.

Additional information on the 2009 EQIP Organic Initiative is available at: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/).

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### 8a. Swine CALENDAR

**On-going opportunity: 2008 Sow Bridge – distant learning opportunity – 9 months remain**  
The monthly SowBridge programs are approximately 45 minutes in length and the educational programs are developed and presented by leading U.S. swine extension educators and researchers. For more information contact the Iowa Pork Industry Center, phone (515) 294-4496

**On-going opportunity: 2009 Pork Bridge – distant learning opportunity – 6 sessions/\$125 all sessions**

The focus is growing-finishing pigs. Educational programs are developed and presented by leading U.S. swine Extension educators and researchers. To participate in the first session, registration and payment must be received by Feb. 20.

To access an online brochure for the Pork Bridge program, [click here](#).

For more information contact the Iowa Pork Industry Center, phone (515) 294-4496

**June 3-5: NPPC World Pork Expo, Iowa State Fairgrounds, Des Moines, pre-order \$5/ gate \$15**

More information at <https://www.worldpork.org>

**June 9: PQA Plus, Osage Municipal Utility, Osage, 10:00 am to noon**

**TQA , Osage Municipal Utility, Osage, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

Pre-registration is required – please call 641-732-5574. Cost: \$25 for one or \$30 for both.

While walk-ins are welcome, commitments are needed to justify the meeting.

**June 11: PQA Plus Certification meeting, Fayette County Extension Office, Fayette, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., \$25**

Pre-registration is required. While walk-ins are welcome, commitments are needed to justify the meeting. For more information contact Mark Storlie, [mstorlie@iastate.edu](mailto:mstorlie@iastate.edu) or phone 563-425-3331

**July 21: Lauren Christian Pork Chop Open, Veenket Memorial Golf Course, Ames, \$85 or \$340/team**

Registration avail at [www.ipic.iastate.edu/events/LCPCO09registration.pdf](http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/events/LCPCO09registration.pdf)

Deadline is July 6 or until 32 teams are signed up. More info contact: IPIC at 515-294-4103

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8b. Youth Ag CALENDAR

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8c. Other Ag CALENDAR

**Various Dates (June-Nov.): Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI) 2009 Field Days**

Brochure is available at:

<http://www.practicalfarmers.org/assets/files/2009%20field%20day%20guide%20bw.pdf>

**June 8-10: Midwest Composting School, Chaska, MN, \$425**

Features an intensive three-day program that will train participants in the science of composting, handling feedstocks, enhancing compost quality, sampling and analytical processes, environmental regulations, application rates, source separated food waste and understanding

compost markets. **Pre-registration due by June 1.** This school is a collaborative effort between the University of Minnesota, Iowa State University, MPCA, Carver County, and R.W. Farms. Additional information is available at: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/environment/00035.html>

**July 22: Upper Midwest Manure Handling Expo, Boone, IA, \$0 rather \$7 for parking**

The Expo will include exhibits, equipment demonstrations and educational programs.

Additional information is available at: [http://www.ag.iastate.edu/wastemgmt/expo\\_home.htm](http://www.ag.iastate.edu/wastemgmt/expo_home.htm)

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## 9a. Resources – IPPA

The IPPA has materials on the following topics. They are very helpful and to the point (8 to 12 page 8.25”x5.5” pamphlets). Request materials by calling IPPA at 800-372-7675 or e-mail Tyler Bettin, Producer Education, [tbettin@iowapork.org](mailto:tbettin@iowapork.org)

1. Recommended checklist – suggestions for non-permitted sites, 8 page, \$0
2. Facility Leasing Checklist, 12 page, \$0
3. Legal Requirements for Marketing Pork Products... adding value to live hogs, 8 pages, \$0

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## 9b. Resources – ISU

\* **Ag Decision Maker** – Web site: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/>

\* **PIG** – Web site: <http://isu.porkgateway.org/>

\* **Mortality Composting** – Web site: <http://www.abe.iastate.edu/pigsgone/>

\* **Midwest Planning Service** – Web site: [www.mwpshq.org](http://www.mwpshq.org)

\* **Considering a Swine Niche Market?** A previous IPIC & ISU Extension program may provide some background, provide awareness and raise important questions. Select “Comparing Swine Niche Marketing Opportunities” from the marketing topics posted on the IPIC web site:

<http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/topics.html#marketing>

The “Comparison Chart” asked 40 questions to nine organizations: Niman Ranch Pork Company, Organic Valley Pork, Truline Premium Pork, Five Star Premium Pork and 100% Berkshire Pork.

\* **RURAL CONCERN HOTLINE:** 800-447-1985. Confidential, 24 hour, free resource to access range of expertise to aid people make quality of life decisions.

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## 9c. Resources – State of Iowa

\* Iowa Attorney General, Environmental and Ag Law Division,  
<http://www.state.ia.us/government/ag/farm.htm>

- information on production contracts and commodity production contract lien

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