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**1. Series of Free PQA Plus™ and TQA Certification Sessions Begins Aug. 26**

The Iowa Pork Industry Center (IPIC), Iowa State University Extension and Iowa Pork Producers Association (IPPA) have teamed up to provide a series of free training sessions for pork producers and others who need certification in the Pork Quality Assurance Plus™ (PQAPlus™) and Transport Quality Assurance (TQA) programs.

IPIC director John Mabry said the timing of this series, with sessions scheduled between August 26 and September 22 in various Iowa locations is ideal. With IPPA's sponsorship, there is no charge to attend. Ordinarily, the fee is about \$25 per person for each session.

“We appreciate the sponsorship of IPPA in helping provide and promote these certification programs in late summer,” Mabry said. “This is a good time for anyone who needs certification in either or both programs to get that accomplished at no charge.”

Tyler Bettin, IPPA producer education director, urges people to plan to attend a session closest to them.

“We are fortunate to have the cooperation of our ISU Extension swine field specialists to conduct these sessions,” he said. “And we want to give producers every opportunity to complete these sessions prior to the harvest season.”

Preregistration is strongly encouraged for all sessions to ensure adequate materials are available. Contact the ISU Extension swine field specialist listed to preregister at the desired location.

The following PQAPlus™ and TQA sessions are part of the IPPA-sponsored series.

August 26 -- Hancock County Extension Office, 327 West 8th St., Garner.

PQAPlus™ 9:45 a.m. to noon; TQA 1 to 3:30 p.m. Contact Russ Euken, (641) 923-2856 or [reuken@iastate.edu](mailto:reuken@iastate.edu)

August 27 -- Story County Extension Office, 220 H Ave., Nevada.

PQAPlus™ 9:45 a.m. to noon; TQA 1 to 3:30 p.m. Contact Terry Steinhart, (800) 515-2680 or [tsteinha@iastate.edu](mailto:tsteinha@iastate.edu)

August 27 -- Butler County Extension Office, 320 N. Main St., Allison.

PQAPlus™ 9:45 a.m. to noon; TQA 1 to 3:30 p.m. Contact Mark Storlie, (319) 267-2707 or [mstorlie@iastate.edu](mailto:mstorlie@iastate.edu)

September 9 -- Northwest Iowa Community College, Bldg. A, Room 118, Sheldon.

TQA 10 a.m. to noon; PQAPlus™ 1 to 3 p.m. Contact Dave Stender, (712) 225-6196 or [dstender@iastate.edu](mailto:dstender@iastate.edu)

September -- Jones County Extension Office, 605 East Main St., Anamosa.

PQAPlus™ 7 to 9 p.m. Contact Larry McMullen, (319) 462-2791 or [lkcmcmull@iastate.edu](mailto:lkcmcmull@iastate.edu)

September 15 -- Washington County Extension Office, 2223 250th St., Washington.

PQAPlus™ 7 to 9 p.m. Contact Tom Miller, (319) 653-4811 or [tmiller@iastate.edu](mailto:tmiller@iastate.edu)

September 22 -- Sac County Extension Office, 620 Park Ave, Sac City.

PQAPlus™ 10 a.m. to noon, TQA 1 to 3 p.m. Contact Jerry Weiss, (712) 335-3103 or [weissj@iastate.edu](mailto:weissj@iastate.edu)

To learn more about PQAPlus™, see the National Pork Board Web site at

<http://www.pork.org/Producers/PQAP.aspx?c=About>

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“It’s not enough that we do our best; sometimes we have to do what’s required.”  
- Sir Winston Churchill (1874 – 1965)

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## **2. IPPA unveils Pork Quality Assurance Plus® Site Status rebate program**

The Iowa Pork Producers Association is now offering \$100 rebates to Iowa pork producers who complete PQA Plus Site Assessments prior to Dec. 31, 2009.

“We are happy to partner with the National Pork Board and the National Pork Producers Council to help producers reduce the cost of these assessments,” said Tyler Bettin, IPPA

producer education director. “Completing all aspects of the PQA Plus program shows producer’s commitment to quality assured pork production.”

The following requirements and stipulations apply:

Rebates available on a first-come, first served basis only as funds are available. Please do not delay!

- Limit of one rebate per production entity
- No rebates will be mailed until October 2009
- Rebate amount may not equal more than the total assessment cost
- Producer must postmark the rebate form before Jan. 5, 2010
- All site status paperwork must be completed
- Rebates valid for assessments conducted from July 10 through Dec. 31,2009

IPPA and the National Pork Board are encouraging all producers to become PQA Plus-certified and achieve PQA Plus Site Status. The purpose of this program is to encourage producers to be proactive in providing the best possible care for their animals and show commitment to the ethical principles of pork production as outlined in the We Care responsible pork initiative. Having a PQA Plus advisor review your operation can both improve the well-being and productivity of animals by noting changes or additions that may not otherwise be noticed.

Producers are asked to visit [www.iowapork.org](http://www.iowapork.org) to access the form and then work with their PQA Plus advisor to complete and return it to IPPA.

Interested producers should contact Bettin at [tbettin@iowapork.org](mailto:tbettin@iowapork.org) or (800) 372-7675 with questions, or to see if funds are still available.

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### **3. IA Pork Industry Center to Offer PQA Plus™ Advisor Training Program**

Veterinarians and others in Iowa’s pork industry have the opportunity to become Pork Quality Assurance Plus™ Advisors under the National Pork Board's PQA Plus™ program. The certification process requires attendance at a daylong training session and passing an exam at the conclusion of that session. The Iowa Pork Industry Center (IPIC) at Iowa State University (ISU) will hold one such training on August 21.

James McKean, IPIC associate director and ISU Extension swine veterinarian, is coordinating the training to be held in the Ensminger Room in Kildee Hall on the ISU campus. He said the session will be taught by ISU animal science and veterinary medicine faculty members who are certified PQA Plus™ trainers.

McKean said those who qualify and are interested in the program should download, complete, and submit the two-page application form available online at <http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAPapp82109.doc> The form also is available by fax by calling Jane Runneals at IPIC at (515) 294-4103.

“If you’re interested in attending, please let us know by submitting an application as soon as possible,” he said. “The application deadline is August 7, with the \$75 due from approved applicants by August 14.”

To be eligible to submit an application, people must meet the following qualifications:

1. Be a veterinarian, Extension specialist or ag educator (defined for this program as a person who spends full time in adult education or at least half time in production training) AND
2. Have a D.V.M. or B.S. in animal science or an equivalent combination of education and swine production experience as determined by the PQA Plus trainer reviewing the application AND
3. Have two years of recent documentable swine production experience.

PQA Plus™ was developed by the Pork Industry Animal Care Coalition to be a continuous improvement program. The coalition, made up of pork producers, packers/processors, restaurants and food retailers, dedicated itself to finding a food-industry solution that would give confidence to consumers that U.S. pork is produced in a way that respects animal well-being. PQA Plus™ merges the food safety and animal well-being concepts of the original PQA program into three steps: individual certification through education, farm site assessment, and the opportunity for audit that gives customer credibility. For more information on PQA Plus™ contact the National Pork Board at 800-456-PORK or go to <http://www.pork.org/Producers/PQAP.aspx?c=About>

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“The greatest discovery of my generation is that  
a human being can alter his life by altering his attitudes of mind”  
- William James (1842 – 1910)

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#### **4. Pig Cents for the Future Seminar, Manchester, Sept. 10, 1:00-4:30, \$0**

ISU Extension, Iowa Pork Industry Center, and Iowa Pork Producers Association are sponsoring a seminar on September 9 and 10, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at two locations in eastern Iowa. During this stressful time in the swine industry, the seminar may provide perspective and resource to the swine producers. Seminar topics are noted below:

\* **Dr. John Lawrence**, ISU Extension Livestock Economist, will provide opening comments with an outlook for feed and pork prices.

Concurrent sessions topics: 3 sessions for each of 2 room, attendees will select.

\* **Dr. John Lawrence or Shane Ellis**, ISU Extension Livestock Economists, will discuss margins with the tools of Crush and Profit Tracker.

\* **Eldon McAfee**, Beving, Swanson & Forest, P.C., will discuss options when a contract is broken or renegotiated.

\* **Erin Herbold**, ISU Staff Attorney, will address legal questions and answers dealing with contract feeding – case studies.

\* **John Mabry**, Director of IPIC, will offer ideas for improving production efficiencies during current economic times.

\* **Dr. John Lawrence**, ISU Extension Livestock Economist, will discuss Pros and Cons of joining a pig supply network and setting pricing structures.

\* **Greg Brenneman**, ISU Extension Engineer, will discuss value of manure to total operation

\* **Jim Jensen**, ISU Extension Farm Management, will highlight Fin Pak (financial evaluation) which is available for producers at no cost.

The program will conclude with a roundtable Q/A session with all speakers.

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Seminar Locations: 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

September 9 - Iowa City, Iowa, Johnson County Fair Grounds, Montgomery Hall

September 10 - Manchester, Iowa, Manchester Community Center, 200 East Acers St

The program is free, no cost. Pre-registration is requested for meeting preparation. To pre-register, call (319) 462-2791 or email: [lkcmull@iastate.edu](mailto:lkcmull@iastate.edu). For additional information contact Mark Storlie at the Fayette County Extension office 563-425-3331 or email: [mstorlie@iastate.edu](mailto:mstorlie@iastate.edu).

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“Why not go out on a limb? Isn’t that where the fruit is?”  
- Frank Scully

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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, if you market pigs to family or friends that are processed at a local locker this guide will benefit your efforts. A guide with color pictures is available free as a pdf or purchase for \$6.50. A black and white version may be purchase 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**

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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## 7. Managing Tough Times

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

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

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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. The educational programs are developed and presented by leading U.S. swine extension educators and researchers. For 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

### **August 21 -- PQA Plus Advisor Training, ISU campus, Ames, \$75**

Pre-registration is required by August 7. For more information, contact Jane Runneals, IPIC, at 515-294-4103

### **August 27 - PQA Plus, Butler County Extension, Allison, 9:45 a.m. to noon**

**TQA**, Butler County Extension, Allison, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Sessions are sponsored by Iowa Pork Producer Assn. Cost: \$0

Pre-registration is required – please call 319-267-2707. Walk-ins will be accepted.

### **September 9 - Pig Cents for the Future Seminar, Johnson County Fair Grounds, Iowa City, 1:00 to 4:30 p.m., \$0. Pre-registration is requested. Call (319) 462-2791 or email:**

[lkcmull@iastate.edu](mailto:lkcmull@iastate.edu) For more information, contact Mark Storlie, [mstorlie@iastate.edu](mailto:mstorlie@iastate.edu) or phone 563-425-3331

### **September 10 - Pig Cents for the Future Seminar, Manchester Community Center, Manchester, 1:00 to 4:30 p.m., \$0. Pre-registration is requested. Call (319) 462-2791 or email:**

[lkcmull@iastate.edu](mailto:lkcmull@iastate.edu) For more information, contact Mark Storlie, [mstorlie@iastate.edu](mailto:mstorlie@iastate.edu) or phone 563-425-3331

### **September 19-22 - AI Leman Swine Conference, St. Paul, MN**

### **October - PQA Plus, Fayette 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

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## 8b. Other Ag Calendar

**August 13-23 - Iowa State Fair**, Des Moines

More info: <https://www.iowastatefair.org>

**Various Dates: Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI) 2009 Field Days**

Brochure is available at:

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

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## 9a. IPPA Resources

The IPPA has materials on the following topics. They are very helpful and to the point (8 to 12 page 8.25”x 5.5” pamphlets). Request materials by calling IPPA 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. ISU Resources

\* **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. State of Iowa Resources

\* 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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Enjoy Pork !