

*By Mark Storlie, ISU Extension Swine Field Specialist
201 East Clark Street, P. O. Box 700, Fayette, IA 52142
563-425-3331*

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1. No Enforcement of DOT Requirement for Private Trucks in Intrastate Farm Operations

As of April 2011, Iowa DOT Motor Vehicle Enforcement Officer Ron Schipper confirms that enforcement of this requirement is not being implemented by the DOT. Specifically, Iowa farmers who privately (not for-hire) operate farm trucks entirely within the State of Iowa are not being required to obtain and display USDOT numbers. However, Iowa DOT emphasizes that if the farm truck crosses state lines, the truck is then involved in interstate commerce, and USDOT registration is required.

More information in article by Melissa O'Rourke, Extension Farm Management Specialist:
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/articles/others/OroureApr11.html>

View of Storlie: O'Rourke's article also provides a good reminder of farm vehicle (truck, tractor, tillage equipment, etc.) safety requirements (lights, SMV, etc.) when on Iowa roadways. Click to read more.

“The man who has confidence in himself gains the confidence of others.”
- Hasidic Saying

2. PQA Plus Certification Meetings

May 19, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Fayette County Extension Office, 201 East Clark St., Fayette

Pre-registration is required with minimum of 5 needed to hold session.

Cost: \$25/participant. Please e-mail mstorlie@iastate.edu or phone 563-425-3331.

June 16, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Fayette County Extension Office, 201 East Clark St., Fayette

Pre-registration is required with minimum of 5 needed to hold session.

Cost: \$25/participant. Please e-mail mstorlie@iastate.edu or phone 563-425-3331.

July 21, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Delaware County Extension Office, 1417 N. Franklin St., Manchester

Pre-registration has fulfilled minimum. Walk-ins are welcome.

Cost: \$25/participant. Please e-mail mstorlie@iastate.edu or phone 563-927-4201.

Pork producers are encouraged to check when their current certification will expire and plan ahead.

Some packers are requiring a "PQA Plus® Site Status". A "PQA Plus® Site Status" is earned by having a PQA Plus® site assessment conducted by a PQA Plus® Advisor. A list of approved advisors is available at the National Pork Board Web site.

To learn more about PQA Plus™ please see the National Pork Board Web site at <http://www.pork.org/Producers/PQAP.aspx>

3. 2011 Iowa Pork Regional Conference - presentations available

Nearly 150 pork producers and allied industry representatives attended the conferences held March 8-11, 2011. The Iowa Pork Producers Assoc., Iowa Pork Industry Center, and Iowa State University (ISU) Extension have hosted the regional sessions for over ten years.

IPPA has posted the presentations (recorded at the Ainsworth session) for online viewing.

Link: <http://www.iowapork.org/ForProducers/SeminarsConferences/tabid/705/Default.aspx>

Highlighting a few of the topics and speakers ...

Benchmarking sows and the post-weaned pig – Ron Ketchem, Swine Management Services

Ron Ketchem shared database information for benchmarking pork production and associated production costs across all production phases. He offered real data to help producers determine how they compare to others and develop some potential strategies to improve efficiencies on their farms.

PRRS control strategies and regional projects – Dr. James McKean, ISU Extension swine veterinarian

Dr. James McKean discussed PRRS control while offering some food for thought as producers implement biosecurity in their operations and consider options to control the disease. He shared information from a regional PRRS eradication project in Iowa County and other regional projects being modeled across the country.

“We know how to eliminate PRRS from herds without substantially decreasing production. What we haven’t figured out is how to keep you negative once we get there,” McKean said. “If we do these steps right, we will reduce the prevalence of PRRS in the subject area.”

McKean noted that pig movement is one of the largest challenges when evaluating the potential for PRRS eradication. “We need to figure out what the risk of animal movement is,” McKean said. “If we can learn how to evaluate risk of pigs moving, then we can make more intelligent decisions about how you should allow them into areas, but we are not going to stop pigs from moving for any length of time in this program.”

Different weather patterns and scenarios will impact PRRS livability, McKean said. Sunlight and drying reduce livability. Cold weather and moisture increase its livability. He urged producers to implement a biosecurity plan for their operations and stick to the protocol.

Aerosol transmission may be a concern; but as pig density goes down, it becomes less of a concern, McKean said. Carefully monitoring trucker’s boots, trailers, clothing of all involved, visitors, equipment coming into the barn as well as clean hands, coveralls and boots are good places to start, he added. After all these things are in line and producers assess their risk profile, then they can look to air filtration.

Pig production after the removal of growth promotion drugs – Dr. James McKean, ISU Extension swine veterinarian

Dr. McKean also talked antibiotic use and current discussions in the media and Legislature, including draft guidance 209 and the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA) to limit antibiotic use in livestock production. Draft guidance 209 is an outline of FDA public health concerns with recommendations, not legally binding, for judicious antibiotic use in food-producing animals. PAMTA is a legislative initiative that would phase out non-therapeutic use of medically important drugs in farm animals in the U.S.

The air in there – ISU Extension swine specialists

Iowa State University Extension swine specialists discussed basic ventilation management and its impact on pig comfort and production efficiency. They shared information on Extension programs to assist producers, including a new ventilation trailer, partially funded by IPPA, for educational training sessions.

Goals of the ISU ventilation workshops are to build producers understanding of ventilation settings to optimize pig and producer comfort and health, minimize environmental stressors, enhance performance and save energy.

Some of the most common pitfalls seen by specialists include trying to alter interior airflow patterns by adjusting exhaust fans, trying to control airflow rate by adjusting inlets, not monitoring or calibrating inlets appropriately and incorrectly adjusting inlet openings.

Ventilation Workshop scheduled mark your calendar.

July 7th, Borlaug Learning Center, Nashua, IA, 9:30 to 3:00

Cost: Free for the program; nominal free to cover lunch.

Additional information will be forthcoming ...

View of Storlie: While I am pleased that we can offer the presentation for those that could not attend, I encourage you to personally attend a conference. Candidly, attendance is needed to justify holding this and other meeting. No meeting, no recording? Your input for future meeting topics and speakers are always welcomed.

“To acquire knowledge, one must study; but to acquire wisdom, one must observe.”
- Marilyn vos Savant

4. Iowa DOT Publication Addresses Truck Requirements

Do you ever wonder what is legal when driving down the road with a load behind your pickup or semi? Are you required to have a fire extinguisher, warning flares/triangle shaped warning devices, or even extra fuses? The DOT enforcement officers seem to be pulling over more farm-related vehicles than in the past and I think there are a lot of questions that producers have regarding what the legalities are. The following publication is available to help understand what legal requirements you must follow:

<http://www.iowadot.gov/mvd/omve/truckguide.pdf>

View of Storlie: Pages 59-69 deal in particular with farm vehicles including tractors, SMV signs, and farm implements.

“I am not an adventurer by choice but by fate.”
- Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890)

5. An Eye on Margin

An Eye on Margin is a recurring segment that will offer different resources to assist with market knowledge and margin awareness to sharpen marketing skills.

Disclaimer: This section is to highlight tools and is not a recommendation of marketing action.

**Examples swine marketing risk management 4/27/2011
for pigs to be marketed the second half part of Sept (9/21/2011) or 21 weeks**

- Oct Futures closed at \$89.70
- LRP example- you set number of hogs – 21 weeks & 98.11% level
\$88.15 coverage price - (\$ 5.00 premium cost * 87% USDA Sub) = \$83.80/cwt floor price
- LRP example- you set number of hogs – 21 weeks & 86.98% level
\$78.15 coverage price - (\$ 1.46 premium cost * 87% USDA Sub) = \$76.88/cwt floor price
- **Oct Put example (155 days to expire) - 40,000 lb carcass /contract (approx. 220 hogs) - \$88 put + (+\$.91 basis) - \$3.60 premium - \$0.15 commission = \$84.74/cwt floor price**
- **Oct Put example (155 days to expire) - 40,000 lb carcass /contract (approx. 220 hogs) - \$80 put + (+\$.91 basis) - \$1.95 premium - \$0.15 commission = \$79.14/cwt floor price**
- **Oct Futures -40,000 lb carcass/ contract (approx. 220 hogs) ... margin calls will apply \$89.70 futures + (+\$.91 basis) - \$0.15 commission = \$90.46/cwt price**
- LGM premiums will vary with number of months and specific months with sales and coverage level

Additional consideration: The LRP provides some basis protection because it is settled against cash market; whereas a put is prone to greater (wider) basis slippage if slaughter capacity causes market fall. The LRP and LGM can be sized as needed – the put is hedging 205 pigs (195 lb carcass). LRP and LGN are non-refundable – the put may be sold or has some liquidity until expiration.

**** Resource: Swine Crush Margin**

Access the “Current Crush Margins” at ISU Ext. Iowa Farm Outlooks and News web site:
<http://www.econ.iastate.edu/margins/>

Based on closing futures prices for		April 27, 2011				
Placement month	Selling month	Pig price	Lean Hogs	Corn	SBM	Crush Margin
Dec	May	44.37	95.91	5.36	342	68.20
Jan	Jun	48.00	94.11	5.81	347	56.10
Feb	Jul	50.44	95.53	6.29	366	50.27
Mar	Aug	48.89	95.79	6.77	337	49.72
Apr	Sep	41.79	91.07	7.23	336	42.88
May	Oct	44.85	88.39	7.18	352	33.73
Jun	Nov	44.85	81.44	7.21	361	18.83
Jul	Dec	42.85	82.79	7.21	368	23.03
Aug	Jan	42.85	81.78	6.79	370	25.09
Sep	Feb	43.65	86.06	6.79	387	31.55
Oct	Mar	43.65	85.57	6.23	359	38.26
Nov	Apr	44.08	85.88	6.30	358	37.87
Dec	May	44.08	90.66	6.40	357	46.51

Based upon ISU Estimated Returns for a Wean-Finish operation the **Crush Margin needs to be \$40.48 to be at break-even** (cover all other cost beyond pig, corn & sbm).

What is the Crush Margin for your operation?

At this site under “Swine” are links to:

- Wean-to-Finish Crush Margin (updated weekly)
- Additional background information

In the case of wean-to-finish pigs the “crush” margin is the value of the market hog less the cost of the pig and the corn and SBM to raise it. Thus the “crush” margin is the remaining revenue used to pay all other costs and, hopefully, return a profit. The crush margin provides an indicator of return that takes into account the variables with the greatest price risk. It is also tied to the futures market that can be used to manage the price risk for several months before the hogs are sold. The Iowa Pork Industry Center at Iowa State University provides a crush margin analysis tool on its website with the following objectives:

- Calculate and report the crush margin based on Wednesday futures closing prices for WF hogs that will be marketed for more than a year into the future.
- Track how the margin for each contract has changed over time
- Report the margin average and variability by month over the last 10 years.

**** Resource: LRP & LGM Insurance**

http://www3.rma.usda.gov/apps/livestock_reports/

**** Resource: Western Cornbelt Lean Hog Basis**

<http://www.econ.iastate.edu/basis/>

**** Resource: Iowa Farm Outlook – April 2011 issue, ISU Economic Dept.**

<https://www.econ.iastate.edu/ifo/>

6. Manure Issues

NPPC scores CAFO suit victory over EPA

- Written by Rita Jane Gabbett on 3/16/2011

In a unanimous decision issued today, a federal court ruled that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency cannot require livestock operations to obtain Clean Water Act (CWA) permits unless they are discharging manure into a waterway of the United States. The National Pork Producers Council called the decision a major victory for pork producers.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit in New Orleans said that EPA exceeded its statutory authority in requiring concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) that propose or that might discharge to apply for CWA permits.

NPPC, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the United Egg Producers, and several other agricultural groups sued EPA over its so-called CAFO rule, which was issued in 2008 after

EPA's core provision in the initial 2003 regulation was struck down by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit in New York City.

In that 2005 decision, the court ruled that the CWA requires permits only for producers who actually discharge. EPA had sought to require permits even for operations that had a "potential" to discharge.

The 2008 regulation, which set a zero-discharge standard, included a duty to apply for a CWA permit for all CAFOs that discharge or "propose" to discharge. The rule essentially established a presumption that CAFOs "proposed" to discharge if any future discharge occurred. The rule covered production areas and crop land on which manure is applied and imposed fines of up to \$37,500 a day not only for illegal discharges but for the failure of a CAFO that had a discharge to apply for a CWA permit.

"NPPC is very pleased with the 5th Circuit's decision," said NPPC President Doug Wolf, a pork producer from Lancaster, Wis. "The court recognized a clear limit on EPA's authority and required the agency to comply with the clean water law."

The National Chicken Council participated in the suit. The organization released a statement, saying, "America's poultry farmers are good stewards of the land. EPA's requirement that farms had to apply for a discharge permit, even though no discharge occurs, was an onerous and unnecessary bureaucratic invention. Getting rid of it is a victory for common sense."

Confinement Site Manure Training – Date and Locations

Contact your county Extension offices if you or your employees need training.

IA DNR no longer sending out reminders for Annual Manure Plan Submission

DNR maintained database is now available on line:

<https://programs.iowadnr.gov/animalfeedingoperations/>

- suggest click on "Search" ... then enter 5-digit facility ID or name to find your sites.

**** 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>

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/>

7. Swine Calendar

On-going – 2011 SowBridge. Distance education program started March, 2011. Monthly session (11:30 am - 12:15pm) with variety of speakers and topics. Cost \$250. More information- www.ipic.iastate.edu/SowBridge/2011BrochureIPIC.pdf or contact: Dr. Ken Stalder at 800-808-7675

May 11 – ISU Farm Energy webinar, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., \$0. ISU ag engineers Mark Hanna and Jay Harmon will be covering Fuel Conservation for Tractors and Indoor/outdoor Farm Lighting and revealing upcoming topics. Registration for webinar: <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/energy/> ISU Farm Energy website: <http://farmenergy.exnet.iastate.edu/>

May 19 – PQA Plus certification, Fayette Co. Extension Office, 1:00 p.m.
Pre-registration required

June 8-10 – World Pork Expo, Des Moines, IA
IPPA will again offer a free PQA Plus and TQA certification sessions. To register for one of these free sessions, please contact Tyler Bettin, IPPA producer education director, at (515) 225-7675 or tbettin@iowapork.org

June 16 – PQA Plus certification, Fayette Co. Extension Office, 6:00 p.m.
Pre-registration required

July ??. **PQA Plus Advisor Certification,** Ensminger Room, Kildee Hall, ISU campus. Cost is \$75 per approved applicant. Registration deadline will be early July with fee due from approved applicants by time of session. For more info contact Sherry Hoyer by phone at 515-294-4496.

July 7 – Borlaug Learning Center, Nashua, IA, 9:30 to 3:00
Cost: Free for the program; nominal free to cover lunch.
Additional information will be forthcoming ...

July 21 – PQA Plus certification, Delaware Co. Extension Office, 6:00 pm
Pre-registration required



8a. 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 800-372-7675 or e-mail Tyler Bettin, Producer Education, 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

8b. Resources – ISU

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

CALT – Center Agricultural Law and Taxation – Web site: <http://www.calt.iastate.edu/>

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

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

Midwest Planning Service – Web site: <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. A confidential, 24 hour, free resource to access range of expertise to aid people in making quality of life decisions.

8c. 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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