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IBC announces “Iowa’s Next Top Inventor” competition

Cash prizes for top three finalists totaling \$3,000

Ames, Iowa, 10/15/08 – For the second year in a row, the Iowa Beef Center, part of the Iowa State University Extension, will be awarding \$3,000 in cash prizes for the organization’s “Iowa’s Next Top Inventor” competition.

Last year’s competition, where the top two finalists received cash prizes totaling \$3,000, was deemed a large success, with more than 400 Iowa producers voting for the winner at the 2008 Cornbelt Cow-Calf Conference last February.

The Iowa Beef Center, along with the *Iowa Farmer Today*, is hosting the competition again in hopes of using the competition’s continued success to bring attention to a problem facing many producers in today’s beef industry: the storing, handling and feeding of wet distillers grains.

“With these challenging prices that we’re seeing today, innovative ways to reduce production costs are more important than ever,” IBC Director John Lawrence said.

This year’s entrants, like last year’s, are asked to submit inventions that effectively store, handle or dispense corn co-products, especially wet distillers grains. Participants can build new inventions or modify existing ones.

Similar to last year’s process, a judging panel will choose three finalists, and producers attending the 2009 Cornbelt Cow-Calf Conference will vote for the winner after listening to presentations on the top inventions. All three finalists will receive part of the \$3,000: \$1,500 for first place, \$1,000 for second place, and \$500 for third place.

For official rules and details on how to submit an entry into this year’s competition before the Jan. 9, 2009, deadline, along with obtaining an entry form, visit the Iowa Beef Center online at www.iowabeefcenter.org. For more information on the competition, contact John Lawrence at jdlaw@iastate.edu or 515-294-6290.

The Iowa Beef Center at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, was established in 1996 with the goal of supporting the growth and vitality of the state’s beef cattle industry. It serves as the university’s extension program to cattle producers and is comprised of faculty and staff from ISU Extension and the colleges of agriculture and life sciences and veterinary medicine. Together, the Iowa Beef Center’s members work to develop and deliver the latest in research-based information regarding the beef cattle industry. To learn more, visit www.iowabeefcenter.org.

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