

Ross named to lead ISU pork center

Jason Ross, an associate professor of animal science at Iowa State University (ISU), has been appointed as the director of the Iowa Pork Industry Center at ISU. Ross succeeds Jay Harmon, who has served as interim director since July 2014.

"Jason has a great track record in swine research," said John Lawrence, associate dean of the



ROSS

ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and director of Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension and Outreach. "He has built effective teams within

Iowa State and across universities in his research program. We're excited about the opportunity for him to do that within the extension and outreach role that the Iowa Pork Industry Center plays."

Ross received his bachelor's degree in animal science at Iowa State in 2000. He returned in 2008 to join the animal science faculty and continue his research, after completing his graduate degrees at Oklahoma State University and a post-doctoral appointment at the University of Missouri with Randy Prather, a world-renowned leader in the development of genetically modified pigs.

He holds courtesy appointments at the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine and the departments of Biomedical Sciences and Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine.

In 2012, Ross was the recipient of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Early Achievement in Research Award. In 2014, he received the American Society of Animal Science Early Career Achievement Award and was presented the Lloyd Anderson Endowed Professorship in Physiology, recognizing his contributions to the field of animal physiology.

Volunteers help an Iowa farmer in need

Iowa farmer David Axmear got some assistance from several states away last week.

Axmear, a Keokuk County Farm Bureau member, is recovering from a heart transplant earlier this fall. North Dakota-based Farm Rescue, true to its name, came to Axmear's rescue and helped harvest corn and soybeans at his farm near North English in Keokuk County.

"Our mission is to help family farms survive," said Levi Wielenga of Farm Rescue, a nonprofit organization established in 2006 to help farmers who have suffered health problems, illness or natural disasters.

"We have volunteers from Alaska to Florida," said Wielenga of Sioux City. Indeed, two of the volunteers helping on the Axmear farm were Alaskans Nick McGraph and his son, Nathan.

Wielenga said Farm Rescue received aid from a number of sponsors, including Walmart, Key Cooperative, RDO Equipment and WHO Radio.

"They're just great," said Axmear of the Farm Rescue volunteers. "I'm so grateful."

He said he's feeling better now and also wanted to thank neighbors who helped the past couple of years while he waited for a heart transplant.



Farm Rescue volunteers from as far away as Alaska harvested corn last week for David Axmear of North English. Axmear, above right with his wife, Lisa, is recovering from a heart transplant earlier this fall. PHOTOS/GARY FANDEL