

## Humane animal production

In your April guest editorial running down House Bill H.R. 1468, you claim that humane treatment of animal groups are against meat eating.

The Humane Society is for the humane treatment of animals. In their quest for even bigger profits, some farmers have gotten greedy and crowd animals too close together in factory farms. Your factory farms are many times owned by outside investors and partly financed by packing companies and don't do farmers any favors — as they many

## Letters

times cause overproduction and spoil the markets for small farmers.

It isn't right to confine animals in small areas where they can't roam around and enjoy life. To lock chickens in tiny cages and lock dairy calves in crates and to crowd hogs like they do is wrong, and it's up to the government to pass laws against it.

Some farms have just gotten too

greedy and should get out of the livestock business if they can't do it in a humane manner.

I am a farmer that pasture raises hogs and I used to have chickens and turn them out on nice days.

**Ken Sanderson,**  
*Leland*

## Palestine misconceptions

I found the April 2009 article "Ethanol plant arrival affects town" interesting particularly since it involves our community — Palestine.

However, in their comparison of the two communities, the researchers made a few errors in their assumptions.

First, although Palestine is located just a few miles from the Wabash River, it is not the water source for Lincoln Land Agri-Energy or the community. Palestine sits on top of a huge aquifer that provides water for not only Palestine, but for most of the rest of the county, the ethanol plant, and an oil refinery in nearby Robinson. It is often referred to as an underground river, which may have led to the mistake.

Second, Palestine is a small, rural village with a large emphasis on our farming community, but agriculture is not the major player it once was. The ethanol plant and a grain elevator are the only businesses in the community with direct ties to agriculture. Our Main Street includes five art galleries, two antique shops, three restaurants, a couple of gift shops, furniture, hardware, salons, etc. Yes, we count on farm families for a part of our business, but we also rely heavily on visitors from outside the community. Many of our residents work in nearby factories, schools, hospitals and so on, and many are also retirees.

Local economic development groups are actively seeking new businesses to locate in the area, and spin-offs of the ethanol plant are certainly included in this search. Palestine and Crawford County, while not to be compared with larger cities, is a much more culturally diversified area than a quick glance might realize.

**Jim Ellis,**  
*Palestine*

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## U of I wins meat judging contest

A first was recorded by the University of Illinois Meats Judging Team when it won the Southeastern Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest held April 24-25 in Ohio and Kentucky.

Longtime coach Tom Carr, a professor in the Department of Animal Sciences, notes it was the first time the U of I has won the contest, which drew 51 students in 12 teams from eight universities.

Two U of I teams competed: the Orange and the Blue. The Orange team placed first overall with 3,888 points, while the Blue team came in fourth with 3,849 points.

Three U of I students placed in the top 10: Adam Schroeder of Watseka, first; Diana Pezza of Elmhurst, fourth; and Katelyn Jones of Saybrook, 10th.

Beef grading, lamb judging and pork judging were won by the U of I teams.

Members of the Orange team were Arica Baer of Princeville, Stacey Dehlinger of Olney, Katelyn Jones of Saybrook, and Diana Pezza of Elmhurst. Blue team members were Zach Beaver of Mansfield, Ben Hugenberg of Liberty, Taryn Pfeiffer of Ashton, and Adam Schroeder of Watseka. Alternates were Sarah Hager of Galesburg and Melissa Wineinger of Paris.