## **SIPAC** innovation

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with a tour group...that educational outreach component — there's not necessarily a monetary value to that," affirms Tower. Here and there throughout the farm, he points out houses where SIPAC employees live. (Horses swing their tails in the fresh autumn air beside happy yards of potted flowers, discarded rain boots and netted trampolines.)

"It's a pretty place too," he says.

As superintendent, Jason encourages visitors to the farm, though the SIPAC schedule stays quite busy. To that end, a large meeting hall rests next to the farm shop. Inside, an educational center with a seating capacity of 200 or more persons contains two projectors, two large screens and plenty of work tables. Purdue Extension and other exhibitors make use of the space for educational outreach, meetings and demonstration. The well-lit, spacious facility also houses a number of offices utilized by visitors and researchers upon request.

The shop, meeting hall and Heeke Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (which rests on SIPAC land) offer wireless internet.

Tower originally hails from Columbus, Indiana. He resettled in his home state after managing a Maryland farm. For the most part, Tower runs the farm, although he smiles, "research and demonstration trumps anything that I want to do...I run it and live it like it was my place."

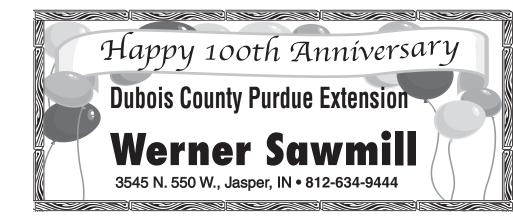
"I didn't come from a big operation by any means," he tells of his youth, "but just had the enjoyment of being around livestock and being outside." To that end, Tower is a personable and understanding resource to local producers with industry questions and concerns. In fact, such inquiries are more than welcome, as public question and comment often directs the types of research SIPAC pursues.

SIPAC is located at 11367 E Purdue Farm Rd, Dubois. Those interested in more information on SIPAC programming or with questions about agricultural concerns may contact farm superintendent Jason Tower or forester Ron Rathfon by calling 812-678-3411. Email Tower at towerj@purdue.edu; Rathfon may be emailed at ronr@purdue.edu.



Heifers dot the rolling field and forest of SIPAC, Wednesday, October 17.

— SIPAC photos by Casey Uebelhor



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