GRATIOT COUNTY

Ithaca dead pig dumper squeals on self

By Lisa Yanick-Jonaitis

Police investigating the disposal of 16 dead pigs in an Ithaca business dumpster now have a suspect after an apologetic man called the Gratiot County Sheriff's Office and confessed.

The man, a 27-year-old college instructor, left a message for Detective Mike Morris to say the pigs were used in a farming education forum he taught in northern Michigan, said Sheriff Doug Wright.

Police are still gathering information and are not yet releasing the man's name or for what institution he teaches, but Wright said the class was part of an instructional session for an agricultural organization for youth.

After teaching the class the man told police he loaded his car with medical supplies and 16 pig bodies – some dissected with organs missing – and headed downstate.

PIG » PAGE 2
While stopped at McDonald's in Ithaca he said he asked a garbage truck driver if the worker could take the carcasses off his hands; the driver declined, but directed the teacher to the industrial park and its many dumpsters, Wright said.

“He apologized profusely, he knows what he did was wrong,” Wright said of the man's phone call.

The instructor is scheduled for an interview with police at the sheriff's office next week while investigators continue to gather information in case.

Wright said the agency will seek an arrest warrant for illegal dumping.