

# Task force to plan for TAMU's future

By BRENDA C. DAVIDSON

The Texas A&M University System is a leading center of research and education that will continue to grow and develop under the guidance of the Target 2000 Project, said its director.

The purpose of Target 2000 is to develop a set of recommendations that describe the goals to be attained by the System by the year 2000, said Dr. Robert Shutes, special assistant to the chancellor.

A committee, appointed by the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents, is studying the four campuses and the seven agricultural and engineering agencies and services which make up the University system.

Committee members, appointed because of their outstanding accomplishments and their interest in the University System, began work on the project in October 1981. They will finish the study in October 1982. Their final report and recommendations will be submitted to the board in December 1982.

Long-range planning is a vital key to a university's success, Shutes said.

"We want to be one of the pre-eminent universities in the year 2000," he said.

The task force will study programs, clientele, resources and organization of each System part. The final report will include the committee's evaluation of each and recommendations for its future.

The problems faced by the University System are similar to the ones faced by the state, Shutes said. Target 2000 is similar in purpose and scope to the Texas 2000 Commission.

The Texas 2000 Commission,

created by Gov. Clements' executive order, issued its report and recommendations in March.

"Because the State can expect to face a constant stream of challenges to human resource and economic development, statewide long-range planning has

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become a necessity," according to the Commission report.

Several recommendations resulting from Target 2000 will be similar to those of the Texas 2000 Commission, Shutes said. The scarcity of water is a major issue the committee will deal with.

Disagreement about proposed water programs occurs because water problems differ throughout the state.

A Panhandle farmer knows water is essential to produce crops. As industry and cities grow, on the other hand, demand for water increases. Conflict results.

Who should have first priority?

Complicating matters further, citizens in areas such as Houston have a different perspective on the water problem. Contaminated water, not the shortage of it, is their concern.

A program providing information on water conservation to farmers and ranchers was recommended by the governor's commission. This program would be implemented by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

The Target 2000 task force will use the governor's committee report to shape their recommendations in several areas, Shutes said. Research and development at the University, strongly supported by the governor's commission, is an example.

The Target 2000 task force will recommend goals for research and development that will help the Texas agricultural and engineering industries prosper.

The rate of increase in agricultural production has slowed considerably in the last decade, according to the Texas 2000 Commission Report. The Commission recommended increased emphasis on research and development as one way to reverse this trend.

There is a strong body of opinion among the committee that Texas A&M should become the leading center of research in the country, and Target 2000 could be a step in that direction, Shutes said.

## What is ag ethics?

By KITTY FRALEY

The changes that are shaping tomorrow's agriculture raise new ethical questions, and a new class this fall will focus on the ethics of agriculture.

"The class will center on the ethical problems agriculture will be facing in the future," said Dr. Paul Thompson, a professor in the philosophy department who will be teaching the course.

The course, entitled Agricultural Ethics, will be cross-listed as a 489 agricultural economics and philosophy elective.

"This type of class has been needed for quite a while but has never been tried anywhere before," Thompson said. "There has never been an attempt to pull the disciplines of agriculture and philosophy together."

The course will analyze the major moral and philosophical issues in agriculture, he said. The issues will include hunger, food distribution, environmental policy, resource allocation, nutrition, health, treatment of animals and the application of scientific expertise in the formation of agricultural policy.

"The reason this course will be part philosophical is that in philosophy there's not really a definite right or wrong answer," Thompson

said. "When looking at the problems in ag, we will consider all the questions and all the answers."

"With the addition of the class, we're trying to provide a new look into agriculture," said Dr. H.O. Kunkel, dean of the College of Agriculture.

Ethical concerns become more a part of agriculture every day, he said, especially the ethics involved in natural resources like land, water, food and even natural policies.

"We decided to have a class of this nature about four years ago," Kunkel said. "And after going through all the paper work and getting it accepted by the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents, the toughest thing was trying to find a philosopher with an interest in agriculture to teach the class."

Kunkel said the basic question the class will try to answer is, "What is the driving force behind what people do and how will this effect agriculture?"

The course, which has no prerequisites, will be a seminar class, Thompson said, and students will be expected to attend regularly and participate in discussion sessions. Discussions will be based on outside reading from specified texts, class lectures, an occasional guest lecturer and audio visual presentations.

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