

# Steer symposium to study production and evaluation

by Dayna Boren  
Battalion Reporter

What's the difference between a show steer and a feedlot steer? What are the differences between various crossbreeds? How fat can a steer be before he is considered too fat?

Questions such as these are among the many that will be answered during the Steer Evaluation and Production Symposium sponsored by the Texas A&M College of Agriculture.

The symposium — the first of its kind here — will begin at 9 a.m., Friday. Breeders from across the United States are expected to attend.

The symposium differs from a show in that there will not be any judging or awarding. The objective of the symposium is to discuss the latest information on

breeding, slaughtering, grooming, judging and other aspects of steer production. The symposium is a learning clinic conducted by some of the top breeders in the United States.

The symposium is built around 46 steers donated to the University last fall by individual breeders from across America. Over 15 breeds are represented. Some of the 46 steers were halterbroken and treated as show calves while the rest were treated as feedlot steers.

The difference between show and feedlot steers is the amount the steer has been handled.

Show calves have regulated feed, are regularly groomed and are given special attention. Feedlot steers are turned out to pasture with other cattle and are fed a different type of feed than

those being groomed for show. Feedlot steers also have not been handled as much as the show steers and have not been given special treatment.

Since last October, the steers have been measured once a month to determine the average weight gain per day, feed efficiency, hip height, shoulder height, length of top, heart girth and length of cannon — leg.

The symposium will feature discussions on show steers versus feedlot steers, rules and regulations regarding the 1984 major livestock shows, live demonstrations on clipping, weight changing and show ring classification and the evaluation of feeder cattle.

Panels will discuss topics such as the evaluation of feeder cattle, the evaluation of slaughter

cattle and the evaluation of breeding cattle.

During the symposium, some of the cattle will be slaughtered to obtain carcass data for teaching purposes.

A few of the cattle will be frozen in a standing position and will be displayed at the Animal Sciences Pavillion during the symposium.

Frank Litterst, lecturer and researcher for the Animal Science Department, said the symposium is designed as an educational project for Texas 4-H and FFA youth, cattle breeders and feeders, and others with an interest in genetic differences and breeding techniques.

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Harlan D. Ritchie, extension beef cattle specialist in Michi-

gan, who will discuss the ideal steer at the concluding session of the symposium.

The original idea for the symposium came from a similar event at Oklahoma State University last year. Several representatives from Texas A&M attended the event.

"This event will draw national attention," said Litterst, "as we focus on the type of beef cattle steer that needs to be produced in the interest of the breeder, feeder, operator, packer as well as in the show ring."

The symposium is sponsored by several departments at Texas A&M — the Agricultural Extension Service, Agricultural Experiment Station and the Department of Animal Science.

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## New Faculty Senate responsible for own welfare, says speaker

by Scott Griffin  
Battalion Staff

The speaker of the newly formed Faculty Senate said Tuesday that the Senate's function is to ensure that the faculty is responsible for its own welfare.

Dr. John J. McDermott, who was elected speaker of the Senate last Wednesday, said, "Our decisions will be concerning faculty welfare — everything from medical insurance to parking to regents' procedures."

McDermott also said that the faculty is responsible for academic progress. Besides helping the teachers, the group also will have a positive effect on the students.

"A faculty which is more confident of its own position will do much better," McDermott said. "We have no intention of creating an adversarial relationship with the students or the administration."

McDermott said his main goals for the group are:

- The Senate will assume the responsibilities of the Academic

Council — curriculum, rules and regulations, and tenure and promotion procedures. McDermott has been given the authority to select a transition committee to coordinate the transfer of power and responsibility from the Academic Council to the Senate.

• The Senate will arrange the proper procedures for its major committees. One of the first committees selected was a bylaws committee. The committee members are: Keith Arnold, College of Agriculture; Michael Murphy, Architecture and Environmental Design; Lorence Bravenec, Business Administration; Linda Parrish, Education; W.A. Hyman, Engineering; Kenneth White, Geosciences; Jon Bond, Liberal Arts; Mel Dodd, Library; Douglas Struck, Medicine; Larry Ringer, Science; and Dan Hightower, Veterinary Medicine.

• The Senate should look at substantive goals. McDermott said the group will study some of the obstacles facing the faculty and will discuss the future of Texas A&M.

## Outstanding junior named at banquet

The outstanding junior at Texas A&M was named at the annual Phi Kappa Phi banquet. Patricia Pinkerton Coleman, an education major from Longview, was selected for the honor.

Coleman, chosen from 10 students selected as the outstanding juniors from each college in the University, was awarded a \$750 scholarship at the annual Phi Kappa Phi banquet. Coleman has a 3.8 grade point average and is specializing in secondary math education.

Outstanding junior award recipients for the individual colleges are: Agriculture — Elaine Kathryn Brown, a biochemistry major from Amarillo; Architecture — Joslin G. Stewart, an environmental design major from Houston; Business Administration — Vincent Lee Kasch, an accounting major from Fredericksburg; Engineering —

Michael Shipley, an electrical engineering major from Garland; Geosciences — Lisa V. Block, a geophysics major from Sugarland; Liberal Arts — Martha Copp, a sociology major from College Station; Science — Robert Wesley Fowler, a biology major from Irving; Veterinary Medicine — Kay E. Kern, a biomedical science major from Dallas; Texas A&M at Galveston — James B. Herrington, a marine biology major from Mantua, Ohio.

Phi Kappa Phi also initiated 335 junior, senior and graduate students and 12 faculty members into the organization. Phi Kappa Phi, an interdisciplinary honor society, accepts only the top 5 percent of the junior class, the top 10 percent of the senior class and the top 10 percent of the graduate students.

## Plant sciences staff member dead at 66

A staff member of the Department of Plant Sciences at Texas A&M, Dr. Harry W. Schroeder, died last Tuesday. He was 66.

Schroeder was a retired research leader in the United States Department of Agriculture.

He served in the army from 1939-1949 in the Army National Guard, the Army Air Corps and the Army Air Force.

After retiring from the army, Schroeder attended the University of Minnesota where he obtained a B.S., M.S. and a Ph.D. in plant pathology.

Schroeder was a research

leader for several international programs including the Strawberry Program in Mexico in 1956 where he diagnosed the cause of the decline in strawberry plantings in the Bafio region. Strawberries are the most important cash and export crop of that region. He recommended control measures to correct the problem. He also led programs in Pakistan, Spain, Japan, Israel and India.

Schroeder published more than 300 scientific bulletins and was the recipient of several honors and awards including Who's Who in Science in 1968.

have been found in body parts of several animals, including bees and dolphins.

It has been theorized that this material, acting like a compass, aids navigation by helping the animal detect direction relative to Earth's magnetic field.

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United Press International You may have a compass in your nose.

While examining tissues from corpses, British biologists at the University of Manchester discovered deposits of iron in the lining of human noses. Similar deposits of magnetic material