

# Vet students get practical training through A&M clinic

## Program provides hands-on experience

By James Florez  
Reporter

In addition to providing much-needed veterinary services to the farmers and ranchers of the Brazos Valley, the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine's Ambulatory Clinic allows students to gain hands-on experience.

The clinic allows students to travel with veterinarians to help farmers and ranchers in outlying areas.

"It is the only hands-on field experience they receive before they move into the large-animal clinic," says Dr. Robert Field, director of the Ambulatory Clinic.

Students work in the clinic as part of an intensive course of study during their last year of veterinary school, Field says.

During their senior year, students rotate in five-week blocks through the large- and small-animal clinics. Areas of study include medicine, surgery and the ambulatory section, Field says.

"When they get to field services the rotation is divided up even further," Field says. "They go through the ambulatory, radiology and other

departments and spend a week with each."

Dr. Leon Scrutchfield, associate professor of veterinary medicine, says many students choose to go back through the clinic after their initial rotation.

"This is an interesting part of their education," Scrutchfield says. "Everyone really seems to enjoy it."

James Marek, a senior student working in the clinic, says working in the ambulatory section is one of the most important aspects of veterinary school.

"The ambulatory part has probably been the most beneficial part of veterinary school. The clinicians are more liberal in their teaching," Marek says. "They allow you to develop your skills."

"It (veterinary school) is different than medical school. This is really the only field experience you'll get until you are presented into the real world."

Although time spent working for the clinic is short, students undergo intensive training, sometimes working up to 60 hours a week.

Field says, "We also have one of the largest case loads in the country.

We treat around 20,000 animals a year through the clinic.

"Many colleges don't have this privilege because they are locked in by cities. Their students don't have this type of exposure."

The students call on a clientele of about 120 farmers and ranchers in a 100-mile radius from A&M, Field says. Four or five students accompany each of the four veterinarians working in the clinic, he says, traveling in trucks specially equipped for veterinary field work.

"It's like a private practice," he says. "They get to meet the farmer and rancher, determine the problems he is facing and make the decisions and diagnosis. We try to make it as close to real life as possible."

Scrutchfield says working on local farms and ranches gives the students a taste of what their veterinary profession might be like.

"In the Ambulatory Clinic," Scrutchfield says, "students tend to see more of the routine kinds of things they will see when they graduate and go into practice."

"The cases they see in-house tend to be more of a referral type — the more difficult and unusual cases."

# Official: Texas, 4 other states need money to revive savings and loans

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal regulators responsible for savings and loans said Tuesday, \$5 to \$8 billion will be needed over the next five years to help save hundreds of thrifts in a five-state area.

Roy G. Green, president of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas, said before a House banking committee, a quick infusion of billions of dollars into the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp. is needed to help the industry revive.

FSLIC is the fund that insures savings and loan association deposits. A general accounting office report released Tuesday said the fund is technically insolvent and estimated that at least \$25 billion was needed to head off a disaster in the industry. The majority of the industry's

problems were brought on by a downturn in oil and agriculture over the past 18 months.

Green said that of 490 thrifts in a five-state area under his jurisdiction, including Texas, 26 to 28 are so far gone financially that they should be cast off.

Another 33 percent of the southern thrifts were classified as being in financial trouble but capable of surviving. The other states are Mississippi, Arkansas, New Mexico and Louisiana.

Green praised a bill submitted by Rep. Steve Bartlett, R-Dallas, that would negate the effect of the drop in real estate values by permitting institutions to assess property values over a multi-year cycle rather than at current market rates.

Walter McAllister, president of the Texas Savings and Loan League, said, "Undeniably, there are institutions in the states in question that are dead or dying of self-inflicted wounds."

"Nevertheless, it is also undeniable that there are a great many institutions now experiencing financial problems in these distressed states that are guilty of nothing more than failure to predict the inherently unpredictable and that have the managerial resources, given the time, to work their way out of their current problems."

Green said deregulation of the thrift industry provided an opportunity for some unscrupulous entrepreneurs to buy into the S&L business and make quick profits.

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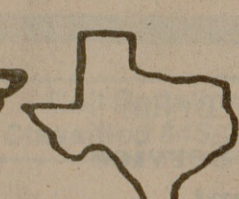
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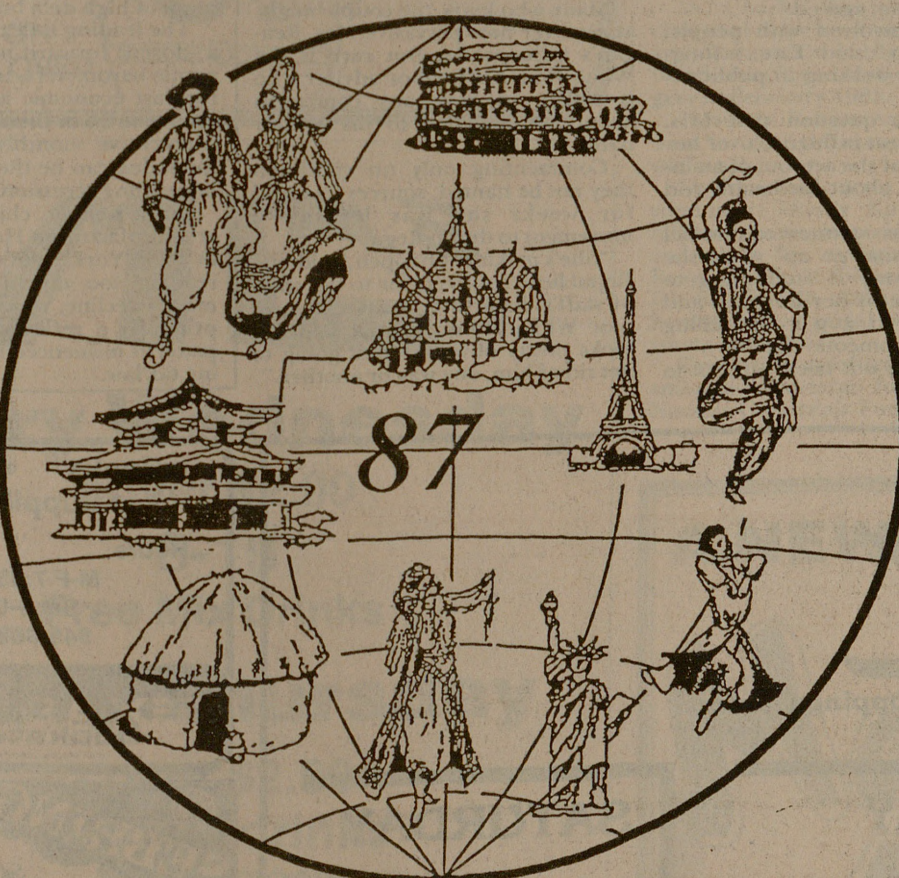


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