

Cal Poly Bull Test Named 2002 CBCIA Horizon Award Recipient



This group of current and past Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, ag professors represents 328 years of teaching experience. They were honored as CBCIA's Horizon Award recipient at 2002 at the Cal Poly Bull Test and Sale last month in San Luis Obispo. Pictured (L to R): Dr. Andy Thulin, Richard Johnson, Tom Brannum, Jim Flanagan, Frank Fox, Richard Birkett, Ken Scotto, Bill Plummer, Cliff Stokes, Joel Judge, Jon Beckett and Mike Hall.

California Beef Cattle Improvement Association (CBCIA) presents its Horizon Award to recognize those individuals or groups who have contributed to the advancement of performance beef cattle in California.

The 2002 Horizon Award recipient is the Cal Poly Bull Test & Sale held annually in San Luis Obispo. The award was presented to current and past Cal Poly ag professors during the 2002 Cal Poly Bull Test last month. Professors representing 362 years of experience gathered in San Luis Obispo to accept the award from CBCIA president **Jerry Johnson**. Cal Poly lecturer **Joel Judge** gave a brief history of the bull test, and Johnson made the presentation prior to the start of the 2002 sale.

The Cal Poly Bull Test and Sale was founded by **Lyman Bennion** in 1957. In the original test, 54 two-year-old Hereford bulls were consigned by nine Tri-County Hereford breeders. The bulls averaged \$511 per head that year. In 1960, Cal Poly began running bulls in large, dry lots in order to eliminate the management problems associated with test consignments. In 1972, test costs averaged \$190 and 30 Angus bulls were accepted into the test in addition to 60 Herefords bring the capacity to 90-head.

In 1979, beef unit manager **Frank Fox** changed the age requirement from two-year-old bulls to yearlings between 12 and 16 months of age. The event was also changed to a multi-breed test that year. A new facility was built bringing the total capacity to 600 head. In 1988, the sale set and record averaging \$1,860 on 148 lots. Ultrasound measurement for fat thickness were introduced in 1989, and ribeye area measurements first taken in 1990. Over the years, Cal Poly has grown to be one of the most prestigious yearling bull tests in the country.

CBCIA's Horizon Award was first presented in 1985 to **Frank Fox**. Other winners, include: **Ken Ellis**, 1986; **Tom McCord**, 1987; **Bill Van Riet**, 1988; **Bill Borrer**, 1995; **Roy McPhee**, 1996; **Bruce Orvis**, 1997; **Jim Ellings**, 1998; **Bill van Tassel**, 1999; and **Marvin & Judy Knowles**, 2001.