2017 Edition

From Chicago to Louisville

THE HISTORY OF
THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE LIVESTOCK
JUDGING CONTEST

INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION, CHICAGO
1900-1975

NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION
LOUISVILLE
Since 1976
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“We all like a contest. When we are in one we exert ourselves to the utmost to win-and whether we win or lose, the contest does us good... Judging contests leave a lasting impression on the minds of the contestants.”

-J.H. Sheppard

Contest Superintendent, 1906-1938
“Judging instills confidence
in those people who may be timid
and humbles those who tend to be conceited.”

-Dr. Harlan D. Ritchie

Contest Superintendent, 1976-1986
Acknowledgements

In the summer of 2013, Dr. Andy Robinson, Department of Animal Science, Ontario (Canada) Agriculture College (OAC), contacted contest superintendent Dr. Scott Greiner and provided photos of a bronze bull trophy won by OAC at the International Live Stock Exposition Students’ Judging Contest in 1904, 1906 and 1907. The existence of this trophy and its connection to the International judging contest was not known to the contest staff, and was not identified in any history of the contest. The bronze by French artist Auguste Nichols Cain depicts a bull that resembles an ox. Dr. Robinson also provided copies of articles from the campus publication, OAC Review, describing the trophy and detailing OAC contest wins in 1904, 1906 and 1907 that resulted in OAC winning the trophy for the third time, thus earning permanent possession of the trophy.

In November 2013, Dr. Maynard Hogberg, Chair, Department of Animal Science, Iowa State University, provided photos of a bronze trophy on display at Iowa State University that was awarded at the International Judging Contest and won by Iowa State in 1908, 1909, and 1912. The existence of this bronze trophy by Italian-American Carlo Romanelli was also unknown, and it is not described in any contest history.

A bronze trophy from the International titled 

Deux Amis (The Two Friends), also in possession of Iowa State, was awarded in the Students’ Judging Contest from 1904 to 1907. This bronze depicting a man kneeling next to a horse is by French artist Victor Peter. While it was previously established that this trophy came from the International Judging Contest, it was not known what the bronze was awarded for.

The discovery of these trophies began a journey into the history of the National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest. The research into the origins of the three bronze trophies uncovered many other fascinating facts about the early judging contests at the International, and evolved into a comprehensive look back into the history of the contest from its beginning in 1900 at the first International to the last forty years when it has been held at the North American Livestock Exposition.

My association with the contest began in October 1975 in the hallway of Anthony Hall at Michigan State University, my first term as a junior transfer student in Animal Husbandry. I ran into Dr. Harlan Ritchie who was the superintendent of the collegiate judging contest to be held for the first time at the North American Livestock Exposition in Louisville the following month. Harlan was aware of my previous judging experience with the Illinois 4-H and Black Hawk East College livestock judging teams prior to transferring to Michigan State. During our conversation, he asked if I would like to help him with the contest in Louisville, to which I immediately answered yes. Little did I know or expect that except for the following year when I was a
contestant in the contest, I would be involved with the contest in some capacity for the next forty years, and counting.

Dr. Ritchie, who experienced the significance of the contest and the Saddle and Sirloin Club at the International Live Stock Exposition in Chicago as a contestant representing Iowa State University and later as a coach of the Michigan State University judging team, and also as a judge of many beef cattle shows at the International, spent countless hours over the years researching the history and preserving the importance of the National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest, its historic trophies, and the traditions of the Saddle and Sirloin Club. Had it not been for his efforts that began in earnest while serving as Superintendent of the National Contest when it moved to Louisville in 1976, many important aspects and history of these two grand traditions may have been irretrievably lost.

Dr. Ritchie’s history of the Collegiate Contest, its historic trophies, and the Saddle and Sirloin Club contained in the Awards Breakfast Program for the National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest, and his contributions to the Saddle and Sirloin Portrait Collection Guide Books from 2003-2009, represent just two of the most visible parts of Harlan’s efforts to continue the legacy started at the International. It is in keeping with his dedication to preserving these important traditions that writing this history of the National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest was undertaken.

This is the first history that documents the Collegiate Judging Contest from its beginning in 1900. There is no known history of the National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest for either some or all the years it was held at the International Live Stock Exposition from 1900 to 1975, and there is no compiled history of the contest since it moved to Louisville in 1976. The International annually published a Review and Album, International Live Stock Exposition in 1900 and from 1913 to 1919 and 1921 to 1950 that covered all the winners, including the judging contests for that year’s International, but there is no known contest history that covers a period of years or decades.

Special Thanks to Dr. David Hawkins for providing the information on the extensive role the Animal Science Department at Michigan State University has played in the contest in Louisville, and Dr. Maynard Hogberg at Iowa State University for gathering and sharing information and photos of the trophies from the International retired by Iowa State and now proudly displayed in their Animal Science Department Ensminger Conference Room.

During my association with the contest in Louisville, I have had the pleasure of working with five superintendents; Dr. Harlan Ritchie, Dr. Gary Minish, Dr. Dan Eversole, Dr. David Hawkins and Dr. Scott Greiner. I thank each for allowing me to be part of the contest staff and their confidence and support. It has been and always will be our goal to annually put on the best judging contest students will compete in during their judging career.

The success of the National Collegiate Judging Contest since moving to the North American International Livestock Exposition would not be possible without the full support of
the Exposition staff and leadership over the years. Special thanks to Harold Workman who served as the Exposition’s General Manager from its inception in 1974 to 2013, and Jack Ragsdale who was high individual in the 1948 contest and served as Chair of the Exposition’s Executive Committee from the show’s inception to 2015. Both shared our desire to make the contest the best run and organized the contestants would ever compete in and were always supportive of ways to improve the contest and the high standards the National Contest required. Special thanks also go to Claude and Linda Brock who for decades oversaw the North American Press Room. Both understood the importance and history of the contest and its unique and special place in educating young men and women. Their efforts in promoting the contest to the wider livestock and agriculture community and getting information to the local media outlets of the winning teams and contestants assured both the colleges and contests that they would receive the recognition they deserved.

Thanks also to Corrine Fetter, Jeff Zinner, David Snyder, Ira Huntley, Linda Martin, Catherine Riley, Steve Kelly and countless other members of the North American and Kentucky Exposition Center staff who have had a role over the years in helping make the contest a success. Dr. Carla Nichols, Dr. Darrh Bullock and Velvet Barnett have overseen scoring the contest at various times and their attention to detail and dedication to getting everything correct has assured the contest results are accurate every year.

Over the past forty years, there have been hundreds of people who have assisted with the contest in some capacity, from group leaders, serving as officials, providing livestock for the classes, assisting with scoring and operations, and many other tasks that may appear to be minor and mundane. No matter how big or small the task each performed, all were important to the success of the entire contest. To all of them deserve thanks for helping make the contest a success each year.

This is the first history of the National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest that covers the entire period from its beginning in 1900 to the present contest. It may be the first and only full history, but it is far from being comprehensive and complete. What has become clear over the past two years is that the discovery of one piece of contest history often leads to other bits of history to research.

When the Chicago Union Stock Yard and the International Live Stock Exposition closed, the artifacts, records, and physical history of the Yards, the International, and the Stock Yard Inn were dispersed far and wide to those who wanted a tangible part of an Institution they had been part of, that at its peak was the grandest livestock show in the World, attracting over 400,000 people every year. Now those artifacts and pieces of history have been passed on to the next generations, many not knowing or caring about the importance of the history that has been passed on to them. Many of those artifacts and pieces of history are still out there, waiting to be discovered.
This 2017 edition of the contest history contains updates to the 2015 and 2016 editions, including an updated listing of contest winners and a new listing of the All-American Award winners since the award’s inception in 2000. While most of the information for the International, Stock Yard and the judging contest when it was held in Chicago comes from sources published prior to 1977, four recent publications have shed new light and information on the Yards and the International.

Larry Caine, the last general manager of the Stock Yard, International Amphitheatre and the International Live Stock Exposition published his memoir in 2011. My City, The Great Chicago Stock Yards, the International Amphitheatre, the International Live Stock Exposition...etc...etc. vividly recalls Caine’s insider view of these Chicago institutions.

Dominic A. Pacyga, Professor of History at Columbia University in Chicago grew up in the shadow of the Stock Yard and worked there during the summer of 1969. His book, Slaughterhouse. Chicago’s Union Stock Yard and the World It Made was published in 2015 to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Stock Yard. Pacyga’s book not only details the capitalism of the Stock Yard and packing house owners, but touches upon the lives of the everyday packing house worker and the labor strife that impacted industrial labor relations across the United States, and the ethnic neighborhood communities that grew-up around the Stock Yard. His narrative provides insight on how the Yards, packinghouses and all the related industries and businesses in and next to “the square mile” became the model of American industrialism and defined Chicago in the post-Civil War era.

Pacyga also authored the book Chicago, A Biography, a comprehensive “biography” of the city from its beginning as a trading outpost on the southern edge of Lake Michigan to a vibrant and thriving 21st century city. The Union Stock Yard was a major component of the city’s rapid growth in the late 19th and early 20th century into a world center of commerce, trade, and agriculture.

Dale Runnion spent over 40 years in the livestock publication business, most of that time spent with purebred beef cattle. He was the principal author and editor of three Saddle and Sirloin Club Portrait Collection guide books. In 2002, he wrote an article, Ten Depression Age Kids Who Made a Difference, describing how ten kids who grew up in Ohio during the Great Depression and graduated from Ohio State University just before or just after World War II, went on to become influential leaders in the livestock industry. Most of the information on individuals who were contestants in the contest and later had their portraits inducted in the Saddle and Sirloin Club came from these publications.

Compiling the history of the contest is an ongoing project. Every year a new winning team and high individual will be added to the list of previous winners. From time to time records will be broken and new milestones achieved. All will be added to the history from the previous contests. There is also information from past years that could be included in future
editions. Anyone who has or discovers information about past contests is encouraged to share the information for possible inclusion in future editions of this history.

This history tells us about the places and things; The Union Stock Yard, Stock Yard Inn, Saddle and Sirloin Club and its portraits, International Amphitheatre, and the Bronze Bull and other trophies. More importantly, it tells us about the people. Individuals whose vision resulted in the formation of the agriculture colleges, the International and the Students’ Judging Contest. But most importantly, it tells us about contestants and coaches who competed in the contest and the impact they had later in life as leaders and experts in livestock production, research and education, the agriculture industry in general, and as leaders in their communities, and at the state and national level.

I hope you will find this history to be informative, enjoyable, and fascinating to read.

Steve Spivey

November 1, 2017

Portraits of Saddle and Sirloin Club inductees are from the 2013 edition of the Saddle and Sirloin Club Portrait Collection Guidebook.

Photographs are from the author’s personal collection.

Anyone who has additional or new information related to the National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest is encouraged to share the information with Steve Spivey, 5528 Knoxville Rd., New Windsor, Illinois 61465. E-mail: ssamspivey@nwctv.net
Introduction

The first Students’ Live Stock Judging Contest was held in conjunction with the first International Live Stock Exposition in December 1900. The winning team was Illinois Agriculture College and the high individual was W.T Welbourn from Wisconsin. Six agriculture colleges sent teams to compete in the contest. The Student’s Live Stock Judging Contest, subsequently renamed the Collegiate Live Stock Judging Contest in 1919, was a significant and prominent part of the Exposition throughout its 76-year run. When the International closed after the 1975 show, the National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest was moved to the North American Livestock Exposition, now named the North American International Livestock Exposition, where it has been held annually since 1976.

Throughout its history, the contest has provided valuable training and experience for students in the livestock industry. Many contestants who participated in the contest went on to become distinguished leaders in the livestock industry as well as leaders in agriculture, education, business, and national and international policymaking.

The contest was always a significant part of the International, and it received extensive coverage in both the livestock and agriculture press as well as the Chicago Tribune. The International published a Review and Album International Live Stock Exposition that summarized the results of all the shows and contests from each year’s Exposition. The contest has continued its importance and significant role since moving to the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky. The colleges that have participated in most or all the contests have maintained a history of the accomplishments and success of their teams over the years. While the names of the winning teams and high individuals for all the contests since 1900 have been maintained since the first contest, there is no known comprehensive history of the National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest that covers the contest from its beginnings.

The 2015 contest was the 40th National Contest to be held in conjunction with the North American and the 110th contest overall. To commemorate this milestone, this history chronicles the places, trophies and winning teams that have been a significant part of the contest over the years. More importantly, it attempts to tell the story of the people, the contestants and coaches who were not only successful in the contest, but also had outstanding careers as leaders in the livestock industry and other endeavors. It is the influence the experience of being on a judging team had on these future leaders that is the true measure of the importance of the contest.

The names that were used to identify the agriculture college from each state in the early years of the contest were often different from what we are accustomed to today. When the land grant colleges and universities were created with the passage of the Morrill Act of 1862,
each state had one college that had an agriculture program and curriculum. For the most part, it was not until the years after World War II, that some states chartered additional land-grant colleges within the state or other non-land-grant colleges added agriculture programs. Because there was only one agriculture college in a state when the contest started in 1900, it was common practice to refer to the agriculture college of a state simply by the name of the state, i.e. Michigan, Iowa, Ohio, Texas, etc. At the time, within the livestock industry and the larger agriculture community, when a person referred to a college as Iowa or Michigan for example, everyone knew you were referring to Iowa Agriculture College (later named Iowa State College and then Iowa State University) or Michigan Agriculture College (later Michigan State College and then Michigan State University). In today’s world, saying Michigan or Iowa would not be referring to the ag colleges of that state (Michigan State, Iowa State), let alone referring to students from Iowa State as Hawkeyes as was the case in early newspaper accounts.

Many of the early state agriculture colleges had “Agriculture and Mechanics”, “A & M”, or similar wording in their title to reflect the agriculture and mechanics components outlined in the Morrill Act of 1862. While many of these universities have dropped the full agriculture and mechanics or technology or engineering as part of their name or “A & M” from their name, a few, like Texas A & M have kept the acronym as part of their title.

It was also a common practice in the early years in the publications of the International to list the teams as being from The Agriculture College of [State], such as The Agriculture of Illinois, The Agriculture College of Michigan, etc., even though the official name of the college or university might be different. For example, the University of Illinois changed its name from Illinois Industrial College to the University of Illinois in 1885, but in 1900, and until about 1919 the International lists the team from Illinois as Illinois Agriculture College, referring to the Agriculture College that was part of the University.

For the first forty to fifty years of the contest, this practice of referring to a state’s agriculture college by simply using the name of the state, not the name of the college itself, was used in the list of high teams and the college of the high individual for all contests beginning in 1900. To be consistent with the historical record as it was reported for a specific year, the names commonly used during that time or the names used by the International will for the most part be used in this history. Using just the name of the state or Agriculture College of [Name of State] means the land-grant college or university of that state with an agriculture program. Although many of these land-grant colleges added State to their name beginning in the early 20th Century, usually because there was another university in the state that had the name University of [State], the tradition of using just the name of the state the college was located continued. Others that were University of Illinois, Nebraska, etc. have continued to be referred to by simply the name of the state.

In the late 1940’s there was a gradual shift from using just the name of the state where an agriculture college was located to using the actual name or abbreviated name of a college in reporting results of the contest. In this history, the name of the school, for the most part, will
be the form commonly used during the period being reported. Since there was no International and Judging Contest from 1942 to 1945, the change to using the name of the college, not the state it was in, was for the most part completed in 1946. At times in this history, the names will be used interchangeably.

Agriculture colleges from Canada were also in the contest from the very beginning. Ontario Agriculture College in Guelph, now part of the University of Guelph, and MacDonald College, now part of McGill University outside of Montreal, sent judging teams to the International. Both colleges won high team honors, and Ontario had high individuals overall in the contest.

Since almost all the contestants were boys (young men) during the first forty or so years of the contest, it was common for the press and publications to use the terms boys or men when referring to contestants. There were women who competed in the contest as early as 1917, and some were very successful as will be described in this history. The terms boys, men, and contestants are used in this history as they were used in newspapers and other publications for that time.

There are differences in the use of the term livestock versus live stock. The International used the two-word form, live stock in its official name, International Live Stock Exposition, and this form was generally used by all publications at least through 1941 and in some cases longer for the noun live stock. Today the single work livestock is the commonly used form of the noun. The form of the noun used here will be the form used in that period of the contest’s history.

The Students’ Judging Contest was the only livestock judging contest held at the International during its first twenty years. The Non-Collegiate (Junior or 4-H) contest was first held in 1919, and the Junior College contest was added in 1974.

There were two periods when both the Students’ (Collegiate) Livestock Judging Contest and the International were cancelled during the 76-year run in Chicago. In 1914-1915 the International and contest were cancelled because of an outbreak of Hoof and Mouth Disease in the United States. The Show and contest were also cancelled from 1941 to 1945 when the International Amphitheatre, where the show was held, was being used by the War Department and Armed Forces in support of the United States involvement in World War II. In both cases the Union Stock Yard hosted within the yards shows for only fat livestock that would be slaughtered after the show during the time when the International was normally held. The results and winners of these shows were included in the records of the International, thus becoming the de facto International for those years and establishing the continuous 76 years run of the show.

The story of competitive collegiate livestock judging does not start with the first contest at the International in 1900. The seeds were planted decades earlier.
Prologue

The Morrill Act and the Land-Grant Colleges.

In 1833 Jonathan Baldwin Turner traveled from Yale University to become a professor at the newly established Illinois College, a private liberal arts college in Jacksonville, Illinois. Among his many academic interests was identifying a plant that was best suited to serve as a hedge to divide fields in the rich prairie soil of Illinois. His interest in botany led him to become one of the leading advocates for the creation of agriculture colleges in the United States in the 1850’s.

In 1853, Professor Turner authored a Resolution adopted by the Illinois Legislature, calling on the State’s congressional delegation to work for the enactment of a land-grant bill to fund a nation-wide system of agricultural and industrial colleges, one in each state. While Professor Turner was urging members of the Illinois congressional delegation to introduce legislation in Washington D.C. to establish colleges to teach agriculture, political reality required that such legislation come from the more populous and influential east coast to gain more support for passage.

In 1855 the Michigan Legislature, following the mandate included in the State’s new Constitution of 1850, established the first college in the United States devoted to the teaching of scientific methods to improve agriculture production. The Agriculture College of the State of Michigan, commonly referred to as Michigan Agricultural College and now named Michigan State University, welcomed its first students in 1857 thus beginning, in the words of State Representative Alonzo Sessions, “an experiment, wholly new and untried in this country”.

This new and untried method of improving farming methods received a significant boost from Vermont Congressman, and future U.S. Senator Justin Morrill. Morrill believed that for the Nation to grow and prosper, education needed to be accessible to a broader base of people and not limited to just the elite and well to do.

Using the college established in Michigan as a model, Congressman Morrill introduced a bill in 1857 to create a similar college in each state. The bill passed the US House and Senate in 1859, but was vetoed by President Buchanan. Morrill reintroduced his bill in 1861 and in 1862 after passage by both houses of Congress, President Lincoln signed into law the Morrill Act of 1862, creating a land-grant college in each state whose purpose, without excluding other scientific and classical studies including military tactic was: “…To teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts… in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life.”
Thanks to the efforts of Professor Turner, who was also instrumental in the establishment in 1867 of the Illinois Industrial University, now the University of Illinois, and Senator Morrill, the land-grant system of colleges and universities was established in the United States. In September 1862, the State of Iowa became the first state to accept the terms of the Morrill Act and received a grant of land to support its fledgling State Agriculture College and Model Farm, now known as Iowa State University. Kansas State Agriculture College, now Kansas State University, was the first land-grant college created after passage of the Morrill Act on February 16, 1863.

As strange as it may sound today, one of the groups who were the most opposed and least receptive to formalized teaching of agriculture was farmers. Initially, they saw these colleges as a one-way ticket off the farm for their sons, who could be lured into other areas of study and never return to the farm. They were also convinced that the best place to teach farming practices and the best person to teach those practices was on the farm from a farmer, not some professor in a classroom. This was a common hurdle every land grant agriculture college had to overcome in its early years. The first few decades of operation were difficult and trying for these new, publicly supported colleges from both a financial and perception standpoint. Eventually, the efforts of the leaders and faculty of these new agriculture colleges and the support of prominent and respected agriculture leaders and publications won over the skeptical farmer and rancher. As we will see later, this “college boys” versus “farmers’ sons” references were also prevalent in the early years of the judging contest at the International.

In the years prior to the first International, several of these agriculture colleges began teaching courses in livestock judging. Professor John A. Craig at the University of Wisconsin was among the first to teach the subject of livestock judging at an agriculture college as early as 1892.

*The Chicago Union Stock Yard*

At the same time, the scientific teaching of agriculture at the land-grant colleges was beginning, the nation’s livestock industry was about to undergo a dramatic shift in the marketing of livestock and distribution of meat. Since the country’s beginning, the raising and slaughter of livestock and sale of meat was a very localized or regional process. With no extensive system to transport livestock and meat and no method available to keep meat from spoiling in temperatures above freezing, animals were raised, slaughtered, and consumed in the same geographic area or region.

In the 1830’s, Cincinnati was the largest livestock market in the United States, due in large part to its location on the Ohio River which served as a vital transportation link between the east coast and the midsection of the country. Because of the large number of hogs sold
through the Cincinnati Stock Yard it earned the nickname “Porkapolis”. During the Civil War, the Confederates blocked river traffic going to and from Cincinnati cutting off the principal method of shipping livestock. With the rapid increase in the number of railroads converging in Chicago, packers turned to the numerous stock yards in the city for their livestock.

As the nation’s railroads expanded to the west and linked both large cities and small towns, it became easier to transport livestock over long distances to large cities for slaughter and distribution. Ten years after the establishment of the Nation’s first agriculture college, a stock yard opened on the south side of Chicago that would soon make the city the epicenter of the livestock industry in the United States.

Chicago was the major railroad hub west of the Appalachian Mountains and 18 trunk lines converged on the young city. Each company operated its own stock yard, and they were scattered across the city. In 1864, Samuel Allerton and John Sherman, both businessmen, livestock producers and traders, started advocating for a central location where producers could bring their ever-increasing volume of livestock for sale to the packing houses. Their efforts resulted in the formation of the Union Stock Yard and Transit Company (USY&T) in early 1865, with construction of the yard beginning in the spring.

On Christmas Day, 1865, The Chicago Union Stock Yard opened for business. As its name implies, the formation of the Stock Yard was the union of nine railroads that converged in the city, and seven local and community stock yards found across Chicago. The Yard was located south of the Chicago city limits in the Town of Lake on Halstead Street, at the junction of major railroads. Initially the Yard served primarily as a central location for producers to sell their livestock to packers who would load the livestock back on trains to be shipped to packing plants located in the eastern states, or smaller packers located in Chicago. It took only a few years for packers to start building new plants and establish “Packingtown” on the west side of the Yard. At its height in the 1920’s, this central location was known as the “Busiest Square Mile on Earth”, “The Yards”, “Stock Yards” and “The Square Mile”. It employed over 40,000 people and supplied over eighty percent of the meat consumed in the United States. At the beginning of the 20th century the Stock Yard and packing plants were one of the largest tourist attractions in Chicago with estimated half a million visitors annually, and it was the largest industry in Chicago.

During its peak, the Yards were a city within a city, having its own sewer, water, power plant, fire department, 100-man police force, hotel, restaurant, exchange building, general store and bank. From 1893 to 1933 over 13 million head of livestock were sold through the Yard every year and twice during the 1920’s 18 million head of livestock passed through its Stone Gate entrance. Poet Carl Sandburg aptly described Chicago as the “Hog Butcher of the World”. During its 106 years of operation, over one billion head of livestock would be sold through the Stock Yard.
The influence and impact of The Stock Yard went far beyond the sale of livestock and processing of meat. It rapidly became the center of the livestock industry in the United States. Not only did it serve as the headquarters of the meat packers, it became home to the national headquarters of every major livestock organizations and most purebred livestock breed associations. Every major publication associated with the livestock industry had its headquarters in or next to the Yard. Its influence led to the creation of the International Live Stock Exposition, the Saddle and Sirloin Club, the 4-H Congress, Hoof and Horn Clubs and the American Society of Animal Science to name a few. The combination of The Yards and the Chicago Board of Trade that was formed in 1848 also made Chicago the center for agriculture business and commerce in the United States.

The Stock Yard was the largest industry in Chicago from the 19th century into the early 20th century and was a driving force in the city’s growth as the principal industrial center of the Midwest. It attracted a large number of immigrants who came to work in the packinghouses and other businesses in and next to the Yard. The influx of workers also led to periods of labor strife over grueling and at times brutal working conditions. Disputes sometimes turned violent and resulted in physical confrontations and occasionally the loss of life. Upton Sinclair used the Stock Yard and packing houses as the backdrop for his novel The Jungle, describing the poor working conditions and unsanitary conditions in some packing plants. Sinclair’s novel resulted in the passage of federal laws governing the inspection and handling of meat.

John Sherman played one of the most significant and important roles in the growth of the Yards in the early years. As one of the founders of the USY&T Company, he was well suited to be the general superintendent and later president of the Yards. He led the company from
1867 to 1900 and became the single most important person associated with the Stock Yards in the eyes of producers, packers, railroad executives, commission houses and the general public. He was an astute businessman and charming promoter.

To gain the trust and confidence of livestock producers, he pushed for transparency in all transactions conducted at the Yards. Packers and commission firms had sought to maintain secrecy over the prices paid to producers. Sherman took the necessary steps to have market prices published daily in newspapers so that both buyers and sellers would know what the “market” was the previous day.

The Stock Yards rapidly became an important and rapidly growing business and visitor attraction in Chicago. The 263 room Transit House provided first class accommodations for producers, shippers and other visitors to the Yards. Sherman developed one of the finest restaurants in Chicago in the hotel, a tradition that would continue for the life of the Yards with the establishment of the Saddle and Sirloin Club. To handle the banking needs of commission houses and packers and facilitate the sales and money transfers of sellers, the Union Stock Yard National Bank opened in 1868. In 1867, Sherman opened Dexter Park Race Track on 80 acres owned by the USY&T Company adjacent to the Yards. Separate grandstands for gentlemen and ladies, as well as a saloon, betting parlor and observation deck were all part of this then state of the art horse racing facility.

In 1870 Dexter Park would become the site for the start of professional baseball in Chicago. On April 9, 1870, the newly former Chicago White Stockings played an exhibition game at the Park and on June 9 they beat the Cleveland Forest City team 14-9 in the first professional baseball game played in Chicago. In later years, the White Stockings would migrate to the north side of Chicago and change their name to the Chicago Cubs. A new professional team then took up residence on the south side of Chicago with the name Chicago White Sox, playing their games a few blocks north of the Yards at 35th Street and Shields Avenue.

This venture into the entertainment business as part of the Stock Yard operations would continue for the duration of the Yards existence. First with Dexter Park with its race track and Pavilion (Amphitheater) and then its successor, the International Amphitheater, the site played host to livestock shows, sporting events, concerts and shows.

For his role as one of the founders of the Union Stock Yard and its leader during its early growth years, John Sherman’s portrait was inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Club collection.

Shortly after the opening of the Stock Yard, there was a movement in some livestock quarters to establish livestock shows like the ones found across Europe, especially in Great Britain. These shows would give livestock producers the opportunity to compare their best livestock with those of others. With the opening of the Union Stock Yard, Chicago became the logical location for such a show.
In his book *The Story of the International, from its Inception in 1900 to the Show of 1941*, Alvin H. Sanders, one of the most renowned and respected livestock journalist of his day, chronicles the events leading up to the first International Live Stock Exposition.

In the late 1870's, the Illinois State Board of Agriculture decided to establish in Chicago a Fat Stock Show, patterned after the London (England) Smithfield Show. The leaders in the establishment of this first of its kind show in the United States included Lafayette Funk and Col. James Judy, both future inductees into the Saddle and Sirloin Club Portrait Collection. The show leased the glass domed Interstate Industrial Exhibition Building on Michigan Avenue at the head of Adams Street. At this location today stands the world-famous Art Institute of Chicago.

The show initially included only fat livestock. There were no breeding livestock or draft horses, just big 2,500-pound four or five-year-old steers. It continued until 1890 when the Exhibition Building was demolished to make way for construction of buildings for the Columbia Exposition of 1893. In the ensuing years, a small group of individuals attempted to stage a replacement show at various locations in Chicago with limited success.

In 1890, a group of British and Eastern United States investors headed by the Vanderbilt family of New York and Frederick H. Prince of Boston formed the Chicago Junction Railways and Chicago Stock Yard Company which became the parent company of the USY&T Company. The new investors installed John A. Spoor as vice-president of the USY&T. He undertook efforts to modernize the Yard to stay ahead of newer yards that had recently opened in the west. By 1899 the reorganization resulted in new management replacing those who had been part of the Yard’s beginning and early growth. In 1899 John Sherman announced he would step down as President of the USY&T Company.

With Sherman’s retirement, John A. Spoor became the President of the Union Stock Yard and Transit Company. He understood the importance of the Fat Stock Show and its important role in identifying the types of livestock that served as the ideal model for livestock breeding and selection. Together with livestock leaders Robert Ogilvie, Mortimer Levering, William Skinner, and G. Howard Davison, Spoor along with his aide A.G. Leonard, took steps to create a new livestock exposition that would be sponsored by the Union Stock Yard and Transit Company.

On November 24, 1899, representatives of national livestock breed associations, agriculture colleges, the agricultural press, along with railroad and stock yard executives met to discuss the need for an exposition to educate livestock producers in better types of livestock to meet the needs of a growing population. The outcome of that meeting was the organization of the International Live Stock Exposition, chartered by the State of Illinois as a not-for-profit corporation, with the first exposition to be held on December 1-8, 1900. John Spoor was elected the first president of the International, and the Union Stock Yard offered financial support and use of the Dexter Park Amphitheatre, later renamed the International Amphitheatre, and other Stock Yard facilities to host the show.
The first show was a huge success. Six thousand head of livestock were exhibited and divided into over 600 classes to compete for premiums and awards. Over 300,000 visitors from every state in the Nation and many foreign countries were in attendance. Melville F. Horrine, writing about the first International in the 1913 Review and Album, International Live Stock Exposition surmised that “No such object lesson in everything in the breeding, feeding, marketing, manufacturing and distributing of animals and animal products was ever placed before producers in this or any other country. Its success awakened much interest both at home and abroad.”

In recognition of their leadership roles in forming the International Live Stock Exposition as well as many other significant contributions to the livestock industry, the portraits of John Spoor, Robert Ogilvie, Mortimer Levering, William Skinner, G. Howard Davison, and A.G. Leonard were inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Club Portrait Collection.

On the International’s opening day, forty-five years after the establishment of the first agriculture college in the United States, the first competitive livestock judging contest for both “college boys” and “farmers’ sons” was held in conjunction with the first International Live Stock Exposition.
The Isidore Bonheur bronze bull sculpture “Bull in Defiance Stance” appeared on the cover of every International Premium List and Catalog of Entries during the show’s 76-year run.
Professor John A. Craig is credited for coming up with the concept of livestock judging and the livestock judging contest. The Breeder’s Gazette in 1910 referred to Professor Craig as “the father of the technical art of livestock judging”. Professor J.H. Sheppard, who served the longest tenure as contest superintendent at the International gave Professor Craig credit for “inspiring students’ livestock judging contests, he having first started the institutional meets at the University of Wisconsin in the early nineties (1890’s) and there worked out the basis for livestock judging by students”.

In 1889, he became head of the first Department of Animal Husbandry in the United States at the University of Wisconsin. Professor Craig in consultation with prominent livestock breeders developed a judging score card system for evaluating livestock in a species or specific breed. He continued to modify and improve his scoring system after moving to Iowa State Agriculture College in 1896. In 1901, he authored and published Judging Live Stock, the first book devoted to judging livestock using defined criteria. The book was the first publication to identify the characteristics and methodology to be used in judging and it was considered the “bible” of livestock judging for over ten years. He was highly respected and in high demand as a judge of all species of livestock.

Prior to Prof. Craig’s development of a scoring system to judge livestock, most judging at fairs and expositions was based on the superficial outward appearance of an animal with little regard for fundamental structure and characteristics. The understanding of genetics and breeding animals to improve performance was in its infant stages, so Craig’s system of scorecards using well defined standards was innovative and groundbreaking. His work quickly caught the attention of other agriculture colleges who established their own Animal Husbandry departments and used his scorecards in teaching livestock judging.

Prof. Craig’s manual covered judging horses, cattle, sheep and swine, and in some areas and breeds it was very detailed. In his chapter on judging horses, he covered light horses, heavy (draft) horses, horses in breeding classes, estimating the age of horses by their teeth, and examination for unsoundness. He established standards for evaluating trotting and racing horses and Shetland ponies.

For cattle, he covered both beef and dairy cattle, and had specific standards for Aberdeen Angus, Devon, Red Poll, Holstein-Friesian, Jersey, Guernsey, Dutch Belted, and Ayrshires

His chapter on judging sheep included sheep for mutton and wool, and standards for Southdown, Shropshire, Hampshire, Suffolk, Cotswold, Wensleydale, Dorset, Chevot, Delaine, Spanish Merino, and Tunis breeds.
His chapters on swine included judging fat hogs, bacon hogs, breeding swine, and Berkshire, Poland China, Essex, Chester White, Duroc, Jersey, Victoria, Cheshire, Yorkshire (large, middle and small) Suffolks, Tamworth and Thin-Rind.

An example of Craig’s score card, for Angus cattle, is shown below.

ABERDEEN ANGUS CATTLE.

SCALE OF POINTS ADOPTED BY AMERICAN ABERDEEN ANGUS ASSOCIATION—BULL.

Color — Black. White is objectionable, except on the underline behind the navel, and there only to a moderate extent; a white cod is most undesirable. .......................... 3

Head — Forehead broad; face slightly prominent, and tapering toward the nose; muzzle fine; nostrils wide and open; distance from eyes to nostrils of moderate length; eyes mild, full and expressive, indicative of good disposition; ears of good medium size; well set and well covered with hair; poll well defined, and without any appearance of horns or scurs; jaws clean. .......................... 10

Throat — Clean, without any development of loose flesh underneath. .......................... 3

Neck — Of medium length, muscular, with moderate crest (which increases with age), spreading out to meet the shoulders, with full neck vein .......................... 3

Shoulders — Moderately oblique, well covered on the blades and top; with vertebra or backbone slightly above the scapula or shoulder blades, which should be moderately broad. .......................... 6

Chest — Wide and deep; also round and full just back of elbows .......................... 10

Brisket — Deep and moderately projecting from between the legs, and proportionately covered with flesh and fat. .......................... 4

Ribs — Well sprung from the backbone, arched and deep, neatly joined to the crops and loins. .......................... 8

Back — Broad and straight from crops to hooks; loins strong; hook bones moderate in width, not prominent and well covered; rumps long, full, level and rounded neatly into hind quarters. .......................... 10
Hind Quarters -- Deep and full; thighs thick and muscular, and in proportion to hind quarters; twist filled out well in its "seam" so as to form an even wide plane between thighs...

Tail — Fine, coming neatly out of the body on a line with the back and hanging at right angles to it.

Underline — Straight, as nearly as possible; flank, deep and full

Legs — Short, straight and squarely placed, hind legs slightly inclined forward below the hocks; forearm muscular; bones fine and clean.

Flesh — Even and without patchiness.

Skin — Of moderate thickness and mellow touch, abundantly covered with thick soft hair. (Much of the thriftiness, feeding properties, and value of the animal, depend upon this quality which is of great weight in the grazier's and butcher's judgment. A good "touch" will compensate for some deficiencies of form. Nothing can compensate for a skin hard and stiff. In raising the skin from the body it should have a substantial, soft, flexible feeling, and when beneath the outspread hand it should move easily as though resting on a soft cellular substance, which however becomes firmer as the animal ripens. A thin papery skin is objectionable, especially in a cold climate)

General Appearance — Elegant, well-bred and masculine. The walk square, the step quick, and the head up.

Total: 100

When bulls are exhibited with their progeny in a separate class, add 25 counts for progeny.

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SCALE OF POINTS ADOPTED BY AMERICAN ABERDEEN ANGUS ASSOCIATION—COW.

Color — Black. White is objectionable, except on the underline behind the navel and there only to a moderate extent.

Head — Forehead moderately broad and slightly indented; tapering toward the nose; muzzle fine; nostrils wide and open; distance from eyes to nostrils of moderate length; eyes full, bright and expressive, indicative of good disposition; ears large, slightly rising upward, and well furnished with hair; poll well defined, and without any appearance of horns or scurs; jaws clean.

Throat — Clean, without any development of loose flesh underneath.

Neck — Of medium length, spreading out to meet the shoulders, with full neck vein.

Shoulders — Moderately oblique, well covered on the blades and top; with vertebra or backbone slightly above the scapula or shoulder blades, which should be moderately broad.

Chest — Wide and deep; round and full just back of elbows.

Brisket — Deep and moderately projecting from between the legs, and proportionately covered with flesh and fat.
In his introduction to *Judging Live Stock* Prof. Craig described his approach and methodology to judging:

“In judging live stock, there are two faculties which seem to require special development – observation and judgement.”
The eye must see quickly and accurately, so that there may be no mistake in observations which are to form the basis for a conclusion. While this is to a considerable extent dependent on being informed on what to look for, yet no amount of information will supply keen powers of observation which in addition, must be kept in practice by continuous use. The student should never be dilatory in this, for once allow it to be said that he sees a thing which he does not, the foundation for candid criticism is being built on sand. It is better to be “simpler than in infancy of truth” and completely candid with one’s observation than to be in the least deceptive or dilatory in recording them.

Not only should one be quick to see things as they really are but there should be as much dispatch in detecting deviations from the correct standard. There is much difficulty in this for a standard only forms itself clearly in one’s mind after the results of experience, observation and study have merged together into a clearly defined ideal. To formulate an ideal is absolutely essential and in doing this it is imperative to familiarize one’s self with the good qualities of animal life, correct conformation and the highest types, so that the least variation from these at once attracts attention. When a distinct ideal, based on the best types and their highest qualities has been formed in the mind, and this is supported by a discriminating eye, it is but another step to render a correct judgement.

In judging the market classes of stock the demands of the market should have a strong influence in the establishment of standards and in the judging of breeding classes the officials scales of points, when such exist, should be relied upon chiefly as a guide, and when these are not officially published an effort should be made to become informed regarding the understanding that exists among breeders. While these standards are so wide in scope as to include many minor points yet it will be noticeable that the essential features are given the greatest prominence and they are usually based on the utility of the animal for its purpose. This does not mean that the minor features should be slighted, for the degree of excellence in domestic animals is now so high and the competition so keen that it is most frequently on some of these minor details that their rank in the show ring is determined.

In show ring judging, after the inspection is completed, a draft of “short leet”¹ is made of the likely winners of place from the rest of the competitors. Up to this time the judging has been the detection of faults and deviations from the standard required, but now the work is more of the nature of comparative judging, in which the points of the animals considered worthy of prizes are compared to determine their rank. It greatly aids dispatch and tends to more exactness to make such a draft when there are more than five animals in the class. It also materially assists the examiner in keeping in mind the qualities which he must compare. Carefulness at this point will do much towards the formation of a decision, which may be afterwards maintained with justice."

¹ Scottish term for a short list or a select list of candidates.
He organized the first institutional judging meets at the University of Wisconsin in 1892
and developed the structure and procedures for the first competitive contests for students and
contests for farmers. He organized the first competitive intercollegiate judging contest at the
1898 Trans-Mississippi Exposition in Omaha. In 1900, Professor Craig, along with H.W. Mumford
from Michigan Agricultural College, Thomas F. Hunt and W.J. Kennedy from Illinois Agriculture
College, and Charles Sumner Plumb from Purdue University organized the first Student’s Live
Stock Judging Contest at the Inaugural International Live Stock Exposition in Chicago. Craig,
Mumford, and Kennedy also coach their respective teams. The group continued to organize and
run the contest the following year after which the International assumed responsibility for the contest.

A native of Russell, Ontario, Canada, John Craig attended Ontario Agriculture
College and graduated with a B.S. in
Agriculture from the University of Toronto.
During his college career, he served as resident editor and then managing editor of
the Canadian Live Stock Journal. After his
appointments at the University of Wisconsin and Iowa State Agriculture
College, he served as director of the Texas
Experiment Station and the Oklahoma
Experiment Station.

He suffered from ill health most of his life and died in 1910 at the age of 42. While his
life was relatively short, his impact on the livestock industry, livestock evaluation and animal
husbandry education was immense.

For his pioneering work in livestock judging and animal evaluation and leadership in the
field of animal husbandry, John A. Craig’s portrait was inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin
portrait collection.
From Inaugural Event to World War II: The First Forty-Two Years, 1900-1941

The International Students’ Live Stock Judging Contest

The First Twenty Years, 1900-1919.

As with all new endeavors and undertakings, the early International contests had their share of growing pains. Before the first contest was held there was considerable discussion among the Directors of the International on who should be invited to participate in the contest. The December 4, 1907 Chicago Tribune, in reviewing the first eight contests, recounted the discussion among International Directors on who should be invited to be in the first judging contest in 1900.

The proposal to invite colleges to send five students to compete as a team for prizes and awards was met with a “wild howl from the majority of directors.” “What do college boys know about judging stock? It would be better to call in the farmer’s sons.” President Spoor replied “We will call in the farmer boys. We’ll see who really knows the most about cattle and horses and other stock.”

Just as was the case when agriculture colleges were established under the Morrill Act, there was considerable skepticism from the livestock industry over the competence and practical knowledge of students and their professors from the agriculture colleges. The International Students’ Live Stock Judging Contest would give the agriculture colleges and their students the opportunity to go head-to-head with the farmers’ sons who were generally well regarded for their ability to evaluate and select superior livestock.

In The Story of the International, C.F. Curtis, Dean Emeritus of Agriculture at Iowa State College and a Founding and current [1941] Director, and former President of the International, recounted the first judging contest at the International:

“When the International Live Stock Exposition opened its gates for the first show in Nineteen Hundred, it carried some features that were innovations in live stock shows. Notable among these were the Students’ Live Stock Judging Contest...The agriculture colleges were then in the primitive stage of establishing a place of usefulness and service to the live stock industry of America. The original contribution was rather meager. Only a few of these institutions were in [the contest] at the outset, due to limited equipment for producing superior animals and training competent student judges. It is needless to say that, at that time, practical stockmen did not accord a high rating to college faculty or student judges.

“...The rating of the individual student work was done entirely by well known, competent, practical breeders. This method of bringing student work under review of a practical
stockman not only gained favor, but it also led to revelation and respect of the systematic and careful manner in which the students’ went about their work.

“...No summary of the far reaching results of this work would be complete without taking into account the stimulus that it brought to the agriculture colleges of America in establishing more thorough and higher grade work in agriculture instruction, and thereby gaining the confidence and support of the important industry that they serve.”

For the first four years, the contest was organized and run by the coaches of the colleges competing in the contest. In 1904, the International management assumed control of the contest. In 1905, the Exposition appointed J. W. Black, President of Manitoba Agricultural College as the first superintendent of the contest. He declined being reappointed to the position the following year. In 1906, Prof. J.H. Sheppard Dean of Agriculture and later President of North Dakota State Agriculture College became superintendent of the contest. The changes he made in the contest and the manner in which it was conducted were so well received that he continued in the position for thirty-two years, by far the longest serving superintendent in the contest’s history.

In his 1922 publication Livestock Judging Contests, Prof. Shepperd explained the early growing pains the first contests at the International endured.

“The management of the International has always been friendly to and fostered the judging contest. Through all the years the contest has had the right of way for the first day of the show, Saturday, and has occupied the boards on Sunday for its announcements and detailed discussion of the results. Former Manager Skinner and the present incumbent Barney H. Heide, have always fostered the stock judging contest.

For the first four years the contest was arranged and conducted by an association of interested agricultural colleges. It was self-officered and carried on under a good system of rules which were strictly enforced. The management was efficient, but there was much to be learned about the details of conducting such a contest. It met a great deal of constructive criticism which greatly improved and gradually perfected the plan for judging contests. Craig, Davenport, Plumb, Skinner, and Hunt were among the early constructive critics. The officers were H.W. Mumford, Ferguson, Plumb, Hunt, Skinner and probably others I do not recall.

At that time students wrote their reasons and handed them to the officers. I remember that Plumb criticized the written reasons, saying that it was an essay contest more than a stock judging contest. The general public said it was too slow in getting out results, and that they consequently were not interested. The early records were “cold” before the winners were determined and announced. The judges were busy “seeing” the International, in many cases exhibiting their own stock, and “pigeon-holed” the written reasons until after the show was over
and sometimes so long that even the newspapers lost interest and did not give the details of the
returns.

At the close of 1903 the criticism came near to being destructive instead of constructive. The
differences of opinion were so great that the International management took the
conducting of the judging contest away from the college men and attempted to carry it out
through their own show organization. The superintendent of hogs, for example, would take
charge of the judging teams and contest while they worked over hogs. The judges in the open
class of hogs were judges of that contest and so on with cattle, sheep, and horses. The
conception and argument was that these men were in the best position to know their particular
class of stock and were, therefore, able to give the most expert and efficient service that could
be had.

The contest of 1904 was probably the most unsatisfactory that had ever been held at the
International. The superintendents and judges understood their business so far as their regular
connection with the International was concerned and it was above criticism in most cases. They
did not, however, understand professors and competing college teams. In consequence, there
were a great many “slips” and trouble during the day of the contest and a “whirlwind” of
destructive criticism followed it.

In 1905, the management called in Professor Black, then president of the Manitoba
Agricultural College, and put the contest in his hands as superintendent, thereby giving it the
same rank as other divisions of the show. From the side lines it appeared that the contest went
off well, but Professor Black refused, with thanks, to take it on the following year, and the
present incumbent—your humble servant—in an unguarded moment agreed to try it.

I met with many difficulties and in my own judgement made a rather “sorry out” at it.
Constructive criticism is the redeeming feature and the best builder a contest can have and
there was no lack of it, I assure you during my first years as superintendent.

Each year all the men with teams in the contest meet at the tock Yard Inn on Friday
evening before the contest on Saturday and discuss the rules, and manner of conducting the
contest and help me plan for the future. We have some “hot” sessions over the rules, plans and
usages and we discuss all the details. Sometimes “the fur flies” and the superintendent and
exposition management come in for some pretty heavy grilling, but it is all done in good spirit. I
do not recall a single season when good suggestions have not come out and some change of
plan resulted from these discussions.”

The first contest was held on opening day of the first International. Six colleges were
represented by 29 young men and thirty-three farmers’ sons competed for awards. The six
teams from the agriculture colleges entered in the first contest included Illinois, Wisconsin,
Indiana (Purdue), Michigan, Iowa and Ontario (Canada). Only Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and
Wisconsin had a full team of five contestants. Of the original six colleges, only Iowa [Iowa State] has entered a team in every Collegiate Judging Contest held at the International and the North American.

There is no known record of the number and types of classes judged in 1900, but contestants were graded on the following basis:

- 50 points for placing.
- 30 points for reasons.
- 10 points for method of examining.
- 10 points for dispatch in submitting decision.

When the Inaugural contest was over and the scores tallied, the college students had won every individual award in the contest. This domination of the individual awards by the college boys continued unabated in succeeding years. While the college students and farmers’ sons were nearly equal in their ability and expertise in placing classes of livestock, it was in the reasons portion of the contest where the contestants explained and justified their placings that the college boys excelled.

The impact of the college students winning almost all the individual awards in the early years had a profound impact on the perception and acceptance of the Ag colleges in the livestock industry. This change in perception was best summmed up by the Chicago Tribune in its story of the results of the 1908 contest.

“When the first exposition under the direction of the International association opened its doors there was much good natured speculation offered as to the slim chances the youth, taught by the scientific college professor would have with the young men who had been taught every day by his father, a practical stockman.

“Of course education is all right and we believe in it and all that but” said the skeptic, “the boy who has been taught on the farm will “skin the life” out of the college lad”.

“There was a different song when the skilled judges of the exposition passed on the examinations of the college boys. The farmer’s son found that they were handicapped. Their competitors, trained in the schools not only knew the good points of a horse but knew why it was good and they could tell you why. They graded the steers and were able to tell why they arrived at the decision they announced. Some of the boys who had never been inside of the technical schools were able to tell a good deal about a horse or a hog or a sheep or a steer but generally their knowledge was confined to a single class.

“When the first surprise was over, the schools began to see the result. Farmers who had sneered at the scientific training wrote to learn about their sons entering the school. The attendance at the institutions at once began to jump. They returned to their homes to put their
learning into operation. Seed selection, feeding of stock, crop rotation were all subjects in which they were able to instruct their fathers. The rivalry of the college teams grew more intense. More colleges were represented. Now the “Students Day” is one of the most important of the entire exposition.”

The same skepticism of the need and practically of teaching farming at a college that faced the land-grant colleges in their early years, also faced the college judging teams in their first year. The International Students’ Live Stock Judging Contest played a significant role in opening the eyes of livestock producers and the entire livestock industry to the benefits of the scientific principals taught by the land grant colleges. The International rapidly became the most respected and influential livestock show in the world. It exerted significant influence throughout the industry, and the Students’ Judging Contest proved to be a significant force in the growth and respect of the participating colleges.

Inviting farmers’ sons to compete in the contest continued with 30-35 farm boys competing in the early years, but their numbers began to decline beginning in 1904 as more saw the benefit of attending the agriculture college in their state. By 1912, only one farmer’s son was entered in the contest. Farmers’ sons were eligible to compete in the contest at least through 1929, and most likely through 1941. When the International and the contest resumed after World War II in 1946, only students enrolled at an agriculture college were eligible to enter as part of their college team. In the ensuing years, only college students competed in the contest.

Between 1900 and 1911, between five and nine teams entered the contest in any given year. Beginning in 1912 there was a gradual increase in the number of teams to a high of 17 in 1919. There was a significant drop in the number of colleges represented in 1917 (10) and 1918 (3) the lowest number ever, most likely the result of young men joining the Armed Forces, travel restrictions, and lack of money for colleges to field teams as a result of the United States involvement in World War I.

There were many changes in the organization and way the contest was conducted in the early years. In 1902, contestants were given 25 minutes to place a class and write reasons justifying their placings. The 10 points for submitting placing and reasons before the 25 minutes time allowance was eliminated. Scoring was based on a per cent basis for each class, like the method of grading an exam and reporting the percentage of correct answers, with 100 being a perfect score. Grading was divided between placing and reasons:

55 per cent for placing.

45 per cent for reasons.

In 1902, contestants judged 18 classes of livestock that included 2 Hereford cattle, 2 Angus cattle, 2 Shorthorn cattle, 1 Fat cattle, 2 Clydesdale, 1 market horses, 2 Poland China swine, 1 Fat Hog, 1 Bacon Hog, 1 Shropshire sheep, 1 Cotswold sheep, and 1 Fat sheep.
The time limit per class was reduced to 20 minutes per class in 1903, and the scoring system was adjusted to include methods used in placing:

- 40 per cent for placing
- 50 percent for reasons
- 10 per cent for methods.

The final change in grading was made in 1904 to give placing and reasons equal weight:

- 50 per cent placing.
- 50 per cent reasons.

In 1905, the decision was made to dispense with written reason and replace them with oral reasons. The reason for the change was two-fold. The first was the growing opinion that written reasons were taking on the role of an essay contest and diminishing the importance of measuring a student’s ability to judge livestock. The second was the amount of time it took to read and grade written reasons. With the increase in the number of colleges and contestants participating in the contest, the reasons were not graded and the final results ready to be announced until two days after the contest, thus diminishing the interest in the contest by the public and press.

Contestants were given three minutes to give oral reasons on each class. After three years’ experience with oral reasons the time limit was reduced to two minutes starting with the 1908 contest and the time limit for judging each class was reduced to 18 minutes.

There are only very sketchy records of the winning scores for the high teams and individuals for 1900-1905, the years prior to Dean Sheppard becoming superintendent. The winning team was determined by adding the total score of each contestant for a team total. It cannot be determined what the maximum number of points possible were, since the score of the winning team varies greatly, from a low of 376 ½ for Iowa in 1903 to a high of 3756 for Iowa in 1901. Contestant scores were reported not by total points earned, but by the percent (%) right out of a perfect score of 100%, much the same as grading a student’s test.

Prof. Sheppard changed the method of scoring the contest when he became superintendent in 1906. Instead of grading placings and reasons on a per cent basis, he switched to a points system with 50 points for a perfect placing and 50 points for a perfect set of reasons. Results were reported as total points earned as well as the per cent correct that had been used in the past. Team results were reported as total points earned.

Starting in 1906, the scoring of the contest became standardized and is very similar to what is used today. A total of 6000 points were possible, and the total number of points each contestant could have was 1200. It is not known how many classes were judged and how many sets of reasons were given, but a student’s total score of 1200 would indicated a total of 24
scores (number of classes + number of sets of reasons) with 50 being a perfect score. Winning team totals ranged from a high of 5379 for Missouri in 1910 to a low of 4375 for Iowa in 1908. The high individual winning score ranged from a high of 1089 (90 ¾%) for W.R. Heckler from Missouri in 1910 down to 949 (79%) for H.H. Kildee of Iowa in 1908. As we will see later, this “low” winning score by Kildee was not indicative of the success and influence he would have on the livestock industry in future years.

In 1911, the number of classes judged was established at twelve (12), with reasons being given on eight (8) of those classes for a total of 20 scores, 50 being perfect score for each class or set of reasons. A total of 1000 points was possible for each contestant and 5000 points possible for a team of five. This format of placing twelve classes and giving reasons on eight has continued ever since and is still being used today.

John Spoor’s vision and leadership had a significant impact that went beyond starting a livestock show to replace the Chicago Fat Stock Show. The first International Live Stock Exposition and the Students’ Judging Contest were both ground-breaking events that served as the model for similar shows and contest across the United States. For decades, the International was known worldwide and was universally regarded as the most important livestock show in the world. The show expanded to include not just meat animals and horses, but also dairy and crops. Educational displays in Home Economics were an important part of the show as were livestock supplies and feeds. Judging contests were held for dairy, crops, wool and meats, in addition to the original contest that included livestock and horses.

The exposition was the annual focal point for everyone and anyone associated with the livestock industry. The organizational meetings that resulted in the founding of the American Society of Animal Science (1908) were held at the International, and the early Annual Meetings of the Society were held in conjunction with the Show. The National Block and Bridle Club (1919) and National 4-H Congress (1922) were organized at the International and had their meetings in conjunction with the International. Almost every regional and national livestock and breed association held their annual meeting in Chicago during the International. Visitors to the show included Presidents of the United States, Governors, Senators, Secretaries of Agriculture, foreign royalty, and foreign leaders. At its height in the 1920’s over 400,000 people visited the International Live Stock Exposition every year.

Competition between the agriculture colleges was not limited to just the judging contests. Special divisions were part of every species in the Exposition for the colleges to bring the hogs, cattle, sheep and horses raised and cared for by students on the college campuses to be judged by the same experts judging the regular livestock shows. Competition between the colleges was just as intense as it was in the judging contest.

The International and the Stock Yard also served as the genesis of the Saddle and Sirloin Club, founded in 1903, and its portrait gallery to honor outstanding leaders from the livestock industry.
industry. The club was the brainchild of Robert Ogilvie, Arthur G. Leonard and Alvin H. Sanders, all very influential in the creation of the International.

The most iconic and recognizable symbol of the International graced the cover of its Premium List, Official Catalog, stationery, and advertising. It came into being when Spoor was looking for a trophy to award to the Students’ Judging Contest high team that would stimulate interest in the contest. Spoor considered a “loving cup” that was the popular design for trophies at the beginning of the 20th century, but he considered them to be “overdone”. Instead he decided to use a bronze bull that was modeled after a painting of a Brown Swiss bull by the famous French animal artist and sculptor Isadore Bonheur. The J.A. Spoor Trophy, *Bull in Defiant Stance*, not only became the trophy awarded to the high team in the contest, it became known world-wide as the symbol of the International Live Stock Exposition.

When the management of the International took over the organization and running of the contest in 1904, a decision was made to separate the livestock (cattle, swine, sheep) and horses into separate contests, with a separate winning team and high individual of each. This coincided with the retirement of the first Spoor Trophy after it was won three times by Iowa Agriculture College.

Beginning in 1904, the Union Stock Yard and Transit Company offered two trophies, one known as the horse trophy awarded to the team with the highest score judging horses, and the other the ox trophy for the team with the highest score judging cattle, sheep and hogs. Colleges could have separate teams for the horse judging and livestock judging. Contestants could be members of both teams or a college could have five different contestants on each team. Most colleges had some contestants who were on both the horse and livestock teams. Three out of the four years’ separate contest were held, the same person was the high individual in both horses and livestock. Only in 1905 were there different high individuals in horses and livestock.

The International did not name or recognize a high team overall combining horse and livestock judging in 1904 and 1905. A high team in all classes was determined and recognized in 1906 and 1907 but there was no trophy awarded to this high team overall.

When the trophies for high team in livestock and high team in horses were retired after being won for the third time in 1907 by Iowa State in horse judging and Ontario Agriculture College in livestock judging, Superintendent Sheppard returned to the original set-up of having an overall contest winning team and individual (cattle, swine, sheep, and horses) and the Union Stock Yard and Transit Company introduced a new high team overall trophy in 1908. This set-up is still in existence today.
By far the dominant team in the contest’s first 20 years was Iowa, winning seven overall championships and one high team in horses, with Ontario coming in second with two overall championships and one high team in livestock. Ohio and Texas A & M each had two high team overall honors.

Iowa also dominated the individual honors with seven high individuals in the contest. Ohio and Missouri each had three high individuals, and Ontario had two.

As would be expected, the Iowa team coach was also the most successful coach of the first 20 years, with one ironic twist.

W.J. Kennedy coached the team from Illinois to victory in the first judging contest at the International. The team from Iowa placed fifth out six teams. C.F. Curtis, who had just been promoted from department chair to Dean of Agriculture at Iowa was concerned that such a poor showing would not attract new students to the department and college. He hired Kennedy away from Illinois to be department head and judging team coach. He coached four high teams overall, three high teams in horses, three high teams in livestock, and his teams at Iowa retired the first Spoor Trophy and the Deux Amis Trophy awarded to the high team in horses. He was the first of four coaches to coach a national champion team at two different colleges, Illinois and Iowa.

There is no record that has been found detailing when women first competed in the judging contest, but in 1917 a woman from Iowa would record a historical first in the Students’ Judging Contest. Miss Edith M. Curtis of Iowa became the first woman to place in the top five individuals overall as a member of the Iowa State College team that placed fifth in the contest. She was the daughter of C.F. Curtis, Dean of Agriculture at Iowa State College and a founding Director and future President of the International Live Stock Exposition.

The first nineteen years of the Student’s Judging Contest were so successful and popular that the decision was made to hold a second livestock judging contest at the International. In 1919 the first Non-Collegiate Live Stock Judging Contest was held. The contest was open to boys and girls under the age of 19 who were enrolled in an agriculture high school, vocational high school, rural consolidated high school or a boy’s and girl’s club (4-H club) under the direction of the state agriculture extension department. Each state was permitted one team of three contestants and an alternate. The contest operated in a manner almost identical to the Students’ Judging Contest.

With the introduction of the judging contest for high school boys and girls, the name of the International Students’ Judging Contest was changed to the International Collegiate Live Stock Judging Contest for the 1919 Exposition.

The success and popularity of the Collegiate Live Stock Judging Contest was the direct result of the leadership of Dean J.H. Sheppard, the contest superintendent beginning in 1906. So respected and popular was his management and organization of the contest that he held the
position for 32 years until his death in early 1939. Had it not been for his efforts, the success, growth, and popularity of judging contests not just at the International, but also across the country, may have taken a different and less fortuitous direction. His dedication to fairness, commitment to running the contest in a smooth and efficient manner, stabilizing the contest organization and set-up, and careful management of its growth resulted in the contest being recognized as one of the most prestigious and influential components of the International. The longevity and prominence that the Collegiate Judging Contest enjoys to this day is a direct result of his efforts during the first 20 years of the contest.

In 1919, when asked what the results of the International Students’ Judging Contest had attained in its first 20 years of existence, he gave this reply:

“Well, there have been various results. There is no question in my mind but that the contest stimulates interest in livestock work at our various agriculture colleges. I have known men to put in double the amount of work on livestock that they would ordinarily do when preparing for this contest. In their work of preparation, they get over the country and see and study outstanding herds. They learn much that they would not learn if it were not for the contest.

“A number of the outstanding livestock men in the United States today were in their college days ranking men [high individuals] at the International Student’s Judging Contest. Three of the strongest universities in the middle west have at the head of their animal husbandry departments, men who were ranking students in the judging contest in 1908. A mighty encouraging feature of the work is the fact that over 90 percent of the men who have entered the contest have become livestock breeders. We all like a contest. When we are in one we exert ourselves to the utmost to win—and whether we win or lose, the contest does us good.

“I feel that the judging contest is important and that it is doing its full share in developing good livestock more in our agriculture colleges.

“In 1908, the three men who ranked first, second, and third were Kildee, McCampbell and Gramlich in that order named. It is quite a significant fact that at present [1919] Kildee is head of the Animal Husbandry Department at Iowa State College, McCampbell holds the same position at Kansas, while Gramlich occupies a similar position in Nebraska. All of these men have teams at the International this year.

“Another interesting feature in connection with Professor Kildee and Professor Gramlich. Two years ago they acted as judges at the North Dakota State Fair…They were talking about the former contests and the discussion led up to the classes of stock that they had judged in 1908 when they were on the team. Both Kildee and Gramlich could remember minutely the individual animals that were in the classes some ten years ago and said that they could give reasons as well now as they did then. This goes to show that the judging contests leave a lasting impression on the minds of the contestants.”
Without a doubt, Dean Sheppard’s observations and reflections of the contest’s importance and influence during the first 20 years are just as true today as they were in 1919.

Dean J.H. Sheppard grew up on a general farm in Iowa, graduated with a B.S. degree from Iowa State Agriculture College in 1891, and received his Master’s degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1893. He joined the faculty at North Dakota Agriculture College and began a forty-five-year career in agronomy, animal science and Director of the Agriculture Experiment Station, culminating in becoming the College’s President in 1930. He retired from the College as President Emeritus in 1937. In recognition of his contributions to the agriculture industry and the International Live Stock Exposition, his portrait was inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Club in 1921.

The Stock Yard and the International narrowly avoided disaster shortly after the 1910 Exposition. On December 22, 1910, a fire broke-out in a warehouse owned by the Nelson Morris Packing Company. Firefighters were hampered in their efforts to fight the fire by non-functioning fire hydrants that had been drained and shut-off to prevent freezing in the upcoming winter. While the fire was contained to the warehouse area, doing minimal damage to the Yards and sparing the exposition buildings, twenty-one fire fighters and three employees were killed when a wall of the warehouse collapsed on top of them. To this day, the 1910 Stock Yard fire claimed the lives of more firefighters than any other fire in Chicago history. Twenty-four years later, another fire at the Yards would put the entire Stock Yard operations and International in serious jeopardy.
The Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest

The Growth Years: 1920-1941

Under the leadership of Superintendent Sheppard and his successor Burt Oderkirk, the years 1920 to 1941 saw a large increase in the number of colleges sending teams to the contest. A then all-time high of 21 colleges were represented in the 1920 contest and gradually grew to 31 in 1940. The traditions of the contest by now were firmly in place. The Spoor Trophy, the now famous “Bronze Bull”, was universally recognized as both the symbol of the International and the pride of the winning team who kept possession of the trophy for the year after their victory. As was the case in 1900, the contest was held on opening day of the Exposition and held in one part of the main Amphitheater where spectators could watch as the contestants evaluated each class of livestock. A day or two later, the winners would be announced and awarded the prizes in the same arena, usually filled with spectators and supporters.

The importance of the Collegiate Judging Contest was at the highest level and equal to any part of the Exposition, on par with selecting the champions in each species of livestock. The winning teams and individuals received prominent mention in all the livestock publications of the time and were often given significant coverage in the Chicago press, especially the Chicago Tribune.

The second known woman to participate in the contest was Miss Jean Constable in 1923. She was a 19-year-old senior at Ohio State and helped lead her team to a third-place finish overall. Miss Constable gave up the chance to play the leading role in a university drama club production to judge in the contest.

Two women competed in the 1925 contest. Miss Ethel Bonnett of Augusta, Illinois was a member of the University of Illinois Team, and Miss Mary F. Haise was a member of the Kansas State team. Miss Haise had a very successful fall campaign, being the high individual in regional contests, and she was also the high individual at the American Royal held a week before the International. She was the 10th high individual overall at the International.

Four colleges dominated the contest from 1920-1941, with Iowa winning five, Ohio State, Kansas State and Oklahoma State winning four each. Together the four colleges won 17 of the 22 contests. The two longest tenured coaches during this time were also the two winningest coaches at the International. D.J. Kays who coached Ohio State from 1919 to 1942 won four national contests at the International and had three high teams at the American Royal. Right behind was F.W. Bell of Kansas State, who coached from 1918-1941 with four champion teams at the International.

The first of two times there has been a tie for the high team overall in the contest occurred in 1938 when Iowa State and Kansas State had identical scores. Records of the high
team and individuals scores have not been found, and there was obviously no tie-breaker in place at that time. This created a dilemma in who should be the recipient of the *Spoor Trophy* as the high team overall. In keeping with the tradition established with the first *Spoor Trophy*, a college gained permanent position of the trophy when they won it for the third time. The win in 1938 was the third by Kansas for that edition of the *Spoor Trophy* which gave them the trophy permanently. The International management decided Iowa would have the trophy for the year immediately after the 1938 contest, after which Kansas would receive the trophy and have permanent possession.

When it came to having the most high individuals in the contest, Oklahoma State dominated, having six high individuals from 1920-1941. Iowa State had four, Ontario (Canada) had three, with Illinois, Purdue, and Kansas State with two each. Ohio State, Nebraska, and Cornell (NY) had one each.

Another significant first occurred with the 1938 contest. J. C Holbert of Iowa, who was the high individual in the contest in 1922, became the first high individual to later go on to coach the high team overall in the contest, a feat he duplicated in 1940, both as coach of the Iowa State team. Holbert’s influence on the cattle industry continued in the following decades as a renowned Angus breeder, president of the Iowa Beef Producers and the American Angus Association, and as a director of the National Livestock and Meat Board and the National Cattlemen’s Association. His portrait was inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Club in 1973.

There were other individuals who were not the high individual in the contest but placed in the top five who then went on to very distinguished careers.
A.D. Weber from Kansas was the second-high individual in the 1921 contest while also working as acting herdsman at the school. He then began a teaching career at Kansas State that initially included serving as the head of swine research, and later a similar role with beef cattle. Eventually he became Dean of Agriculture and served as President of the American Society of Animal Science. Weber Hall at Kansas State is named in his honor, and his portrait was inducted to the Saddle and Sirloin Club in 1952.

Hilton Briggs from Iowa State was the second-high individual in 1933. After receiving his master’s degree from North Dakota State and Ph.D. from Cornell, his teaching career started at Oklahoma State where he also served as Associate Dean and Director of the Agriculture Experiment Station. He was president of the American Society of Animal Science and was a well-known and respected sheep judge. In 1958 he was named President of South Dakota State University, a position he served in until his retirement in 1975. His portrait was inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Club in 1978.
Herman Purdy from Ohio State was the third high individual overall in the 1941 contest. As an undergraduate, he was the student in charge of operations at the beef barn at Ohio State. When the contest and International resumed in 1946, Purdy assumed the coaching duties at Ohio State and coached the high team in 1946. He continued coaching the Ohio State team through 1954, having the second-place teams in 1950 and 1953. Purdy then moved to Pennsylvania State University for this master’s degree and coached the judging team there from 1954 to 1972, coaching the high team in the 1966 contest. Considered to be one of the top judges of beef cattle, he judged over 1200 shows in the United States, England, Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Australia and New Zealand.

In its November 29, 1964 edition, the Chicago Tribune ran a feature story on Purdy who was judging the steer show at the International.

**Why Herman Purdy is Top Stock Judge**

*They call him the "whistling judge" at the International Live Stock Exposition because he whistles softly to himself while he works.*

He is a quiet spoken, scholarly looking college professor who is also an expert cattle judge as well as an experienced fitter and showman of top prize beef cattle in the nation’s leading stock shows.

His name is Herman Purdy. When he isn’t judging or showing cattle, he is teaching classes in judging and beef production at Pennsylvania State University, University Park, where he is in charge of purebred live stock.

Last Friday Purdy selected a classy Aberdeen-Angus steer named Charger, owned by Janet Perring, 15, of Leroy, McLean county, as grand champion of the junior show in the International Amphitheater, 42nd and Halsted streets. Tomorrow, fourth day of the annual nine day exposition, he will select the grand champ of the show.

This is the second year Purdy has been assigned to select the grand champion steer. He is only the fourth American judge to have this assignment in the exposition’s 65 year history.

Purdy’s whistling is a source of amusement to those who acknowledge him to be one of the country’s leading authorities on beef cattle. Former President Eisenhower called on him for advice in regard to the herd of purebred Aberdeen-Angus cattle on his Gettysburg, Pa., farm.
Why He Whistles

"I guess I whistle when I'm concentrating on picking the winners in the ring," said Purdy. "But I don't know I'm doing it. I haven't the faintest idea what tune I was whistling when I named the grand champion, although it might have been 'Hello, Dolly' because I've heard it so much on the radio lately."

Purdy not only picks grand champions, but exhibits them as well. In 1952 he showed the International grand champion steer for Ohio State University, Columbus. He repeated the performance in 1956 for Pennsylvania State.

Since then he has also shown four reserve grand champion steers for Pennsylvania State.

Purdy, who is 45, began judging cattle at county fairs in Ohio 21 years ago. In the succeeding years he has judged at more than 500 stock shows and fairs in 44 states, England, and Scotland.

"I spend all my time in the ring looking at the animals and seldom look at the people who are leading them," said Purdy. "But I spot a youngster who is obviously disappointed that his entry isn't very close to the top, and I find myself wishing he had a better steer."

Herman Purdy’s portrait was inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Club in 1984.

In addition to Herman Purdy, Ohio State teams under Coach D.J. Kays had other contestants who would have distinguished careers in the livestock industry.

Paul Good, Don's brother, Kenneth Haines and Dale Runnion were on the 1934 Ohio 4-H livestock judging team that placed third at the national contest at the International. Kenneth was the third high individual overall. All three enrolled at Ohio State University. Paul was on the 1937 livestock judging team and the 1938 meats judging team. Kenneth was a member of the 1939 National Champion livestock judging team and Dale was on the 1938 livestock judging team.

When asked what he wanted to do after college, Paul Good replied, “I want to be the best purebred cattle auctioneer in the United States”. His ascent started slow, working as a back-up auctioneer at four sale barns and four years as a fieldman for the Drover’s Journal before becoming a full-time auctioneer. In addition to becoming the most sought after purebred cattle auctioneer, Paul also auctioned hogs, draft horses, Arabian horses, as well high-profile auctions to benefit the American Heart Association in New York. For his contributions to the livestock industry, Colonel Good was inducted into the Ohio State Animal Science Hall of Fame, and the American Angus Association Heritage Hall of Fame.

After graduation from Ohio State, Kenny Haines spent 38 years managing three of the most prominent and successful Angus herds in the United States; Meadow Lane Farm in Ohio, C.V. Whitney Farms in Kentucky and Briarhill Farms in Arkansas. Haines served as a director of the Ohio, Kentucky and Arkansas Angus Associations and the All-American Angus Breeders Futurity. He served as a judge at the International, American Royal, World Angus Forum, and in South America. He was inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation in 1987.
Dale Runnion was the second-high individual in cattle at the 1938 National Collegiate Judging Contest at the International. After graduation, he worked as a livestock buyer until he was called into the U.S. Army during World War II. After the war, he joined the Drovers Journal as a fieldman and then moved to the Angus Journal where he served as fieldman, advertising manager and general manager. After sixteen years with the Angus Journal, he became a partner in Ankony Angus and National Livestock Brokers.

With the importing of Limousin cattle to the United States he started the Limousin Journal and two years later, Limousin World, the official publications of the North American Limousin Foundation. A founding member and president of the Livestock Publications Council, he was honored with the council’s Headliner Award.

For his service and leadership to the livestock industry, Dale’s portrait was inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Club in 1988.

Brothers Lee and Lester Leachman grew-up on a livestock farm in Ohio. Lee was a member of the 1938 Ohio State Judging Team and Lester was a member of the 1941 National Champion team. Lee worked for at four Angus herds after graduation before joining Ankony Angus in Dutchess County New York. Brother Lester joined the operation in 1954. When the operation dispersed in 1967, a then all-time record of $2,681,500 was established for the sale of a single herd. Lee went on the be a partner in the Ankony Highland Ranch, and later Triple LLL Ranch.

After serving in the Armed Forces during World War II, Les managed the C.V. Whitney Angus operation on Long Island, New York, a sister operation to one managed by Kenny Haines in Kentucky. In 1964, Les joined his brother Lee in forming the Ankony Highland Ranch. After the Highlands operation was sold, Les and his son formed Leachman Angus Ranch.

The Leachman brothers were inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation in 1987. Les Leachman’ s portrait was inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Club in 2006.
The fate and future of the Collegiate Judging Contest, the International Live Stock Exposition and the entire Union Stock Yard complex and associated packing houses was in serious doubt on Saturday morning, May 19, 1934.

The Chicago area had received only 4 inches of rain for the entire year in 1934 which made the entire city a tinderbox. May 19 was a hot day with a high of 92 degrees. What was believed to be a discarded cigarette ignited dry vegetation or bedding in the yards. Driven by winds that peaked at 60 miles per hour, almost 90% of the wooden pens in the yards were destroyed. It took the efforts of almost the entire Chicago Fire Department with the help of neighboring cities to put out the fire that could be seen as far away as Indiana. Fortunately, all the packing houses escaped with only slight damage. Employees were able to make enough emergency repairs to allow the yards to open Sunday night May 20, for business Monday morning. The buildings that housed the International were not so lucky.

When the fire was extinguished, the International Amphitheatre, Exchange Building, Stock Yard Inn, and Pure Bred Live Stock Record Building which housed the Saddle and Sirloin Portrait collection had all been gutted by fire. With the International a little over 6 months away, the future of the Exposition and contest for 1934 looked to be in serious doubt.
Legend has it that the day after the fire, Frederick Henry Price, Chairman of the Union Stock Yard and Transit Company who was vacationing in France at the time of the fire sent a one-word order to everyone associated with the Stock Yard and International:

“Rebuild.”

And that they did.

On opening night of the 35th International Live Stock Exposition, December 1, 1934, the new International Amphitheatre was dedicated. Seating 9,000 spectators and with floor space of 225,000 square feet, the building was the largest free span exposition hall in the United States. Completed in just 6 months at a cost of $1.5 million, the building not only hosted the International, but also served as the main attraction to Chicago’s newly found role as a convention and show center. The Amphitheatre was regarded as the most modern and up to date facility in the United States. When not used for the International, the building hosted every type of show, concert, sporting event, convention and display conceivable for the next 40 years in the city of Chicago. It held this exclusive role in the city until McCormick Place along the
The most significant loss from the fire could not be easily “rebuilt”. The entire Saddle and Sirloin Portrait Collection and all the records documenting all the inductees since 1903 were destroyed. Only the statue of Hermes, the Greek God of Herdsman and a few bronze plaques, including “The Master Stockman” and “Sanctus Sanctorum” survived the fire. All were restored and put back on display in the Club. Today the statue and plaques are proudly displayed among the portraits on the second level of the Kentucky Exposition Center South Wing.

Robert Wadsworth Grafton, the Club’s official artist at that time, started the task of repainting the collection’s portraits shortly after the fire. By early December 1936, Grafton had repainted 225 portraits and murals in the new Club that including 164 Saddle and Sirloin inductee portraits destroyed in the fire. The Herculean task took its toll on Grafton. One week after completing the task he suffered a partial breakdown on December 16, and died a day later of a heart attack, one day short of his 60th birthday.

As the 1941 Exposition drew to a close on Saturday night, December 6, 1941, its place in both the national and international livestock industry was firmly established as the single most important live stock show in the world. Little did anyone know that night that it would be five years before the leaders of the livestock industry would gather again and the finest livestock in the world would be shown before the most respected judges in the world in the great Amphitheater. For the next five years the young men and women who should have been preparing for the Collegiate Live Stock Judging Contest at their respective colleges and universities, would instead be on the front lines or in vital support roles in the Allies’ efforts to defeat the Axis powers in World War II.

During World War II the International Amphitheatre was used by the War Department and the Armed Forces for support and staging. Even if the building had not been used for the war effort, it is doubtful that the contest and the International would have been held. Travel
restrictions, rationing of materials deemed vital for the war effort, and many facilities at
colleges around the country being used in a similar fashion would have prevented judging
teams and spectators from traveling in very large numbers.

As was done in 1914-15 during the Hoof and Mouth Disease outbreak, the Stock Yard
again hosted a show for fat livestock that was held at the same time the International would
normally be held. The results were made part of the International record and continued the
show’s continuous run.

When World War II ended in August, 1945, there was not sufficient time for the
necessary preparations to open the International in December 1945. Strict rationing policies for
scarce goods like rubber and gasoline still restricted travel, and other goods were also in very
short supply, preventing both exhibitors and spectators from traveling to Chicago in December
1945. As the calendar turned to 1946, the management of the International Live Stock
Exposition as well as exhibitors and spectators began gearing-up for the reopening on the
International on November 30, 1946.
Return to Glory and the Unglamorous End
1946-1975

The Return of the International

There was little doubt in the minds of the officers and directors of the International Livestock Exposition that the reopening of the show in 1946 would be a success. As early as October 1946, entries were coming in at a record pace. A week before the show’s November 30 opening the largest number of entries in the show’s history had been received. On opening day of the 46th International, 59,000 visitors came to the show.

For the Golden Anniversary show in 1949, another record number of entries were received in almost every department and over 400,000 people visited the event. The same story held true in the coming years with the numbers of entries surpassing the previous year’s record. Of the records that can be found, over 11,000 head of livestock were entered in 1958 with the number slowly declining in subsequent years. A peak of 452,000 visitors came to the 1954 exposition.

The Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest also enjoyed a resurgence. To date, an accurate and complete listing and record of the names and number of teams in the contest from 1946-1975 has not been located. What information that can be gathered from various sources indicates that about 30 colleges sent teams to this first post-war judging contest. The number of participating teams grew to an all-time high of 44 teams in the 1955 contest. Between 35 and 40 colleges sent teams to the contest every year up to last year the contest was held in Chicago in 1975.

Over the next 30 years, some of the most influential individuals in the livestock industry in the last half of the 20th century would first make their mark in the Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest.

In the fifteen-year period 1946-1960, eleven different colleges had winning teams in the contest. Only Iowa State and Oklahoma State had more than one win with three each.

While one college and coach did not dominate during this period, there were individuals who competed in the contest that went on to have powerful impacts on the livestock industry.

And, a new method to scoring placings was introduced.

The 1946 contest was won by Ohio State coached by Herman Purdy, who was the third high individual in the 1941 contest. Purdy’s Ohio State team placed second in the 1953 contest. The second-high individual in 1946 was Don Good of Ohio State. Four years later he would be the coach of the winning team from Kansas State, followed by a second place team win in 1965, his last year as a coach. He was named Chair of the Animal Science Department at Kansas State in 1966.

Dr. Good is widely regarded as making the single boldest move that changed the beef cattle industry in the post-World War II era when he selected a Charolais-Angus crossbred steer named Conoco as the Grand Champion Steer at the 1969 International. Prior to that time, only purebred steers, Angus, Hereford or Shorthorn, had been selected as the Champion. His selection in 1969 led to a rapid shift toward larger performance type cattle, a radical departure from the “baby beef” that became popular beginning in the 1950’s.

Dr. Good received the Distinguished Teacher, Honorary Fellow, and Animal Industry Awards from the American Society of Animal Science. For his leadership in academia and the livestock industry, his portrait was inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin gallery in 1987.

Iowa State had both the high team and the high individual, Dave Pingrey, in 1947. ISU also won at the American Royal, and Pingrey was in the top 10 overall in Kansas City.

After a short stint as judging coach as Mississippi State, Pingrey went into the purebred Angus business, forming Black Bull Cattle Company. He served on the Board of Directors of many organizations, including President of the American Angus Association where he was
instrumental in starting the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) and Certified Angus Beef (CAB) programs

Jack Ragsdale of Purdue and Robert Totusek of Oklahoma State were the 1st and 2nd high individuals in the 1948 contest. Their achievements in the contest were the start of two distinguished careers in the beef cattle industry.

Jack Ragsdale’s score of 932 (out of 1000 possible) set the all-time record score for the high individual in the contest since the 12 placing classes, 8 sets of reasons format was adopted. His high score would stand until 1961. After graduation from Purdue, he was placed in charge of building the Sutherland Farms Shorthorn herd in Prospect, Kentucky. Under his management, Sutherland produced more Shorthorn All Americans than any other herd. Ragsdale served on the Board of Directors of the American Shorthorn Association and served as a judge at major beef cattle shows in North and South America.

As one of the principal organizers of the first North American Livestock Exposition, he chaired the Exposition’s Executive Committee from 1974 until 2015 and has served as the Beef Advisory Committee’s chairman since the show’s inception. Jack was instrumental in persuading Frank Harding to move the Saddle and Sirloin Club Portrait Collection to Louisville when the International closed. His portrait was inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Club in 1992.

Second high individual in 1948 was Robert Totusek a member of the winning Oklahoma State team. After receiving his masters and PhD from Purdue, he returned to Oklahoma State as a faculty member and coached the judging team from 1953 to 1961. His teams won the contest in 1954 and 1957, and placed second in 1955, 1959 and 1960. One of his students placed as the high individual and seven others placed in the top 5 individuals in the contest. He served as department chair from 1976 to 1990 and was author or co-author of over 200 publications.
Like Don Good, he made a bold selection while judging the Angus show at the 1969 International by selecting a bull named Great Northern as Grand Champion. Much like Don Good’s selection of a crossbred steer, the selection of Great Northern radically altered the type of cattle selected in the Angus and other breeds to larger framed, performance based animals. Robert Totusek’s portrait was inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Club in 1997.

As was documented earlier, women participated in the contest and placed in the top 5 individuals as early as 1917. In 1951, Minnie Lou Ottinger (Bradley) from Oklahoma State became the first woman to be the high individual in the National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest. Six others have followed since as high individual in the contest, and countless other women have placed in the top ten overall, been the high individual in a species or reasons, or been a member of the winning team.

Her accomplishment was reported on the front page of the December 1, 1951 Chicago Tribune:

An attractive brown eyed brunette co-ed from Oklahoma A&M College, Stillwater triumphed over more than 180 men yesterday to capture top honors in collegiate judging at the International Live Stock exposition at the stock yards.

She is Minnie Lou Ottinger, 21, of Hydro, Oklahoma, the first woman to win this award in the 53-year history of the International. She scored 901 points out of a possible 1,000. Only one point behind her was Walcott Stewart of Pifford, N.Y., a student at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

“...I thought I had a chance to make a high score but I never dreamed I could win” said Miss Ottinger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ottinger.

At the American Royal Live Stock Show in Kansas City last month she was high individual scorer on cattle and seventh in judging all types of animals.

As a high school student, she showed the reserve champion steer at the 1949 American Royal. She had the champion pen of three Berkshire hogs at the Southwestern Exposition, Fort Worth, Tex., in both 1948 and 1949.
Now in her senior year in animal husbandry, Miss Ottinger said that when she graduates she wants either to write for a live stock publication or to operate a ranch.

She was the first woman to graduate from the Animal Husbandry program at Oklahoma State. In 1955, Minnie Lou Ottinger Bradley and her husband purchased 3,300 acres in the Texas panhandle and began the Bradley 3 Ranch. Today the ranch encompasses over 10,000 acres. For her work in land improvement and stewardship, water management and rotation grazing, her ranch has been recognized as a model of stewardship. Angus bulls from her ranch are highly sought after for their superior genetics with proven carcass traits. A member of the American Angus Association Board of Directors from 1997-2003, she was the association’s first woman president in 2005.

To honor her lifetime achievements, her portrait was inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Club in 2014.

Robert Hines from Purdue was the high individual in the 1956 contest. In 1959 as a graduate student at Michigan State, he assisted Dr. Harlan Ritchie with the MSU judging team. In 1966 he joined the faculty at Kansas State, overseeing the swine operation and serving as coach or co-coach of the judging team in 1967-1969. His 1967 team placed second at Chicago, and the 1968 team was National Champions and had three of the top five individuals in the contest. He has judged swine shows in 35 states over the past 45 years. In 1973 he started his own swine operation specializing in Chester Whites and later Hampshire hogs. He has shown numerous champion boars and gilts at major shows across the country.

Jim Kiser was a member of the 1941 judging team at Iowa State. He then coached the Iowa State judging team from 1951 to 1969. His teams won the contest in 1955, 1956, and 1963, and placed second in 1951. While a very successful livestock judging team coach, Kiser was a pioneer in another form of competitive collegiate judging.

In 1964 Kiser and Bob Kaufmann of Illinois along with a few others came up with the concept of a Meat Animal Evaluation Contest that would combine judging livestock on the hoof, and then evaluate and judge the carcasses of the same animals. While judging live animals, and judging meats had been in practice since the 1920’s, they were always treated as separate
entities and contests. Kiser and his associates developed a methodology to combine elements of both contests into one over a two-day period. This revolutionized the teaching of livestock evaluation and helped give students the total concept of livestock evaluation from conception to consumption.

A New Method for Scoring Contestant Placings

When Professor Shepperd changed the scoring of placings and reasons from a percent correct basis to points with a 50 being a perfect score for both placings and reasons, there was still a considerable amount of discretion that the officials could use in assigning a score for placings. All the different placings turned-in by contestants for a class would be listed on a sheet for the official judge of that class. There were 32 possible combinations, although not all the possible placings would be used by the contestants, and only the placings turned-in were listed. The judge when then go down the list and assign a score for each placing, and that would be the placing score given to each contest who placed the class in that sequence. There was no “formula” used for determining a placing score. In fact, Shepperd was opposed to using a mathematical scheme for grading placings, as he explained in 1922:

“The writer does not believe that a mathematical system of grading the different placings of a ring of livestock should be employed, but he has never suggested to any judge that he should not use such a table. If the individual animals constituting a ring of stock are, in the opinion of the judge, so selected that there is an equal spread between first and second, second and third, and third and fourth the mathematical table for, placing is absolutely accurate and when a judge uses it the writer assumes that the judge considers that the ring of stock examined is of that order. If the ring of stock is not thus uniformly spaced as to rank, then the mathematical table multiplies the inaccuracy of the grade.”

Shepperd’s system for grading placings was used until the late 1940’s, until an extension agent with the George Hormel Company revolutionized the scoring of placings in judging contests.

Carroll Plager joined the George A. Hormel Packing Company in 1931, as a livestock extension specialist. He was in charge of developing marketing programs for pork producers to sell hogs on a grade and yield basis. In 1946 he was a leader in the establishment of the National Barrow Show in Austin, Minnesota where Hormel has its headquarters. He served as superintendent of the show for 25 years and he also judged numerous swine shows across the United States. He was responsible for working with Hormel’s youth programs and judging contests. His efforts to promote leaner and more muscular market hogs as a show judge and judging contest official lead him to the development of a consistent method of grading placing
scores by assigning a numerical score to the degree of differences between first and second, second and third, and third a fourth. The term used to describe the differences between placings in numerical values: “cuts”.

Under the Hormel System for scoring judging contests, the official judge assigns a number between 1 and 5 to represent the differences between each animal in the official placing. A 1 representing a small difference, and a 5 representing a large difference. From a correct placing score of 50 points, points (the cuts) are deducted from 50 for each position an animal in a contestant’s placing is “out of order” from the official placing. An individual can quickly calculate his or her placing score if their placing is different from the official placing. Scoring the placings for all the classes for each contestant in this manner can be very time consuming if each placing is individually calculated.

Carroll Plager solved this problem by designing a sleeve with a series of cards that would slide into the sleeve. By selecting a card with the correct official placing and cuts, line-up the official placing and the correct cuts in the viewing slot on the front of the sleeve and go down the list of every possible placing and next to it was the score for that placing. The “calculator” worked like a slide rule to match up placing and cuts to get placings scores. Plager’s judging contest score card was patented in 1948, and is the basis for how placings are scored by computer today.

Carroll Plager, was born and raised on a farm in Guthrie Center, Iowa and received his B.S. in Animal Husbandry from Iowa State in 1931. He was a member of the Iowa State team that won the 1930 National Contest and he was the second-high individual overall.
The Last Fifteen Years at Chicago

1961-1975

To say 1961 was a record-breaking year for the contest would be an understatement. Jack Ragsdale’s high individual score of 965 was broken by the high individual in 1961. Knic Overpeck of Purdue shattered Ragsdale’s record with a score of 972 points out of 1000 possible. Second was Bill Able of Oklahoma State with 965, Glenn Richardson of Oklahoma State scored 962, followed by Charlie Bichelhaupt from Illinois with 961, and fifth was Lloyd Grau of Michigan State with 958. Two of these high individuals went on to successful careers as coaches.

After graduation from OSU, Bill Able became a graduate student and judging team coach at the University of Kentucky. His team won the contest in 1969. Able then moved to Kansas State where he served as judging team coach from 1971 to 1985. At KSU he had three national champion teams (1974, 1975, and 1983) and one high individual in the contest.

Glenn Richardson coached the University of Missouri judging team from 1968-1970, having the high team and high individual in 1970 and the second-place team in 1969.

No team dominated the contest from 1961 to 1975, with Kansas State having the most wins with three and two second place finishes. Texas A&M had two wins and one second. Purdue had two wins, in 1971 and 1973 and a second in 1975.

The second time the contest had a tie for high team overall was 1962 with South Dakota State and Tennessee finishing with identical scores. Under the tie-breaker in effect at the time, the team that had the highest placing individual would be declared the winner. Since Gary Testrote from South Dakota State was the high individual overall, South Dakota was declared the winner. The International did duplicate all the high team awards for Tennessee, but South Dakota State kept sole possession of the bronze bull for the year. The following year the tie-breaker was changed to the team with the highest team score in oral reasons.

1962 also produced two top five individuals who would make significant contributions to the purebred beef cattle industry. Larry Cotton from Michigan State was the fourth high individual in the 1962 contest. After graduation, he assumed the duties as Manager of the Purebred Beef Cattle Center at Michigan State. Together with Dr. Harlan Ritchie, Cotton was responsible for managing the University’s Angus and Polled Hereford cattle that became one of the most prominent herds in the country. Today he heads Cotton & Associates, one of the leading sale management firms in the Angus breed.

David Hawkins from Ohio State was the second-high individual in the 1962 contest. He went on to receive his master’s degree from Ohio State and then accepted a teaching assistantship at Michigan State where he received his Ph.D. He joined the department faculty in 1969 and served as judging team coach, coordinator of undergraduate programs and
department course and curriculum development. As faculty coordinator of the Beef Cattle Teaching Center, Dr. Hawkins continued the development of worldwide-recognized purebred cattle seed stock.

He served as superintendent of the National Collegiate Judging contest for ten years and was sought after as a cattle judge at major national shows and fairs. Recipient of the American Society of Animal Science Distinguished Teacher, Animal Industry Service, and Fellow in Teaching Awards, his portrait was inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Portrait collection in 2013.

The winning teams in 1962 each had two members who had distinguished careers in the beef industry. Howard Hillman and Jerry Fitzgerald from South Dakota State and John Crouch and Bob Vantrease from Tennessee all made significant contributions as leaders in purebred beef cattle associations.

The 1968 the winning Kansas State team had three of the top five individuals in the contest, including Tom Carr who was the fourth high individual. While working on his master’s degree, he coached the Kansas State Meats Judging Team, and then he went to Oklahoma State for his PhD and coached the team there.

In 1974 he joined the faculty at the University of Illinois, doing teaching and research in meat science and muscle biology and coaching the meat judging team. During his tenure as coach, he had four national champions and had twenty-six 1st or 2nd place teams in major contests. Possessing a very competitive spirit, he described his experience as a judging team coach:

“Winning is neat but it’s just the icing on the cake. By far the most important things have been the friendships and relationships. And then to see how each person has gone on and contributed to agriculture, whether it’s in production, processing, academia, or research.”

Ray Hankes of Illinois was the second-high individual in the 1968 contest. After earning his PhD in Meat Science and Ruminant Nutrition, he joined the Illinois faculty and served as an assistant professor in animal science.
In 1974 he joined his in-laws in the Thrushwood Farms swine operation. The farm was among the first to market directly to packers, avoiding stockyards or buying stations. The data received from the packing plants showed them what they needed to do to improve their breeding and genetics. They were among the first to use indoor hand mating systems, and their operation grew to over 1,200 sows.

Ray served as President of the National Pork Producers Association and served as Chair of the National Pork Board where he was instrumental in developing the “Pork, the other white meat” promotion campaign. In 1999 he joined Iowa Beef Processors (later acquired by Tyson Foods) as assistant president of the fresh meats. Before retirement from Tyson he managed three different packing complexes.

In addition to the coaching success of Bill Able, Robert Hines, Herman Purdy, and Glenn Richardson, two other coaches enjoyed considerable success during this time period.

L. Doug Wythe, Jr. coached the high teams from Texas A&M in 1965 and 1967, and the second-place team in 1968. In 1967 four of the top five contestants in the contest were from Texas A&M, and a total of six students placed in the top five during his career.

Roger Hunsley joined the Purdue faculty in 1967 and coached the judging team from 1967 to 1983. His Purdue teams were National Champions in 1971, 1973, and 1978. He coached the high individual in the contest in 1971 and had two others place in the top 5. During his career, his teams placed first or second in 67 contests.

In 1983 he joined the American Shorthorn Association as executive secretary and oversaw the association’s dramatic growth during his 20-year tenure. Dr. Hunsley is recognized internationally for his expertise in beef cattle evaluation and has judged or conducted stockmen schools in England, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Canada, and other countries.

His achievements and contributions to the cattle industry were recognized by having his portrait inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Portrait collection in 2005.
**The End of an Era**

The Stock Yards began a slow and gradual decline with onset of World War II. While still the largest single open market in the country, its numbers had leveled off and slowly started to decline in the 1930’s. The International continued as the largest and most prominent livestock exposition in the world when it resumed in 1946. But it too saw significant slippage in its numbers starting in the late 1950’s.

![Stock Yard with packinghouses in background. circa. 1940](image)

The first major shift in livestock marketing first appeared in 1955 when Wilson and Company closed its packing operations in Chicago. The nation’s interstate highway system was starting to expand, and trucks, not railroads, were rapidly becoming the preferred method of transporting livestock and meats. Later in the 1950’s and 60’s more packing plants closed their Chicago operations and built new, more modern facilities in the Great Plains and West where more and more cattle and hogs were being raised.

Rumors concerning the future of the International began to circulate almost immediately after the October 17, 1970 announcement that the Stock Yard would close on February 1, 1971. (The closing date was later moved to July 30, 1971.) While the 1969 show attendance was an estimated 260,000, its numbers were beginning to fall dramatically. Concerns about the show’s future were reported in the *Tribune’s* November 11, 1973 edition.

The 1974 exposition was the 75th International, and the show’s directors made a significant push to revitalize the show by bringing in headline grabbing entertainers. Arthur Godfrey along with Roy Rogers and Dale Evans who were popular performers at the exposition in the 1950’s and 60’s made appearances. Bob Hope, one of the world’s most famous entertainers, especially for his USO shows for military personnel overseas, made a one-night appearance. To appeal to the younger crowd, rising pop and country music star Olivia Newton-John appeared before a packed house.
The 1974 exposition was enough of a financial success that the directors unanimously decided to continue the show in 1975.

Those who are old enough to remember will recall that the International suffered an accelerating decline in its last 10 years, linked directly to the decline and eventual closing of the Chicago Union Stock Yard. From Day 1, the Union Stock Yard was the principal financial supporter of the International, and as the Yards declined, so did the International.

The International continued after the closing of the Stock Yard, but in retrospect, when the Yards closed, the Exposition's days were numbered. Financial problems plagued the International. Beginning as early as 1957 the International was unable to turn profit on its own and relied on the Stock Yard for more assistance every year. In 1972 the State of Illinois allocated $40,000 from its fair and exposition premium funds to aid in the premiums paid to exhibitors.

In its final year, 1975, the International lost over $110,000 despite receiving $130,000 from the State of Illinois, $10,000 from the City of Chicago, and the free use of the Amphitheatre valued at $40,000. The deficit was made up by an additional $25,000 from the City of Chicago and $80,000 from the Union Stock Yard and Transit Industries.

Efforts to raise the necessary funding for the 1976 Exposition were unsuccessful. On July 2, 1976 Chairman Patrick O’Malley and President Lewis Pierce of the International announced the 1976 show was cancelled, the result of the lack of funding and declining attendance. A committee was formed to try and garner support to reopen the show in 1977, but those efforts never materialized. The greatest live stock exposition ever held came to an unglamorous end.

Even before the announcement, many breed associations and livestock organizations had made plans to move or had already moved their meetings and activities to other shows. The recipient of most of the events that left the International was the North American Livestock Exposition, started in 1974 as a strictly cattle show and hosted by the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville. The North American as it was commonly called, under the leadership of its General Manager Harold Workman, rapidly expanded the number of shows and species at the event and welcomed most of the association meetings and events that were moving out of the International.

One of the most significant of the early moves from Chicago to Louisville was the second oldest judging contest at the International. Since 1919, the Non-Collegiate, later renamed the 4-H Judging Contest was held at the International. After the 1973 International, the contest organizers and coaches representing the state teams entered in the contest voted to move the National 4-H Livestock Judging to the Inaugural North American Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky in 1974. In addition to gaining the 4-H contest, the North American added a Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest to its events in 1975. The contest was classified as a “regional” contest on the same level as the American Royal and other contests held in the fall.
prior to the National Contest in Chicago. Twenty-five colleges from the Midwest sent teams to this first collegiate contest in Louisville. Its role as a regional contest was short lived.

When the announcement of the closing of the International was made, the Collegiate Coaches association quickly accepted Harold Workman’s invitation to move the National contest to the North American. The Junior College Livestock Judging Contest, held for the first time in 1974 at the International, also moved to Louisville starting in 1976.

And so just as the United States was starting its joyous Bicentennial Celebration, the International Live Stock Exposition came to an end. The land that was once the busiest square mile on earth was gradually transformed into a now thriving industrial park. All that remains today from the once mighty Union Stock Yard is the Livestock National Bank Building and the Stone Gate on Exchange Avenue that marked the entrance to the Yard. A city and National Historic Landmark, the gate is the last reminder of what was once the epicenter of the livestock industry in the United States.

**The Demise of the International Amphitheatre**

Built immediately after the 1934 Stock Yard fire and completed in just seven months in time for the International in December 1934, it was the prototype of the modern arena. Designed by Abraham Epstein, the arena seated 9,000, had 225,000 square feet of floor space, and was the largest free span arena built to date. Built at a cost of $1.5 million, among its innovations was air conditioning, media areas and darkrooms, and booths for TV and radio. The Chicago Auto Show was held at the Amphitheater from 1935 until 1960 when it moved to McCormick Place. The 1952 Republican National Convention at the Amphitheatre was the first to be broadcast nationwide on TV. A total of five National conventions were held at the Amphitheater, the last being the 1968 Democratic Convention.
The arena hosted the biggest names in entertainment during its heyday, including Frank Sinatra, The Beatles, Ringling Brothers Circus, and Elvis Presley, who first wore his soon to be trademark gold jumpsuit in his 1957 performance. The NBA Chicago Bulls and WHA Chicago Cougars played in the Amphitheatre as well as high school and college basketball and professional wrestling. The building also hosted a wide array of trade shows and conventions.

With the construction of the McCormick Place Convention Center on Lake Shore Drive in 1960 the Amphitheatre lost many concerts, conventions and shows to the newer and more modern arena. This was accelerated with the opening of the Rosemont Horizon, United Center and other venues in the greater Chicago area that hosted all the major indoor sporting events as well as concerts and conventions. The International Amphitheatre struggled to continue operating, hosting lesser known shows, concerts and sporting events. The City of Chicago purchased the building in 1999 with the intent of demolishing the building to make way for new development as part of the Stock Yard Industrial Park. In August 1999, a backhoe started demolition of the Amphitheater, the last vestige of the Exposition, ending the “Home of the International Live Stock Exposition”.

The Last Vestiges of the Union Stock Yard

The Live Stock National Bank and The Stone Gate

Today, within the Square Mile on the south side of Chicago bordered by Pershing Road to the north, Halstead Street to the east, 47th Street to the south, and Ashland Avenue to the
west, there are very few signs or artifacts remaining from the Chicago Union Stock Yard. Today the area has been transformed into a thriving industrial park. All the buildings and facilities, concrete overhead alleys and rail road tracks, and wooden pens, along with the brick alleys associated with the Yard and packing houses are gone, as well as the International Amphitheatre, the Stock Yard Inn and the Exchange Building. Only the south wing, the last addition to the Amphitheatre that housed cattle for the International still stands, now being used as an industrial warehouse.

Two remaining packing houses still operate near the Square Mile, just like they did for decades when the Stock Yard and Packingtown were in operation. Park Packing, a three generation family business slaughters hogs and operates a retail meat market on Ashland Avenue, a few yards away from where the giant plants of Wilson, Swift, and the other packers once stood. Chiappetti Meats, another family owned operation since 1927 continues to slaughter lamb and veal and operate a retail meat market on Halstead Street just a few blocks from the former Stock Yard.

The Live Stock National Bank, modeled after Independence Hall in Philadelphia, still stands at the corner of Halstead and Exchange Avenue. The hands of its clock have been missing for decades, and the windows and doors boarded up for more than 50 years. When the bank was built in 1925, the stock yard and its meat packers and related industries were the largest industry in Chicago. Designated a Chicago Landmark and owned by the City of Chicago, the building has been stabilized and is designated for preservation, restoration, and redevelopment.
Just a block down Exchange Avenue to the west stands the last symbol of Chicago’s hundred-year domination of the livestock industry. The Stone Gate stands alone in a small park-like setting after receiving extensive restoration in the early 2000’s. Today its appearance is befitting the National Historic Landmark status it received in 1975, in stark contrast to the dirt and grime that perpetually covered it during the last 20 plus years the Stock Yard was in operation. Just beyond the gate’s main arch to the west stands a memorial to not only the 20 firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty during the 1910 Stock Yard fire, but to all Chicago firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The railroad tracks that brought livestock to the yards for decades upon decades still pass a few yards away in front of the gate.
Stone Gate with Chicago Fire Fighter’s Memorial in background, circa 2005.

The magnificent limestone structure built in 1875 was designed by architects Burnham and Root whose designs and master plans for buildings, museums campuses and lake-front parks are among the most iconic in the city of Chicago. Daniel Burnham was the son-in-law of Stock Yard co-founder John Sherman. In the top of the gate’s center arch is a bull’s head modeled after Sherman, John Sherman’s prize-winning bull. Today the gate stands in relative silence compared the 100 years of noise and bustle of The Yards. The sights and sounds of the Chicago Union Stock Yard are now a distant memory to those still alive who can remember the largest livestock market in the world that was the center of the livestock industry in the United States for over a century.
“Sherman” circa 2016
A New Era and a New Home

The Move to Louisville and the North American

in 1976

1974-1975, the First Livestock Judging Contests at the North American

When the Chicago Union Stock Yard Closed in 1971, rumblings began among exhibitors, breed associations and spectators on how long the International could survive without the Stock Yards. Many of the breed associations and their exhibitors, and the participants in other aspects of the International, including the judging contests, began to talk about and explore alternatives for their shows and contests should the International cease operations. At the same time, discussions were being held among breeders, beef cattle breed associations, livestock producers and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture about starting a new livestock show, using the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville as the host facility. In late 1973, it was announced that the first North American Livestock Exposition would be held in early November of the following year.

In 1974, two weeks before the International, the first North American Livestock Exposition opened at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center. Under the direction of General Manager Harold F. Workman, the show, which in its first year was strictly a beef cattle show, received high marks from exhibitors and spectators alike.

After the 1973 International, the Contest Committee and Coaches of teams in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest voted to move the 4-H contest to the new Exposition in Louisville. In 1974 the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest became the first judging contest to be held at the North American. The facilities offered by the Expo Center were more modern and spacious than those in Chicago, and the coaches of the collegiate teams took notice. They undertook the task of identifying someone who could put together a collegiate livestock judging contest in Louisville for the 1975 show with an eye toward the eventual move of the National Contest to the North American.
A New Beginning in Keeping with Tradition

Starting a New Contest from Scratch

From the perspective of contestants and coaches, the single most important element necessary for a successful livestock judging contest at the national level is to have good classes composed of high quality livestock. This feature allows contestants to demonstrate at the highest level their abilities to analyze and place a class. Class makeup provides differences that allow contestants to demonstrate their full capabilities to justify their placing in oral reasons. Next in importance is having facilities to properly show each class of livestock. Great facilities give every contestant an equal and good opportunity to see and evaluate the classes and also provide contestants good accommodations to prepare and give their oral reasons. The third necessary element in a national contest is experienced, respected and successful men and women in the livestock industry to serve as officials to place the classes and grade contestants on their oral reasons. None of these essential elements is possible without first addressing the most important but least known aspect of putting on a national livestock judging contest: the amount of advance work, preparation, dedication and behind the scenes support that is required to have everything ready and in order on the day of the contest so it can be conducted in the orderly, efficient and professional manner that a national contest deserves and requires.

The National Senior College Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Contest held annually at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) since 1976 has been successful because of the tremendous support of the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center staff and the stable leadership provided by the superintendents and operating committee of the contest for the last 40 years. It is interesting to recall how this contest was moved to the NAILE after the final International Livestock Exposition held in Chicago, Illinois in 1975.

Michigan State University’s 40 Year Involvement

With the Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville

In 1974 the Intercollegiate Senior College Livestock Coaches Association sought to identify an individual with both coaching experience and organizational skills to initiate a senior college livestock judging experience at the NAILE. After discussing several possible candidates for the contest superintendent, Dr. Harlan Ritchie from Michigan State University was asked to take on this assignment. He asked his department chairperson, Dr. Ron Nelson for advice before accepting this assignment, and Dr. Nelson supported his decision to accept the new responsibility and promised that Michigan State University would provide support for the...
When Dr. Nelson retired in 1984, his successor, Dr. Maynard Hogberg, reaffirmed MSU’s support for this activity and the department’s commitment to the NAILE and the National Senior College Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Contest.

There have been five superintendents of the contest during the 40 years it has been held at the North American: Harlan Ritchie, Gary Minish, Dan Eversole, David Hawkins, and Scott Greiner. Each has at least one advanced degree from Michigan State University. Each has competed as a contestant in the National College Livestock Judging Contest, and each has coached intercollegiate livestock judging teams. Each served as a member of the contest staff before becoming superintendent, and all have continued to assist with the contest after being the superintendent. A large majority of the people who have worked on the contest staff since 1975 have a connection at some point in their career to the Animal Science Department at Michigan State. Most were members of livestock judging teams at some point in their collegiate careers.

To better understand the history behind this coincidence, one needs to recall the situation in the Animal Science Department at Michigan State University when Dr. Ron Nelson arrived in 1946.

Dr. Nelson was raised on a leading purebred dairy farm in southeastern Wisconsin and attended the University of Wisconsin. He was a member of both the intercollegiate dairy judging team and the intercollegiate livestock judging team. His livestock judging team coach was Dr. Al Darlow, who later joined the faculty at Oklahoma State University. Dr. Darlow encouraged Ron Nelson to enroll in a Master of Science program at Oklahoma State University and then to complete in the Ph.D. degree program at Iowa State University in animal breeding and genetics. In 1946, Dr. Nelson was hired at MSU to teach the animal genetics class. He was very disappointed with the quality of the teaching herds and flocks when he arrived at MSU. In 1950, Dr. Nelson was selected to be the Chairperson of the Animal Husbandry Department at MSU, and he was determined to improve the quality of the teaching program. He believed that to teach and inspire students it was important to have high quality livestock for use in the classroom. He also believed that the decision making and communication skills developed through competitive collegiate judging competition were very closely related to success in one’s professional career.

To provide new leadership for the undergraduate teaching program and to coach the livestock judging team at MSU, Dr. Nelson recruited Harlan Ritchie to be a graduate student instructor and livestock judging team coach at MSU. Ritchie had recently been a member of the winning Iowa State Team at the American Royal Contest in 1956. Dr. Nelson then began recruiting other potential graduate students who shared his interest in quality livestock and successful intercollegiate judging programs. In 1962, Dr. Nelson recruited Gary Minish to MSU for a graduate program after he had been a member of a very successful Iowa State University Judging Team. Dr. Nelson recruited David Hawkins who had completed his Master of Science degree at The Ohio State University and enrolled at MSU for his Ph.D. in 1965. Dr. Ritchie and
the graduate students who assisted in coaching the MSU livestock judging teams were asked to identify judging team members from other universities who shared the same passion for quality livestock and successful livestock judging programs. Several of those identified chose to come to MSU, including Dan Eversole who arrived from Ohio State University in 1973 and Dr. Scott Greiner from Iowa State University in 1989.

During the 1960’s and 1970’s the teaching herds and flocks at MSU improved remarkably under the leadership of Dr. Nelson and the faculty and staff he had hired. The MSU farm managers were former livestock judging team members and appreciated quality livestock and the intercollegiate judging team experience. Because of the success of these programs, the herds at MSU were regarded as leading sources of quality livestock in the U.S. The faculty and staff were frequently asked to judge major livestock shows around the world. Student recruitment in Michigan and across the U.S. continued to increase at both the undergraduate and graduate level as the quality of the livestock and instructional staff improved.

In recognition of his leadership and dedication as department chair at Michigan State, his recruitment of students and faculty who became leaders in the livestock industry and his contributions to the livestock industry, Dr. Nelson’s portrait was inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Club collection in 1990.

The First Collegiate Contest at the North American in 1975

In preparing for the first contest to be held at the NAILE in 1975, Ritchie relied on several of his friends in the industry as well as his own experience. Bernard Ebbing, superintendent of the National Senior College Contest to be held in Chicago two weeks after the NAILE provided insight and assistance. Ritchie identified prospective officials and award donors. The cattle and sheep for the judging classes would be supplied by exhibitors at the show, but the swine would have to come from the outside since no swine show was held at the NAILE at that time in its early existence. Ritchie obtained the support staff to conduct the contest by asking staff, students and secretaries from MSU to assist, and the NAILE administration agreed to pay their expenses if MSU would cover their release time from their
duties at MSU. Dr. Nelson agreed. This commitment by Michigan State expanded significantly in 1976 when the National contest, with over 40 teams and 200 contestants, moved to Louisville.

In 1975, Steven Spivey was a junior at MSU who had not yet competed in a senior college contest but had achieved an outstanding record as a member of the Illinois 4-H team and the Black Hawk East Junior College team, both of which won their respective national contests. Steve had assisted with judging contests organized or hosted by Black Hawk and with regional contests during the year prior to his judging for Michigan State. Steve was a detail oriented person with a strong interest and commitment to livestock judging. Ritchie asked Spivey to serve as the Director of Operations for the contest. With the exception of the 1976 contest when he competed for MSU, Steve has continued to serve in this or similar capacity for every senior college contest held at NAILE.

The 1975 contest was classified as a regional contest at the same level as the American Royal, National Western, and others contests held in the fall for collegiate judging teams, one level below the National Contest held at the International. Twenty-five colleges sent teams to this first contest. Compared to the support staff needed to operate the contest in future years when it became the National Contest, a bare-bones staff staged this first collegiate contest.

Ritchie and Spivey, with assistance from Dick Smith, 4-H contest Superintendent and his staff, Harold Workman and his staff, two UK staff members who did all the scoring, six animal science graduate students from the University of Kentucky who served as group leaders and assisted with organizing oral reasons, and an assortment of MSU students, alumni, and various exhibitors and friends recruited on site, the contest was put together in two days. A small group of 3-5 persons selected all twelve classes. They also finalized arrangements with KFEC staff for the contest facilities, arranged for an off-site hotel for oral reasons and the awards breakfast, and made all the detailed arrangements for the contest. Other volunteers helped with specific parts of the contest. All told, not counting the assistance from NAILE staff, volunteers recruited on-site to hold or drive livestock in the classes, or help in other ways during the judging portion of the contest and the contest officials, fewer than 12 people did all the necessary work on-site to put on the first contest. It was a Herculean task and everyone involved agreed that in the future a larger staff would be necessary to run the contest effectively. Today, not counting NAILE staff support, over 30 alternate contestants help exhibit livestock during the judging portion of the contest, 17 officials place the classes and grade oral reasons, and approximately 25 people who are involved on-site selecting classes, assisting with scoring and contest operations, and assisting with the Awards Breakfast make the contest possible. Many others assist with arrangements and preparations off-site in the weeks prior to the contest.

The first contest in 1975 was well received by the participating universities, so it was an easy decision to move the National Senior College Contest from Chicago to the NAILE after the last International Livestock Show. Soon thereafter the National Junior College Livestock Judging Contest was also moved to the NAILE.

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Guiding Principles for the National College Livestock Judging Contests at the North American International Livestock Exposition

When the National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest moved to the North American in 1976, it provided a rare opportunity to evaluate and take a fresh look at how the entire contest was organized, structured, and conducted, as well as to evaluate the attributes required of a contest that would determine the National Champion at the collegiate level and be the final contest of the participants’ competitive judging careers. Indeed, the only other time in history that the entire contest received such a total “make-over” was in 1906 when Dean J.H. Shepard became the first superintendent.

While everyone involved with the first National Contest in Louisville had been a contestant and/or coach of a team at the International, none had been involved as a member of the Chicago contest staff. The newer and more modern facilities at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center provided contestants with larger and more spacious areas to judge classes. The contest took place away from the constant noise and distractions inherent with judging in the main arena at the International Amphitheater at the same time other shows were being held on the opposite side of the arena with crowds watching from the stands.

The better accommodations gave the contest staff more flexibility in how the contest was organized and operated to better suit the contestants. And the contest superintendent and staff were not bound to many of the “traditions” “precedence”, “this is the only way it can be done” and the proverbial “we have done it this way for years and it works just fine” thinking.

Beginning with the very first collegiate contest held in Louisville, some very important principals and guidelines were established that have been used ever since.

Contest Officials

Since contestants come from all sections of the country, it has been important to select contest officials who reside in different regions of North America. The contest officials have been successful breeders and marketers who have participated as a contestant in the National Contest as undergraduates at their respective universities. They must have experience serving as an official at other regional or national contests and be approved by the Intercollegiate Senior College Livestock Coaches Association. Officials usually serve a 2 or 3 year term before rotating off the committee. Terms are staggered so that some members of the previous year’s officials return to provide continuity. A referee official oversees all the species officials to help resolve placings and cuts for each of the classes and insures that the cuts on a class in one species are the same in the other species when the degree of difficulty to place the class is similar. The referees have been successful coaches of winning teams at the regional or national level, have previous experience serving as a contest official at regional or national contests, and
are not currently actively coaching a team at the collegiate level while they are serving as the referee.

**Contest Classes**

Historically, the contest classes consist of 5 cattle, 4 swine and 3 sheep, with both market and breeding animals in each species division. Both purebred and crossbred livestock have been selected for the contest. Since three national contests are held on consecutive days at the North American, the operating committees from the respective contests work together to ensure that the same four animals do not appear in the same class in more than one contest.

The cattle and sheep classes are selected from the animals being exhibited at the show. Breeds chosen for each contest are influenced by the show schedule which often changes from year to year. In the early years selecting classes of bulls and rams for the contest was not too difficult. In recent years, as fewer males have been exhibited, it has become increasingly more difficult to find bulls relatively close in age to use in the contest. The availability of market steers for the contest has varied according to the schedule of the market steer show. In some years extra steers for classes were supplied by some of the nearby universities in addition to steers from the show.

In several years, it was necessary to ask leading breeders to bring a class of boars to the contest since intact males were not exhibited. The swine classes have been supplied by breeders in the neighboring states or in recent years from hogs exhibited at the NAILE swine show held a week prior to the livestock judging contests. This has required someone to oversee the care of these hogs. For a number of years, Dale Brown and Al Snedegar, former MSU Swine Farm managers, donated their time to care for the hogs that were used for all the livestock judging contests.

Class selection has been under the direction of a species superintendent. The cattle committee was led by the late Dr. H. Dee Woody, former MSU Beef Farm Manager, Dr. Jason Rowntree, MSU faculty and Joel Cowley, former MSU staff member and former judging team coach at Texas A & M University. The swine committee has been led by Dr. Maynard Hogberg, former MSU faculty member and Dr. Todd See, former MSU undergraduate and current on the animal science faculty at North Carolina State University. The sheep committee has been led by Dr. Farabee McCarthy, former MSU graduate and current faculty member at Findlay College. The MSU Livestock Farm managers often assisted with the class selection and grooming of the contest classes prior to the contests.

Performance data for classes have been incorporated in the contest where possible to enhance the educational value of the contest. Actual data are used as well as national performance program results (EPDs, Selection Indexes, etc.) Ultrasound evaluation of body composition has also been included when possible. Often a hypothetical scenario is established
by the species committee to assist the contestants in their decision making. A unique situation occurred in the 1990’s when the American Shorthorn Association initiated a show for Shorthorn steers in which carcass data was collected after the steers were harvested. When the harvesting occurred at a packing plant in Louisville, it was possible to have the Shorthorn steers judged by contestants in the first round of classes and then hauled to the packing plant to be processed with the remaining steers from the show. The competing teams then received the carcass data later in the week following the contest. When the harvesting facility was moved from Louisville, it was no longer possible to do this.

**Oral Reasons**

Oral reasons from each contestant on 8 of the 12 placing classes are a vital part of the contest. Contestants are randomly assigned to groups and to the reasons order so that contestants do not follow other members of their team or the same individual throughout the entire contest. When multiple rooms are used for the same class, the officials listen to a few sets together to establish uniform criteria for scoring.

In the early years of the contest, reasons were given to the officials in hotel rooms off of the grounds. This involved transportation of contestants and monitoring to prevent contestants from the same team conversing during the contest. In recent years, rooms have been available in the south wing of the Kentucky Exposition Center so that the judging of classes and giving of reasons could be accomplished at the same location.

**Additional Contest Personnel**

Dr. Russel Erickson, former MSU faculty member has served as the official timer and announcer for the classes in recent years. Doug Nielsen, former MSU Beef Farm Manager assisted in beef class selection and operations for many years. Stephanie Spivey Giertz, former MSU student, and Joy Eversole McCarthy, former MSU graduate student, have supervised MSU secretaries as they assisted with tabulation. Many graduate students and former contestants have served as group leaders to assist contestants during the contests. Alternate contestants who are not competing in the contest have volunteered to hold livestock that are haltered or to move livestock that are being judged in pens.

**Contest Scoring**

Getting the results for each contest in a timely fashion has been a challenge. The contests held at Chicago were scored by hand. As computer software for scoring contests has evolved, it has been implemented. The early contest placings and reason scores were entered on punch cards at the contest site in Louisville, then transported to the mainframe computer at the University of Kentucky in Lexington for analysis and returned to Louisville a few hours prior
to the awards breakfast on Monday morning. The introduction of the personal computer in the 1980’s allowed for the entire scoring process to take place on site at the fairgrounds. Rapid advances in operating systems and scoring software have reduced the amount of time needed to enter placings, reasons scores, and produce the contest results. Currently, the entire scoring process is done under the direction of Dr. Darrh Bullock, faculty member at the University of Kentucky and his staff. Analysis is usually completed within one hour after the conclusion of the contest. Even with the tremendous advances in technology that have greatly reduced the amount of time it takes to score the contest, one aspect of the scoring process has remained constant. Every class placing and reason score for every contest is proofed and verified against the placing card and judges’ reason score sheet twice before the contest results are compiled.

**The First Ten Years at the North American**

Throughout its history, the National Collegiate Contest has enjoyed both periods of balanced competition among many universities for both team and individual awards, as well as periods where one, two or possibly three schools dominate the high team and individual awards. The first ten years in Louisville was a period when there was close competition among a number of universities.

Nine different universities won the contest from 1976-1985, and nine different universities had the high individual in the contest. Only Ohio State had two-time winners, being the high team in 1976 and 1984, and the high individual in the contest in 1976 and 1977. Ohio State’s winning teams had different coaches. James Kinder coached the 1976 team, and Tom Turner coached the 1984 team.

Two coaches who had winning teams during the last decade the contest was held at the International continued their winning tradition when the contest moved to Louisville. Roger Hunsley’s Purdue team won the 1978 contest, making him a three-time winning coach after his teams won the contest in 1971 and 1973. Bill Able won his fourth National Contest with the Kansas State team in 1983, to go along with his 1974 and 1975 win at Kansas State and his 1969 win as the Coach of the top team from Kentucky.

Farabee McCarthy of Ohio State was the first high individual after the National Contest moved to Louisville in 1976. McCarthy went on to get his Ph.D. from Michigan State and currently serves as Animal Science Department Chair at the University of Findlay (Ohio). He also has served on the National Contest sheep selection committee for over twenty years.

The following year, Brad Skaar of Colorado State was the third high individual in the contest. Six years later he was the coach of the Iowa State team that placed second in the contest in 1983. He received his Masters and Ph.D. from Iowa State and currently is a faculty member in the ISU Department of Animal Science.
During the contest’s years in Chicago there were periods of time when a few colleges dominated the competition for high team and high individual awards, or when one or two colleges were consistently near the top of the competition. The first ten years the contest was hosted by the North American resulted in balanced competition with many universities placing in the top five teams overall and the top ten individuals representing a diverse group of institutions. The results were not dominated by one or two universities over the decade. Beginning in 1986 a handful of universities consistently excelled in collegiate livestock judging.

The first ten years in Louisville were marked by increased participation by colleges and universities to a record tying 44 teams in 1984. The Kentucky Exposition Center facilities continued to grow and expand with the increasing number of species and entries for the North American. The expansion of facilities eventually reached a point where both the judging and oral reasons parts of the contest could both be held at the Kentucky Expo Center.

With different facilities and contest staff from the contest held at the International, there were the inevitable growing pains and challenges as the number of teams increased from 25 in 1975 to 44 in 1984. Significant changes in contest operations and set-up were necessary as the event grew. When Harlan Ritchie retired as superintendent after the 1986 contest, the organization and operation of the contest as well as the facilities set-up had evolved into a well-organized and smooth-running operation. The coming years saw further expansion of the KEC facilities to better serve the needs of the North American and the contest. There were further improvements in the contest itself to give every contestant the opportunity to perform at their absolute best in what would be their final competitive judging contest.

Dr. Ritchie continued to assist with the contest for the next 25 years, concentrating on the awards breakfast and the history of the contest and the Saddle and Sirloin Club. In addition to his work with the contest, he judged swine and cattle shows throughout the United States, as well as South America and Canada. He authored hundreds of scientific and trade journal papers and articles. After a distinguished career in teaching, research and beef cattle extension at Michigan State, he retired as the Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Animal Science. In recognition of his life-long contributions to the livestock industry, his portrait was inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Club in 1994.

The Dynasty Era – 1985-2015

Over the decades, there have been professional sports teams that have so dominated their sport over a period of time that they are often referred to as dynasty. The New York Yankees in baseball, the Montreal Canadians, and most recently the Chicago Blackhawks in hockey, and the Boston Celtics, Chicago Bulls, and Los Angeles Lakers in basketball are all universally considered to be a dynasty over the period when they dominated their sport. In college sports the John Wooden basketball teams at UCLA in the 1960’s and 1970’s and the
current women’s basketball team at UConn are the most prominent examples of a team, coach, and university being so dominant that they reach the status of a dynasty.

For the years 1985 to 2015, five universities can make a claim to being a dynasty in collegiate livestock judging during this period, excelling at both the team and individual levels. Consider the following record for each of these universities during this period.

**Iowa State.** From 1985 to 1993 Iowa State won four national championships, had a high individual and second high individual in the contest, and had five other individuals place in the top five overall.

**Oklahoma State.** From 1985 to 2015 Oklahoma State had seven national champions, eight second high teams overall, five high individuals overall, seven-second-high individuals overall, and sixteen other individuals place in the top five overall.

**Kansas State.** From 1994 to 2015, Kansas State had five consecutive national champions 1994-1998, seven-second-high teams overall, seven high individuals overall, two-second-high individuals overall, and fourteen other individuals place in the top five overall.

**Texas A&M.** Texas A&M won seven national champions between 1986 and 2013, including three in a row 2002-2004, four-second-high teams overall, four high individuals overall, six-second-high individuals overall, and twelve other individuals place in the top five overall.

**Texas Tech.** Texas Tech won three contests in a row 2007-2009, a fourth in 2011, a fifth in 2015 and a second-high team overall in 2013. During the same period the school had three high individuals overall and ten other individuals in the top five overall.

During this thirty-one-year period, only Michigan State in 2000 and Purdue in 2014 has interrupted the dominance these five universities have had as the winner of the National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest. Minnesota, Colorado State and South Dakota have won second high team honors, and Ohio State, Minnesota, Illinois, Missouri, Mississippi State, and Western Illinois have also claimed honors for high individual in the contest.

It was not just these five universities that enjoyed tremendous success over this period. There were coaches who excelled at consistently producing teams and individual contestants that were always in contention to win the National Contest. Many of these coaches also excelled when they competed as contestants in the contest.

Jarold Callahan from Oklahoma State was the third high individual overall in the final contest held in Chicago in 1975. After graduation, he joined the staff at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M as an instructor and judging team coach. In 1981 he joined the animal science faculty and became judging team coach at Oklahoma State. From 1981 to 1990, Callahan coached two consecutive national champion teams (1989-1990), two second place teams, and two high individuals overall. He became the Executive Vice President of the Oklahoma Cattlemen’s
Association in 1991, and later became the Chief Operating Officer of Express Ranch in Oklahoma in 1996. Today Callahan is the CEO of Express Ranch, the third largest seed stock producer in the United States. Callahan also served as a Director and President of the American Angus Association.

Scott Greiner from Iowa State was the high individual and a member of the high team overall in the 1988 contest. Five years later he coached the winning Iowa State team in 1993, becoming the second person from Iowa State and third in the contest history to be both a high individual in the contest and the coach of a National Champion team. After receiving his M.Sc. from Michigan State and Ph.D. from Iowa State he joined the Animal Science faculty at Virginia Tech. During his time at Michigan State he served on the National Contest staff and after moving to Virginia Tech served as an associate superintendent of the contest. In addition to his duties at Virginia Tech, he has served as the contest superintendent since 2006 and is the only superintendent in the contest’s 110-year history who was previously the high individual in the contest and coach a National Champion team.

In 1983, Scott Schaake was the high individual in the contest and a member of the winning team from Kansas State. Schaake went on to receive his Masters from Clemson University and a Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky where he also coached the Livestock Judging Team. He then joined the faculty in the Department of Animal Science and Industry at Kansas State, where he coached the judging team from 1992 to 2013.

Scott Schaake coached five consecutive National Champion teams from 1994 to 1998, and seven-second-high teams overall from 1999 to 2010. During his twenty-two years as a judging team coach, he had six high individuals overall in the National Contest and 14 others who placed in the top five overall. He is one of three persons who were both a high individual in the contest and later a coach for a winning team. During his career, he has judged livestock shows in 32 states, as well as Canada, South America, and Mexico. He continues to be a faculty member in the Animal Science Department at Kansas State.

Mark Johnson was a member of the 1985 Oklahoma State team that placed second in the National Contest. After earning his Master’s from Clemson and Ph.D. from Kansas State, he joined the animal science faculty at Oklahoma State where he coached the judging team from 1992 to 2013. During his tenure as coach, Johnson had four National Champion teams, a high individual overall, a second-high individual overall, and fourteen other individuals whom placed in the top five overall. Johnson is a member of the Animal Science faculty at Oklahoma State.

Ryan Rathmann is the second person to coach a National Champion team at two different universities, and the only person to coach multiple National Champion teams at two different universities.

After competing as a contestant for Texas A&M in 2001, Rathmann coached the Texas A&M team to three consecutive National Championships in 2002-2004 while completing his Master’s degree. In 2006 he moved to Texas Tech where he received his Ph.D. and coached five
National Champion teams, 2007-2009, 2011, 2015 and a second-place team in 2013. From 2002 to 2009 he coached seven National Champion teams in eight years. He also coached four high individuals in the contest and nine other individuals who placed in the top five overall. He continues to serve as the judging team coach and faculty member at Texas Tech.

**The Enduring Symbol of the Contest and the International**

**The Bronze Bull**

Every trophy awarded to the High Team in the Students’ (Collegiate) Live Stock Judging Contest at the International from 1900 to 1975 was given by the Union Stock Yard and Transit Company. The first trophy was named in honor of John A. Spoor, President of the Stock Yard, and the first President and one of principal driving forces behind the formation of the International. With the exception of the final trophy awarded starting in 1968, a college could retire and keep permanent possession of the trophy when they won it for the third time.

Up until 2013, it was widely accepted that the only trophies named for Spoor were the various editions of the Bronze Bull by Isidore Bonheur awarded over the years. While officially only the Bonheur bronze bulls were named *The Spoor Trophy*, every trophy awarded to the high team in the contest was commonly referred to and known as the *Spoor Trophy*, even if the official name of the trophy was different.

In almost all professions and undertakings, a person or team awarded a trophy or medal for outstanding or winning performances retains possession of the trophy permanently. There are a few very notable exceptions.

There are numerous college football rivalries where the winner lays claim to the rivalry trophy until the next time the teams meet the following year. The team that wins the Stanley Cup has each team member’s name etched on its silver base and each member even gets to take it home for a day. But they cannot keep it. The following season they must win it again, or another team takes possession for a year.
For decades, the winning team in the National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest could claim possession of The Bronze Bull for a year until it must be surrendered to the high team the following year. Only when a college won the trophy three times could they claim it as their own permanently. But for the past forty-eight years and into perpetuity, not even three wins will give a team permanent possession of The Bull now awarded to the high team in the National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest. Like rivalry trophies and the Stanley Cup, the honor to have it and display it must be earned every year.

The high team bronze trophies are listed in the order they were awarded, starting with the first in 1900.

**High Team Trophies**

**The First Spoor Trophy – Bonheur Bronze Bull**

According to the *Chicago Tribune* in its February 10, 1901 story about the first Spoor Trophy, John Spoor got the idea of a bronze bull from a painting he saw in New York of a Brown Swiss bull by Isidore Bonheur. Spoor had considered trophies in the “loving cup” style of trophies popular in the early 20th century, but he considered them “overdone”.

![Spoor Trophy, circa 1901](image)

The first trophy was not ready when Illinois won the first contest in 1900. When it was finished in early February 1901, it was displayed in the Union Stock Yard offices before being sent to Illinois to display until the 1901 contest. Spoor established the tradition of having the trophy retired by the first college to win it three times. This was done by Iowa who won the next three contests in 1901, 1902, 1903. After the first bronze bull was retired by Iowa, the Union Stock Yard had a second bronze trophy cast to continue the tradition. This continued until 1967 when the fourth Bonheur bronze bull was retired. When the eighth high team trophy (fifth version of the Bonheur Bronze Bull) started in 1968, it was designated as a perpetual...
challenge trophy that would never be retired, regardless of how many times a college won it.

The first Spoor Trophy cost $700, was a duplicate of the Bonheur original and was cast in France by Tiffany and Co. The significance of this first Spoor Trophy was not limited to being the trophy for the high team in the Students’ Judging Contest. The bronze entitled *Bull in Defiant Stance* was so impressive its likeness was selected to be on the cover of the International Official Premium List and Catalog starting with the first exposition in 1900. The likeness was also used in advertising and stationery of the International. The likeness of the first Spoor Trophy by Bonheur is the most enduring symbol of the International Live Stock Exposition.

This is the only bronze bull that has the bronze title, *Bull in Defiant Stance*, and the trophy name, *J.A. Spoor Trophy*, engraved on its base. Also engraved are winning teams and year for 1900-1903.

![First Spoor Trophy retired by Iowa State, circa 2013.](image)

Spoor’s selection of a bull as the symbol of the International was following the lead, intentional or not, of another iconic symbol. When the Stone Gate marking the entrance to the Stock Yard was built in 1875, it contained the likeness of a bull’s head at the top of the center arch. The bull’s head was modeled after the prize bull “Sherman” owned by John B. Sherman, President of the Union Stock Yard.

When the Chicago Bulls of the National Basketball Association came into existence in the 1966-67 National Basketball Association season, they played in the International Amphitheater, next to the Stock Yard. While there is no “official” mention in the Bulls’ team history of how the team’s nickname and logo got started, the name Bulls and use of a bull head similar in appearance to the first Spoor Trophy by Bonheur as the team’s logo seems to be more than just coincidence.
**The Cain Bronze Bull**

Up until 2013, the history of the contest had no trophy awarded to the high team overall for the years 1904-1913. A “missing” trophy from the International was discovered in 2013 at Ontario (Canada) Agriculture College, one of three trophies from the International that were “discovered” in 2013. Its position as the second Spoor Trophy was not established until 2014.

When Iowa retired the first Spoor Trophy, a second version of the trophy was introduced in 1904 and resembles an ox standing on an incline. The artist of this bronze is Frenchman Augusts-Nicholas Cain, who operated a foundry in France in the 19th century.

This bronze bull was referred to as the Ox Trophy in International publications since it has the general appearance of an Ox, and it is standing on an incline like the first Spoor Trophy designed by Bonheur. The brass plate on wooden base of the bronze reads: “International Live Stock Exposition, Students Judging Contest Trophy, Presented by Union Stock Yard Company of Chicago, To Be Won Three Years Before Becoming the Possession of Any College”. Also inscribed are the winners of the bronze: Ohio, 1904; Ontario, 1905; Ontario, 1906; Ontario, 1907.

![Second Spoor Trophy – Cain Bronze Bull](image)

As mentioned earlier, the contest was divided into separate divisions or contests starting in 1904, one for livestock (cattle, hogs, sheep) and one for horses. Separate trophies were awarded for each.

This second Spoor Trophy was awarded to the high team in livestock from 1904-1907 when it was won for the third time by Ontario Agriculture College and retired. Like the first, it has the winning teams and years engraved on its base.
Romanelli Bronze

The third high team overall trophy, awarded from 1908-1912, is the most unique version of the high team trophy. It was not “discovered” until 2013. Its existence as the trophy awarded to the high team in the contest was not firmly established until 2014. Information about this trophy is limited to the information on the trophy's base, the inscription plate attached to it, and the information from the Iowa State Farm House Museum. It is not specifically mentioned in any International publications or Chicago Tribune articles that have been reviewed to date. Prof. J. H. Sheppard in the 1916 Review and Album, International Live Stock Exposition, does mention that the Union Stock Yards and Transit Company offered a new trophy to the team with the highest score overall after the retirement of the Ox and Horse trophies in 1907. It is also significant to note that this trophy does not appear in any Iowa State team photographs for the years 1908-1912 that have been found to date, and there is no known photograph of this trophy taken any time between 1908 and its discovery in 2013.

The bronze was designed by Italian-American artist Carlo Romanelli and was cast at an Italian foundry in Florence, Italy, whose mark appears near the base. Romanelli came to the United States in 1902 and worked in Chicago, Detroit and Los Angeles. His signature Carlo Romanelli, Chicago is also on the statue. The history of this trophy provided by the ISU Farm House Museum indicates it was designed c.1900. Since Romanelli did not move to the United States until 1902, and since his signature on the statue says Chicago, it was probably designed between 1902 and 1908.

There is a plate on the trophy that reads “International Live Stock Judging Team Trophy Won by Iowa State College-1908-1909-1912.” The fact that there are no schools on the plate for 1910 and 1911 would indicate this plate was added after it was won three times by Iowa State. The use of a bronze trophy depicting a woman holding up a torch with a man kneeling next to her seems out of place for a livestock judging trophy and is out of context and of a different theme from the first Spoor Trophy, the Deux Amis and Cain Bronze Bull, and the Bronze Bulls awarded beginning in 1913. These trophies had a species of livestock (bull or...
horse) as the central and prominent or only figure in the trophy. The *Romanelli* has the four species of livestock depicted on its base, and not as the central figure of the trophy.

While this trophy may seem very much out of place to us looking back 100 years, and comparing it to the other trophies awarded to the high team during that time, there are other considerations that we need to keep in mind. First, it is obvious from the articles over the decades about the Collegiate Judging Contest in the *Chicago Tribune* and the information about the contest in the *Official Catalogs* and *Review and Album* published by the International, that the contest was considered to be an extremely important, prestigious and vital part of the International. Second, the trophies awarded by the Union Stock Yard and Transit Company to the high team in the contest are not just magnificent bronze trophies, they are of a high quality sought by collectors and very valuable pieces of art, designed by well-known artists of the day.

Many trophies for various events and activities of the early 1900’s were elaborate and grandiose in their design and often had human figures reaching upward as a central part of the trophy, regardless of what the trophy was for. The February 10, 1901 *Tribune* article introducing the *J.A. Spoor Trophy* also mentioned that J.A. Spoor, President of the International, had considered “loving cups” and other styles for the collegiate trophy before selecting the Bonheur designed bronze bull. It may be that the style of the *Romanelli* bronze was the “in vogue” design for trophies in 1908. The fact that Romanelli was based in Chicago during this time may have been a factor in selecting one of his bronze sculptures for the high team trophy.

The circumstantial evidence found to date supports the conclusion that this trophy was awarded to the high team from 1908 to 1912. The most significant evidence that is lacking is photos of the trophy from the 1908-1912 time period. There are photos of every high team trophy either standing alone or as part of a team photo awarded at the International that can definitely place the trophy in the time period it was awarded, every trophy except this one.

Prof. Sheppard’s comments in 1916 indicate that officially this was named the *Union Stock Yard and Transit Company Trophy*. But as is the case with all the high team trophies, contestants, the press and general public referred to it as the *Spoor Trophy*.

**The Union Stock Yard and Transit Company Trophy**

The fourth high team trophy was also a unique bronze, depicting both man and beast. The artist of this bronze is not known for certain since there is no artist signature visible on the bronze. It is similar in appearance to a bronze depicting man and bull by French artist Georges Gardet. It was cast at the Florentine Brotherhood Foundry that was located on Exchange Avenue near the Stock Yard in Chicago. Officially named *The Union Stock Yard and Transit Company Trophy*, this bronze was awarded from 1913 to 1928 when it was retired by Oklahoma A&M College after winning it three times. This bronze, or a replica, can be seen in early
photographs of the interior of the Saddle and Sirloin Club so it is possible this bronze or a replica was in existence prior to 1913.

After the first Bonheur Bronze Bull, the likeness of this bronze is the second most widely duplicated likeness of the Bronze Bull trophy. Beginning sometime after 1908, every contestant in the contest was awarded a bronze medal with a likeness of this trophy on its obverse side, and the image of the Amphitheatre on the reverse. This tradition continued for every livestock judging contest at the International until it closed after the 1975 show.

The trophy’s likeness was also used on a commemorative postage stamp issued in 1913 and the commemorative medallion issued by the Union Stock Yard and Transit Company on the Yard’s 75th Anniversary in 1940.
Finally, the likeness of this bronze was adopted by the American Society of Animal Science as its logo when it was formed in 1908.

Only the likeness of the first Spoor Trophy has been more widely used.

**The Second Bonheur Bronze Bull**

When the fifth high team trophy was introduced in 1929, the International went back to a bronze that was a replica of the first Spoor Trophy, the Bull in Defiant Stance designed by Bonheur. This bronze is similar in size to the first without the tall marble pillar base. Instead of the names and year of the winning teams being engraved on the bronze base, this bull was mounted on a wooden base and brass plates with the year and name of the winning team were attached.

This bronze bull was retired by Kansas State after three consecutive wins in 1936, 1937 and 1938.
The Third, Fourth and Fifth Bonheur Bronze Bulls

The International continued using bronze bulls by Bonheur for the remainder of the Exposition’s run. The sixth, seventh and eighth high team trophies were similar in appearance to the previous Bonheur bronzes with the exception the bull in the later editions stood on level ground instead of on an incline. These three versions were titled Bellowing Bull by Bonheur.

Third Bonheur Bronze Bull. Retired by Iowa State in 1955

The sixth high team trophy was the third Bonheur bronze and was retired by Iowa State after winning the bull for the third time in 1955. The seventh high team and fourth Bonheur bronze was retired after its third win by Texas A&M in 1967.

Fourth Bonheur Bronze Bull. Retired by Texas A&M in 1967
When the eighth high team trophy, the fifth Bonheur bronze, was introduced in 1968, the International ended the tradition of a college retiring the trophy after winning it three times. The final *Spoor Trophy* was designated a perpetual challenge trophy never to be retired, regardless of how many times a college won the trophy.

*The fifth Bonheur Bronze Bull awarded to the high team overall since 1967.*

*Photo by Danny Bolin*


**The Deux Amis**

**Mc Laughlin Brothers Trophy**

From 1904 through 1907, there were two contest or divisions, one for livestock and one for horses in the Students’ Judging Contest. During this period, there were two trophies awarded, the *Spoor Trophy* (Cain Bronze Bull), and the *Deux Amis (The Two Friends)* awarded to the high team in horses. This trophy, depicting a kneeling man next to a horse, was created by
French artist Victor Peter who lived during the later 19th century. The plate on the base has the same type and style of inscription as the Cain Bronze Bull. The trophy was named The McLaughlin Brothers Trophy in honor of John and James McLaughlin of Columbus, Ohio who were well known breeders and importers of Percheron Horses who also sponsored awards for contestants judging horses in the contest. The plate with the names of the winning teams on the *Deux Amis* says: “Presented by the Union Stock Yard Company of Chicago” an inscription also found on the Cain bronze and other early *Spoor Trophies*.

*Deux Amis, circa 2013*

This trophy was retired by Iowa State after winning it for the third time in 1907.

**The Silver Epergne**

**The Royal Agriculture Society of England Trophy**

In 1950, the Royal Agriculture Society of England presented to the International Live Stock Exposition a Silver Epergne Trophy as an expression of goodwill and to recognize the world-wide influence and importance of the Exposition. The epergne was commissioned and cast in 1858 to commemorate the Royal Livestock Show held in Chester. This magnificent 2 ½ foot heirloom has figures of each species of livestock around its base, and four human figurines around its stem that supports a dish at the top. Made entirely of high quality sterling silver, this trophy is the oldest and most valuable artwork ever awarded in any livestock judging contest, and possibly the oldest and most valuable awarded at any livestock show. Since its introduction
in 1950, the epergne has been a perpetual challenge trophy awarded to the high team in the contest.

In an oval area at the front base of the trophy is an inscription for the original dedication of the epergne that reads:

Presented to
Phillip Stapleton Humbers, Esq.
In acknowledgement of
The energy, ability and success
With which as chairman of
The local committee
He promoted and superintended
The arrangements for the meeting
Of the Royal Agriculture Society
Held during
The Year of his Mayoralty at
Chester in July 1858”

There is a similar oval on the back of the base engraved for the presentation to the International:

Presented
by the
Royal Agriculture Society
of England
to the
Saddle & Sirloin Club
Chicago
1950

The first team to win the epergne in 1950 was Kansas State, coached by Don Good. Lord Digby from the Royal Agriculture Society was present to personally present the trophy to Coach Good and his team.
The Saddle and Sirloin Club

The idea for the Saddle and Sirloin Club was conceived by Arthur Leonard, Manager of the Union Stock Yard and Transit Company, Robert Ogilvie, Secretary of the American Clydesdale Association, and Alvin Sanders, editor of the Breeder’s Gazette on a train ride in 1903 to visit William H. Henry, Dean of the Agriculture College at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. All three agreed that there was a need for a place or club room for those doing business in the Yards, attending the International or attending conventions, banquets and other functions. Before their train ride from Chicago to Madison was complete, they all agreed on the now iconic name: The Saddle and Sirloin Club.

The founders envisioned a club where the master breeders could mingle and dine over a saddle of lamb or sirloin of beef with their counterparts from across the country and from Europe, share information with the college professors from the agriculture colleges and mentor the young college graduates. It did not take the founders of the Club long to expand on their plan by also honoring the great livestock breeders of the past by hanging their portraits in the Club and honoring others who distinguished themselves as Master Stockmen over the years. The portrait of Dean Henry, the man the founders were traveling to visit when the idea for the Club was hatched, was the first to have his portrait hung in the Club. In addition to the impressive portraits, Robert Ogilvie secured portraits of the Old Master Breeders from both Europe and the United States as well as other valuable and impressive works of art, many depicting animals both historical and modern day, for the Club’s Décor.

The first visit to the club for young men and women was usually at judging awards banquets, 4-H Club Congress or other activities associated with the International. The Club’s rooms were often the location for meetings and banquets of the various breed associations and societies that held their meetings at the International. The Club functioned as the social gathering place during the International up to its closing after the 1975 Exposition.

The first Saddle and Sirloin Club was located on the top floor of the Pure Bred Live Stock Records Building adjacent to the Yards and the Stock Yard Inn. After the 1934 Stock Yard fire that destroyed the first Club, it was moved to the Stock Yard Inn during reconstruction. The décor was classical English Tudor, reflecting the English heritage of the breeders, judges and the livestock and horse breeds that were prominent at the International in the early 20th century.
The tradition of honoring leaders of the livestock industry by adding their portrait to the Club’s collection has continued since 1903, except for the years 1975-1977 when the portraits were in the process of being moved to the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville.

The number of portraits inducted into the gallery has varied over the years from one to as many as seven a year. Up to 1959 it was common to have multiple inductees every year. Starting in 1960, only one portrait has been inducted into the collection every year.

With the closing of the International after the 1975 Exposition, and the Stock Yard Inn destined to be razed, Frank Harding, a Director of the International and recognized as the leader of the Saddle and Sirloin Club, was given the task of finding a new home for the portrait collection. After visiting numerous livestock shows and agriculture museums, Harding decided that the most appropriate and suitable location for the collection was the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center (now known as the Kentucky Exposition Center) in Louisville, the home of the North American Livestock Exposition. His recommendation to William Wood Prince, the Chairman of the Union Stock Yard and Transit Company was approved, and in 1976 the portraits were transported to Louisville.

The move was not a smooth one. When the portraits arrived in Louisville there was no listing or catalog of the portraits, and the name plates on many had either been removed or had fallen off. Mr. Prince had also requested that a few of the portraits of honorees who were also very prominent and influential business and civic leaders in Chicago, and some portraits of national and international leaders who were not Club honorees, remain in the City. There was no cataloging of which portraits remained in Chicago and where they were located. Their whereabouts and fate remain unknown. A number of the purebred animal portraits were
dispersed to Saddle and Sirloin Club members, officials with the International and Stock Yard, and other prominent individuals associated with the livestock industry.

Once the portraits were all identified and cataloged, they were put on display in the West Hall lobby at the Expo Center and in the lobby and main floor hallways of the Executive West Hotel (now the Crowne Plaza). Along with the portraits, the statue of the Greek God Hermes, protector of Herdsmen, that survived the 1934 Stock Yard fire and was displayed in the lobby of the Stock Yard Inn was sent to Louisville and displayed in the lobby of the Executive West.

When the South Wing Conference Center was constructed, the portraits of some of the more recent Saddle and Sirloin Club inductees and the statue of Hermes were moved to the second floor just outside the banquet room where a new honoree has their portrait presented to the gallery annually and the awards banquets for the various livestock judging contests are held. Also on display are two bronzes plaques from the Saddle and Sirloin Club in Chicago, the Sanctum Sanctorum and The Master Stockman.

The Club’s portrait collection is the largest in the world devoted to a single industry, and serves as the livestock industry’s Hall of Fame.

**Awards Presentation and Banquet**

Like everything else associated with the contest, the awards banquet is steeped in tradition. There is little evidence as to how the awards were presented in the early years of the contest, but the December 2, 1908 Chicago Tribune gives a vivid account of the results of that year’s contest being announced.

*In the main arena of the Amphitheatre a director of the International with the aid of a megaphone, announced the results of the individual awards.*

“H, H. Kildee of Iowa State College is awarded first in the list of those who contested in the students’ judging class with a score of 940 points.”


“What’s the matter with Kildee’ yelled an enthusiast.

“He’s all right” answered the Crowd.

“Who’s all right” asked the enthusiast?

“Kildee” came the answer in a storm that might have been heard all over the stockyard.

“For mercy sake” asked one of the young women who was a visitor at the show for the first time, “are they going to start a football game? What are those college boys doing here?”

The young woman was told that the college yell was being given for the student who had won first place in a contest with young men from all over the United States and Canada on his ability to judge all classes of livestock.”
So at least in the early years, the results of the contest were announced to a usually full, and sometimes very enthusiastic house of spectators and fellow students and supporters of the college teams inside the Amphitheatre.

There is no record of when the awards presentation was moved from the International Amphitheatre into the Saddle and Sirloin Club, but once the move was made, the setting inside the club with all its portraits of livestock industry leaders quickly became one of the significant traditions of the contest.

![Stock Yard Inn](image)

When the Stock Yard Inn was rebuilt after the 1934 fire, the Awards Banquet was held in the Banquet Hall of the Club that was now housed in the Stock Yard Inn. The Inn’s décor was classic English Tudor, which was appropriate given the heavy influence English breeders, judges and livestock had on the International in its early years. With its English Tudor décor and its walls lined with over 300 portraits of all-time greats of the livestock industry, the Club provided an inspirational setting for the presentation of awards.

One of the highlights during the banquet was when a member of the Club addressed the contestants about the role and importance of the Club in the livestock industry and pointing-out some of the more significant individuals whose portraits surrounded the contestants. For the last 20 or so years, the contest was held in Chicago, Larry Caine, General Manager of the International would explain the founding and importance of the Club, tell contestants about the founders and then give a brief biography of some of the most well-known individuals whose portraits were in the gallery, all without using notes.

This tradition was interrupted when the International closed and the contest moved to Louisville in 1976. For the first few years the awards breakfast was held at various locations in Louisville. It took a few years for Harold Workman and the North American staff to properly catalog, organize and find a suitable display area for the portraits.
Starting in 1980, the Awards Breakfast was held at the Executive West Inn (now the Crown Plaza) at the entrance to the fairgrounds. The Inn’s décor was also of the English Tudor style, like the Stock Yard Inn, thus duplicating to some degree the ambience of the Chicago club. Several the Saddle and Sirloin portraits lined the hallways inside the Inn leading to the main banquet room where the awards breakfast was held.

At about the same time, Bernard Ebbing who served as superintendent of the contest during its final years in Chicago, was asked by the contest superintendent Dr. Harlan Ritchie, to assist with the awards breakfast and to do a brief history of the club and its portraits, similar to the presentation done in Chicago. Bernard put together a short program that included a few slides of the Stock Yard Inn and the interior of the Saddle and Sirloin Club.

In the following years, Dr. Ritchie greatly expanded the number of photos and descriptions included in the presentation. He also authored the first brief history of the contest, Saddle and Sirloin Club, and the trophies in the Awards Breakfast Program. This history has been updated annually to include the previous year’s winners as well as update significant milestones reached in succeeding years.

Dr. Ritchie also conducted the first significant research into the history and background of each of the Spoor Trophies awarded starting in 1900.

Today’s Awards Breakfast continues the traditions started in Chicago. Part of the portrait collection is displayed in the lobby outside the banquet room. The Spoor Trophy and Silver Epergne are still the most prestigious trophies in the contest. The statue of Hermes, once the centerpiece in the lobby of the Stock Yard Inn now occupies a prominent place among the portraits. Because of the generous support of businesses and individuals associated with the livestock industry, the awards presented to teams and individuals is the most expansive of any judging contest. And most importantly, the contestants are recognized and honored for their efforts and achievements.

The Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Team Coaches Association All-American Award

The All-American Livestock Judging Awards program was initiated by the University Livestock Judging Team Coaches’ Association in 2000. The All-American program is designed to recognize students who have made a personal commitment to livestock judging and who have also excelled in academics, university and industry activities and community service. Over the years, many of the top ten individuals in the contest have also been recipients of the All-American Award, demonstrating their excellence in livestock judging as well as academic excellence, service
to their communities, leadership in industry and professional organizations, and activities at their university outside of livestock judging. Regardless of their standing in the list of national contest high individuals, all the recipients have excelled in judging, academics, activities and service during their college career.

**Contest Superintendents**

From 1900 to 1903, the Students’ Judging Contest was organized and run by the college coaches. The management of the International conducted the contest in 1904 and 1905 and the coaches were responsible for selecting the classes, a practice that would continue for decades to come. Beginning in 1906, responsibility for the management and operation of the contest was placed under a superintendent.

In *The Story of the International Live Stock Exposition*, Alvin Sanders credits J. H. Shepard as being the first superintendent of the contest beginning in 1906. Dean Sheppard in the 1916 edition of *Review and Album, International Live Stock Exposition*, credits W. J. Black as being superintendent in 1905. Professor Sheppard also notes that there are no official records prior to 1906 and that any records for 1900-1905 are based upon records of the press and the memories and records of individuals connected with the first six contests.

It is not clear what W.J. Black’s exact role and title was in 1905, given Alvin Sanders’ assertion that the management of the International ran the 1904 and 1905 contests. Since Sheppard credits Black with being the 1905 superintendent, it can be concluded that he had an important leadership role, that may or may not have included the title superintendent. It is evident that J.H Sheppard was first person to assume the role of contest superintendent as we know it today.

**W.J. Black, 1905**

W. J. Black was the only student representing Ontario Agriculture College in first Student’s Judging Contest at the International in 1900. He graduated in 1901 and took a position as the western editor of the *Farmer’s Advocate and Home Magazine*, a leading agriculture journal based in London, Ontario, Canada. Later in his career he held various agriculture positions in the Ontario provincial and Canadian national governments, including the first President of Manitoba Agricultural College.

J.H. Sheppard accepted the assignment to be superintendent of the International Student’s Judging Contest in 1906 and continued in the position for thirty-two years. Under his leadership, many aspects of today’s contest were first put in place, including judging twelve classes and giving eight sets of oral reasons.

Born on a general farm in Iowa, he earned his bachelor’s degree from Iowa State Agriculture College in 1891 and his master’s from the University of Wisconsin in 1893. He then started a forty-five year career at North Dakota Agriculture College and Experiment Station that included serving as chairman of the animal husbandry department and president of the college. An expert in plant breeding and dairy production, he championed crop rotation, improved wheat varieties and soil conservation.

His portrait was inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin gallery in 1921.

Burt Oderkirk, 1939-1948

Burt Oderkirk was a member of the 1922 North Dakota State College livestock judging team and received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1923. From 1923 to 1930 he oversaw dairy extension for Iowa State College and also served as Dairy Judging Team Coach.

In 1930 he moved to DeKalb, Illinois to become the manager of the Babson Brothers Farms, in charge of the dairy, beef cattle, and grain operations. He also consulted with the Babson Farm Company that was a leading manufacturer of milking equipment.

R.C. Ferguson, 1949-1968

R.C. Ferguson received his Bachelor of Science degree from Iowa State in 1925 where he was a member of the both the Dairy and Livestock Judging Teams.

Ferguson had a distinguished career as an agriculture career counselor. He was the founder and first executive director of NAMA (National Agri-Marketing Association), received the organization’s Workhorse Award in 1974, and was the first recipient of the NAMA long-term service award, named in his honor. He received the Meritorious Service Award in Agriculture from Iowa State University.
Bernard Ebbing, 1969-1975

Bernard Ebbing graduated from Iowa State University in 1943 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Animal Science. Even though he was an accomplished livestock evaluator as a student, he was not a member of a judging team since there were no contests from 1942 to 1945. In 1951 he joined Rath Packing Company as its livestock extension specialist. Later he oversaw hog procurement for the company’s plants in Waterloo and Columbus Junction, Iowa.

Prior to his retirement in 1978, Ebbing was in charge of the Rath Swine Research Farm for fifteen years. After retirement, he continued to serve as a consultant to various packing companies and served on the Hawkeye Tech Foundation. In 1981, he rejoined the contest staff and was responsible for the Awards Breakfast and securing sponsors for the contest awards. He produced the first history of the contest and the Saddle and Sirloin Club shown during the Awards Breakfast.

Harlan Ritchie, 1976-1986

Harlan Ritchie graduated from Iowa State University in 1956, where he was a member of the livestock judging team. He did his graduate work at Michigan State receiving his PhD in 1964. During his time as a graduate student, Dr. Ritchie served as an instructor in Animal Science and coach of the livestock judging team. His research at Michigan State focused on swine and beef cattle improvement, enhanced carcass quality and vertically integrated beef cattle production and marketing.

He is the recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Award at Michigan State and service awards from the National Pedigreed Livestock Council and Beef Improvement Federation. Dr. Ritchie authored hundreds of scientific and trade journal articles and judged national shows for thirteen breeds of cattle and seven swine breeds. A year prior to the
National Contest moving to Louisville, he was the superintendent of the first collegiate livestock judging contest held at the North American in 1975, and continued as superintendent of the National Contest for the next eleven years.

Ritchie authored the comprehensive history and background of the Bronze Bull (*Spoor Trophy*) given to the high team in the contest and the contest history contained in the Awards Breakfast Program.

Harlan Ritchie’s portrait was inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Club gallery in 1994.

**Gary Minish, 1987-1989**

Gary Minish was raised on a purebred beef cattle farm in Iowa and received his bachelor’s degree from Iowa State, where he was a member of the livestock judging team. He then received his PhD from Michigan State where he assisted as a coach of the livestock judging team. In 1966 he joined the Animal Science faculty at Virginia Tech faculty where he coached the judging team and then served as department chair. As a beef cattle judge and researcher, he was one of the leaders in selecting leaner and heavier muscled, and faster growing livestock. He is one of only seven Americans selected to judge the Steer Show at the International during its seventy-five-year run.

In 2004, Dr. Minish was selected to serve as the Dean of the College of Agriculture Sciences at Southern Illinois University. He served as an Associate Superintendent of the contest prior to his tenure as superintendent.

His portrait was inducted to the Saddle and Sirloin gallery in 2012.
Dan Eversole, 1990-1995

Dan Eversole grew on a purebred Angus farm in Ohio and was on the judging team at Ohio State where he received his bachelor’s degree in Animal Science in 1973. He received his PhD from Michigan State in 1978, and joined the animal science faculty as an instructor and coach of the livestock judging team. He then joined the Animal Science faculty at Virginia Tech, with teaching and research focused on beef cattle management and animal nutrition.

Dr. Eversole is the recipient of the Honorary American FFA Degree, the Teaching Award of Merit, and the College of Agriculture Teaching Excellence Award, both from Virginia Tech. While at Michigan State, he received the Faculty Service Award from Alpha Zeta.

Dr. Eversole served as an Associate Superintendent under Dr. Gary Minish prior to his tenure as Superintendent of the National Contest.

Dave Hawkins, 1996-2005

A native of Ohio, Dave Hawkins received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Ohio State where he was a member of the livestock judging team and the second-high individual overall in the 1962 National Contest in Chicago. After completing his PhD at Michigan State he joined the MSU faculty and coached the MSU Livestock Judging Team from 1971 through 1977. He also coordinated the undergraduate teaching program. As the coordinator of the MSU Beef Cattle Teaching Center he developed Angus and Hereford herds that received national and international recognition.

In demand as a judge, he judged state and national shows in numerous breeds of beef cattle, most notably the National Angus Shows at the North American and the National Western. Dr. Hawkins is the recipient of the Distinguished Teacher, Animal Industry Service, and Fellow in Teaching from the American Society of Animal Science.

His portrait was inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Portrait Gallery in 2013.

Scott Greiner, 2006-present.

Scott Greiner grew-up on a livestock and grain farm in Iowa and received his bachelor’s degree from Iowa State in 1989. He was a member of the 1988 National Champion Team from Iowa State and was High Individual Overall in the contest. He then received is MS from Michigan State in 1992 and returned to Iowa State receiving his PhD in 1997. He was the coach of the National Champion judging team from Iowa State in 1993. He is the only contest superintendent to be the high individual in the contest and also coach a winning team.
Dr. Greiner joined the faculty in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science at Virginia Tech in 1998 as a beef and sheep Extension Specialist. His primary responsibilities are providing research based information to beef and sheep producers to enhance production and efficiency.

He served as an Associate Superintendent for many years prior to becoming superintendent.
In 2015, The 110\textsuperscript{th} National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest was held for the 40\textsuperscript{th} time at the North American International Livestock Exposition. Its seeds were planted with the passage of the Morrill Act of 1862 that gave birth to the system of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities across the United States. It was through the establishment of these colleges that the scientific teaching and research to improve crop and livestock production was put in place. An outgrowth of that teaching and research was the realization that crop and livestock productivity needed to improve to feed a rapidly growing and expanding population in the United States. Teaching students to evaluate the traits of livestock to aid in the selection of more productive and efficient breeding stock became an important area of instruction at the new agriculture colleges.

The seeds began to grow when John Spoor became President of the Chicago Union Stock Yard. He understood the need for an exhibition of a grand scale where livestock breeders and producers from across the United and States and overseas could gather annually to pass judgement on the most productive and desirable livestock and identify the traits necessary to improve livestock production. His vision included a significant role for the agriculture colleges and their students to compete in livestock judging, and the exhibition of all species of livestock raised and cared for by the students at the colleges. Every year in December students would travel to Chicago to have their judging skills and livestock graded and evaluated by the most prominent stockmen in the world.

The success of the college boys in head to head competition with the farmers’ sons in the judging contest opened the eyes of both the farmer who believed that the best place for a young man to learn about farming was on the farm from a farmer, and of the established prominent livestock breeders. These distinguished stockmen quickly recognized the excellent teaching done at the agriculture colleges and actively sought out the graduates to work on their farms and ranches. The agriculture colleges were struggling to gain both credibility and acceptance when the first International and Students’ Judging Contest was held in 1900. The impact the International Students’ Judging Contest had in raising the stature of the agriculture colleges was both swift and significant, and in many was immeasurable. It was most definitely profound.

In the following decades, the Collegiate Live Stock Judging Contest grew in size and stature reflecting the growth and importance of the agriculture colleges across the country. The seeds planted by the Morrill Act grew to a size and scope that Jonathan Baldwin Turner, Senator Justin Morrill, and the Michigan Legislature could not have dreamed possible in the middle 19\textsuperscript{th} century.
The most profound and far reaching impact of the Collegiate Live Stock Judging Contest is best measured by the success of the contestants who competed in the contest from 1900 up to today. Many prominent livestock breeders, educators, researchers, and agriculture leaders were on a live stock judging team during their college careers. There are many former contestants who took the skills of decision making, logical organization, and concise reasoning learned on a judging team to successful careers and leadership positions both inside and outside of agriculture. Any Who’s Who list of livestock and agriculture leaders will have many who were contestants in the Collegiate Live Stock Judging Contest. A significant number of the honorees whose portraits hang in the Saddle and Sirloin gallery were judging team members during their college career.

The National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest grew from the seeds planted by the Morrill Act of 1862. The seeds started to grow with John A Craig innovation of a score card to objectively observe and measure important characteristics of each species and breed of livestock. It has grown and flourished ever since the first contest in 1900. Its importance to the livestock industry continues to be significant and far reaching. Its contestants will continue to play a significant and vital role in the livestock and agriculture industries for decades to come. Many will be leaders and persons of considerable influence in whatever profession they pursue. A select few will someday have their portrait inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Club.

Every year, on a Monday morning in November just before dawn, contestants from universities across the United States gather in the Harold Workman North Wing Lobby of the Kentucky Exposition Center. Within the hour, they will begin competing in the final competitive livestock judging contest of their careers. Some started judging their first year in 4-H. Some have judged competitively in 4-H, FFA and Junior College. For others, their first experience with livestock judging was in the introductory animal science class in college. All of them have the distinction of being a contestant in the longest running and most prestigious livestock judging contest in the world. Over a period of almost twelve hours, they will judge twelve classes of livestock and prepare and deliver eight sets of oral reasons justifying their placing on eight of the classes they judged. It will be a long day, the culmination of a much longer journey.

For some, as many as twelve years have been spent judging competitively, with countless workouts and contests over the years. For all, the journey began in the winter with on campus and weekend workouts at farms and ranches, with a few local and regional contests in the spring. In the fall, the schedule of practice workouts and weekend travel becomes as intense as any team representing their respective universities. The hours are long, the nights giving practice reasons to coaches even longer. Outside of attending class, the livestock judging team consumes a significant amount of their time. It is hard work. It is intense. It is extremely rewarding. For almost an entire year the journey will focus on the final destination, the National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville in November. It is an experience that only years later will they truly appreciate the positive impact the experience has had on their lives. That has been true for contestants who have competed since the first contest in 1900.
On Tuesday morning under the portraits of some of the more recent Saddle and Sirloin Club honorees, the winners will be announced, and the trophies and awards will be presented. The winning team will take back to its campus the *Spoor Trophy*, the timeless icon of the International, to be proudly displayed until the following November when the honor of possessing it must be earned again. A select few teams and contestants will bask in the glory of high achievement as the National Champions in collegiate livestock judging or high individual overall, or placing in the top ten.

Years later after they have returned to campus, graduated, and moved on in their professional careers and personal lives, contestants, regardless of their performance and outcome in the National Contest, will look back at their time and experiences on a livestock judging team and come to a universal conclusion: the journey was more important than the National Contest and its outcome. All of the glory and excitement enjoyed by the winners at the National Contest will linger in memory, but for every contestant, the experiences, life-long friends made, the people they met and professional connections made, as well as the dedication, commitment, and will to excel and succeed will endure. It is these qualities that are so much more important than any of the awards and honors given. It is these qualities that will guide contestants in life regardless of their chosen profession.

The seeds planted over a century ago still grow and flourish.
# NATIONAL COLLEGIATE LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST RESULTS

## FIRST AND SECOND HIGH TEAM AND TOP FIVE INDIVIDUALS

### 1900 – 2016****

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>First Team (Coach)</th>
<th>Second Team (Coach)</th>
<th>First Individual</th>
<th>Second</th>
<th>Third</th>
<th>Fourth</th>
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<td>Day</td>
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<td>Texas A &amp; M</td>
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<td>Zach McCracken</td>
<td>Colton Long</td>
<td>Randell Krosigk</td>
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<td>Lance Bearb</td>
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<td>Brady Ragland</td>
<td>Casey Hilmes</td>
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<td>Larissa Lashell</td>
<td>Jordan Clem</td>
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<td>Graham Blagg</td>
<td>Jamie Bloomberg</td>
<td>Travis Begley</td>
<td>Morgan Meisenheimer</td>
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<td>Willie Weis</td>
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<td>Ashley Judge</td>
<td>D.J. Etzler</td>
<td>Will Coor</td>
<td>Gary Agar</td>
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(*) Separate contests were held for livestock and horses from 1904-1907. Bronze trophies were awarded to each. There was no trophy for the high team overall. L - Livestock, H – Horses, O – Overall. Horses were included in the contest at least through 1941 and possibly for a period of time thereafter.

(**) Tie in 1938 was not broken. Teams shared possession of the Spoor Trophy. Iowa State kept possession for the year after the 1938 contest. Kansas State then received permanent possession of the Spoor Trophy since 1938 was their third win of that edition of the trophy.

(***) Tie was broken by awarding the win to the team with the highest individual in the contest-South Dakota State. Duplicate awards were made for Tennessee, but South Dakota State was given sole possession of the Spoor Trophy for the year after the contest.

(****) College and University names are the names the respective institutions in use today, not the name they were known by for the listed year.
INTERCOLLEGIATE LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM COACHES ASSOCIATION

ALL AMERICAN AWARDS*

2000

Nick Berry, Iowa State University  John Robles, California Poly SLO
Katherine Dunlap, Oregon State University  Clinton Schwab, Colorado State University
Dustin Ford, Iowa State University  Pat Wall, Iowa State University
Clayton Lecompte, Kansas State University  Megan Wheaton, Michigan State University
Collin Osbourn, Texas A & M University  Sara Wilson, Oregon State University

2001

Matt Barnes, Univ. Tennessee-Martin  Alyssa Mangan, California State University- Chico
Devori Beckman, Oregon State University  Sarah Pierce, Colorado State University
Sandra Gruber, The Ohio State University  Ryan Rathmann, Texas A&M University
Missy Montgomery, North Dakota State University  Cari Rincker, Texas A&M University
Erin Morrow, Texas A&M University  Amanda Ziehl, Colorado State University
2002
Carrie Bertelsen, University of Illinois
Carrie Gray, Oregon State University
David Groschke, Texas A & M University
Mark Hassebrook, University of Nebraska
Daniel Hendrickson, Michigan State University

2003
Rowdy Atkins, Texas A&M Commerce
Susan Belleville, The Ohio State University
Ryan Bockbrader, The Ohio State University
Jason Doggett, University of Tennessee-Martin
Jake Franke, Texas A&M University
Kelton Mason, Texas A&M University

2004
Katie Cook, Michigan State University
Justin Fix, Iowa State University
Andrea Garmyn, The Ohio State University
Adam Jones, Colorado State University
Katie Marston, Kansas State University

Jamie King, The Ohio State University
Jason Lackey, Texas A & M University
Shellie Moore, Texas A & M University
Kristin Voges, Texas A & M University
Roxanne Wagner, South Dakota State
Aaron Naber, University of Nebraska
Garrett Parsons, Texas A&M University
Lacey Robinson, Kansas State University
Jeffrey Thayne, Texas A&M University
Garrett Wilkerson, Texas A&M University
Kelly McKeever, Texas A&M University
Allison Meyer, Michigan State University
Terri Specht, The Ohio State University
Matt Wolfe, Fort Hays State University
Vicki Wray, University of Nebraska
2005

Jesse Faber, University of Illinois       Jared Knock, South Dakota State University
Lauren Gaston, University of Arkansas    Josh Powell, Texas A & M University
Amanda Gipe, Kansas State University    Andrea Troyer, Oklahoma State University
Jeremy Huff, University of Arkansas     Jessika Uden, University of Nebraska
Jeff Jackson, Tarleton State University Brandon Zahn, Texas A & M University

2006

Blake Bloomberg, Texas A & M University Wravenna Phipps, Oklahoma State
Kyle Culp, Texas A & M University Zack Rambo, Texas A & M University
Christie Gabel, Kansas State University Kyle Schulte, Iowa State University
Justin Lain, Iowa State University Amber Usdrowski, University of Arkansas
Lance Leachman, Kansas State University Ben Williams, Kansas State University

2007

Amber Harris, Texas Tech University Amber Skinner, Oklahoma State University
Elizabeth Homerosky, The Ohio State University Jackelyn Snyder, University of Nebraska
Nathan Ray, Texas A & M University Matthew Stoltz, Texas Tech University
Jenna Schmidt, North Dakota State University Landi Woolley, Texas Tech University
Scott Shelby, Texas A & M University Sarah Wells, The Ohio State University
2008

Cassie Bacon, Oklahoma State University  Valarie Ujazdowski, University of Minnesota
Bryan Bernhard, Texas Tech University  Cody Sloan, Texas A & M University
Dustin Burke, Texas A & M University  Erin Way, Oklahoma State University
Anna Daniel, University of Georgia  Randa Yezak, Texas A & M University
Gwen Powers, Texas A & M University  Jason Zwilling, Texas A & M University

Honorable Mention

Hyatt Frobose, Kansas State University  Julie Neuschwander, Oregon State
Judd Gardner, Texas Tech University  Chance Williams, Texas Tech University
Shantile Kruse, University of Nebraska

2009

Jay Behrens, Texas A & M University  Christopher Perry, University of Missouri
Aaron Jennings, Texas A & M University  Jeremy Sisco, Kansas State University
Alissa Johnson, South Dakota State University  Maria Stevens, Kansas State University
Trey Kellner, University of Nebraska  Lindsay Swick, Texas A & M University
Natalie Miller, The Ohio State University  Kylee Willard, Oklahoma State University

118
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<th>Year</th>
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| 2010 | Emily Arkfeld, University of Nebraska  
      | Andrew Kryzer, University of Minnesota  
      | Megan Bryant, Oklahoma State University  
      | Jamie May, North Dakota State University  
      | Caleb Crosswhite, Texas Tech University  
      | Josh McCann, Texas Tech University  
      | Jett Eder, Oklahoma State University  
      | Michael McCuster-Kinna, Oklahoma State University  
      | Meagan Igo, Texas Tech University  
      | Jara Settles, Kansas State University  
      | Garrett Knebel, Oklahoma State University |
| 2011 | Clay Burson, Texas Tech University  
      | Brady Ragland, Texas Tech University  
      | Clayton Gardner, Texas Tech University  
      | Katy Shircliff, The Ohio State University  
      | Lauren James, Kansas State University  
      | Ryan Smoes, Texas A & M University  
      | Kody Lucherk, Texas Tech University  
      | Stephanie Willis, Oklahoma State University  
      | Logan Protchett, Texas Tech University  
      | Loni Wooley, Texas Tech University |
| 2012 | Drew Cashman, Texas Tech University  
      | Cade Luckett, Texas Tech University  
      | Kassadi Click, Texas A & M University  
      | Morgan Meisenheimer, Oklahoma State University  
      | Katie Duysen, Oklahoma State University  
      | Analena Simmons, Kansas State University  
      | Lindsey Grimes, The Ohio State University  
      | Megan Webb, Texas A & M University  
      | Baylie Harsh, The Ohio State University  
      | Clay Zwilling, Oklahoma State University |
2013
Dan Crowder, Texas Tech University
Taylor Graham, Oklahoma State University
Brett Moriarty, Texas A & M University
Dalton Newell, Oklahoma State University
Justin Taubenheim, University of Nebraska

Curtis Doublet, Colorado State University
Emily Jackson, Texas Tech University
Morgan Neilson, Oklahoma State University
Kass Pfeiffer, Oklahoma State University
Corey Wilkins, Kansas State University

2014
Gary Agar, Oklahoma State University
Jake Bloomberg, Oklahoma State University
Brittany Blum, Texas Tech University
Austin Crissman, Texas Tech University
Garrett Foote, Texas Tech University

Kiah Gourley, Kansas State University
Brady Jensen, Kansas State University
Amber Shipe, Iowa State University
Lindsay Upperman, Kansas State University
Kelly Vierck, Oklahoma State University

2015
Bailey Core, Iowa State University
Elizabeth Heaton, Iowa State University
Morgan Marley, University of Arkansas
Miriam Martin, University of Missouri
Elizabeth Nixon, Oklahoma State University
Shelby Peterson, University of Illinois

Jessica Plunkard, Clemson University
Kyndal Reitzenstein, Oklahoma State University
Emma Vickland, Colorado State University
Matthew Walta, Oklahoma State University
Bailee Wright, West Texas A&M University
2016

Tanner Aherin, Kansas State University
Callie Akins, Oklahoma State University
Michael Cropp, Kansas State University
Blake Foraker, Kansas State University
Gabe Jennings, Texas Tech University
Joseph Limbach, Kansas State University

Chama Martin, Texas Tech University
Black Ochsner, University of Wyoming
Lauren Prill, Kansas State University
Logan Van Allen, Oklahoma State University
Shayne Wiese, Iowa State University

*Established in 2000.
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*Chicago Tribune*, Chicago, Illinois

February 10, 1901. “Trophy Won by Agriculture College.”

December 1, 1901. “Big Stock Show Gates are Open. Ten Teams in Contest.”

November 30, 1902. “Fat Stock Show Opens Its Gates. Agriculture College Students and Farmers’ Sons to Enter Judging Contest.”

December 2, 1902. “Experts Inspect Prize Live Stock”

December 3, 1906. “Stock Trophy to Canada.”


December 4, 1907. “Show Better Than School.”

November 27, 1908. “Rush in Stock for Big Show. Students vs. One Farmer. Boys from Many Colleges Have Lone Opponent in Contest.”

December 2, 1908. “College Farmers Take Lead. Iowans Win Two Contests. Individual and Team Prizes to Hawkeye Students.”

November 28, 1910. “Missourians Win at Stock Show.”

December 2, 1912. “Experts Inspect Prize Live Stock.”

December 3, 1917. “Girl Winner in Judging Cattle at Stock Show.”


November 22, 1925. “Enter Two Co-Ed’s in Stock Show Judging Events.”

December 18, 1936. “Robert Grafton, Noted Portrait Painter, is Dead.”

December 2, 1940. “Iowa State Team Wins 11th Title in Stock Judging.”


July 8, 1976. “Farm Leader’s Portraits Need Home.”


International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, Illinois


Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.


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