

UA Has Developed Some

Top Livestock Judges

E. B. Stanley

Livestock judging is an important part of the animal science students' training program. It is the most-used talent of the stockman. Every time an animal is bought or sold, judgment must be passed on its worth.

Livestock breeders have long relied upon the stock show judge to appraise their animals in competitive exhibition. The increasing popularity of the livestock show testifies to the stockman's great interest in improved animals, and his growing appreciation of their value.

Young Folks Are Show Folks

The recent record-breaking 12th annual Arizona National Livestock Show held in Phoenix marks a notable achievement in a state-wide livestock improvement program that had its inception in the former Tucson Livestock Show. Probably the most popular and most important feature of today's livestock show is the junior division. The 4H and FFA groups have taken full advantage of the opportunity afforded by the stock shows to enter their own animals in competitive exhibition, and also to participate in contest judging.

Mention can be made in this regard to the record of two former Arizona 4H Club members and College of Agriculture alumni whose pictures, taken at the 1936 Tucson Livestock Show, are shown here. Bob McKinney, son of C. L. McKinney (deceased), pioneer Arizona cattleman, is manager of the extensive Cushman ranching interests located in Arizona, Colorado and Canada. Walter (Bud) Thurber, son of H. B. Thurber, prominent cattle rancher at Sonoita, Ariz., is a partner-manager of the nationally known Bridwell Hereford Ranch, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Few men have had as great opportunity to be an inspiring, educative influence on young Arizonans headed for a ranching career as Professor Stanley of the Department of Animal Science. He has directed, encouraged and taught hundreds of aspiring stockmen since he first came to the University of Arizona staff in 1920.

Began 35 Years Ago

Livestock judging as a student activity was originated by the Agriculture Club in 1925. Believing in the value of training to be gained from the practice judging of agriculture products, and the benefits afforded in intercollegiate competition, this group sponsored and helped in defraying travel expenses of the team. In 1934 stock judging was given official status as a University student body activity.

It is essentially in the field trip category, enabling advanced students in Agriculture to observe practices in the state and elsewhere, complementing their regular academic training and giving them proficiency in the judging of livestock.

Girls Do Well, Too

Arizona judging teams in recent years have won national acclaim in successful competition with leading colleges and universities. Terri Heckleman Poer, woman member of an Arizona judging team, was second high individual of the 75 contestants with the highest score ever

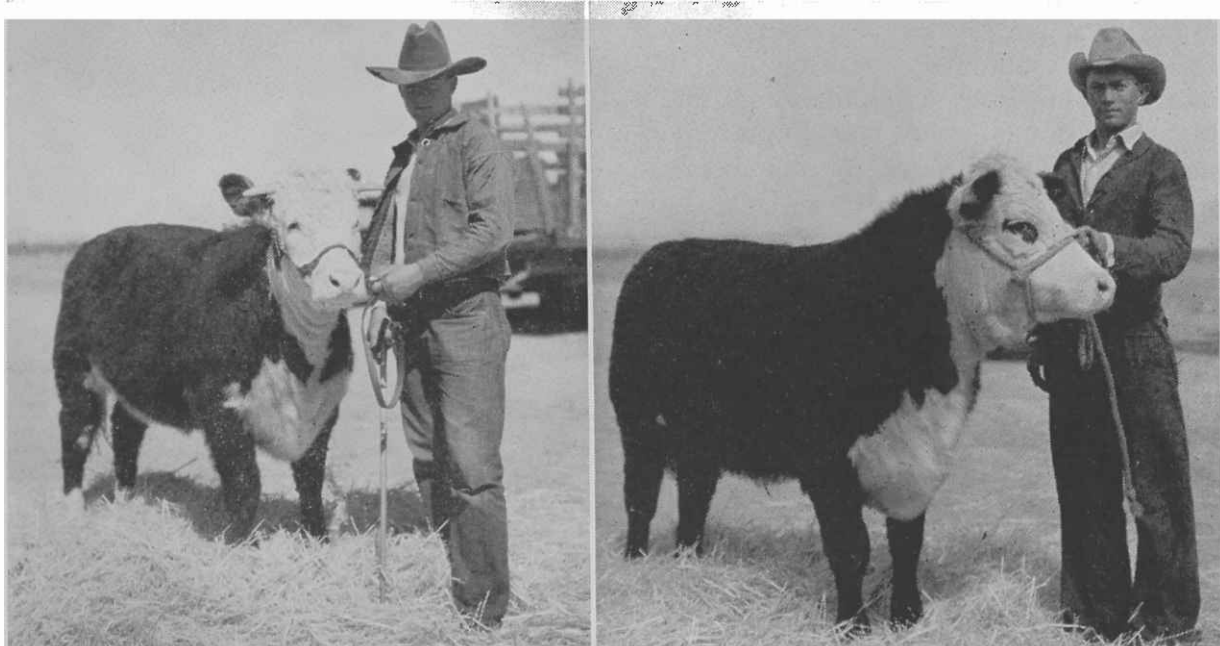
made by a woman, in the 1953 Fort Worth contest. This team was also awarded first place in swine judging at the Cow Palace in San Francisco.

In 1954, Arizona scored firsts in quarter horses at Fort Worth and Denver and in sheep at Denver. Signal honors were won in 1955, the UA team taking first in beef cattle and second for the entire contest at Denver; second in beef cattle and third in quarter horses at Fort Worth. The 1956 team won a first in beef cattle at the Grand National in San Francisco. Harold Mather and Joe Lane of the 1957 team took individual honors in judging quarter horses and Angus cattle, respectively, at Fort Worth. In 1958, Arizona won a first in beef cattle at the Golden Spike Show in Ogden, and in sheep at Fort Worth. In 1959, the UA team took first in quarter horses at Fort Worth.

Stockmen Have Helped

Much credit for the success of the university judging teams is due to the cooperation and help of many of the cattle and quarter horses breeders throughout the state. These stockmen have gone all out for the judging team activity by making their livestock available and spending much time in helping with the instruction of the teams. Several have contributed financial aid in the form of scholarships, to help meet travel expenses to the contests.

Until a more effective means of improving livestock is developed and proved, livestock judging will continue to be of foremost importance in the field of animal production.



TWO OUTSTANDING cattlemen, photographed at the time they got their start as University of Arizona student livestock judges, are Bud Thurber, left, and Bob McKinney, right.