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## AK-SAR-BEN BEEF SEMINAR III

Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben

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# AK-SAR-BEN BEEF SEMINAR III

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Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben  
Omaha, Nebraska



# AK-SAR-BEN BEEF SEMINAR III

General Office

December 15, 1977

Hosts:

KNIGHTS OF AK-SAR-BEN  
Bob Volk, Assistant General Manager  
63rd and Shirley Streets  
Omaha, Nebraska

Moderator:

Dr. Frank H. Baker  
Dean and Director  
Division of Agriculture  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, Oklahoma

PRODUCTION GROUP

Chairman

Dr. C. K. Allen  
American Polled Hereford Association  
4700 East 63rd Trafficway  
Kansas City, Missouri 64130

Secretary

Dr. Dwight F. Stephens, Visiting Professor  
Animal Science Department  
Marvel Baker Hall  
University of Nebraska  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68583

Mr. Chuck Schroeder, Partner  
Schroeder Cattle Co.  
Palisade, Nebraska 69040

Mr. Jack Maddux, President  
Nebraska Stockgrowers  
Wauneta, Nebraska 69045

Dr. Robert M. Koch  
Research Geneticist  
Meat Animal Reserach Center  
Clay Center, Nebraska 68933

Mr. W. Wayne Hendrickson  
Hendrickson Land & Cattle Co.  
Route #1, Box 91  
Kearney, Nebraska 68847

Mr. Sherman Berg  
Director of Communications  
American Shorthorn Association  
8288 Hascall Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68124

Mr. Herb Albers, Jr.  
Wisner  
Nebraska 68791

Mr. Dave Kirkpatrick  
Extension Livestock Specialist  
University of Tennessee  
Box 1071  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37901

MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION GROUP

Chairman

Mr. Jim Roberts  
Suite 1052 NBC Center  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Secretary

Mr. Carl Gardner, Head Cattle Buyer  
Great Plains Beef Co.  
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501

Mr. Tom Prinz  
West Point  
Nebraska 68788

Mr. Jim Wolf  
Wagonhammer Angus Ranch  
Box 548  
Albion, Nebraska 68620

Dr. David G. Topel, Professor  
Animal Science Department  
Iowa State University  
215 Meat Lab  
Ames, Iowa 50010

Dr. Michael L. May  
USDA - FSQS, Meat Quality Division  
Room 2643  
14th & Independence  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Mr. Artie Kulakofsky, Gen. Mgr.  
Ak-Sar-Ben Beef Co.  
3101 South 24th Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68108

Mr. Clarence A. Buscher, Jr.  
Exec. V.P. Procuring Cattle  
John Roth & Son  
5502 South 43rd Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68107

Dr. Mike Dikeman  
Associate Professor  
Kansas State University  
Weber Hall  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502

## EDUCATION GROUP

### Chairman

Mr. Harold Stevens  
Dawson County Extension Agent  
Box 757  
Lexington, Nebraska 68850

### Secretary

Dr. Joe Hughes  
Extension 4-H Livestock Specialist  
Oklahoma State University  
004 Animal Husbandry Bldg.  
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074

Dr. Irvin Omtvedt, Chairman  
Animal Science Department  
University of Nebraska  
203 Marvel Baker Hall  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68583

Mr. Gary Bishop  
American Hereford Association  
Director of Junior Activities  
715 Hereford Drive  
Kansas City, Missouri 64105

Mr. Lynn Benson  
Asst. State Leader, 4-H & Youth  
Area Extension Office  
2 Northcrest Drive  
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501

Mr. Dean Hurlbut  
Director of Activities  
American Angus Association  
3201 Frederick Blvd.  
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501

Mr. J. D. Mankin  
Extension Livestock Specialist (Beef)  
Route #8, Box 210  
Caldwell, Idaho 83605

Mr. Dave Williams  
Extension Livestock Specialist  
University of Nebraska  
207 Marvel Baker Hall  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68583

Dr. Dwight Loveday  
Extension Meats Specialist  
308 Marvel Baker Hall  
University of Nebraska  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68583

## JUDGES GROUP

### Chairman

Dr. Miles McKee, Professor  
Animal Science Department  
Kansas State University  
Weber Hall  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502

### Secretary

Mr. Doyle Wolverton  
Extension Livestock Production Specialist  
Area Extension Office  
2 Northcrest Drive  
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501

Dr. Bill Able, Associate Professor  
Kansas State University  
Weber Hall  
Manhattan, Kansas 66506

Dr. Roger Hunsley  
Animal Science Department  
Purdue University  
Lafayette, Indiana 47907

Dr. Gary Minish  
Animal Science Department  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

Mr. R. B. (Dick) Warren  
212 Marvel Baker Hall  
University of Nebraska  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68583

Mr. Tony Cocanougher  
Head Cattle Buyer  
Armour & Co.  
403 Livestock Exchange Building  
Omaha, Nebraska 68107

Mr. Gary Hullinger  
Stromsburg  
Nebraska 68666

### OBJECTIVES OF AK-SAR-BEN BEEF SEMINAR III:

1. Increase communications in the beef industry.
2. Review show guidelines as established at the 1972 Ak-Sar-Ben Beef Seminar.
3. Review specifications of slaughter cattle in relation to producers' opportunities and consumers' needs.
4. Relate these objectives to the purposes and standards of market beef shows and suggest guidelines for achieving these goals at future shows.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#### Production Group:

1. Use of performance information, rate of gain, goals and length of feed period.
2. In order to establish a goal or guidelines for youth steer shows, what is the ideal or realistic steer in terms of quality grade and yield grade?
3. Should weight-per-day-of-age information be used in breeding beef heifer shows?
4. Should we establish awards and incentives for the performance and growth rate phase of the show?
5. Should we have more straight-bred steers in the show? If so, can we create special incentives to attract more straight-bred steers?
6. Should crossbred steers be divided into groups based upon the predominate breed by which they are entered? If so, should we have special awards by these categories?

#### Judges Group:

1. In order to establish a goal or guidelines for youth steer shows, what is the ideal or realistic steer in terms of quality grade and yield grade?
2. Review concepts of combined live and carcass shows.
3. How to use performance information in steer shows.
4. Would incentives or awards for growth rate and performance independent of your use of these characteristics in the show ring judging improve the cattle offered to you to be judged in the ring?
5. Would the judging of the show be improved and simplified if crossbred animals were grouped into categories based upon the predominate breed by which they are entered?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Marketing and Distribution Group:

1. Review methods of merchandising 4-H beef cattle.
2. In view of present USDA quality grading system, are adjustments needed in establishing goals and incentives for carcass contests?
3. In order to establish a goal or guidelines for youth steer shows, what is the ideal or realistic steer in terms of quality grade and yield grade?
4. Re-evaluation of the cutability formula used at shows in regard to its application on today's new populations of cattle.
5. In the carcass contest, can we have two systems of awards to replace the present system of awards? (It appears that awards in the present system are made largely on the basis of cutability among those cattle that grade Choice or above.)
  - a. An award category on the basis of cutability without quality grade requirement.
  - b. An award category on the basis of current market value combining cutability, quality grade and market price of the carcasses for the week of the show.

### Education Group:

1. Are carcass contests doing the job?
2. Concepts of combined live and carcass evaluation.
3. In order to establish a goal or guidelines for youth steer shows, what is the ideal or realistic steer in terms of quality grade and yield grade?
4. Review incentive program for youth shows.
5. In regard to the carcass contest, can we examine a two-award system based upon one set of awards for cutability only without regard to quality grade and a second set of awards based upon market value combining cutability, quality and current market price?
6. In regard to ideal steers, should the industry be giving consideration to more than one ideal type steer based upon the wide variance in genetic materials available from the large number of breeds?
7. In regard to the incentive program, are the awards distributed in a way to accomplish the most important goals for the benefit of the young people and the benefit of improving the livestock industry and for the benefit of studying and using biological principles in food production?

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## MORNING SESSION

MR. VOLK: Gentlemen, it's past the advertised post time and here at Ak-Sar-Ben, we kind of run on post time mostly, during the summer however, but I would like to welcome you to Ak-Sar-Ben and thank you for taking time to look at youth and especially the youth shows of the Midlands. I would like to say that these seminars we had in 1970 and 1972 were so well received that we had inquiries from thirty-six states, two foreign countries and Canada, and that was very pleasing to us and to the participants.

The session will proceed this morning from nine to ten, and then we'll break down into four discussion groups of production, marketing and distribution, education and judges for about two hours. We will break for lunch and then come back into a general session with discussion of reports from each of the groups. We hope to have refreshments and dinner at five and a report following dinner on the summation and should be adjourned by 7:00 p.m.

The real reason you're here, of course, is to look over the steer shows. I want to give you some of my experiences from the one here at Ak-Sar-Ben. The Fiftieth Anniversary Exposition was really a good one. It was the largest ever. We had exhibits from seven states, one hundred seventy counties, twenty-five hundred exhibitors and forty-five hundred animals and everything worked fine. Everybody went home kind of smiling until we really hung up the beef carcasses from the Ak-Sar-Ben Show. We definitely found out that the quality was off. There were nine hundred and thirty-one head of market beef in the show that went to slaughter. It was a terminal show, and we found out that when we ended up, we had only twenty-seven percent of the nine hundred in the choice grade; only seven were high choice, thirty-two average choice and two hundred and nine, low choice. Besides the choice factor, the thing that most alarms you was that fifteen percent, one hundred and forty head, were standard. Below that, we had a load of bullocks, three percent. In the bullock grade, we had cattle selling from twenty-nine to thirty-three cents; the goods brought about thirty-seven on a forty-two dollar market; and that's about what they were worth, but it kind of gets in your hip pocket.

A heifer that's a dark cutting bullock doesn't bring very much. Frank Baker came in my office yesterday and wondered why I had that construction helmet in there, and I said I wore it after the stock show. I really wear it to look over some of the things on the Ak-Sar-Ben grounds. Nevertheless, that's what happened, and I think the other shows will probably be in the same predicament, especially those that are held earlier in the year, but we really don't know, because they are not terminal. They don't pay half their premium money on live and half on the carcass basis. Some of the things that contributed to it were educational programs on how to feed these cattle. I'm sure that today's population doesn't know enough about them. Over the years, have our judges been looking at too much length of body, leg and muscling, and I'm sure the questions that we have for you will stimulate that part of the discussion today.

There was one bright spot in the beef show. We had a catch-a-calf class in which Ak-Sar-Ben bought calves for about thirty entries. Actually, twenty-four got to the show ring. These cattle were of known background and were

given to known good cattle feeders. To get into the catch-a-calf contest the boy or girl had to feed a calf to the choice grade previously and must be fourteen years of age. These fourteen year olds fed these calves, and they were fed for rate of gain, because that was part of the contest. In the overall score, we found out that these twenty-four that came from the Wagonhammer Ranch and were genetically half Angus or more, graded sixty-six percent choice. Nine of the sixteen were yield grade one or two or better. Of the eight that were left, five of them were high good. So, I think there was some education involved. We had brought those 4-H'ers together, gave them an outline developed by Dave Williams that said with such a crossbred calf, you feed him one hundred eight days. There was a good lesson there in that those cattle performed quite well. I really don't expect all the cattle in our show to perform like they do in the feed lot, of course. They are pampered. They're led around. They're exposed to more things. We don't expect them to perform that well, but I'm sure they've got to do a little bit better than they did this year. Five years ago we had almost seventy-seven percent choice. I'm looking for some answers for the youth and for the stock shows in the Midlands.

I think the questions distributed to you and a review of the 1972 seminar will bring up the other things. I would like to present to you Frank Baker who is a master at summarizing discussions and moderator for this seminar. Frank?

DR. BAKER: Bob, thank you. It's nice to be back in Nebraska and back to Ak-Sar-Ben for this event.

After Bob called and talked with me about participation here, I cast about for something I could say in Bob's regard concerning the problem he was confronted with, and knowing that Joe Hughes and one or two others with some background in the South were going to be here, I came across this story. A man was threatening to take his own life, and he was perched on top of a high building in Atlanta. The fireman climbed up to the roof and started talking to him. He said, "Think of your poor mother and father." The man said, "I don't have any." "Well, think of your wife and children." He said, "I don't have any." "Think of your girlfriend, then." The response was, "I hate women." "All right, then, think of Robert E. Lee." The response was, "Who is Robert E. Lee?" The fireman answered, "Jump, you damn Yankee!" I'm not sure that our recommendation will be quite like that to you, Bob, but we will make some recommendations this afternoon.

In addition to the background information that Bob has given us, we want to touch base with the goals and objectives of youth programs with specific reference to the 4-H Club program, because we're dealing with the 4-H Club Show. So, we have asked Dr. Caldwell, the State 4-H Club Leader in Nebraska to come and outline the objectives of the 4-H program. Dr. Bill Caldwell.

DR. CALDWELL: Gentlemen, talking about the 4-H objectives in five or ten minutes is like trying to tell the whole story of genetics to a young boy. It's almost impossible, but we'll get on with that.

I'd like to relate a story about a bee. This bee was just delighted. He was a beautiful bee and he had just experienced one of the highlights of his life with his young lady friend, and he was just really in ecstasy-- and he lit on this flower, and all of a sudden along comes a big bull and the bull

eats the flower, bee and all, and this bee wakes up in the stomach of the bull and he begins to think about what a good time that he can have by staying in this bull. He just keeps thinking about how he's really just going to enjoy this because for the first time, he's going to be the biggest of the two, and so he continues to think about this. He meanders through the various stomachs of the bull, thinking about how good a time he's going to have and how much he's really going to enjoy this experience. All of a sudden he gets kind of cozy and kind of drowsy from crawling around through all those stomachs and he goes to sleep. In his sleep he begins dreaming, and he dreams about how much fun and active it's going to be because he's going to get to stay in this big bull and get the advantage of this situation. In the middle of his dream he wakes up and the bull is gone, and he's out in the pasture field. Now, procrastination and indecision sometimes result in experiences quite like that one that the bee had, and sometimes we behave that way. But I'm hoping not so in this case, because you've made the decision to face the problem. I have found many times that a problem can be solved if we decide to solve it prior to looking for the solution.

I'm proud to be a part of this group, and I want to thank Ak-Sar-Ben on behalf of 4-H for assembling this audience. I have high expectations of the group because of the leadership that each of you as an animal scientist, or a feeder, or a breeder can give to the solution of our problems. Many 4-H people look to the Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Livestock Show for leadership, creativity and innovation. In my estimation, this national beef seminar is a good example of that kind of leadership. We need your assistance in helping us to keep 4-H youth our child center. And you can do this. You can help us to begin helping youth not be exploited. We need to reduce the shrinking of steers and other questionable or unethical practices. You can help us in seeking a better, more desirable market animal. By helping to reduce being taken advantage of by the feeder who sells to the youngster and his parents at five to twenty times the current value of that animal. We've done a conservative estimate, and it runs in Nebraska in excess of one million dollars a year. You can help us by putting incentives on the goals of the project. You can help us by increasing the knowledge and understanding of the carcass data, for this is the future of many of our young participants. They have to understand that data. You can help us by articulating clearly what you, as a judge, are looking for and what the industry wants and to provide feedback to the youngster and his parents that is consistent with the goals of the project and what you, as a judge, are looking for. Gentlemen, youth learns by examples that you set in your behavior and not by what you say. What you select, what you reward, what you pin the grand champion ribbon on; you set the pace. You set the example and they follow. You cannot reward the poor, the undesirable and talk about what you would like to see. Keep your selection and reward system synonymous with the goal. Give them three to five years of consistent behavior, and they will produce the product.

I challenge you to vigorously tackle the real problems. We are seriously being challenged by the consumer, by the parents, by the market place and by 4-H members themselves and our professional staff. Ak-Sar-Ben is the most highly respected 4-H regional livestock show in the country because of its aggressive combination of coordinating the youngster and animal in a meaningful experience.

I've had the pleasure of helping interview the Queen candidates for the past two years. We've been told by more than one candidate every year they

come here because this show has the courage to "Keep out the jocks and let the kids do the job." Another way of saying by the youngsters themselves, "Keep youth oriented."

In your deliberations, I ask only that you ask a few questions. How will this be perceived by the youth? Is it best for him? Is it consistent? Do you have the kid leading the calf, or the calf dragging the youngster and his dad?

The list of objectives of 4-H, thirteen in number, is found in the official directional document which I am furnishing for each of today's discussion groups. Please refer to it constantly. This document was established and approved by the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy which we call ECOP and has been endorsed by Congress.

In short, the objectives are built around four life-skill areas. One, learning how to learn. To develop a spirit of inquiry leading to life-long learning. Two, relating to change. To cope physically, socially, psychologically with a changing environment, and we're going through that today. Three, using knowledge. To use acquired knowledge as a means of contributing to the advancement of man in society and four, developing self. To pursue potential by acquiring a set of secondary skills such as using time wisely, viewing themselves positively, expressing themselves culturally and communicatively, relating to others, expressing vocational preferences, assessing personal strengths and establishing and pursuing personal goals and every one of those developing self characteristics takes place in every livestock show in the country.

I would like to close with a poem written by a 4-H Leader.

There once was a boy won some ribbons of blue  
Come home from the fair with a big trophy too.  
With a voice glad and proud, he said to his dad,  
"'Tis the very best year that I've ever had."  
Said his very wise dad, "Son, I'd like to hear  
Why you think that this was such a fine year."

"Why, Dad, you know well all the prizes I've won,  
How, I've come out on top in most things I've done.  
Just look at the ribbons to hang on the wall  
And think of the money I've made since last fall.  
From a premium check and a big auction price  
You can't help but think catching ribbons is nice."

But the man said, "My son, you're not thinking right.  
Blue ribbons, it's true, are better than white.  
But ribbons will fade and trophies grow old.  
Money's soon spent and fame soon grows cold.  
The important things, son, are not ribbons or pins  
And sometimes it's really the loser that wins."

"Now here are some things that are most important, it's true  
Your 4-H experience has accomplished for you.  
You've been taught how a business meeting is run.  
This knowledge will help you in the years to come."

'You've conquered the fear of addressing a crowd  
You've learned how to stand up and talk nice and loud.  
Patience you've learned in your projects too.  
As well as skills that will always help you.

"You've the fine feeling it gives to lend  
A glad helping hand to a stranger or friend.  
You've learned to cooperate with majority rule  
To give in with grace and not be a fool  
Who must have his very own way  
Be it in Club work, in school, or in play.

'You've learned how to lose without making a beef.  
You know that the judge judges to his best belief.  
You've learned how to win without boasting too loud.  
A kid can lose friends if he's overly proud.  
These are the things most important to you.  
You'll remember them and use them all your life through.

"They'll help you become a very fine man.  
They'll do more for you than a prize ever can."

Gentlemen, I salute you in your deliberations. I wish you the best of wisdom. We really need your help. Thank you.

DR. BAKER: Bill, thank you. I think I might take a little bit of liberty here and try then to draw these goals of 4-H a little bit closer to what we term the livestock show which we're specifically here to discuss. I think as we look at this individual club member in the manner that Bill has been talking about, we ought to see well now what objectives we should have for these youth livestock or meat animal shows.

Over the years I've developed three major objectives that I identify for these shows:

1. Personal development of young people in integrity, goal setting, commitment to goal accomplishment and salesmanship of self and project animals.
2. Study and use of biological principles in animal behavior, care and management in normal animal growth and production processes and in the application of these principles in the use of animals for human food production.
3. Study of the animal industry through learning: roles and essentiality of the people in the industry, the standards of integrity and ethics of people in the industry, to work with people in the industry and how show and/or fairs serve as a communications vehicle and providing data for animal improvement.

There's a story that came from the World Food Conference that might illustrate the point, the role that we're in here today, better than anything else I could say. It seems that the custodian came into that great

building in Rome and was cleaning the blackboard from some of the things that had gone on, and he could read many of these words about feeding hungry people, and so on, on the blackboard. He erased it off and summarized it in three words, "You gotta wanta." That may not be good English, that may not be good spelling, but I think to do what Bob has outlined for us and to do what Bob has outlined as far as trying to emphasize the youth and shows, you gotta wanta.

You have a packet of data before you that tells about the cattle that are being used in the industry. Mike May has provided you some information concerning the current status of the general beef slaughter in the country.

Now, in addition to this you have before you some data which Dave Williams has assembled insofar as the beef crosses of cattle that have been used in this show over the period from 1973 to 1977.

AK-SAR-BEN DATA

	ANGUS	HEREFORD	SHORTHORN	ANGUS X	HEREFORD X	SHORTHORN X	CHAROLAIS	LIMOUSIN	MAINE ANJOU	SIMMENTAL	CHIANINA	RED ANGUS	GELBVIEWH	BROWN SWISS	UNKNOWN	OTHERS
1973	109	170	42	378	225	63	301	150	17	97	0	6	0	3	35	14
1974	60	114	37	369	247	52	245	131	40	159	48	0	5	4	14	12
1975	57	100	23	327	269	42	213	164	63	203	47	29	5	4	60	25
1976	52	65	26	381	328	39	187	162	106	332	43	25	8	8	63	44
1977	17	13	3	348	268	42	151	142	92	312	32	0	11	7	168	20

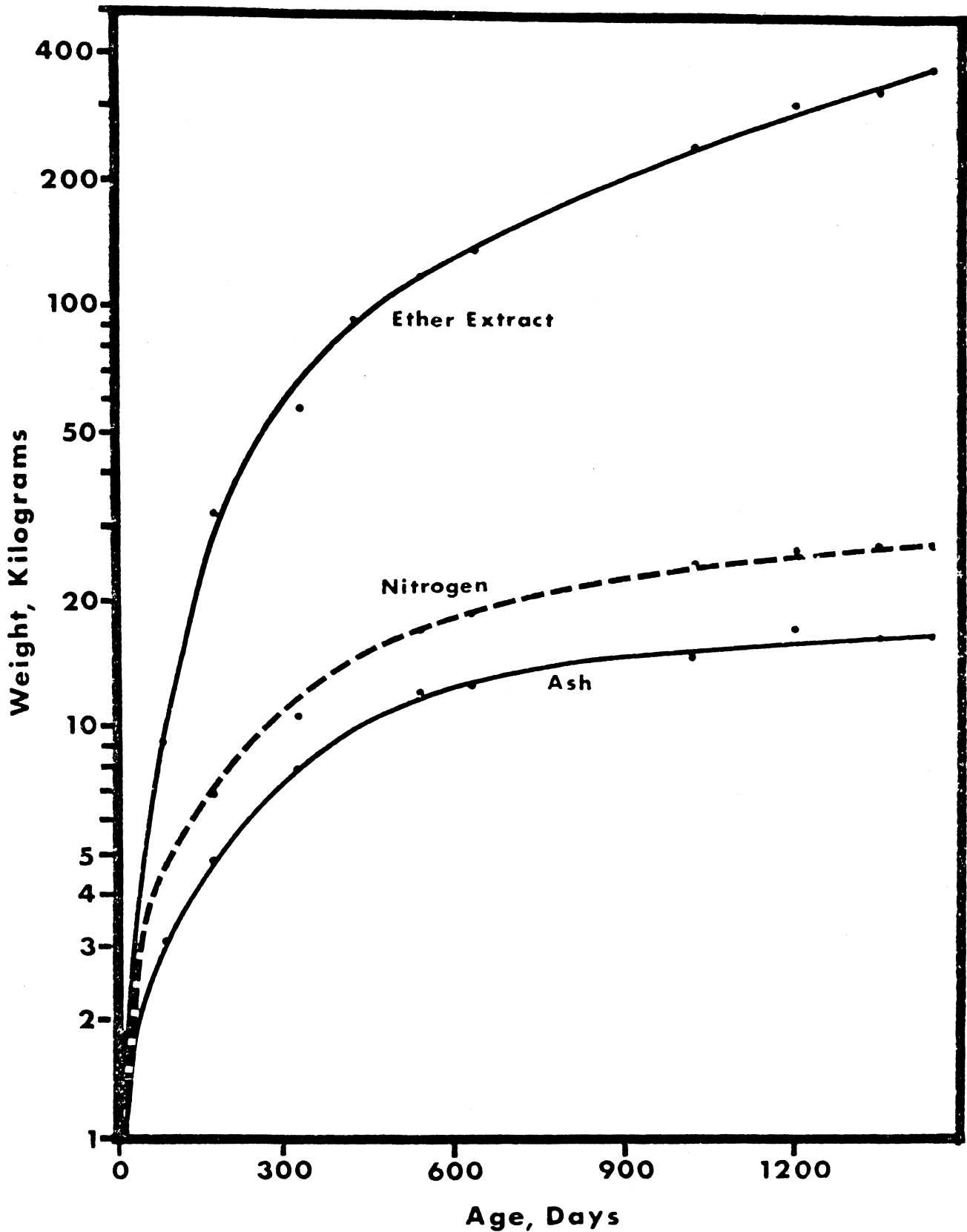


Figure 6. Relative growth curves of ether extract, nitrogen and ash in the bovine carcass. (Data from Moulton et al., 1922b. Calculations made by Zinn, 1967.)

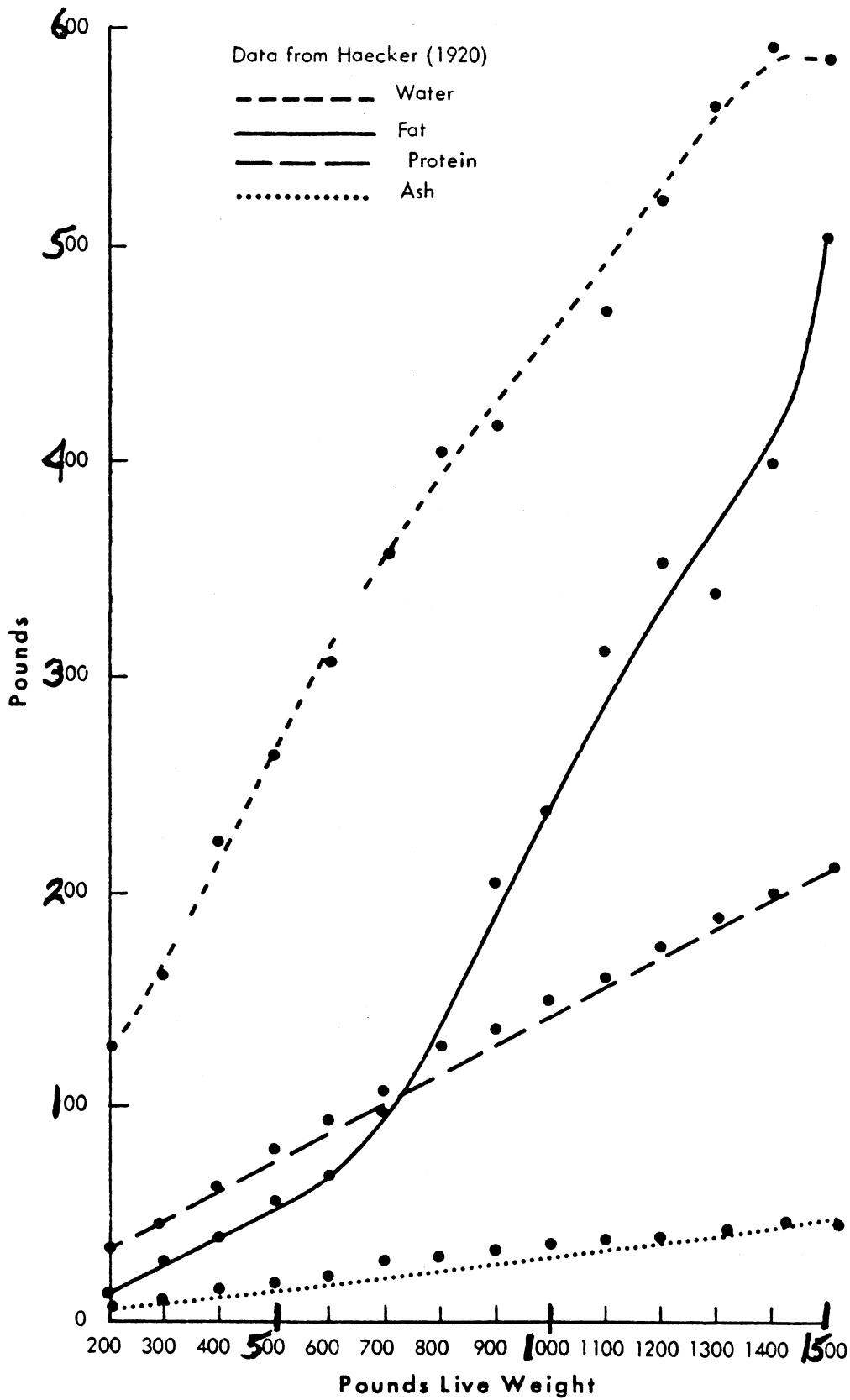


Figure 8. Amount of water, fat, protein and ash stored in the body of the bovine at various live weights.



CHARACTERISTICS OF BULLS EXHIBITED AT NATIONAL POLLED HEREFORD SHOWS

(Courtesy of American Polled Hereford Association)

<u>Class</u>		Houston 2-69	Atlanta 12-69	Denver 1-71	Jackson 2-72	Fort Worth 1-73	Denver 1-74	Louisville 11-74	Kansas City 11-75	Jackson 2-77
Spring	Fat*	.30	--	.25	.18	.20	.17	.17	.13	.15
	WDA**	2.59	--	2.66	2.62	2.66	2.80	2.82	2.85	2.79
Junior	Fat	.38	.34	.25	.20	.24	.20	.18	.15	.18
	WDA	2.49	2.57	2.47	2.41	2.54	2.59	2.77	2.71	2.68
Winter	Fat	.44	.36	.29	.21	.32	.27	.18	.19	.21
	WDA	2.51	2.54	2.35	2.48	2.51	2.40	2.60	2.56	2.60
Senior	Fat	.54	.42	.37	.30	.31	.23	.18	.20	.20
	WDA	2.47	2.40	2.31	2.46	2.40	2.49	2.69	2.63	2.54
Late Summer	Fat	.60	.46	.35	.33	.32	.35	.22	.25	.26
	WDA	2.31	2.36	2.34	2.38	2.31	2.49	2.52	2.59	2.46
Early Summer	Fat	.59	.53	.46	.44	.34	.35	.24	.26	.35
	WDA	2.30	2.29	2.32	2.40	2.27	2.42	2.48	2.53	2.47
Late Junior	Fat	.66	.60	.49	.49	.48	.34	.24	.25	.26
	WDA	2.11	2.25	2.19	2.15	2.26	2.42	2.46	2.44	2.38
Early Junior	Fat	.85	.70	.53	.52	.36	.34	.27	.31	.33
	WDA	2.10	2.19	2.13	2.26	2.07	2.24	2.33	2.43	2.36
Senior Yearling	Fat	.99	.73	.68	.43	.46	.50	.26	.30	.38
	WDA	2.01	2.07	1.93	1.93	2.08	2.12	2.08	2.18	2.19
2-Year-Old	Fat	1.08	.84	.69	.66	.72	.55	.33	.41	.40
	WDA	1.92	1.96	1.88	1.86	1.90	1.94	1.98	2.05	2.02
Average of all Classes	Fat	.64	.55	.44	.38	.38	.33	.23	.25	.27
	WDA	2.28	2.29	2.26	2.30	2.30	2.39	2.47	2.50	2.45

\*Scanogram measurement in inches

\*\*Weight per day of age

Data from one feedlot of A.H.A. carcass feedlot program, courtesy of American Hereford Association.

YEAR	HEAD	AV. AGE	HEAD	AV. WT.	HEAD	AV. WPD	HEAD	AV. MARB
1970								
1971	157	484	157	1050	157	2.19	157	5.59
1972	158	504	158	1102	158	2.20	158	5.18
1973	199	513	199	1079	199	2.12	199	5.22
1974	123	489	123	1082	123	2.24	123	5.15
1975	156	453	156	1077	156	2.39	156	5.34
1976	492	450	492	1057	492	2.36	492	5.06
1977	420	461	420	1069	420	2.34	420	5.34

My quick calculations indicated in 1973 we had sixty-one percent of English breed crosses, and in 1977, we had forty-three percent of English breed crosses in the Ak-Sar-Ben Show. This data is background for Bob Koch's presentation about the breed crosses and the characteristics of these individual breed crosses. In your discussion groups, it might be helpful to have some data presented to the Reciprocal Meats Conference that was held in Lincoln in 1967 by Dr. Harold Hedrick of the University of Missouri concerning how the various constituents of the body cattle changes as the animals increase in weight and in the relative growth.

In addition to that, you have some data that the American Polled Hereford Association was kind enough to provide for us. This is a table of data which indicates to you that the bulls that have been shown in the National Polled Hereford Show have changed in their characteristics with regard to fatness and weight per day of age. If you'll look at the bottom line you see the average of all those classes in 1969 had sixty-four hundredths of an inch of fat and twenty-two and twenty-eight hundredths weight per day of age.

Notice the current year in the lower right-hand corner that the weight per day average has gone up and the fatness has gone down. The cattle are bigger, but they're less fat. We see that in some of the Ak-Sar-Ben data, too.

Some data was also received from the American Hereford Association from one feedlot in their "Carcass and Feedlot Program," and there's one column in there I want you to look at. They slaughtered the cattle as near to a thousand fifty pounds as possible or to the nearest point above. Look down that column that says "Average Age" related to years. Compare 1971-72-73 with 1975-76-77. The cattle are at least thirty days younger when they are being slaughtered.

Dr. Bob Koch and I enjoyed many years of experience here at the University of Nebraska, and we're happy to bring him to the podium to present the data concerning the characteristics of animals of various breed crosses similar to those that have been exhibited here in the Ak-Sar-Ben Show.

DR. KOCH: Thank you, Frank. There is a lot of information to cover. I think my watch gives me five more minutes than yours. I'll use mine.

Well, I was asked to try to share with you the results from our research work. We will try to lead you through some of the conclusions we have. I would like to see you focus more of your attention on what seemed to be the biological principles underlying the changes we see relative to size, fatness, grade, rather than specific breed differences because we might miss part of the message if we just focus on the breeds themselves.

I will try to explain a little bit and just show you very briefly what was involved breeding sires of various breeds to Hereford and Angus cows over several years. We've tried to use quite a large number of sires so that they will give you a reasonable expectation of the breed differences as they represent given types. We're not going to try to focus too much on the experiment or philosophy of it.

I will characterize breeding groups for three situations: (1) how breed groups vary with respect to size and composition; (2) how breed groups vary with respect to percentage of high- vs. low-priced cuts; and (3) how breed groups compare with respect to carcass quality and eating characteristics.

Data presented here came from the Cattle Germ Plasm Evaluation Program being conducted at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, Clay Center, Nebraska. Carcass and taste panel evaluation was carried out under the supervision of workers from Kansas State University. In this program, sires from a large number of breeds were bred to Hereford and Angus cows. The average performance over both dam breeds is reported here. Some sire breeds were used in different sets of years, but Hereford and Angus sires were used in all years to serve as a control group. Therefore, breed group performance was derived by expressing it relative to average performance of Hereford and Angus crossbreds over all years.

Size and composition as evaluated by carcass weight and percentage of retail product, fat trim and bone is given in table 1. Retail product is lean with fat trimmed to about .3 inch of outside fat and with bone removed. Breed groups were characterized for two classifications: (1) at equal age (460 days) and (2) at equal marbling (small). Equal age comparisons provide a measure of differential growth rate and are related to mature size. Equal marbling provides breed group contrasts at the same quality grade. Large breeds and crosses must be about 200 pounds heavier to reach the same quality grade. Data in table 1 suggest a great deal of genetic variation in growth rate. Research within breeds also indicates substantial genetic variation in growth rate. At equal ages, breed groups differed in carcass weight by as much as 17% and also varied greatly in composition of carcasses. Retail product is worth over \$1.00 per pound which translates to a gross difference in average carcass value of \$100-\$125 between breed groups. Carcass weight varied more widely between breed groups at equal marbling than at equal age, but differences in composition were reduced because total fat trim and marbling are closely related. There was a strong tendency for rapid growing breed groups to have less fat trim and more retail product and bone which required these breed groups to be carried to heavier weights to attain equal marbling.

TABLE 1. CARCASS WEIGHT AND COMPOSITION  
AT EQUAL AGE OR EQUAL MARBLING

Breed Crosses	Carcass wt.		Retail prod.		Fat trim		Bone	
	Age	Marb	Age	Marb	Age	Marb	Age	Marb
	1b	1b	%	%	%	%	%	%
Jersey X	567	538	65.7	67.2	22.0	20.3	12.4	12.6
Red Poll X	589	551	66.4	67.7	21.2	19.4	12.5	12.8
Hereford-Angus X	609	570	66.3	67.4	21.8	20.3	12.0	12.3
Limousin X	623	692	72.6	69.9	15.3	18.5	12.5	11.6
South Devon X	627	619	67.8	68.4	20.0	19.2	12.3	12.3
Simmental X	644	685	71.1	70.0	15.9	17.2	13.4	12.8
Brown Swiss X	652	649	69.0	68.9	17.7	17.9	13.3	13.2
Gelbvieh X	658	672	70.1	68.7	17.0	18.7	12.9	12.7
Chianina X	662	690	73.0	71.4	12.6	15.0	14.0	13.6
Charolais X	662	690	72.1	71.2	15.3	16.2	13.0	12.6
Maine-Anjou X	671	683	70.1	69.6	16.4	17.2	13.3	13.2

Let's look next at opportunities to increase the percentage of high-prices cuts in the carcass. For many years when we talked of ideal beef type, we stressed "the animal should be thickly and evenly fleshed with superior development in the regions of the high-priced cuts." Percentage of the total retail product, or bone, or fat trim that is found in each

wholesale cut is shown on table 2. Similarities of breed groups in percentage of retail product in each cut were more striking than the differences. The largest differences were in the round, but with the exception of Jersey crosses, these differences were very small. If we compare the sum of the round, loin and rib we find Jersey crosses had 49.5%, Hereford-Angus crosses 49.9%, and Limousin or Charolais crosses 51% of their retail product in these high-priced cuts. If we compare total roast and steak meat from the four major cuts, differences are even less. Distribution of bone was also similar between breed groups, but differences in fat trim did vary significantly. The most striking breed group differences were in kidney fat and external fat trim from the four major cuts. Hereford-Angus crosses had distinctly less of their total fat in the kidney knob and more in external fat than other breed groups.

I was quite surprised that the distribution of muscling was so similar so I have checked and rechecked the figures. I shouldn't have been surprised because work from Australia and Canada pointed out the similarities some years ago (Berg and Butterfield). I am now ready to accept the fact that there is little difference in distribution of muscle.

TABLE 2. PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RETAIL PRODUCT (RP) OR BONE (B) OR FAT TRIM (FT) IN EACH WHOLESALE CUT

Item	Breed groups <sup>a</sup>						Mean
	HAX	JX	SDX	LX	CX	SX	
Round							
RP	25.8	24.7	25.7	26.6	26.5	26.4	26.0
B	29.5	28.5	29.8	29.9	30.7	30.4	29.8
FT	9.7	7.6	8.2	6.9	8.0	7.7	8.3
Loin							
RP	14.8	15.1	15.1	15.1	15.1	15.0	15.0
B	11.8	12.5	11.9	11.9	11.5	11.9	11.9
FT	11.2	8.6	9.8	9.7	9.2	8.8	9.8
Rib							
RP	9.3	9.7	9.5	9.3	9.4	9.2	9.3
B	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.8
FT	7.3	6.2	7.1	6.7	6.5	6.2	6.8
Chuck							
RP	30.3	30.7	29.9	29.8	29.8	30.1	30.1
B	31.1	31.1	30.7	31.0	30.7	30.6	30.9
FT	15.0	13.5	13.8	10.9	11.5	12.4	13.2
Minor cuts <sup>b</sup>							
RP	19.8	19.8	19.9	19.2	19.2	19.4	19.5
B	22.7	23.2	22.8	22.4	22.4	22.6	22.7
FT	41.1	39.0	40.0	41.1	40.9	41.1	40.6
Kidney fat	15.7	25.1	21.2	24.6	24.0	23.8	21.3
External fat trim <sup>c</sup>	16.5	9.8	13.3	12.5	11.3	11.5	13.0
Roasts and steaks <sup>c</sup>	51.6	52.0	51.2	51.1	51.2	51.2	51.4

<sup>a</sup>H = Hereford, A = Angus, J = Jersey, SD = South Devon, L = Limousin, C = Charolais, S = Simmental, X - average of crosses with Hereford and Angus cows.

<sup>b</sup>Minor cuts = flank, plate, brisket, shank.

<sup>c</sup>External fat trim and roasts and steaks are from the round, loin, rib and chuck.

We have considered amount and composition of carcasses and distribution of meat in the high-priced cuts, now what about carcass quality and eating characteristics? Marbling is the primary determinant of carcass quality grade. As shown in table 3, at equal age breed groups differed significantly in average marbling scores and in percentage of carcasses that have enough marbling to reach Choice grade or better. Breed groups which had the highest marbling scores tended to have higher fat trim percentages. These data and research on animals within breed groups show the genetic relationship between marbling and total fat trim is high. Therefore, there is only limited opportunity to increase carcass grade without increasing total fat.

TABLE 3. MARBLING AND TASTE PANEL SCORES<sup>a</sup>

Breed crosses	Marbling	% Choice	Flavor	Juicy	Tender-ness	Accept-ability
Chianina X	8.3	22	7.4	7.2	7.0	7.1
Limousin X	9.0	35	7.5	7.3	7.0	7.1
Gelbvieh X	9.6	41	7.5	7.2	7.0	7.1
Simmental X	9.9	58	7.4	7.3	6.9	7.1
Maine-Anjou X	10.1	52	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.1
Charolais X	10.3	61	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.3
Brown Swiss X	10.4	59	7.5	7.2	7.3	7.2
South Davon X	11.3	74	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.4
Hereford-Angus X	11.3	70	7.4	7.3	7.4	7.3
Red Poll X	11.5	66	7.4	7.1	7.4	7.3
Jersey X	13.2	83	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.5

<sup>a</sup>Marbling: 5 = traces, 8 = slight, 11 = small, 14 = modest, 17 = moderate. TP scores: 2 = undesirable, 5 = acceptable, 7 = moderately desirable, 9 = extremely desirable.

Taste panel evaluation of rib samples from about 875 animals is summarized in table 3. To me, the most significant finding in the study was the generally high level of acceptance for meat that came from the same production system but differed in size, fatness and marbling. Cooking preparation was carefully controlled. Taste panel scores did tend to increase as marbling increased when comparisons were at the same age, but the change was slight. For instance, a three degree change in marbling, which is the entire range of the Choice grade, would only increase the taste panel tenderness score by .7 and would increase overall acceptability only .5. This, of course, raises the question of how much attention should we pay to marbling. It would seem we need additional measures of quality that relate to eating satisfaction.

Conclusions:

Results of these studies lead me to conclude that there is ample opportunity to change growth rate genetically either by direct selection or by choice of breeds in systematic crossbreeding. Also, there are great composition differences in terms of lean and fat that have a genetic base and can be selected for within any given end weight desired. However, the normal genetic tendency as growth rate or mature size increases is to increase leanness. If we select for increased growth rate or mature size, the weight at which animals will reach a given degree of marbling will also increase.

Studies on the distribution of retail product, bone and fat in the carcass indicate very little genetic variation in muscle and bone distribution. Change in the proportion of wholesale cuts in carcasses is more likely to result from differences in total amount and distribution of fat than from differences in muscle and bone.

There is limited genetic variation in marbling relative to total fat, but most of the differences in marbling were due to total fatness. The rather high degree of acceptance by taste panel evaluation and the low relationship of taste panel scores with marbling suggest the production system and cooking preparation will likely be the best way to improve eating satisfaction rather than through breeding. However, more research in this area is needed.

DR. BAKER: Let me ask Bob and Mike a question on here. We know plotting points --

DR. KOCH: Plotting what points?

DR. BAKER: Wherever the individual fell --

DR. KOCH: Yes, yes.

DR. BAKER: When we get down to the lower grading of the line, is there any difference in the scatter around the line? More variability in cutting of the line as compared with this end of the line?

DR. KOCH: I did try to look at that and to get clear to the end, there weren't that many out in either extreme. So, your answer, then, is not very reliable and in general, I guess you would say there is a trend for increased variability as you go up. I mean, this is the normal trend of percentage of a data -- that's an expectation not only of marbling, but of most biological traits, and we can examine that a little bit more. I don't know if we really have a good answer.

MR. KULAKOFSKY: Dr. Koch, you just said our problem is maybe there are things other than marbling, and we don't know about looking for the quality which is our problem, put the hard hat on Bob Volk when he introduced things today. I'm looking here at something, however, from Iowa State University, and I'm looking for input from you, sir, for maybe the production

feeders group and the marketing group later on where they say recent research by U.S.D.A. in Clay Center, Nebraska, indicates that less than ten percent of the differences in palatability of beef from typical market steers can be explained by the facts that are considered in the U.S.D.A. quality grades. Now, the factors being maturity and marbling and this positive statement attributed to one of our better educators in this business leads me to ask the question, what are the positive things, then, that would produce this statement that maybe we could work from?

DR. KOCH: Well, the ten percent that was accounted for, eight percent of that ten was from marbling. The two percent additional was from what other traits are there. The maturity indicators in lean and bone. They only account for a total of ten percent. That is, ninety percent of it is unexplained. We don't know. That's the problem. We can account for ten percent of the problem. Ninety percent we cannot account. I don't know. I sure wish we knew. Let Mike Dikeman speak to that, because he was one of the authors of that statement.

MR. KULAKOFSKY: Maybe this question will come right into it. You said some of the people here were very close to the results that are produced on this chart of carcass data. Who was the taste panel?

DR. KOCH: Mike Dikeman would you speak to that?

DR. DIKEMAN: Okay, as far as the taste panel was concerned, this consisted of people that were associated with meat science, graduate students, faculty, technicians. Over the past six or eight years, the sophistication of the taste panel procedures have changed and the taste panel procedures that we used in the beginning of this study, by, let's say, present standards, would be criticized somewhat because we really didn't have a trained panel. We really didn't have a consumer panel. By today's standards, you're not supposed to ask a trained -- a highly trained panel to make judgments on desirability. That's up to a consumer panel which is, I think, fifty to a hundred people involved. So, we were kind of middle of the road type of panel, experienced by not highly trained; yet we weren't a consumer panel, so that gives you a little background in terms of what the concepts were. A point that I would like to make kind of overall on some of this data, I think on your comment about a ten percent variation on palatability characteristics associated with marbling.

I think there's a couple of very common denominators in this particular population that's maybe not unique, you know, out in the industry. One is that these were fairly young. In the neighborhood of sixteen months average age, and the other is that they've had excellent nutrition all their lives. They were creek fed before they were weaned, put into the feed lot and then gradually changed over to a finishing ration, and some of these cattle, they graded high Standard, were just as young and had just as much nutrition behind them as those over there in Choice and Prime. It's probably just that some of these didn't have the genetic potential to marblè because



they had the background to do it, and I think there's more and more thinking and some evidence to indicate that nutritional background probably has as much to do with palatability as anything else, and you might have one animal that grades High Standard and one that grades Prime and with the same nutritional background, they're going to eat similarly, and so marbling isn't going to mean that much. If you look at marbling scattered across various kinds of nutritional backgrounds, that becomes another thing.

MR. KULAKOFSKY: Based on this control test and the taste panel that was used, those are the qualifications?

DR. DIKEMAN: Right.

DR. BAKER: Bob is going to summarize his conclusions from the data that you've looked at again and then we're going to break into discussion groups rather shortly, and we'll have about two hours in discussion groups.

DR. KOCH: Mostly the points were made. We won't dwell on much. There is ample opportunity to change growth rate either by selection or choice of breeds. There also is ample opportunity to change composition of our carcasses. The normal genetic tendencies that we see in this is that as growth rate increases, mature size is going to increase. You're going to get an increased leanness as you select in this direction and there may be some danger and over-emphasis, I'd think, on mature size that may have some other production related items that we may not want.

As we increase growth rate and mature size, we're going to increase the weight at which those carcasses are going to grade at a given point in marbling, grade choice, if you like to use that term. We found that there was very little genetic variation in the distribution of retail product or bone. Muscling tended to be the same on all breed types. The change in proportion of cuts, then, came from the fat. There was only limited amount of variation in marbling relative to total fat. Most marbling differences were due to total fat differences. We did find a rather high level of acceptability in these carcasses where they had all been raised under the same production system. The taste panel evaluation was low, in relation to the marbling that we saw. Marbling differences that we saw. I think this may suggest what Mike has already brought out, that the production system and the cooking methods might be the best way to answer your question to improve eating satisfaction rather than certainly trying to breed for it. Specification production might become more important in the future.

Thank you, Frank.

DR. BAKER: Bob, thank you. Now, it should be obvious to you why we provided you with the type data that we have in preparation for your discussion. Now, one set of data that we didn't say much about is the data which U.S.D.A has assembled concerning beef in general in the country, and Mike May, would you like to tell us a little bit about what's in the packet?

NOVEMBER '73 - OCTOBER '74

OVERALL SUMMARY OF BEEF CONSIST STUDY\*

<u>Yield Grade</u>	<u>Previous Quality Grade</u>	<u>New Quality Grade</u>
$\bar{x}$ = 3.4		
1 = 4.1%	Pr = 4.5%	Pr = 6.6%
2 = 25.7%	Ch = 54.1%	Ch = 68.0%
3 = 43.9%	G = 39.9%	G = 21.3%
4 = 20.5%	St = 1.4%	St = 3.9%
5 = 5.8%	Ut = < .05	Ut = .2%

\*Courtesy U.S.D.A.

Percentage Distribution by Grade of Carcass Beef Graded by USDA\*\*\*

Year	Prime	Choice	Good	Stand'd	Com'1	Utility	Cutter	Canner	Beef Graded as a % of Com'1 Prod.
-----Percent-----									
1956	5.7	57.1	26.4	2.2	3.6	4.3	0.6	0.1	49.6
1957	5.3	59.0	27.1	3.8	1.7	2.5	.5	.1	50.1
1958	3.6	62.0	28.7	2.9	1.1	1.2	.4	.1	49.6
1959	2.9	66.1	26.4	2.5	.8	1.1	.2	**	50.8
1960	2.8	66.1	25.1	2.8	.8	2.2	.2	**	49.1
1961	3.5	69.2	21.4	2.7	.6	2.0	.6	**	49.8
1962	3.3	69.4	21.9	2.6	.7	1.7	.4	**	49.6
-19- 1963	3.7	72.7	19.4	2.0	.5	1.5	.2	**	51.8
1964	4.4	71.8	17.5	2.0	.4	1.8	2.1	**	55.7
1965	5.9	73.6	15.5	1.8	.6	1.9	.7	**	58.1
1966	6.4	76.1	14.5	1.0	.4	1.2	.4	**	61.8
1967	7.2	76.8	13.8	.7	.3	1.0	.2	**	63.7
1968	6.8	77.8	13.1	.6	.3	1.3	.1	**	63.3
1969	6.8	77.6	12.9	.5	.3	1.7	.2	**	63.9
1970	6.8	79.6	11.8	.4	.2	1.1	.1	**	64.9
1971	6.1	80.1	12.2	.4	.1	1.0	.1	**	64.3
1972	5.9	80.7	12.4	.2	.1	.6	.1	**	61.1
1973	6.1	80.5	12.3	.2	.1	.7	.1	**	57.6
1974	6.3	79.4	11.6	.4	.3	1.9	.1	**	54.3
1975	5.1	77.3	12.9	.7	.4	3.1	.5	**	43.4
1976	10.1	80.6	5.7	.4	.6	2.2	.4	**	54.1
1977*	9.2	83.0	5.1	.3				**	
1978									
1979									

\*Data for January through August

\*\*0.05 percent or less

\*\*\*Courtesy USDA

Distribution By Grade of Carcass Beef\*

Graded by USDA

(Jan-Aug) 1977

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Million Pounds</u>	<u>% of Total<sup>1</sup> Graded</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Million Pounds</u>	<u>% of Total<sup>2</sup> Graded</u>
Prime	862	9.4	1	221	2.4
Choice	7,768	85.0	2	2,889	30.9
Good	478	5.2	3	5,363	57.3
Standard	<u>26</u>	less than 1	4	780	8.3
			5	<u>108</u>	less than 2
Total	9,134			9,361	

<sup>1</sup>Total = sum of the pounds from the 4 listed quality grades

<sup>2</sup>Total = sum of the pounds from the 5 yield grades

\*Courtesy USDA

We estimate that - 90-95% of fed beef production is offered for grading  
 - 70-80% of fed beef production is graded

We also estimate that from the fed beef production - we are grading  
 practically 100% of the cattle which qualify for the Prime and Choice  
 grade and possibly 15% of the cattle qualifying for the Good grade.

Average Dressed Wt. of Steers and Heifers\*\*

<u>Year</u>	<u>Steers</u>	<u>Heifers</u>
1970	683.7	572.3
1971	676.6	566.5
1972	683.1	579.6
1973	689.0	587.4
1974	700.0	586.1
1975	673.2	556.3
1976	695.2	579.5

Volume of top 3 grades as a % of Est. Fed Beef Production

<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u> (2/23-12/18)
72%	74%	73%

Volume of top 2 grades as a % of Est. Fed Beef Production

<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976*</u>
63%	64%	67%

\*for 8 months of 1976

\*\*Courtesy of USDA

Nonfed Steer and Heifer Slaughter\*\*

	<u>Est. Comm'l Steer &amp; Heifer Slaughter</u>	<u>Est. U.S. Fed Cattle Marketings</u>	<u>Est. Nonfed Steer &amp; Heifer Slaughter</u>	<u>Nonfed As % of Comm'l Slaughter</u>
	-----Million Head-----			Percent
1970	28.3	25.9	2.4	8
1971	28.5	26.3	2.2	8
1972	29.2	28.0	1.2	4
1973	26.7	26.4	.3	1.1
1974	28.4	24.4	4.0	14
1975*	28.2	21.7	6.5	23
1976*	30.0	25.5	4.5	15

\*Projected

- 
- large % of nonfed cattle in '75 due to high feed prices
  - large supply of cows were liquidated prior to grade change
  - grade change came after cow liquidation

\*\*Courtesy USDA

DR. MAY: I don't believe that the packet you're holding needs much explanation other than a little bit about what these percentages are calculated on. The first sheet that you have in your handouts, and I would make it clear that we have a little more complete summary of this data that will be with each group, has several more pages to it.

The first page, this was a study done by the department in 1973 and 1974 to try to determine what the actual concept of meat production was, and as it turned out, this had been planned for quite some time in advance, and I don't believe that they could have run this study at a worse time than it was. At the time that this study began in '73, fed steers and heifers accounted for about seventy-five percent of slaughter and when this study ended in '74, they accounted for about fifty-six percent of the commercial slaughter. This is due to quite unusual periods of increased supply of cattle. At one time, higher grain costs. Therefore, the figures that you have here are not as good as we would like to have. They do not necessarily reflect a concept of cattle at other points in time, just at this particular point in time. It would be a very worthwhile study if something of this type would be carried on continuously so we would have a better feel of what fed beef production is; how it grades. This table shows you what the quality grades of cattle were. At the time they were graded by the old quality grade standards. Also, you have what these cattle would grade under the system that we are using at this point in time. You have another set of data on the next page showing how cattle graded have been categorized over a period of a year.

Dr. Baker asked me to put together the same information for you as presented in the seminars for 1970 and 1972 by U.S.D.A. and at this point in time, all of the data that we reported then, except a table of this kind, has been discontinued by the livestock and meat statistics report that was put out by the S.R.S. and E.R.S. So, no other data were available, but I did put one together on the breakdown of the grades, quality and yield grade and the total production for the first part of 1977. The other information covers the slaughter weights of cattle and the amount of non-fed beef slaughter in recent years.

DR. BAKER: Okay, Mike. They say that Lyndon Johnson used to say in government, let's sit down and reason together. Somebody once asked him, he said, "Lyndon, what are you going to do if we don't sit down and reason together?" He said, "We'll beat the hell out of you." So, we're going to get down now, at this point in hand and sit down and reason together about the 4-H exhibits and the Ak-Sar-Ben Livestock Show.

Bob, do you have some instructions for us concerning the locations as to where the discussion groups will go?

MR. VOLK: The Education Group goes right in this conference room. Marketing and Distribution goes downstairs in the general office conference room. The Judges Group is downstairs in the racing office. Production Group is downstairs in the center room, right below, one level.

DR. BAKER: Two or three things become extremely important as far as what we accomplish here today. This afternoon's session will be a round table discussion of this group so the things that you have on your mind now which you will discuss in your groups will be discussed in this group. Our general procedure is that we'll come back in here after lunch and we'll take thirty to forty-five minutes on a report from each discussion group.

Now, frankly, we don't care whether the chairman or the secretary presents that report from the discussion group, but we do want it presented and then we will give the whole group a shot at that particular report; recommendations you come forward with from your group. Now, just because you recommended it in your group, there's no sign that we're going to buy it. We're going to try again all the discussions and then we have a summation committee and you'll notice there is an attitude adjustment hour starting at five o'clock, Bob?

MR. VOLK: Yes.

DR. BAKER: Or as soon as we're ready for it, anyway, and we're going to send most of you to have your attitudes adjusted and there is a summation committee composed of Chuck Schroeder, Jim Roberts, Miles McKee, Irv Omtvedt and myself that's going to work and try to synthesize what we believe you have agreed on this afternoon. After you've had your attitudes adjusted and had dinner, we're going to read it back to you and see if we can get you to agree on that point and that's the general format for this afternoon.

Now, Bob, I believe our lunch will be catered at a time so we can take two hours of discussion in each group, can we not?

MR. VOLK: Right. We have the secretaries over in the Turf Room to take it down.

DR. BAKER: Okay. When you finish, we have secretaries available in the Turf Room for you to dictate your report to the secretary or give your report to the secretary so they can type them up this afternoon for your use after lunch. So, they will type those up for you during the lunch hour. Any questions here now, on procedures?

MR. KULAKOFSKY: Our thinking in these groups, as I understand what you have said, is to be for the total industry and not to self-serve any specific branch; is that correct?

DR. BAKER: Yes. We're going to work on things related to youth shows as they serve youth and as they serve the industry. Now, we added some additional questions to the list which Bob circulated and some of those questions were based upon preview data that you have now since seen. We had access to some of this data in advance of the discussion here today. So, we structured some additional questions yesterday afternoon and added to this, and we hope that you will address yourselves to some of those questions that are on the back of this page of questions there in your packet. The idea that there is some specificity in the questions that is not necessarily in some of the original questions that you dealt with.

Are there other questions here? All right, will the chairman of each group come by here and pick up additional material which Mike May referred to and we're in business and into our discussion groups.

(Everyone retired into his discussion group.)



## AFTERNOON SESSION

DR. BAKER: We have asked the Production Group to report first. I understand they had an election of some type to select the person to report and they've asked Chuck Schroeder to give their report.

MR. SCHROEDER: Well, as junior member of our committee, I fell victim to this dubious honor, and I certainly wouldn't attempt in this summary to express all of the feelings and ideas that came out of our committee, but we will address ourselves to the questions that were placed before us, and I will try to reflect at least the trends and goals we tried to set forth in this Production Committee.

### PRODUCTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Goal - Explore the possibility of making a more effective relationship between the show and the beef industry.

1. The 200-day feed period is adequate and rate of gain information is an important tool in the economic evaluation of the steer.
  - a. Wt./day of age would be worthwhile, but is not practical in terms of getting any honest information.
2. We determined that Choice grade is a worthwhile goal. Carcass cattle can be evaluated on the basis of net value per pound of retail product. We did not reach a conclusion on a minimum yield grade, the bulk of our discussion centering on the 2.5 - 3.0 range.
3. We were somewhat undecided on the question of W.D.A. on breeding females. We want to avoid over-conditioning in the female and would insist that fat thickness be included with weight information. Fertility is impossible to determine at this point and the factors to consider are frame and structural soundness.

### Additional Questions:

1. We feel that awards and incentives for the performance and growth rate phase should be continued.
  - a. We had considerable discussion about naming a combination champion involving live evaluation, performance and carcass merit.
  - b. We feel that live evaluation has been over-emphasized at Ak-Sar-Ben to the detriment of educating young people in the economic facts of life of the beef industry.
    - 1.) We would like to see an increased emphasis on the other phases of beef production, realizing the importance of experience in fitting and showing an animal to his best advantage.
    - 2.) We need to either get by with less glamour or re-focus the glamour on a different set of criteria.
- 2.-3. We wanted to explore the possibility of creating two divisions based on British and British crosses and Continental breeds allowing us to place emphasis within the different body types which can reflect production needs.

- a. Police with specified blood groups typical or traditional to the given breeds.

Summary: Young people need to be educated to the economic facts of life for the beef industry and be encouraged to perform within those parameters. The real goal is to produce Choice grade cattle that will make money throughout the production-marketing chain.

DR. BAKER: At this point now, we will examine points that this group has made. We'll question and discuss any part of their report. So, who has the first question or comment?

MR. WOLF: I would like to have him expound a little bit more on this dual show concept.

DR. ALLEN: Basically, what was discussed was the problem of evaluating all breeds for the same set of criteria, and it's kind of like if you select apples to be oranges for a long enough time, you could have a problem in your apple population. So, what we're thinking is maybe you could take your British breeds and British breed crosses in one classification and your continental breeds and continental breed crosses in another classification, and then you could come up with your overall champion. But, at least the thing that was mentioned about blood typing is the problem that enters on policing. The people who want to put continental crosses in a British class would be a problem. The only thing we came up with on that is, first of all, you need to screen, and second, write in a rule that the champion in either one of these classifications has to have certain blood groups, and you will blood type the champion and reserve champion. If the champion is excluded, the premium goes to the reserve champion. You're not saying that he's not that breed. You're only saying these will qualify.

MR. MANKIN: I would like to have a few remarks for the record on how they figured the two hundred days. I'm having some problem in our state with getting people to go a hundred and forty days, even, and I think this would help with a little leverage if they would enlarge on the two hundred days.

DR. BAKER: The two hundred day weigh-in is a historic thing here that was established at Ak-Sar-Ben in 1971. A weigh-in two hundred days previous to the show was established seven years ago at this particular event.

Anyone want to comment on the relative merit of the length of the period between weigh-in and the time of the show? A hundred and forty days versus two hundred?

MR. PRINZ: As far as the length of feeding, this is determined to meet the show at which you're going to exhibit. If you're going to Ak-Sar-Ben, you feed for that particular show and it's up to each individual how hard he feeds for that show. I don't know how you could put a day limit or amount of feed by day. It's the amount of corn that goes in that animal over a particular amount of time. It's not the number of days.

DR. BAKER: I think I'll make a comment in regard to this. We've looked at it from the point of view of reducing variation among cattle assembled from a lot of different sources in some of our performance evaluation programs. The longer the period, the less influence that environmental differences have

in the final weight of the animal, and I would assume that's one of the reasons that a two hundred day weigh-in previous to the show was selected as compared to a shorter period.

I think this length of period was selected in trying to have some reasonable assurance that these cattle would approach the Choice grade was involved in some of that thinking back seven or eight years ago.

Other questions or comments about the report?

MR. KULAKOFFSKY: Reference was made relating the retail price into an equation for determining value of the animal. I believe that this is so totally unrelated that it shouldn't even be considered at all. The spread between the so-to-speak farm retail value and that was brought out to us at the University in Lincoln at a meeting by Dr. Uvacek a couple of years ago.

DR. BAKER: Were you thinking of retail or wholesale?

DR. ALLEN: Retail product.

MR. SCHROEDER: That was the statement we used.

DR. BAKER: That refers back to Koch's data here --what was that term you used?

DR. KOCH: Retail volume returned. Retail product related to the price as affected by quality and total in value there within the carcass cutout, essentially trying to combine carcass cutout and quality aspects into a net figure. That was the intent of it. Because a pound of choice carcass that doesn't yield as much retail product shouldn't be as valuable as one that has a higher percentage retail yield.

MR. KULAKOFFSKY: Reference is made to that, isn't it? Just chuck, round, loin and rib like it's applied to the yield grade equation and like in your chart that you used over there. It would be the different cuts on it. There is a considerable percentage of the plate, shank and brisket on there and so really, if you keep a relationship with what the value of the animal is. My point, to a retail level it can't relate to it at all because there are too many variables in between in cost of operation of the retail level, as it doesn't have anything to do between the feeder and the slaughterer.

DR. BAKER: What would you recommend in terms of using to try to identify a dollar value? C. K. wants to speak to the point.

DR. ALLEN: I think what we were trying to say was misinterpreted. Now, basically, the point that we're making is that they take yield grade and quality -- and differences in quality grade as it's Choice and Good and incorporate it into one value. The way we talked about doing this was taking the carcass weight times the --correct me if I'm wrong -- times the cutability percentage times the carcass value and adjust it back on a per pound basis. Now, you could just take your cutability times your carcass value for Choice or for Good, whatever it is and this could be wholesale. It doesn't necessarily have to be retail. As a matter of fact, we were talking wholesale prices in order to get something that would put the proper perspective between the various quality and yield grades.

Now, in order to get a figure that doesn't just float, Bob suggested taking a running average.

DR. KOCH: We're using time as the basis because you get the fluctuation --

DR. BAKER: You're really talking about two things being combined in using a value that's pretty similar to the current value in the beef trades, Choice one or Choice two, or Good one, Good two, Good three?

DR. ALLEN: And if that value shifts over a six month period or however you run averages, your emphasis in the show would shift.

DR. BAKER: All right. Have we confused that even more?

DR. ALLEN: Probably. For instance, it's because of the shift in the industry to -- you have a lot of cheap feed, a lot of cattle are fed. All of a sudden there is not a lot of lean beef. There is more emphasis put on the two yield grades than there is right now. Right now, if you take the actual rate between two and three yield grades, it's not very large. I would expect that to increase so that in the future whatever the emphasis is or the difference is between two and three yield grade, whatever the difference is between the Choice and the Good grade would be the amount of emphasis you put on those different factors.

DR. BAKER: In the carcass contest?

DR. ALLEN: In the carcass contest.

DR. BAKER: At the present time the carcass contest says if it doesn't grade Choice, it's disqualified, and now you're saying something a little different than this. It does not necessarily have to grade Choice to be in the carcass contest. Is that correct?

DR. ALLEN: Not necessarily.

DR. BAKER: Just as the market takes every animal that comes to be sold at a price, you're saying that the assignment of value in the carcass contest could fit all animals.

DR. ALLEN: Right. It's going to take care of itself if the Choice cattle are worth more than the Good. Because if Choice cattle are worth more than Good like the kind of breaks we've got now, the Good cattle are not going to even come close. The Choice twos are going to be worth so much more than the Good twos, they wouldn't be considered. But if for some reason, Choice cattle are not worth more than Good, then the Good cattle gets the same emphasis.

DR. BAKER: Okay.

DR. McKEE: I would just like to ask the committee, if the livestock show is to be educational and we are to establish guidelines or ideas that we try and teach and work with young people, can we find ourselves in a condition where we fluctuate with current market conditions which supply and demand dictates, what happens?

MR. HENDRICKSON: I think, Miles, what we were thinking about in that area, you might, the weight as an example: Many of the crossbreds now look like maybe if they weighed another hundred pounds, they might grade. I think that would be one factor. Often times you can't tell that the steer weighing fourteen or fifteen hundred pounds. I think the judge probably would have said he's certainly not going to try to top this show with that steer.

As far as the other economic conditions on it, I don't think we thought that would be a problem. You know, unless we come into another grade change or something of that nature.

DR. BAKER: During the years of history at Ak-Sar-Ben, we've seen many changes in the market value of product and the relative emphasis that we've put on degree of fatness, degree of leanness. If we're trying to instruct young people in the real world, some way we need to plug those things in. I'm assuming that was a little bit what the committee was trying to say. Maybe the result was like Will Rogers said, "To get rid of the subs, drain the Atlantic Ocean."

Dave Topel, do you have something?

DR. TOPEL: The concept of incorporating carcass prices of different grades all sounds very appealing in a meeting such as this, but we have tried several times on a practical basis as much as ten years ago, and I can assure you, if you want to get something that is really confusing to everyone, that will do it. There are better ways of expressing the same concepts and so forth, than trying to put a dollar value on it for splitting champions. It's very confusing and very difficult to handle for people who have to select the carcass data. From that point to an educational standpoint, I think you should take serious consideration in not supporting that.

DR. BAKER: All right. What do you offer then, Dave?

DR. TOPEL: Well, if you use the traditional means of carcass evaluation such as cutability, you're really coming at the same point, and if you're going to get guidelines for a show and you want them to be Choice and you can agree on that, it's a lot better to cut it off there and let the Goods stop where they may be, even though they probably have some merit. But again, you're using the show as an educational tool and if you want the most Choice grade, that's a good way to do it, I think.

DR. ALLEN: How would you put the two factors, quality and quantity together in the manner that it would educate the youth to the fact that they both have an effect on the value on return of the industry? Especially, as yield grades are going to become more important.

DR. TOPEL: I shouldn't speak for our committee, but we'll have some guidelines on it. We'll put some minimal standards in.

MR. PRINZ: If I understood you right, you said you would de-emphasize the live show. How could you do this if you're going to have a show? How could you de-emphasize it? If you've got a live show, you've got a live show.

MR. SCHROEDER: That's right. Our answer to this was not particularly to de-emphasize the live show, but we felt that both monetarily and publicity-wise, maybe it should be focused on both the performance end of the show and the carcass evaluation, to get into a more practical approach to educating the kids to the facts of life --

MR. WARREN: I had a nice little deal here. Weight per day of age here and carcass emphasis, but your committee didn't give us any guidelines on how to get this weight per day of age. You indicated that certified feeder calves for production in that statement. You made no statement to tell us how you were going to get weight per day of age.

MR. SCHROEDER: Weight per day of age is worthwhile, but not practical in getting any honest information at a show; but weight gain information is reflected as growth.

DR. BAKER: For the period after the two hundred day weigh-in?

MR. WARREN: Oh, okay, from the rate of gain. Well, I think that's about as sorry as the other. You really believe in the rate of gain that strongly?

MR. SCHROEDER: Well, it looks to us like the only alternative to identify cattle that are on at least a positive nutrition and growth plan. How else?

DR. BAKER: The rule at this point at Ak-Sar-Ben calls for a supervised weigh-in, does it not? Two hundred days prior to the show?

MR. VOLK: To clarify that, Frank, last year was a March weigh-in. You just had to have them weighed in during March. Now, we're thinking of going prior to April 1, so it isn't quite two hundred days, but this is point of clarification.

DR. BAKER: But it is supervised weigh-in, and you have supervised weights at the show?

MR. WARREN: Yes, I know that and that's fine, but they indicated quite a bit of emphasis on that like through making awards. I looked at it as a hurdle, a plateau to get to and not for a ranking system. There can be so many things influencing that.

DR. BAKER: Okay. Hunsley?

DR. HUNSLEY: I think we're kind of working in an artificial kind of a situation. An artificial way of handling, feeding, caring for these cattle that I think the weight thing could be manipulated so much. It can vary so much in terms of how this is handled, and it's going to affect the figure that we use if we just look at a weight per day from weigh-in time to the show. We have so many artificial things, I don't really know whether that will work. Maybe it could be worked in in some manner, but I think we sure need to think about it as a show, rather than something to put into our equation. I want to throw out another question.

How are we going to have a British and British cross class and other breed class?

DR. BAKER: Let's hold this one just a second. We'll deal with the performance question. I think we'll dismiss it for the sake of continuity in discussion.

Mr. Wolverton, did you have a question in this area?

MR. WOLVERTON: Mine relates to the breeding, so go right ahead.

DR. BAKER: Now, is it a worthy objective to do something other than setting a plateau or minimum requirement for rate of gain? The committee said they recommended that we do something beyond setting it as a requirement. Some of you are saying you would prefer to hold it as a minimum rate. We would like to hear a little more discussion and try to declare some kind of consensus on it. Any other views on it?

MR. MADDUX: We didn't discuss this activity this morning, but I wondered about setting some specific criteria for weigh-ins having to do away with part of the variability you're talking about in terms of a standard. I'm not saying we don't have one now about take them off feed at seven in the morning, something like that. That would reduce the variability there, and is there any possibility of adjusting final weights to a constant yield? A sixty-two yield, something like that?

DR. BAKER: All right. This is still on performance. If any of the other committees have things relating to this specific performance requirement, let's get it out right now.

MR. PRINZ: I can't see how you can enforce weigh-ins all over the area and say put a stipulation that they've got to be off feed that particular morning or can't have feed the night before or can have feed. You can't enforce those kinds of rules. No way on earth you can enforce them.

DR. ALLEN: I think the primary thing the committee wanted to include when they discussed this topic was they realized that was a problem with different types of steers, different starting weights, conditions before they were weighed. All of this is at fault. The main reason that we went ahead with something was we thought that growth, or production or something along this line is so important in terms of the entry that it would have some merit as an educational point to be evaluated. So now, have we talked about such things and decided it was not feasible to get a weight per day of age to talk about feed efficiency and to have records brought in and evaluate records. The main reason we came up with this was it was probably the best measurement we had from existing means and procedures that could place some emphasis on performance or feed conversion or something along that line. Hopefully, that would be an educational experience.

DR. McKEE: The Judges Committee looked at the performance data, too. Our recommendation is going to be that we use, as we're presently using it without change, but I would also like to personally comment on this thing. When I think of steer shows, I think sometimes we try to work too many facets of the industry into one particular area. If it's going to be a real educational experience, and we want to teach a group of youth the importance of rate of gain, or weight per day of age, it is my opinion we should design the show where young people can buy cattle, put them on feed and market them when they're ready to go and check on rate of gain and weight per day of age and

have this as a separate contest. To incorporate performance into a live steer show when we don't have a known market date, I think, is going down the wrong road. We're trying to get something worked into the steer show that cannot succeed.

DR. BAKER: So, the judges are telling us that they see no way to put additional emphasis on performance data and the production group is saying if there is some way we can put additional emphasis on performance data, we should try to do so.

Is that what the consensus of this discussion is?

Okay. Now let's take this point in regard to the two divisions of the show. One for British breed, British bred crosses and the other one on continental breed and continental breed crosses.

DR. HUNSLEY: I see a little problem there as to how you're going to police that, whether you're going to go by sire -- you've got a lot of cross-bred bulls being used and you know, what is that calf, a continental, or is he a British? How are we going to police that? I can see us having all sorts of problems. I don't think there's a person in this room who would want to be on the screening committee to make decisions on the young people who may have bought a steer as something, and we call him something else.

DR. BAKER: Did I understand correctly that the committee recommended that we categorize certain blood groupings that would fall into one division and another blood grouping that would fall into another division, and for the top award in the division that they would have to be in the proper blood group. Is that correct?

DR. ALLEN: That if they would not set in that blood group -- if they didn't fit in that blood group, it would go to the next division.

DR. BAKER: Because the animal had been improperly entered.

DR. ALLEN: I think the committee tried to approach the problem and this was a recommended solution on it; whether that's the best one or not, I don't know. You know, it's obvious to anyone who has ever worked at anything, no matter what it is, that anything that has any value, requires you to put something in it. I think that if you look at the problem, the screening problem, you have to try to keep that as simple as possible and try to keep out of controversy as much as possible. Another problem you get into when you start selecting these British breed cattle, and other cattle by the same criteria, such as Angus and Charolais, by the same criteria you are saying they are supposed to be the same. That is just not correct. It will not work -- at least that is my opinion. Now, if you select them with some of their contemporaries within the same phase, that's a different story altogether. If you say that an Angus should be as long and tall and clean or whatever, as a Charolais, you are not recognizing they are two different types of cattle.

DR. BAKER: Let me ask a question now. Did some of the other committees address themselves to this question in regard to the possibility of dividing the show into groupings of this kind, or a similar consideration?



MR. STEVENS: Our Education Group discussed the same thing in regard to the British breeds, and I think when we finally concluded, and I believe they were unanimous on it, to have a British breed champion, an exotic breed champion and not have a grand champion between the two. The sixty-four dollar question is still, what about the Hereford-Angus crossbred? How do you identify that animal?

DR. BAKER: Now we have the benefit of what's going to come from the other committee now.

DR. MCKEE: Our committee just touched on it very briefly, and we talked about it and said that we were happy with the present system of weighing cattle and putting them into a classified weight group. We're going to judge them as market steers. A steer that is light weight is judged on his condition, his apparent growth rate, his usefulness to the industry and the same would be true with a heavier steer. So the argument that you're judging apples against oranges does not hold unless you consider a small orange as being different from a large.

DR. BAKER: They are different and Koch's data shows this. It takes between two and four hundred additional pounds on the one group of breeds to grade Choice, as compared to the other group of breeds. That's the table data that was shown here this morning.

DR. MCKEE: Yes, but that doesn't say we have a difference between a nine hundred and fifty pound steer and an eleven hundred and fifty pound heavier steer, and it takes two hundred pounds to get him there.

In other words, what we're saying is we have a finished market steer, and we judge him as a finished market steer and granted, there are differences in weight.

DR. BAKER: Other comments here in this area?

MR. STEVENS: In reference to this blood grouping thing, it was our feeling this could probably be as effective a way we could police this type of thing, but not to identify the parent, per se, but identify that the animal had to be within this group. We established blood groups for each one. They had to classify within those groups.

MR. BENSON: You know, you still have the problem with a lot of kids who can get an animal, you know, assuming it's one thing and it doesn't quite turn out that way.

MR. STEVENS: I think you already have some of these kinds of rules in the show, don't you?

MR. WILLIAMS: At the Nebraska State Fair.

MR. WARREN: There is no fear of the blood grouping, is there? There's no question about that, in determining one group from another, is there? We're all together on that, aren't we?

MR. STEVENS: What about the Angus-Hereford crossbred?

DR. ALLEN: The way we proposed that, we called it Angus-Hereford crossbred, a British breed. A British bred steer.

DR. BAKER: He would still blood type as the British?

DR. ALLEN: He would.

DR. BAKER: One of the questions I think we need to ask and address ourselves to here is, do we want to encourage more straight bred steers in shows. You know what's happened in this show; it's gone completely cross-breds, according to the data today that Dave Williams assembled for us.

MR. WARREN: I don't know how you're going to emphasize straight bred. I feel that a kid whose family has Angus cattle or Hereford cattle on the farm should exhibit them. We see a lot of kids go out with a fine crossbred steer just so they can show and look a little better in the eyes of the community and the parents and with the competition. That shouldn't be; it's not necessary for them to do that. They ought to be able to merchandise whatever they're raising and marketing on the ranch. For that reason, I think as long as the numbers and interest indicate, that there should be classes --

MR. KULAKOFSKY: I just brought out the premium book and looked what we're running here, and it says it's the beef show, and the big show that we have here is market beef. That's the name of the show that we've got here, is market beef. Now, if we're educating the kids in market beef because that's the title of what we're even calling it, I think that I would like to go along with what the judges say, that we take it, each individual animal we're looking at it as a market beef into the grade to satisfy a need.

DR. ALLEN: That's exactly what we were addressing ourselves to as a Production Committee, to ignore the production end of market beef is ridiculous. Sixty-five percent plus of the cost of a fat steer is spent when that calf is weaned. To say that we're going to have a steer show and ignore some of the things that are necessary to produce steers in the first place, is really missing a key point. A market steer should reflect the industry that would use the steer. Production is too large a part of it to ignore because if we could not produce them efficiently, we wouldn't have any.

MR. WILLIAMS: The way you encourage or discourage anything is the program you have with it. If you want to discourage the exotics and bring in a British breed, you take all the incentive money off of exotic and put it on British. What I'm saying is, place the incentive there.

DR. ABLE: I think that probably the problem that we're seeing here is the people who judge the shows, and I'm as guilty as anybody else -- I think in the past we have seen judges that get into this exotic craze, as some people call it, of picking crossbred steers and nothing else. I think we've seen the people who are against showing by weights simply because they knew that this thing was going to happen. They thought certain cattle were not as muscular and might be fatter at this lighter weight. Some of our judges try to select cattle at nine hundred pounds and say, I'm picking this calf to go on to twelve hundred and fifty pounds, and I don't want any condition on him. If we're going to try to have a market beef show, I think the straight bred cattle will have a place if our judges try to select cattle ready for market in that particular weight. If you're going to go to all the trouble to weigh the steers and put them into classes, that calf should be able to grade or to at least have a chance of maybe getting into the Choice grade at that particular

weight. As I said in our Judges meeting, it would take a lot of guts for a judge to put a nine hundred fifty pound steer as the grand champion at Ak-Sar-Ben. Why would it really, if we look at it as an economical production? That may be a young calf. He may have enough condition on him to grade if he's the best steer there weighing nine hundred fifty pounds, but I'll bet there's not too many around here who would do it. I'm probably as guilty as everyone else, but maybe that would help, if the judges would look at the cattle at that particular weight and try to pick the best steer at that weight, irregardless of whether he weighed eleven hundred, twelve hundred, thirteen hundred and that would be the solution to the problem there.

MR. STEVENS: In your Judges discussion of all the major steer shows in the last two years, how many steers that were grand champions weighed less than eleven seventy-five or twelve hundred?

DR. ABLE: Very few. In fact, zero, maybe.

MR. STEVENS: So, the judges are not taking the lighter cattle. I think that's probably the reason why the Education Committee came up with the suggestion that they have an English breed class with the proper incentive as Williams mentioned and then have the exotic class with proper incentive. As Warren mentioned, this would encourage that boy or girl to feed that calf they have at their own place. They wouldn't have to go out and buy another calf at an exotic price.

DR. BAKER: Now, I want to ask the historians in the group. We have had some thousand pound champions at Ak-Sar-Ben, have we not?

MR. BUSCHER: We had eight years ago.

DR. BAKER: So, there have been people who judged who picked light weight steers.

DR. ABLE: I'm talking about now.

DR. BAKER: We also had to take a step in someone naming the first crossbred steer as champion at Ak-Sar-Ben, did we not? There must have been a gutty person judging at that time. So, it will probably take some soul searching on the part of you, as individuals. I think Bill made a very significant point in that we're looking at the animals in the market end point in that weight group. If the ideal is Choice grade, and we know the average slaughter weight runs less than eleven hundred, doesn't it?

DR. ALLEN: About ten thirty, right now.

DR. BAKER: So, if we use a statistical term of one standard deviation on the low side of the average, it would bring us down to a thousand pounds or less, wouldn't it? We do have in the trade in the average slaughter, a significant number of Choice grade cattle in those lighter weight ranges. I think that's important to us. We're evaluating cattle similar to those in the market place in shows like this.

Wayne Hendrickson, how many pens of predominantly continental breed cattle do you have in your feed lot?

MR. HENDRICKSON: Well, Frank, I've got some that I don't know what you would call them. I'll give you an example of this. We've put them in and weighed them at six hundred pounds and had a hundred seventy-five days on them and they weighed ten eighty-five or less, and I mean there's **every-**thing in there, including a few Holsteins and they bring within a dollar at the top. Going back to the dollar value, the value subject came up here and using days -- less days than we're allowing on here on our weigh-in and we sold the cattle together. We were asked in our feed lots if we sized these cattle and we sorted them for quality breed and so forth, and in our situation, we don't. Herb Albers and I sort of agreed that I think the largest portion of the beef produced today isn't sized in the pen.

DR. BAKER: Do you have in your lot predominantly British breeds, or British breed crosses?

MR. HENDRICKSON: We do at this time.

DR. BAKER: Okay, Roberts.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, I guess most of you use the word predominantly, Frank. Most of our cattle are predominantly British breed and British breed crosses, but there are within almost every pen, some exotic bred cattle. Our cattle, we may have half black and not more than twenty-five percent exotics. The other twenty-five percent can be anything under the sun, as long as they've got good health and they'll gain. That's the way they all look in say ninety percent of our pens are that way.

DR. BAKER: Herb?

MR. ALBERS: I guess we would run somewhere around twenty-five percent -- well, twenty-, twenty-five percent exotic if we look at the whole thing, although it's a little hard to define that area. You know, a lot of black-white faces have something besides Hereford and Angus in them, but we do know it's increased a lot in the past two years, but we don't size them according to type.

DR. BAKER: Can we accomplish what this committee and I think that the other committee's recommending by another approach? That would be having two championships, one in the lighter weight classes and another one in the heavier weight classes, in which if you have ten classes in the show or twenty classes in the show, all of them under a certain weight, you can pick a champion from that group of classes, or a sub-champion. You pick a sub-champion from the particular weight groups. If what the judges group has said to us is correct or some of them have preferred, you'd have predominantly the British breed in those lighter weight classes. That would get away from the business of having to do the blood typing and so on if you had to go that way.

DR. ABLE: I wasn't issuing a question. I was going to make the comment that I think the reason a whole lot more exotic steers are being shown is that a youngster can go out and have a greater selection for top-notch cattle if they have some exotic blood than you can a straight bred calf. A calf good enough to make an outstanding steer, he'll still have his testicles and he'll be a bull, whereas these exotic calves are castrated and you have a greater selection -- pool to select your calves from, and I think probably some of our purebred people might try to push this a little bit more and

maybe cutting some of these calves. You can't go out and tell a man he's got a five thousand dollar bull to make a steer out of him.

DR. BAKER: Warren.

MR. WARREN: I don't think we really addressed ourselves to this kind of situation in our committee. I would favor the recommendation to the Production Group on the British and British cross division. I think that's -- while a judge may think he's going to permit this type of development in these lighter weight classes, I would rather provide simple legislation to help him along on this.

DR. BAKER: They call that affirmative action in some of the kinds of work I do.

MR. WOLF: I like your suggestion. What experience I've had with blood typing is very cumbersome. Seems to me, that, in itself, is a real consideration from the standpoint of running a show comfortably and I think if we go to the two or three weight division champions, that we would accomplish the same thing.

DR. BAKER: Did Wolverton have a point in there?

MR. WOLVERTON: We do have four divisions -- I mean, that was where it was established this year. They're called division champions and not weight classes, because we didn't like the heavy weight/light weight terminology.

I guess the question I have, when you start talking about British breed crosses and these gentlemen running feedlots say that they're a quarter Angus or something like this, I'm not familiar enough with the science of blood typing.

What is a British breed cross? Is it twenty-five percent?

DR. BAKER: No. If it has any of the other breed grouping in it, it will throw them out.

MR. WOLVERTON: And that can be done scientifically?

DR. BAKER: Yes. We went over that ground back seven years ago in here and made the decision to recommend blood typing. They were going to -- I think, hang us from the top of one of the buildings around here until there was a black steer that showed up in Denver the next month turned out to be a white steer, and we turned out to be a group of prophets in blood typing at that point. I guess it's been reasonably accepted.

MR. WARREN: I really believe that an exotic cross steer at a thousand has different dimensions than a thousand pound English, or English cross steer. For that reason, I would be a little against just weight divisions. I mean, he's taller, longer, probably trimmer and with the clipping and shaving -- he will look -- have a little advantage over these other steers. Maybe it shouldn't be, but I think that's reasonable.

DR. BAKER: Well, for the sake of the record, in regard to the present divisions here, explain how you pick division champions.

MR. WOLVERTON: There are four.

DR. BAKER: All right. What are they?

MR. WOLVERTON: It depends on the weight spread, and this is the first year where we had no breeds. I can't quote exactly where each division is broken.

DR. BAKER: You have experience for one year only here?

MR. WOLVERTON: Right.

DR. BAKER: All right, so we've had division champions by weight grouping?

MR. WOLVERTON: Right. Five classes in each group --

DR. BAKER: All right. The weights were established on the basis apparently of what the cattle weighed and divided into these groups? You had no weight restriction on entry?

MR. WOLVERTON: The weight classes were divided by equal numbers or where there was a very obvious weight break.

MR. PRINZ: In our committee we talked about -- a little bit about this and as far as the judges are concerned, I think if we put more emphasis on the Choice grade of light weight classes, the English breeds would have the advantage than if we put more emphasis on the Choice grades.

DR. BAKER: All right. Do we have a consensus on this? I believe we need to emphasize that the optimum market end-point such as the Choice grade be used in judging the lighter weight classes.

Is there a general consensus on that? We might not have been giving enough attention to that market end-point in the light weight classes.

For the sake of summation of this, would it be reasonable to say that there was a significant number here that indicated that we needed to give more attention to some emphasis for purebred classes and British breed classes?

Anyone want to object strongly to this?

DR. ALLEN: What did you say?

MR. KULAKOFSKY: Run the question by again.

DR. BAKER: The committee recommended a division for English breeds and English breed crosses as identified by blood types; correct? And there are a significant number of this group that favor that, although there is some dissension to that concept. Have I captured your views on that? And another alternative would be more emphasis on Choice grade in the lighter weight classes.

MR. KULAKOFSKY: All classes.

DR. BAKER: Mike May.

DR. MAY: Yes. If what Bill said awhile ago on the judge to place a particular animal, I think he's got a real point. With increasing emphasis by a judge in this particular weight range on the steer's end point is going to help this situation tremendously.

DR. BAKER: Wolverton.

MR. WOLVERTON: Just a comment before the final statement. I guess I feel it's rather cumbersome to show management and awards to have to go through the procedure of blood typing, having worked with it for four or five years. I would like to support the market steer concept myself, as classes without breeds.

DR. BAKER: Is there anything else that anyone wants to address themselves to on this report?

MR. COCANOUGH: I think if we emphasize the Choice grade concept, it would eliminate a lot of our trouble.

DR. BAKER: Let's lay this committee report aside and let's take the Judges report next.

DR. McKEE: We have a very short list of recommendations:

1. All steers be weighed just prior to entering show ring and any steer in excess of a 4% increase in weight over weigh-in at the show would be dropped to a maximum red ribbon live and carcass placing in the system. This is to be reviewed in one to two years to see the effect.  
Advantages: a. eliminate steer that is shrunk  
b. more desirable proportions of skeleton, weight relationships
2. Leave performance data as presently used.
3. All carcasses with less than 0.25 in fat, will start at a preliminary yield grade of 2.62 to determine final yield grade.
4. Develop a system for combining live carcass shows into a composite placing. This might be done by listing approximately 1/3 of the class, both live and carcass, and assign a numerical score. (Such as 20-19-18-17, etc. from top to bottom). Scores from live and carcass shows would then be added together to determine class winner. A champion would then be picked on cutability.

DR. BAKER: Mike May, I would like for you and Dave Topel and Mike Dikeman to comment with regard to this recommendation number three.

DR. DIKEMAN: We made basically the same proposal in our market group. The initial proposal was at 0.25 inches and it was modified by the majority of the group to 0.2 inches. I think we're thinking along the lines of the same concept.

DR. MAY: I agree.

DR. TOPEL: We agree, yes.

DR. BAKER: Okay. So the number three is okay. How about number one? The four percent increase in weight. Does that penalize the people who come from Scottsbluff?

MR. MADDUX: We felt that four percent would cover that.

DR. BAKER: Now, this would mean, of course, that they have ample time to water and feed and so on before they were weighed in here at the show, so that it would not be the case of the shrink -- just purely from transit shrink.

MR. WARREN: We have a free scale to weigh on here and check.

DR. BAKER: What do you think about it, Bob Koch?

DR. KOCH: Are there any stipulated -- recommended conditions prior to weighing? This deals with what Jack Maddux brought up earlier, so you can tend to say what it is supposed to be. A person might say, "I did what I thought was right and got caught short."

Is there any recommendation as to how long after feed and water that they are to be weighed? Is there any condition set up and would that be desirable?

DR. BAKER: What are the regulations on the weigh-in here now? Let's review those very quickly.

MR. WOLVERTON: Weigh-in starts approximately three o'clock Saturday afternoon. There are cattle that come in as early as Thursday night because of distance of travel. They come with breeding heifers or something like this and a majority of the cattle hit late Saturday or early Sunday. They have to be on the grounds by eleven o'clock. We're usually finished weighing about three-thirty Sunday afternoon.

DR. BAKER: They have to be on the grounds by twelve o'clock Sunday?

MR. WOLVERTON: Sunday.

DR. BAKER: Okay, any other comments on that recommendation?

MR. BUSCHER: Isn't that the show weight that you use there?

DR. BAKER: That is the show weight.

DR. ABLE: Okay, what we're trying to eliminate is somebody bringing in a calf and shrinking down to get him into a lighter weight class, right?

DR. BAKER: You would weigh out of the show ring, then?

DR. ABLE: Right. You weigh them like they normally would. They classify them into a class and then when you bring the calf up to show him and you run him through the scale again and weigh him. If there's a four



percent difference (heavier) than what he weighed in, he would be kicked into the red ribbon group. This eliminates the extreme shrink to get him into the lighter class to make it look bigger and longer.

DR. BAKER: Do we have such a procedure or operation in any other show in the country that you're familiar with?

DR. ABLE: San Antonio will be doing it this January or February.

DR. BAKER: Joe Hughes.

DR. HUGHES: We haven't used this on steers in Oklahoma, but we have used it on barrows for our two years in Oklahoma City and our experience there has been, if they come in shrunk, we let them go up no more than ten pounds, as they are weighed out of the class. If they do, in the past, they are bumped into the next heavier class. This year, ten pounds increase above show weight causes him to be disqualified. We've found that some of them come in shrunk and I think now your diuretics are playing a role in that situation. This four percent on the cattle means that if an individual weighs a steer in shrunk out, he knows he has to keep him at that weight. This is certainly going to affect this steer's general appearance in the ring. The only thing I can tell you from the experience with barrows is that we've only had one or two where they had to be tagged. We're still getting some barrows that supposedly weigh two hundred sixty pounds on show day and three days later be out to the stockyards with free access to water and feed, weigh two eighty, two eighty-five, two ninety.

MR. WARREN: Minnesota trying this?

MR. WOLVERTON: In Minnesota, they weight out of the ring.

DR. BAKER: Didn't you weigh out of the ring in the past?

MR. VOLK: For sale weight.

DR. BAKER: Any other comments? Any strong feelings negative about this kind of approach?

MR. WILLIAMS: Bill, you said they were weighed just before they went into the ring? Would there be anything wrong with them being weighed out of the ring?

DR. ABLE: No. The only thing we are trying to do is eliminate them from winning the class if they had an extreme fill. Group them down in a red ribbon --

DR. BAKER: Weigh into the ring, then. Any other comments about that? Any comments about item four?

MR. KULAKOFSKY: Before we go into this, we have, I believe, four slaughterers here, and is it feasible and could they handle the cattle in the groups that would be necessary to compile the result in the manner as requested for a composite show? Is it even possible?

DR. BAKER: I think that's one of the reasons that the carcass event has been handled as it has in the past, is because there are some problems and you needed to divide these up to get carcass information, do you not? Who has worked with this?

DR. LOVEDAY: This is my first year with it, but they've gone to four plants, and I think because of the support and ease of handling.

MR. BUSCHER: In other words, one plant didn't get all the big ones and all the light ones. They tried to get it so they got an equal share.

DR. BAKER: Would it be fair to say it might present some management problems to try to put them all in one place and possibly some selling problems?

MR. BUSCHER: The guy that's got all the big cattle, the drop would be that much greater in the big ones than the light ones, and in that particular case, he's taking the short end of the drop. So, mix them up.

MR. WOLVERTON: I think in way of explanation of the composite score, would be a numerical index and it wouldn't make any difference who killed the cattle. It would be a numerical index that would be added and done through the mechanics of the computer. An example of the twenty points system was given. Minnesota has a system of a composite score.

DR. BAKER: Okay. You've got that taken care of. Management problems that would not be different than we now have with the carcass show?

MR. WOLVERTON: Not as far as the plants are concerned.

DR. BAKER: Jim Wolf.

MR. WOLF: Now, I was just going to say, Frank, that our committee does have something that would bear on this.

DR. LOVEDAY: Are these being placed within the class and then the overall champion would be placed on cutability, only?

DR. McKEE: That was our recommendation.

DR. BAKER: Now, does this assume that there is a requirement for a Choice grade?

DR. ABLE: Yes.

DR. McKEE: Using percent, yes.

DR. BAKER: You're assuming the requirement of Choice grade in order to place in that blue ribbon class, or top twenty. Let's take the Marketing Report next.

MR. GARDNER: Well, we had quite a lively discussion in our little group and on some topics we didn't even agree among ourselves, so we can't make recommendations on them. On a couple of items we even had tie votes. Here are our recommendations:

1. It is our recommendation on the method of merchandising 4-H beef cattle that the live auction as it is now being handled be toned down. We feel it has an overall adverse affect on the entire 4-H program. We further recommend that no limit be place on the show price paid for champions, but a limit be placed on the amount paid to champion exhibitors. Any excess monies paid over the exhibitor limit would be distributed among other exhibitors both live and carcass.
2. We feel that the guidelines of a realistic steer in terms of quality grade should be low Choice, yield grade being 2.99 or better, with no advantage being given to those individuals which have less than .2 inch of back fat.
3. We further recommend that the Ak-Sar-Ben Livestock Show discontinue the carcass show as it is stated now. We recommend that Ak-Sar-Ben give blue ribbon winners and lower the alternative of entering the carcass contest or returning the animals to their home feedlot, provided that jaw-branding is not eliminated. Further, all purple ribbons must be slaughtered and entered in the carcass contest. It is further recommended, if possible, all of the carcass contest calves be slaughtered at one plant with particular emphasis being placed on all purple ribbons at one plant. We further recommend that carcass premiums be steadily increased. We are opposed to an award category based on cutability without regard to quality grade.
4. We further recommend to the judges of the Judges Committee that more emphasis be placed on the selection of animals in the show ring that will grade Choice quality grade.

DR. BAKER: Shall we hold item number one until after we have the Education report, because I think it has some things that are related to item number one.

Item number two is very similar to the recommendation that the Judges Committee made, is it not?

DR. ABLE: Yes. One point I made in the Judges Committee and I would like to bring it up here in regard to 0.2 inches back fat as a recommendation. I would rather see us go the other way. Just for this year's steers that were shown here, thirteen percent of the cattle had less than .3 on them graded Choice, while almost thirty-one percent of the cattle had .3 to .5 on them graded Choice. So, I think if we're going to try to emphasize the Choice grade, we ought to emphasize more condition on them, rather than less condition on them.

MR. GARDNER: Our recommendation was this, that an individual with .2 inch back fat would be the minimum that we would want. What I'm saying is .1 of a percent would not be an advantage over .2 of an inch.

DR. BAKER: I think you're both saying the same thing.

DR. ABLE: Right. I'm still saying in the carcass division, we ought to have that 0.3 inch rather than 0.2. Our committee recommended 0.25, but it seems like everyone wants to go to .2. The stats don't bear this

out and I'll miss enough of them the way it is.

MR. WILLIAMS: If you'll check the 1970 and '72 Seminar, you'll find that the Educational Group recommended .3, and I still agree with that.

MR. HENDRICKSON: That was my suggestion in our committee as a feeder in the production area.

DR. McKEE: I see a direct conflict between your sixth recommendation if we emphasize Choice grade and also say you recommend a minimum of 0.2 inch fat on the carcass. As a judge, I have had many people coming up after the show saying you sure missed in this old steer because of his not being fat enough. Later he ends up being the best carcass because he had 0.2 inch of fat cover. To me, if you want the judge to emphasize Choice grade, you better raise your fat a little so he's protected.

DR. MAY: Correct me, Bill, and Miles, either one, if I'm wrong in misinterpreting what you're saying. Back to what Carl tried to explain and what we're looking for: We're looking at the situation and we've got a carcass that's already graded Choice and we're not concerned about what type of carcass or animal will make Choice? We've got one already there, and we're saying rank him in the carcass contest on cutability or something along this line. Don't place the carcass that has less than .2 inch of fat above the others.

DR. ABLE: We agree with that, but what I'm saying is, people are funny. If they see that you're saying that 0.2 inch fat is what you're going to choose for, they'll bring you 0.2 in the live animal. If they're saying there has to be 0.3 inch, then they'll feed the calf more to get him into that category where he'll have a better chance of making the Choice grade. I still say there should be no advantage to any calf that has less than 0.3 inch fat on him.

DR. MAY: 0.3 inch is going to bring itself out. If we're going to look for Choice, it will automatically put itself in. The feeders, the people who are going to be feeding that animal will say, that's no different than I've done in the past.

MR. VOLK: Well, as a point of clarification, on the top twenty carcasses, there were only five of the top twenty that had 0.3 inch or more, for your information. So, it will change them.

MR. BUSCHER: How many had under?

MR. VOLK: Fifteen under -- well, you've got to go to at least 0.3 inch.

DR. TOPEL: We had 0.25 inch in our committee and I said to them, you know, I've got to go measure those carcasses, and if I'm going to separate them on this 0.05 inches of fat, I don't really feel that I could accomplish that. So, I don't care if you go 0.3 inch or 0.2. I would accept either one, but I sure as hell don't want to go to the 0.05 inch standard.

MR. STEVENS: The Education Committee recommended 0.3 to 0.4 inches in back fat.

DR. BAKER: As it stands right now, I have 0.2, 0.25, 0.3 and 0.4 inches from three different committees, okay?

Let me hold that until after I get the Education Committee.

Okay, let's try number three.

We recommended that the Ak-Sar-Ben Show discontinue the carcass show as it's now stated. We recommend Ak-Sar-Ben give blue ribbons and lower the alternative of entering the carcass contest or returning their animals to the feedlot, providing that jaw-branding is not eliminated and all purple ribbons must be slaughtered and entered into the contest and all carcass contest calves be slaughtered in one plant, etc.

I want to deal with the question relating possibly to the carcass contest in its present form.

Is there any way we can know what percentage of cattle placed well in the carcass contest would not have been, if this rule had been followed in the past?

MR. PRINZ: There's been a lot of dissatisfaction with the price of these calves. Not through the Ak-Sar-Ben packing plants or anything like that, but through stress, the calves are just not bringing the market value. I do think if we're keeping these procedures, we're going to lose quite a lot of numbers at Ak-Sar-Ben. I say make a carcass contest. Give enough incentive to where most of them will stay in, but give them the opportunity to take them home if they so desire.

DR. BAKER: Okay. Well, essentially now, there's this recommendation. Only the purple ribbons would be required to stay for the carcass event. What percentage of the carcass winners have come from the purple ribbon cattle?

MR. VOLK: About the same as the rest.

DR. BAKER: Yes, Jim Roberts.

MR. ROBERTS: This is an option, but in reference to Tom's point, because of grading and the problems you have in handling show calves when you came down here, if they take them home for thirty days and probably have a higher sale value than that of the animal here in the carcass class. We simply want them to have an alternative. We want to encourage them to stay, but not demand them to stay. The jaw-branding is just to make sure they don't go somewhere else with them, but if an animal brings twenty-five to fifty dollars less compared with the figures last year, that doesn't seem to be a very good way to publicize Ak-Sar-Ben.

DR. BAKER: Okay. We might rephrase this and say that participation in the carcass event be optional for those cattle in the blue ribbon group or less, but it will be encouraged. Would you accept the fact that it be encouraged?

MR. ROBERTS: Yes. We intended to say that. We didn't say that, but we intended to, didn't we, Carl?

MR. GARDNER: Yes

DR. ABLE: Why not slaughter the blues and let the reds and whites go?

MR. PRINZ: I would go along with this for the simple reason that purples are supported by Ak-Sar-Ben. A lot of counties, a lot of people support the blues. Your reds and whites, there is no support any place. So, I think these kids should have the opportunity to get the most from their calf that is available.

DR. BAKER: Harold?

MR. STEVENS: In a Superintendents' meeting here a month or so ago, it was discussed and the Superintendent did not feel that letting them check out if they were a blue, red or white would affect a large number of calves, but it would give the boys and girls an opportunity, if they wanted it, but we didn't feel there would be a lot of them checked out. We do have a recommendation in our Education Group here in regard to our incentive program that I think would take care of part of this question you're discussing here now.

DR. BAKER: Tom?

MR. PRINZ: One problem we would eliminate relates to the price. If the packers would give a price on Tuesday night and post this price and give the kids an opportunity to either put their calf in the carcass contest or not. If they enter the carcass and know what the calf's going to bring, we've eliminated a lot of problems of dissatisfaction.

DR. BAKER: Okay. Any other comments here before I turn to the Education Committee report?

MR. WOLVERTON: Along the lines of the marketing and pricing, I would like to add just a comment. You've all seen the little boxes with the various prices. Is there any need to change the various prices where the base price has been on a Choice three --

MR. PRINZ: I think your base prices were all right, it's just that your cattle are not yielding up to their potential through the stress and so forth and so on.

DR. BAKER: Jim Roberts?

MR. ROBERTS: We hit that in our committee. I think it might be worthy of some review to make sure the prices do reflect the fair market return. It doesn't mean that they haven't, but don't forget it, those kids notice it that fast. A review of the pricing structure and review of the methods might be in order.

DR. BAKER: Our summarization Committee report could say we recommended continual review of the marketing procedures to try to achieve the optimum value for these animals. We can recommend this to all shows. We'll see if we can deal with that one.

DR. HUGHES: In our Education Committee, Dr. Caldwell reviewed the objectives of 4-H with us covered in the opening comments this morning. Those of us working with these programs at every opportunity should evaluate what we're doing and what the shows are doing or what we hope they're doing. If we can evaluate shows in view of these objectives, I think this will help us considerably.

Moving to these discussion questions, again, I do not think we covered everything that had been assigned to us, but hopefully from these comments, we could draw some conclusions here.

1. Are carcass contests doing the job? No. What is the job? Is the carcass contest educational?

CONCLUSION: Carcass contests are not doing the job at the regional show level.

QUESTION: How do you change regional show carcass contests so that they will do the job?

- a. Can the show establish an educational program dealing with carcass evaluation?

- (1) Can we take the kids to the coolers or do we take the carcasses to the kids? The latter.

- (2) We may need to do a better job of tying carcass show with live animal. Yes.

CONCLUSION: Committee recommends that Ak-Sar-Ben sponsor a slide-tape set on beef carcass evaluation and data evaluation. This set would be produced by animal science departments and would be made available to all counties which participate at Ak-Sar-Ben.

CONCLUSION: Recommend that a permanent display on beef carcass evaluation be established at Ak-Sar-Ben. The display would be an educational tool for all groups which attend events at Ak-Sar-Ben.

CONCLUSION: Recommend that all carcass data be forwarded directly to County Extension Directors instead of to exhibitors. Data will be grouped by counties. Additional educational material will be provided and each county will be encouraged to conduct a program for explaining the data.

2. In order to establish a goal or guidelines for youth steer shows, what is the ideal or realistic steer in terms of quality grade and yield grade?

CONCLUSION: Committee recommends that shows have separate British breed classes and name a British champion and an exotic champion but no grand champion.

GUIDELINES FOR THE IDEAL STEER:

ENGLISH	EXOTIC
C- or better	C- or better
Yield grade 2.99 or better	Yield grade 2.99 or better
.3 - .4 inches fat	.3 - .4 inches fat
15 - 18 months of age	17 - 19 months of age
1050 - 1125 lb. live	1250 - 1350 lb. live
Body Type 4	Body Type 4

3. In regard to the incentive program, are the awards distributed in a way to accomplish the most important goals for the benefit of the young people and the benefit of improving the livestock industry?

CONCLUSION: Committee unanimously recommends that premium auctions be replaced by new incentive programs. A recommended incentive scale is shown below.

	Live	Bonus*
Grand Champion	\$2500	\$2500
Res. Grand Champion	1500	1500
Breed Champions	500	500
Res. Breed Champions	375	375
Purples	150	150
Blues		25**

\* If low Choice or above, yield grades 1 and 2

\*\* If low Choice or above, yield grades 1, 2 and 3

A proposed carcass contest incentive scale is shown below:

Carcass contest - low Choice or above, yield grades 1 - 3

1 - 5	\$200
6 - 10	\$100
11 - 15	\$ 75
16 - 50	\$ 50
51 and above	\$ 25

OBJECTIVE - To distribute premiums to more exhibitors and to provide incentives for the important criteria.

DR. BAKER: Are you proposing in your final recommendation that this be the carcass event without the selection of a carcass champion? You have no listed incentive for the carcass champion.

DR. HUGHES: No. No carcass champions. In this case, a sliding scale. In fact, I think the approach here is the key thing. The dollar value, of course, would change from show to show, depending on the funds available.

DR. BAKER: Now the question that I have in relation to that: Is this de-emphasizing the carcass event in the eyes of the Educational Committee? You now have a champion carcass with a premium for it. When you do not select a carcass champion and when you are using the bonus concept, you could have the most outstanding carcass in the show, maybe better than any of those that received the bonus would receive only two hundred dollars.



DR. LOVEDAY: I think what we're looking at here is that, they're similar in market value, so give them the same premium money, but still name the champion and reserve champion as far as the trophy and publicity that goes along with it.

DR. BAKER: What's the award for the champion carcass at this time?

MR. VOLK: Five hundred.

DR. BAKER: So, in a sense, this would be de-emphasizing -- if you used this kind of incentive, you would be de-emphasizing the carcass awards.

You need to square away in your report, your recommendation number two. You recommended the selection of no grand champion, but your incentive program, you show a grand champion. Did you assume we weren't going to buy a part of this, or -- if you're going to marry these two together and if we're going to accept your concepts, what changes would you make here in order to accommodate the incentive program under the recommendation number two?

DR. HUGHES: The situation here was that the questions do not really pull together a combined contest of the live and carcass phases. There was a separate approach to deal with the ideal steer. Once we dealt with the ideal steer and realizing there was a need to define and classify English and exotic. If they're done that way, what would the show consist of? So, we're really looking at two different approaches. One, if you have a show where you're using your English in exotic classes and another, if you have a show where you're separately set up in live and carcass phases. I think that was my interpretation.

DR. BAKER: Yes, Harold.

MR. STEVENS: These were two different questions that you gave to us, and this is the reason we came up with this answer. They're individual questions.

DR. BAKER: Okay. It's our fault, Volk. Once in grading college students' papers about twenty-five years ago, I finished grading this particular paper, turned it over on the back as it was my habit to write the grade on the outside of the paper and I found material that I hadn't looked at previously. I thought, well gee, maybe he did better than I thought he did, because he hadn't done very well. The title of the material on the back was, "The Things I Know That You Didn't Ask For."

Let me ask some things in the summation here: We had another committee indicate some need to try to tone down the auction. Should we recommend a controlled auction or a controlled incentive program as outlined here based upon a certain premium level for the championships and graduated downward from there with bonuses for achievement of a certain level of excellence in the carcass? That's what you really described, is it not? You have a graduated scale of premiums with bonuses for achievement of excellence in the carcasses.

Now, let's address ourselves to the question related to the premium auction and to this alternative system of awards or incentives here. What are your comments or your pleasure?

MR. STEVENS: In the Educational Committee when we first started our discussion, I think the main thing we were keeping in mind is what is right for this boy or for this girl in an educational way and having the good learning experience and this is the thing we were shooting for in the Educational Committee. What is right for the boy or girl.

DR. BAKER: Jim?

MR. WOLF: I'm a little bothered by the fact that if an animal does well in the live show, it gets a special consideration in the carcass show. I think the carcass show should stand on its own and the carcasses be awarded for their merits accordingly. Now, if an animal had merit in both live and carcass, it would be awarded, but I don't think there should be any special consideration, at least to the extent shown in this schedule.

DR. BAKER. All right. Any other comments here?

MR. WILLIAMS: The intent there was to give them the bonus.

DR. BAKER: Okay. Other comments here?

MR. ROBERTS: We had a disagreement in our committee on the general subject, and -- Artie, why don't you give them your viewpoints. We didn't agree, but tell them what your thoughts are.

MR. KULAKOFSKY: I thought that I got whipped, stepped on and everything else, but I am very encouraged and glad that Jim asked me for a comment right now, because gentlemen, all of you here, nothing else, the whole tenor of it has been to raise the quality of the muscle of the meat for which I am very grateful to hear. Everybody seems to be coming back on that. I think that the auction should be toned down. I still think it should be a free wheeling auction. It has to be if it's going to be an auction, but I think those that are involved in the sale committee can conceivably take a step in that direction. I want to see myself, the carcass evaluation contest move forward with a higher price for the award. I know this year I tried to get somebody to fund it and didn't succeed, but I'm still going to keep trying, but I think that ultimately it should be the highest award of the show, and looking at everything, everything can't be achieved right now. I think that if we take steps in these directions, we will have a better educational show and wind up with a totally greater contribution to the industry from the producer to the retailer. Everybody concerned.  
(A short recess was held.)

DR. BAKER: We have one guy who says he has to leave shortly, so Roger Hunsley, would you like to have the floor?

DR. HUNSLEY: First of all, I'm interested in being here and pleased with the uniformity of thinking of all these committees. I think there's a lot of consistency in ideas. One thing is, I'm a little concerned about the auction and I don't know whether you should maybe tamper with a good thing you've got going. The people who come here, the success of this show are probably the best in the world. I know you're trying to make it better, but I do think you need to try to watch some of the things you do with the auction. I would like to see you combine the two shows, not necessarily give a live all the

credit, or the carcass all the credit. We have to produce the steer and we hopefully will end up with a good desirable product when we're done. I would like to see us wrap it up in a good set of cattle. Maybe it's not possible, but I really think this could be a trend setter in the industry if this show could work it out feasibly with the conditions that are suitable to the parameters of the beef industry.

Then the other thing is, someone made the comment about instructing the judges to pick more Choice cattle. I don't think there's anybody who tries harder to pick them than the judges. It is difficult. It is tough. It's not like sitting down and writing your name. We try to do everything conceivably possible, and I know, speaking for Miles and Dick and everybody on our committee, it is a tough job. It's a difficult job. It is a physical-mental situation that you go through just like anything else. We do try to do the very best we possibly can, and I do hope some of the things that come out of here will intrigue the young people to bring better cattle, the right kind. If it does, I don't think there's much question about our getting those good Choice, high-cutting, high yielding kind of cattle. It's been a good session. I've enjoyed it. I hate to run out, but I look forward to receiving the print-out copy we're going to receive.

DR. BAKER: We're glad you could be here. We're sorry that you must depart at this point. I think from here forward, if we can address ourselves to trying to integrate these reports and there are a few points that are fairly common in several of these reports. I think there are at least three of the reports that addressed themselves to this point concerning the consideration of the minimum back fat thickness that should be given in the carcass show results and the range you've given us are from 0.2 inches to 0.4 inches. I think I've heard at least considerable expression here in the interest of 0.3 inches. Are you willing to settle on 0.3 inches?

DR. ALLEN: I was just going to say like I said before, but if you really want to have something that's positive on getting choice cattle, I think that will get you some highly acceptable cattle and you'll really accelerate the number of cattle that grade Choice.

DR. MAY: I just want to agree with C. K. on this. I think this is the direction to go, but we're still at a very acceptable level.

DR. BAKER: Let's put that to bed and declare 0.3, okay?

All right now, there's been considerable comment concerning the requirement that we have the carcass event and that the show be absolutely terminal. Is it the consensus that we encourage participation in the carcass event and try to build the incentive program in such a way that there would be participation in the carcass event, but that we make it optional provided we continue the jaw branding of all the animals?

DR. ABLE: Is that for purple and blue, or just optional for red and white?

DR. BAKER: Optional for red and white.

MR. STEVENS: Jaw brand everything.

DR. BAKER: Jaw brand everything and make entry in carcass show optional.

MR. BUSCHER: Everything.

DR. BAKER: Optional for red and white?

MR. WARREN: I think Bob's got a figure here. It looked like twenty percent of the show were purples and blues, or seventy purples and two hundred forty blues. Is that too unreasonable to ask for in this show? We're not talking about country, we're talking about this show.

DR. BAKER: We are talking about this show, but we're making recommendations to the shows in general. Jim Wolf.

MR. WOLF: Just for your information, I tabulated the top fifty-two carcasses in the carcass show. Six carcasses, or 11.5 percent, were purple. Twenty-one, or 40.4 percent, were blue. Twelve, or 23.1 percent were red, and thirteen, or 25 percent, were white. In the white were included the number one and number six carcasses. Now, I don't know whether the youngsters who had these top carcasses would have enough understanding of their cattle to keep them in on the optional basis or not.

MR. PRINZ: Were you indicating we just kill the purples and blues and not give an option --

MR. WARREN: No. I think the option is good, but I can't see us emphasizing the carcass aspect of the show. I don't call that emphasis on carcass.

DR. BAKER: Good point, Dick, and I think that gives reason for a mandatory requirement if you get the blue ribbon, that they stay in the carcass event.

Other comments here?

MR. ALBERS: How many carcasses does that include?

DR. BAKER: About twenty percent be required, but we would have had nearly fifty percent of the winning carcasses that would have been required to be in this event, based on your statistics, Jim.

MR. WOLF: Almost fifty-two percent.

MR. VOLK: And twelve out of the top twenty carcasses were purple or blue alive. So, we've got a little more than half.

MR. PRINZ: The whole object of the motion was to give the opportunity to poll the council if they were not satisfied with the price, and I think this is the whole prospect.

DR. BAKER: Is it the majority belief that we should keep the blues in the carcass contest and make it optional for reds and whites?

All right. We'll try to word something along that line.

Now then, there is one here in regard -- which the judges came up with in regard to combining the live show and the carcass show. Based upon the

present situation and the recommendations I think I hear forthcoming here, I question whether we should go that way in the coming year, but I would suggest that we ask Ak-Sar-Ben to solicit cooperation of some nearby universities in researching -- using past data and data for the coming year in developing some experimental plans for combining the two. This would be in addition to the proposal which was made by the Judges Committee. We would say that we want to place this recommendation under consideration for research by Ak-Sar-Ben and nearby universities in regard to future use in shows.

Would you accept that kind of consideration?

Yes, Dave?

MR. WILLIAMS: If you combine the live and carcass show, what would happen to the live show as we use it now?

DR. ABLE: The live show would be the same. All we're doing is trying to incorporate the carcass with the live to come up with a winner that would be compatible to the industry, as well as the carcass people.

MR. WILLIAMS: The carcass contest would then be tied to the live show.

DR. McKEE: That's the way. Here's the reason we felt this way: So many times according to the '70 and '72 reports, if the judge doesn't place on the rail, the judge is considered wrong. So, the attempt is simply to say, all right, let's have a live show. Let's get the merit of the carcass and merit of the live and combine the two and see what would happen in terms of the animal totally.

DR. BAKER: Okay. C. K.?

DR. ALLEN: I just thought I'd state that the Production Committee also talked about this. They didn't get it in their report because they felt like there wasn't a possibility, but we had the almost identical feeling, for instance, combining the two and coming up with one, if it's physically possible. It's the only way you're going to be satisfied with grading is to include in the grading, or look at the carcass before you have a champion.

DR. BAKER: I think we would be safe in saying this committee here today wanted to consider the possibility within the long range, there be some kind of a combination of these, but that we would like to encourage Ak-Sar-Ben to involve or use the data from the Ak-Sar-Ben Show since it became terminal in 1971 for some simulation studies or various plans of combining the two. That pool of data would permit several kinds of simulation research. The judgment could then be made on the basis of what might have been, had you done that in those years, rather than our accepting one particular proposal here today.

Are you willing to accept that, Dick?

MR. WARREN: You are taking our committee recommendation and wanting data or something before you accept it? Are you accepting the idea -- or are you postponing accepting our committee's idea until you gather some data on it? Are we submitting all reports with this kind of treatment?

DR. BAKER: There is no data -- there was no data presented today on a system such as this. There has been data presented relevant to many of the other things that we have suggested here based on past data from this show, based on the data from Meat Animal Research Center and grading places and others. So, I guess we have built some of these recommendations on the basis of data, and I haven't seen the data on which to base this.

MR. WARREN: I would want the record to state that everything we have accepted today did not have the data to back it up, and if we postpone our decisions or recommendations another year, that's fine.

DR. BAKER: I'll accept consensus. We've got it in the record now.

Any other comments on this one?

Back to the Education Committee's report. There are two of the committees that have recommended that we make an effort to develop a plan for separate classes for British breeds and British breed crosses.

Do those two committees recommend -- do those two committees represent a majority as far as the consensus is concerned, or are we split right down the middle on this one?

MR. BUSCHER: What do the two committees want? Do they want to have two champions? I don't think you can have two champions.

DR. ALLEN: I think the Production Committee wanted one champion and Education wanted two; isn't that correct?

DR. BAKER: I'm taking a little bit at a time here. I'm not necessarily going to get into this trying to set up two champions in a show, but as far as dividing cattle -- at the present time we're dividing them -- in this show and a number of other shows, we're dividing them by weight only, without regard to breed of cattle. We have two recommendations to give some consideration to some kind of categories by British breed and British breed crosses as a group compared to the larger breed crosses or continental breeds or exotic breeds, whatever you want to call them.

MR. ROBERTS: We didn't discuss it in our committee. I'm opposed to having dual champions.

DR. BAKER: I'm talking about in the classification.

MR. ROBERTS: One of the problems is dual champions. One of them has to be best, and I'm opposed to dual champions.

MR. KULAKOFSKY: I was looking at my Chairman and hoping he would say what he did.

DR. McKEE: Frank, I just want to say -- when did I last judge the Nebraska State Fair? Three years ago I judged the Nebraska State Fair and two Nebraska showmen came up to me and told me they bought large numbers of calves that they knew were exotic cross. They sent all the blood in from the calves to the laboratory. Those that came back showed at English bred were English bred. Those that did not, showed exotic cross.

DR. BAKER: We've discussed blood typing in some past discussions here. We do have a reasonable and accepted level of accuracy for separating English breed and English breed crosses for that general type of genetic material from the continental breed. So, I think we can talk a long time about blood typing, but generally there are certainly groups that are characteristic to a certain cattle breed and certain other cattle breed that are characteristic to the other. Now, --

MR. PRINZ: I think they have a pretty good program this year as far as that is concerned, and I still say your English breeds have more opportunity in your live divisions than your cross breeds, as far as Choice grading. I'm in favor of leaving it the way it is.

DR. TOPEL: I would support this discussion here because there are certain types of cattle and certain weights that will be the ideal carcass, and grade doesn't have to play a role in that. It can or cannot.

So, if you have lightweight cattle, if you have 0.4 on the grade charts, that's fine. If you have another group that weighs a hundred pounds heavier, they have 0.4 inch of fat and they grade Choice, that's also acceptable. Breeds can follow in any of these categories. So, I think it's more desirable for the show if you just pick by weight.

DR. BAKER: Can the Summarizing Committee come up with a statement that would be somewhat in the area relating to the average weight of slaughter steers and heifers and that this be given consideration to the use of show grade cattle for championship and high awards in cattle that are near the average of a slaughter weight of the cattle of the industry today?

See, I'm backing off of breeds, but I'm saying that we remind people that are involved in shows that the cattle industry of the country today is using steer and heifer beef, at least half of which is less than eleven hundred pounds and that those cattle of grade Choice below that, give them equal consideration for the high awards and championships. That's not saying that they haven't been given that way in the past, but I think it's come out in the discussions here earlier that in the last five years, a pretty high number of champions have been on the top side of this average slaughter weight of cattle of the industry today.

MR. WARREN: Different population and we all realize it's hard to compare.

DR. BAKER: Well, I'm not getting strong disagreement?

DR. ALLEN: I think that even though I was for the British and continental, I could accept the proposal you talked about, but I would have to agree with Dick. It's going to take a pretty brave judge to take a ten hundred and fifty pound steer that's ready to go to the market and place him over one who's got the pattern that's so popular right now that's not quite there because the pressure is going to be that he made a mistake.

MR. KIRKPATRICK: I wonder if we could select these cattle that have the ability to grade Choice at different weights if they would all be the same body type of the championship?

DR. BAKER: Okay, anybody else want to make a comment?

MR. WOLF: Yes. I think this 0.3 minimum back fat would be given a chance to work in that regard. I think it would have a definite effect in this direction.

DR. BAKER: Would we be fair in commending Ak-Sar-Ben for their immediate, or for their efforts in the immediate past of setting up divisional champions for lighter weight classes and recommending to other shows that they give consideration to this kind of concept and to high commendation for cattle which grade Choice in those divisions that are at or below the average weight of the slaughter cattle in the industry? Isn't that what we're dealing with, really? We haven't really been doing this in the shows in the immediate past.

Does the Summarizing Committee have the consensus of what we're talking about here?

All right, I've left one --

DR. HUGHES: Yes, sir. I was just going to say, of course I had an opportunity to observe Ak-Sar-Ben this year, and this was the first year of the weight division. I think what we saw this year was a realization of the impact of the pattern set in previous years and maybe this divisional weight may bring about some changes. I think in all, as we discussed the show after we finished up and as you indicated on the paper you submitted, in over nine hundred steers, about twenty that were listed as straight bred steers; twenty, or twenty-five?

MR. WOLVERTON: I think the statistics that Dave put together end up about thirty. I think seventeen Angus, thirteen Hereford and maybe three Shorthorn.

DR. BAKER: We may be able to write something in the summary here in relation to the fact that one of the reasons that some of the problems have existed in regard to the grading of cattle at shows is that we are using breeds which their weight to grade Choice is considerably higher than the weights at which they have been slaughtered, based on the research data from Clay Center.

MR. KULAKOFSKY: Don't you think that really we are heading in the right direction at Ak-Sar-Ben this year with the division being by weight as they were? We have division champions and now that the consensus of this seminar has left the judges with the feeling that the group now is directing them to think a little bit rather -- rather take the stress off of yield grade only. The champion from the weight divisions will be that animal no matter what weight it is because we've set a minimum that industry wants. When the judge goes to select the grand champion from the four divisions or whatever it is, it's going to be consistent with the minimum now that they've got the direction. They know that the strong thing is not, as Dr. Able said when he selected the champion this year. (I won't give it verbatim.) We're doing the best that we can, and we're directed to look for 2.49 cutability or better, but we can't guarantee the condition.

Is that pretty close to what you said, Bill?



Okay, so now the direction from the group has been that we are telling them to think more of what the industry wants; that the weight division as we had it this year was going to work out. We'll have the four champions in the weight divisions and then the grand champion, the best of those four. They're market steers. We're running a market show.

DR. BAKER: Mike, what's the average weight for market beef?

DR. MAY: Six ninety-five for 1976.

DR. BAKER: Carcass weight?

DR. MAY: Carcass weight.

DR. BAKER: Convert it into live weight --

DR. MAY: Live weight for everything is ten eighteen.

MR. BUSCHER: That's for everything.

DR. BAKER: Now, steer beef.

DR. MAY: I don't have the steer by itself.

MR. BUSCHER: It would be easier to figure six ninety-five divided by sixty-three -- that's all I have to do.

DR. LOVEDAY: Eleven thirty.

MR. BUSCHER: About eleven fifty.

DR. BAKER: About eleven or above, average, Okay. Can we shift over now and talk about the incentive program? Is it the consensus of this group at this point that at this show and at shows in general, we should continue to have a carcass champion and a live champion. We know that the judges panel has recommended that we combine the two. We know that the Educational Group in the recommendations did not recommend the carcass champion.

We have had a carcass champion in the past at this show and a number of other shows.

Is it the consensus that we should continue to have a carcass champion and that we should give continued emphasis to the carcass phase of this show?

MR. HENDRICKSON: Increased emphasis with respect to prize money.

DR. BAKER: Any other comments to this?

VOICE: I would just raise the question, is there that much difference between one and two carcass?

DR. BAKER: Well, I guess I come back to the example that I used when I discussed this in committee, that there's a pretty close percentage between Carter and Ford, but one of them is President and has all the rights and privileges that go with it. Our society is based on many decisions in which

selecting one individual is essential.

MR. BENSON: A point I have heard discussed a number of times in the carcass contest is that it can be so close that measurement error could well make the difference. I think that is the point that needs to be considered in the carcass. However, that is sort of not the same ball game in the live.

MR. BUSCHER: Like in our committee, we sat down and said that the grand champion and the ones that ran second, those two kids worked just as hard. So, in regard to the carcass, that kid that's got the champion live and the champion that's a carcass, they were both equal to have it. One had to get it live and one had to actually produce it in the carcass to get it.

DR. BAKER: Am I correct in philosophy that if you do not select a carcass champion that you're de-emphasizing the carcass phase of the show?

MR. BUSCHER: That's right.

DR. BAKER: Is it the consensus of this group that you want to de-emphasize the carcass?

MR. BUSCHER: We want to emphasize it.

DR. BAKER: That is established.

DR. ALLEN: I want to clarify one thing. I agree it should be emphasized, but the other side of that point, when you have a carcass show, you're saying two things. We have a live show and carcass show, and they're not the same. They have to do with two different things, but I still agree if you don't have a carcass champion, you're de-emphasizing.

DR. BAKER: At this point in time, as far as this show and shows like them in general, it appears to be the consensus of this group that we should emphasize the carcass phase of the show, at least give it equal emphasis, and perhaps more emphasis, okay?

Now, at the request of having Warren for the second time in my life take me to task, are you willing for us to research methodology for combining these two?

I am continuing at the present time in the manner of recommending that we continue the emphasis on the carcass phase and doing some research in regard to methods of possibly combining these carcasses and live shows.

DR. DIKEMAN: I'd like to ask a question in this combination. This would be a third category, right?

Okay, I really see nothing wrong with their policy for trying it and you know, it's not going to change anything else in the show really, except you're adding that other category, using a little different system of putting the two together and see how it works.

DR. BAKER: Can we recommend it as a -- let's see, I believe in the previous summation of the Ak-Sar-Ben Seminars, we said establish new and

innovative classes of shows exhibiting animals, etc., and then as a new and innovative approach, shows you should consider combining the live and carcass events on the basis outlined here by our Judges Committee.

MR. WOLF: Yes.

DR. BAKER: Now, that still leaves it in the hands of show management of any show, as to whether or not they want to emphasize it at any given point in time?

So, at this time we're not saying that Ak-Sar-Ben should start next year? We're indicating that it's another new and innovative approach to shows.

MR. HURLBUT: I think in the Education Committee, we didn't get down to really specifics on the carcass part of it, but we did include it in the premium breakdown, and I think one reason we're all here today is to try to find the seventy-three percent that didn't grade and the plan that we presented -- talked about was a calf that was a blue ribbon, wouldn't get the premium money, but if he graded Choice, he'd get twenty-five dollars -- correct me if I'm wrong, Dave -- and this is basically as I got it from the committee. Consensus of the opinion is there needs to be an incentive to get these boys and girls to feed their cattle to grade Choice because we're looking for that seventy-three percent. One of them as we've already discussed, taking the minimum to 0.3 inch fat and this might be an incentive to get the kids to feed the cattle more, too.

DR. BAKER: Hopefully, we will have established something here insofar as the carcass part of it is concerned and in offering the judges recommendations for combined events as a new and innovatibe approach to shows.

MR. WILLIAMS: I don't disagree in picking a champion carcass, but if you're going to add incentive in the carcass contest, you're going to have to go down deeper. You have to get carcass incentive money down quite a bit deeper than we are now.

DR. BAKER: Are you providing equal amount of money in the live event and carcass event now?

MR. VOLK: Well yes, it's equal. The live you pay so much. The live, six, eight and ten and the same in the ribbon placing in the beef, but there's additional money for the carcass and this is what we're talking about. The twenty-five dollars in addition even outside the hundred dollars.

DR. BAKER: All right. Then does this group believe that it is a good concept to provide a carcass incentive for animals that place in the live show in the blue and above -- in the higher parts of the classes if they grade Choice? Put a special premium incentive on those animals that grade Choice, that we put a premium incentive on the animals above their regular premiums for those animals that grade Choice?

MR. BUSCHER: Now, like Tom Prinz was saying, if you do that, you're going to entice the kids to stay -- who are in the whites and reds to stay out of the carcass if they throw it in there and don't have a chance to win.

You have to include purples, blues, reds and whites or the kids aren't going to stay in with the reds and whites because they don't stand a chance to get any premium.

DR. BAKER: We're talking about two different things. One is, you have a carcass division and you put premium money on the carcass division. You have a live division and you put premium money on the live division. Now, with that kind of show, then, do you want to recommend that you have a special incentive called the daily double, if you want to? Is that a good term to use in this setting for those who, in the live show, place -- are grading Choice or above?

MR. STEVENS: We were talking about this seventy-three percent. They're the ones we're trying to get into this Choice grade. If we put an incentive award for those blues and those purples, we've already said the 0.3, we're going to have more of these boys and girls feeding for a Choice grade because we have a bonus incentive on it, and that's the reason for it.

DR. BAKER: Jim Wolf.

MR. WOLF: I agree with Sam. We've already got the purples and blues in the carcass contest mandatorily. The ones we want to get in there are the reds and whites. If we don't give them the same incentive at least, or really additional incentive, they're going to be more inclined to take the cattle on.

MR. BUSCHER: Didn't you say that the carcass champion, six were in the red and whites?

DR. BAKER: Forty-eight percent of the carcass animals were in the red and whites.

DR. ABLE: Let's look at the calf's figures. He weighed ten fifty with 0.2 inches of fat and 17.4 ribeye; you can bet that calf had double muscle characteristics and that was why it was put down in the white ribbon group, not because we didn't think that the calf wasn't a good meat animal, but it's the freaks like that that win your carcass show.

DR. BAKER: We've already said we want to emphasize the carcass and then removing the championship would be de-emphasizing.

MR. PRINZ: We are interested in the blue ribbon in the carcass contest because if this carcass doesn't make Choice, he's not in the carcass contest now, am I right?

MR. VOLK: That's right. It's Choice and yield grades one, two and three.

MR. PRINZ: We're emphasizing it right now.

DR. BAKER: Then you're saying, Tom, we don't need to utilize this bonus money concept?

MR. PRINZ: Well, if it's not Choice, he's not in the carcass contest.

DR. LOVEDAY: I think the way Dave's plan is, he set it up, the carcasses are 2.99 or less in grade Choice.

MR. WILLIAMS: All of the carcasses in the contest 2.99 or above and would get money even if there were two hundred of them, regardless --

DR. LOVEDAY: See, that's the incentive not coming out of the live show, but the blue cattle out of the live show. So, say twenty-five dollars, whatever the incentive money is, is the gimmick to get the reds and whites into the carcass show.

MR. VOLK: If they're eligible.

DR. LOVEDAY: Well, to get the red and white cattle into the carcass show.

MR. WARREN: I just wanted to ask these people, somebody that knows; I just don't know. Now, I've got a calf, start him at seven hundred, take him to eleven hundred -- what is the pattern of fat deposit in a breed group, or within a particular breed group? Dave, or some of you, what is it? Say I'm heading for 0.4 or something. What would be kind of the pattern for fat deposits? In this four hundred pound weight change -- I'm saying bringing up the 0.4 over a rib. Say you start at 0 or 0.05 or something at 600. What's the pattern of deposit by weight or something? I would say he gained four hundred pounds. Entered him at eleven, started a little on him. What is the pattern of this?

DR. TOPEL: I think about 0.1 inch of fat from, let's say, seven hundred pounds to eleven hundred pounds. Dick is asking how much fat are they laying down on the outside if they increase a hundred pounds light weight.

DR. DIKEMAN: I think it's reasonable, but it depends on the steer.

DR. TOPEL: It's average.

DR. DIKEMAN: That's a reasonable guess, I guess. I don't know for sure.

MR. WARREN: Can he have 0.3 at nine fifty, or where does he get this last tenth?

DR. DIKEMAN: I imagine it's not a linear increase, I don't imagine.

DR. BAKER: There's one major point with which we have to deal that we haven't dealt with, and that's the incentive program. Now there has been major discussion here in regard to determination of premium auction or control of the premium auction.

We have a recommendation from two committees for some other type of an approach for an incentive program. One each way, is that right?

DR. OMTVEDT: The marketing one recommended we still have the controlled auction.

DR. BAKER: Try to tone it down was their terminology, and the other recommended we come up with a new incentive program. What's your pleasure?

Unless there's a consensus, then we'll probably not make a recommendation in regard to specific change, except to say that an uncontrolled premium auction may be less precise in rewarding excellence than is a controlled incentive system in which you direct certain incentives to certain levels of exhibits, which is what the Education Committee turned out.

DR. OMTVEDT: One of the real strong points we came across was we would come up with a more equitable type of incentive program. I think that is what we came to rather specifically. I think that is one of the points we really want to get across. We want to distribute more awards to a class than is possible at present, so it would be more equitable.

DR. BAKER: Is it then reasonable to offer a suggestion that there were questions raised or suggestions made about trying to develop more equitable and broader based incentive systems and just let it drop at that?

MR. WOLF: Dave, would you give us a rundown on how the system at the Nebraska State Fair is worked out, in your opinion?

MR. WILLIAMS: The State Fair grand champion, reserve grand champion, breed champions and reserve breed champions are given certain amounts of money that is put in the premium book and there is no auction.

MR. WOLF: How much, exactly?

MR. WILLIAMS: One thousand, grand; five hundred, reserve; two fifty grand champion; and two hundred, reserve champion. The money is made available from the people or firms that would bid in the auction. It has not affected the numbers in the show. It's been rather constant and has increased slightly for a couple of years, but we have no complaints on it.

DR. BAKER: Okay. That is what we term a controlled incentive system. It's operational at the State Fair and for how long now?

MR. WILLIAMS: Five or six years.

DR. BAKER: Five or six years at the Nebraska State Fair, and that type of incentive system is operational at some other fairs or shows.

Now, do we have other expressions in regard to whether we should offer a recommendation about the type of incentive system that is most desirable as far as youth shows are concerned?

DR. ABLE: I would just like to say that I hate to see somebody who wanted to come out and spend that kind of money be told they couldn't come out and do it. True, it's not great or good to see this kind of money going to a single youngster, but I still say that if I had a million dollars and I wanted to spend it that way, I would sure spend it that way.

MR. COCANOUGHER: I would like to go along with what Bill said, and let's not be misled. We're not going to get all this money given to us in this auction to use as we see fit.

MR. WILLIAMS: We didn't use all of the money at the State Fair auction, either.

MR. STEVENS: I think we still need to keep in mind, the youth and the 4-H Club program, and I don't think we should be looking at how money is spent, but what is it going to do to the boy or to the girl, and I think that's exactly the reason we're here today. I think the boy or the girl is the number one priority. What is right for the youth is what we should be thinking about. What is right for the boy or girl for the kind of program that we suggest in our livestock shows.

DR. BAKER: Tom Prinz.

MR. PRINZ: I agree wholeheartedly. I think we have to look at the whole aspect of it, and maybe ten or fifteen thousand dollars wouldn't involve the whole thing, but there is money spent every day because of this. Because of the high incentive, there were large amounts of money spent on club calves at the beginning of the starting period. Maybe they shouldn't be spending that money. I think it's costing our industry to have people spend that much money.

MR. STEVENS: One other comment. I personally believe when these high priced 4-H Club calves are sold in auctions in these large cities and the news media puts it to the top of the paper, radio hits it, TV covers it, I personally believe that the average consumer who doesn't understand some of these things feels the beef industry is really making the dough. I think that the extremely high priced sales of the market steers has hurt the beef industry and the image of the beef industry, to say nothing about these extremely high priced feeder calves that are being sold in relation to it to people who are shooting for this big champion steer. I think it's hurting our industry, to say nothing about what it's doing to our boys and girls.

DR. BAKER: Jim Wolf.

MR. WOLF: I question whether the people who buy the top steers are after anything but the publicity of buying a top steer. That's why I think the suggestion that our committee made deserves some careful consideration. In other words, I don't think that the bidder would insist that all the money go to that particular exhibitor. I think it would be adequate if that exhibitor got, say, five thousand dollars for the top steer which is five times what they get at the State Fair. Now, I'm not sure that this is right. I would qualify this by saying at the very least, I would like to ask Ak-Sar-Ben management to investigate this and see what the attitude of the buyers is, whether they would consider this approach, rather than to just dump it on them.

DR. BAKER: Would we be correct in saying that extremely high prices in premium auctions creates some problems in regard to equity in distribution of awards? I think I heard you say this now -- that it creates problems? It creates some problems with regard to artificially high prices being paid for animals to enter into youth programs and tends to become restrictive with respect to some club members entering the livestock or the beef projects.

Have I said anything incorrect up to this point?

MR. WOLF: Frank, what it does is promote unprofitable 4-H operations.

MR. ALBERS: There are a lot of calves being bought by people who don't bring them to Ak-Sar-Ben and maybe at the higher prices.

DR. BAKER: Now, in regard to the people who have discussed this here, we did identify some problems in regard to these extremely high prices for animals that were champion in junior shows, and we mentioned the equity of distribution, the artificiality and tending to be restrictive insofar as participation of certain individuals that feel they cannot afford to put in the show, and we recommended to show management that careful consideration be given to the incentive programs to deal with these problems.

Can we agree on that?

MR. WARREN: I don't think we should make light of what some of those people are talking about. We're fighting for young brain power. For animal agriculture. A little thing that's bothering us right now is women's athletics. I don't know, Dr. Caldwell, are our other projects going down? Wolverton and I talked about it, and they find it tough to maintain 4-H activities as they have in the past because of this one factor alone. Any issue of this conference really should be geared to try to keep good young brain power in animal agriculture. We don't want to make it so silly and so complicated that we lose them. I think you'll agree that we need the young people.

DR. BAKER: Okay. I think Dick's point is, we need to solve these kinds of problems in order to encourage participation by young people to participate in this type of activity.

Any other points here?

DR. McKEE: The only thing that bothers me, Frank, and I can't say one way or the other, is the statement that restricts people from getting in the projects. I judge county fairs and invariably someone will come up and say, we gave a hundred fifty dollars for that calf and then look at that calf over there and they paid seven fifty. I guess I'm just really questioning your statement.

DR. BAKER: Parents, in the development of young people, make a lot of investments. I have a five hundred dollar violin laying on the shelf in the closet that hasn't been played for ten years.

MR. PRINZ: If you want a blue ribbon or purple ribbon at Ak-Sar-Ben, you have to have certain criteria.

DR. ABLE: The grand champion steer this year was bought as a feeder calf for \$350.

MR. ROBERTS: I don't think that's the point.

DR. BAKER: I'm going to give you another shot at some kind of statement on this later.

I'm going to let you get your heads adjusted, but the Summation Committee has a little bit of sense of what we are hearing here. I would like to declare to the Education Committee that there was not a favorable consensus for this group to recommend a complete change in the incentive system.

MR. HENDRICKSON: Improvement, but not complete change.



DR. BAKER: Are there any reports in these committee reports that we have not discussed in general, that you feel need to be discussed before the Summation Committee gets to work?

I think Art wants to say something over here.

MR. KULAKOFSKY: I would like to be tail end here, if I may, sir.

DR. BAKER: Okay. Tom Prinz.

MR. PRINZ: This is pertaining to the slaughter of cattle. We're talking about cattle not grading. We load these cattle in the afternoon. They stand all night at these packing plants. Is there any way we can load these cattle and nine o'clock and then killed directly to prevent them from being put with these other cattle? Could we load these cattle at ten o'clock here, kill them by noon?

MR. MANKIN: We're more concerned with trying to make the show ring more educational. We haven't even dealt with that, but we have a teaching moment that we cannot overlook if we want to. We've got an audience attention and exhibitors' attention. I brought a video tape all set up to show some things we are doing, and we'll get it out here and plug it in if you've got seven or eight minutes. We'll reel it out here and plug it up.

MR. VOLK: Could we roll it into the Turf Room and see it there?

DR. BAKER: Well, I think we agreed that this group would have refreshments at five o'clock and we'd have dinner at about six o'clock, and we would summarize and adjourn around seven o'clock.

Now if you can set this up over at the Turf Room, it will help us meet the deadlines.

MR. KULAKOFSKY: Two things that I definitely want on the record. I see a few people who are here for their third seminar, and I think I can speak for them, Dr. Frank. Welcome back for your day in Nebraska. This is your third time around. You've done a magnificent job, and I think that not just the kid which was our goal, but all of us individually, have gained something from the program you've moderated today.

Number two for the record, while we're still sitting here like this, I think we would like to have it on the record to direct Bob Volk to take back to the management of the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben, our thanks for providing the facilities and the manpower and everything for this group meeting here again, Ak-Sar-Ben Beef Seminar III, 1977.

DR. BAKER: You're adjourned to the attitude adjustment period, except for the Summation Committee composed of Omtvedt, McKee, Schroeder, Roberts, Hughes and Baker.

(Conference reassembled following dinner for the report of the Summation Committee.)

## Summary of Ak-Sar-Ben Beef Seminar III

December 15, 1977

Prepared by Summary Committee -- Frank Baker, Irvin Omtvedt, Joe Hughes, Chuck Schroeder, Miles McKee, Jim Roberts

Presented to seminar participants by Dr. Frank Baker

As we opened the Seminar today, we started with the "Objectives of the 4-H Program," and in reviewing, these objectives are first, for the personal development of young people in integrity, goal-setting, commitment to goal accomplishment in salesmanship of self and project animal. Secondly, the study and use of biological principles in animal behavior, care and management, and in normal animal growth and production processes and in the application of these principles in the use of animals for human food production.

And thirdly, the study of the animal industry through learning the roles and essentiality of the people in the industry, the standards of integrity and ethics of people in the industry and to show and to learn our shows and/or fairs and to serve as a communication vehicle and in providing for animal improvement. In regard to the live animal classification at shows, I want to commend the Ak-Sar-Ben management for the division concepts which they have used. We want to encourage emphasis on the Choice grades and all weight groupings, and we as participants particularly reminded the public that the average industry slaughter weights of steers are about 1100 pounds. For as at many shows in the past five years, the champions have weighed considerably above this weight. For grand champion animals at shows, due consideration should be given to champions from all weight divisions.

In the live steer shows, all steers should be weighed just prior to entering the show-ring after having been weighed at entering into the show. Any steer with an excess of four percent increase in weight over the weigh-in for the show would be dropped to a maximum of a red ribbon live or carcass placing where such a ribbon grouping system is used. In shows that do not use this grouping system, an appropriate penalty should be assessed against individuals that show this excess increase in weight over the weigh-in level. This is to be reviewed by shows after it has been in effect for one to two years. The advantages of such a system would be to eliminate or penalize steers that have been shrunk and to try to achieve more desirable proportions in skeleton and weight relationship.

This Seminar recognized the increase in numbers of crossbreeds and exotic breeds at the shows and in the immediate past and encouraged strong breed programs and participation by representative individuals of all breeds and breed crosses. The Seminar participants were unable to reach an agreement in regard to breed groupings at shows at this time.

In regard to the carcass phase of the show, the participants recommended continued and increasing emphasis on the carcass phases of the shows through award incentives and continued selection of carcass champions. Secondly, the Seminar participants wanted to encourage show management to increase the educational phases with respect to the carcass aspects of the show. Thirdly, no advantage or additional cutability credit in carcass show results in calculation for award should be given to animals with less than .3" of backfat.

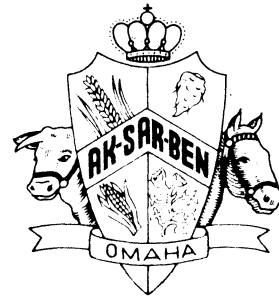
And number four, realistic guidelines for excellence for steers is a quality grade of Choice or better and a yield or cutability grade of 2.99 or superior. Over two pounds per day gain for approximately 200 days preceding the show or an appropriate length feeding period in each locality. Also, steers should be less than 20 months of age.

There is a general recommendation that purple and blue ribbon award groups or the top 30 to 50 percent of the shows where such a grouping system is not used should be required to be slaughtered and entered in the carcass show. But those individuals in the red or white groupings or the bottom 50 percent of other shows where such a grouping is not used have the option of withdrawing their animals or not entering the carcass show. We reaffirm that shows be considered to be terminal with positive identifications of the participation of the animal by the jaw-branding procedure. We encourage show management to work with universities to use previous show data to research and develop the methodology for combining the live and carcass animal phases of shows for an additional category of awards. The participants suggested the proposed innovative system which would combine numerical ranking from the two phases of the shows in a new category of award or incentive.

In regard to incentives and awards in general, the participants encouraged show management to give consideration to using future incentives to best encourage youth participation in a more open and equitable manner to minimize artificiality that is sometimes created with extremely high individual monetary rewards. Extremely high individual monetary rewards may not be in the best interest of youth in general or the beef industry in general.

Gentlemen, that concludes the summary statement.

# NEWS RELEASE



63rd and Shirley Streets  
Omaha, Nebraska 68106  
(402) 556-2305

# AK · SAR · BEN

From Harold Youngren  
Director of Information

For Immediate Release

## NEW GUIDELINES PROPOSED AT AK-SAR-BEN BEEF SEMINAR III

Omaha, Nebr. -- If recommendations formulated during the recent Ak-Sar-Ben Beef Seminar III by leaders of the nation's beef industry and several universities are put into effect, future junior market beef shows will focus heavily on the educational aspects of beef exhibition with more emphasis on carcass evaluation.

Also, guidelines were established to increase the number of animals grading Choice and to move the process of production, judging, education, marketing and distribution closer to the commercial meat industry.

Thirty-four participants, representing all segments of the industry and several universities, met at Ak-Sar-Ben to formulate new recommendations and to review show guidelines established at two earlier seminars in 1970 and 1972. The group approved a proposal which would encourage show management officials to provide added incentives to "best encourage youth participation in a more open and equitable manner in order to minimize the artificiality that is sometimes created with extremely high individual monetary rewards for live placings only."

The participants adopted a general recommendation that future shows require steers in purple and blue ribbon groups in the live show portion to be slaughtered and automatically entered in a carcass event. In shows not using the grouping system, the leaders urged that the top 30 to 50 percent of live placing animals be automatically entered in carcass competition.

In general, the seminar report encouraged all participants to enter carcass shows.

Dr. William E. Caldwell, Assistant Director of 4-H and Youth Development at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, opened the seminar by urging participants to design rules and incentive programs to keep livestock shows "youth-oriented and assist in better reflecting desirable market animals."

In specific recommendations regarding carcass show judging, the report proposed that:

-- All external fat measurements of less than .3 inch be considered .3 inch when calculating yield grades in show results.

-- "Realistic" guidelines for steers entered should be a quality grade of low Choice or better; a yield grade of 2.99 or less; more than two pounds per day average daily gain; and a feeding period in each locality of about 200 days, and an age of less than 20 months.

Dr. Robert Koch, research geneticist at the Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Nebraska, told the group that research indicates that an exotic crossbred steer must be fed to 200 pounds heavier live weight than a straight British-bred steer to reach the Choice grade. In this respect, the seminar urged steer show judges to give equal consideration to champions from all weight divisions when selecting grand champions. The participants reminded the judges that the average industry slaughter weight of steers is about 1,100 pounds, whereas at many shows in the past five years, champions have weighed considerably above this weight.

Earlier, Dr. Frank Baker, Dean of Agriculture at Oklahoma State University and Seminar Moderator, commended Ak-Sar-Ben for adopting a weight division concept in its 4-H livestock exhibition last year.

Seminar participants did not agree on a plan to include separate breed classes in market beef shows.

The group also adopted a measure calling for weighing of all steers in the live show immediately before entering the show-ring in an effort to enforce their 1972 recommendation discouraging the "shrinking" of steers. Any steer gaining over four percent of arrival weight would be automatically dropped to the maximum red ribbon grouping of both live and carcass shows. In shows not using a grouping system, an appropriate penalty would be assessed against individuals violating the provision.

The complete transcript of the seminar will be available in early 1978 by writing to Robert G. Volk, Assistant General Manager, Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben, 63rd and Shirley Streets, Omaha, Nebraska 68106.

Others attending the day-long seminar and their group assignments were:

Production Group: Dr. C. K. Allen, American Polled Hereford Association, Kansas City, Mo.; Dr. Dwight F. Stephens, Visiting Animal Science Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Chuck Schroeder, Schroeder Cattle Co., Palisade, Nebr.; Jack Maddux, President, Nebraska Stockgrowers Association, Wauneta, Nebr.; W. Wayne Hendrickson, Hendrickson Land & Cattle Co., Kearney; Sherman Berg, Director of Communications, American Shorthorn Association; Omaha; Herb Albers, Jr., Wisner, Nebr.; Dave Kirkpatrick, Extension Livestock Specialist, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Marketing and Distribution Group: Jim Roberts, Lincoln; Carl Gardner, Great Plains Beef Co. head cattle buyer, Council Bluffs, Ia.; Tom Prinz, West Point, Nebr.; Jim Wolf, Wagonhammer Angus Ranch, Albion, Nebr.; Dr. David G. Topel, Animal Science Professor, Iowa State University, Ames; Dr. Michael L. May, USDA\_ FSQS Meat Quality Division, Washington, D.C.; Arthur S. Kulakofsky, General Manager, Ak-Sar-Ben Beef Co., Omaha; Clarence A. Buscher, Jr., Executive Vice President for Cattle Procurement, John Roth & Son, Omaha; Dr. Mike Dikeman, Associate Animal Science Professor, Kansas State University, Manhattan.

Education Group: Harold Stevens, Dawson County Extension Agent, Lexington, Nebr.; Dr. Joe Hughes, Extension 4-H Livestock Specialist, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater; Dr. Irvin Omtvedt, Chairman of the Animal Science Department, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Gary Bishop, Director of Junior Activities, American Hereford Association, Kansas City, Mo.; Lynn Benson, Assistant State Leader for 4-H and Youth Development, Iowa State University, Council Bluffs, Ia.; Dean Hurlbut, Director of Activities, American Angus Association, St. Joseph, Mo.; J. D. Mankin, Extension Livestock Specialist, Caldwell, Idaho; Dave Williams, Extension Livestock Specialist, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Dr. Dwight Loveday, Extension Meats Specialist, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Judges Group: Dr. Miles McKee, Animal Science Professor, Kansas State University, Manhattan; Doyle Wolverton, Extension Livestock Production Specialist, Iowa State University, Council Bluffs, Ia.; Dr. Bill Able, Associate Animal Science Professor, Kansas State University, Manhattan; Dr. Roger Hunsley, Animal Scientist, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.; R. B. Warren, Animal Science Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Tony Cocanougher, Head Cattle Buyer, Armour & Co., Omaha.

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Selected Lists

12-20-77