

Opening Ceremony

Tuesday, December 12, 8:30 a.m.

Dr. Francis Fox, Presiding

Opening Remarks by Dr. Francis Fox

I am speaking for most of us in saying we are happy to be here. The very fact that you have typical northern Wisconsin weather and about three-quarters of our speakers for this morning's session are unable to get here including your Secretary of Agriculture, however, leaves something to be desired for the selection of a site for a winter meeting! To that end, some of us are going to push Atlanta in 1975! Truthfully, we are very pleased with the turnout which I believe is a record—not only do we have a fine showing of dairy practitioners which are most close to my heart, but also a good Texas representation as we found out yesterday with regard to the beef people. So far as the program this morning, it has been suggested, and I think well warranted, that we spend a little extra time in the coffee and milk break program that's listed on your program to begin at 10:00.

I think that all of you are aware that if you have ever had anything to do with a national or state meeting or a veterinary conference, it is the exhibitors who certainly help to defray the expense of a meeting of this magnitude. There are a lot of fine exhibits and the people did not come just to say to their home

company that they were here, but to get acquainted with you practitioners and, of course, contemplate doing business with the firms that are represented.

We have taken the prerogative of drawing talent from the state of Wisconsin to welcome us outsiders. I personally have a selfish interest in doing this because the gentleman that is going to accept this last minute notice responsibility is none other than a Cornell graduate of many years ago, Dr. Elmer Woeffler of Oconomowoc. I think it is duly fitting that he should give us the welcome from the state of Wisconsin. It is, as you all know, a typical example of a practitioner getting through the storm in spite of the other people putting their cars in the garage and I think we've all, from the northern half of the United States, had our experience at doing this. He is probably, among dairy practitioners, the most widely known single veterinarian in the United States and Canada because of his column for many years in *Hoard's Dairyman*. I think it is indeed fitting that he has had his arm unduly twisted and has agreed to substitute for Secretary of Agriculture Don Wilkinson at this time to give an official welcome to us outsiders from the state of Wisconsin—Dr. Woeffler.



Welcome
by
Elmer Woeffler, D.V.M.
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

Gentlemen. Dr. Allenstein and his committee and Dr. Fox and all those who have had a hand in organizing this meeting in Wisconsin have done an excellent job in getting you interested and in coming here, but I think they overdid it a little bit as far as the weather is concerned! I think they wanted to make you feel at home and give you an

idea of what the typical weather is like in Wisconsin. You know, whenever I give a talk I know only one story. Some of you have heard this, but I have not been on the speaking circuit for a long time and probably you have forgotten about it, anyway, it's about a football player that failed in his examination and that meant that he was not able to play for his college team. The coach considered him his top player and he was very much upset and so he went to see the professor and he said, "Just what did my football player do that you did not let him pass the course or pass the examination?" "Well," he said, "he copied from one of my star students." Well, the coach felt that was a pretty good excuse and he grabbed his hat and dejectedly was walking out of the room when finally he turned around and said, "Wait a minute, how do you know that your star student did not copy from my football player?" The professor smiled and took the books out and laid them side by side and looked over the answer of the first question on both books and they were exactly the same. They were exactly the same on the second, the third, and all the way down until the tenth question and the star student had written—I do not know the answer to this one! The football player had written—I do not know the answer to this one either! Well, I don't know all the answers to Wisconsin weather either but we've got it and so I am going to take this opportunity to really welcome you on behalf of the Wisconsin veterinarians. I have seen a good many faces that I know and I have seen a great many other faces and I

hope that maybe we'll have time to be a little more informal this forenoon in spite of the fact that we are in this situation and that you will get acquainted and have more of an opportunity to visit and enjoy yourselves. Glad to see you here. (Applause)

Dr. Francis Fox: Thank you very much Dr. Woeffler. I like to be frank with you and I have a thing or two to get off my chest! I have learned during this past year of having the honorable, questionably honorable, position of being president of the AABP—of learning a fact that I was unaware of until this past year and that is that the president is strictly a figurehead with absolutely no power whatsoever! For those of you from New York State and New England who know me best, I have taken a lot of “static” with regard to the theme of the program, half of which is Planned Program Herd Health, which is like waving a red flag in front of a bull insofar as I am concerned! I am not against the subject as such but I received my training from people like the late Dr. D. Udall who I think most of you at least know about him and what it means unless you've graduated within the past five or ten years. His book is used across the country and world. Dr. Udall returned from Ohio State somewhere around 1903 to 1905—I don't know which because I was not around then and he took over the direction of the ambulatory clinic and the large animal medicine and obstetrics at Cornell. For a period of about 52 years he carried on what today would be a great herd health program with a 500-head herd of purebred Guernseys about 45 miles from Ithaca. He did this until 1952 when he chose to retire and I took the same position over until 1962 when the farm was disbanded! That is herd health so I do not necessarily have anything against it but to play it up in the light of forgetting anything else regarding veterinary medicine except the great title “Herd Health.” The people have been kidding me a little bit. You had a solid afternoon of it yesterday. There were a few friends who spoke—Dr. Barron of Texas for example talked about charging us to remember that there were still a few small herds around that needed help and so I got my licks in a little bit there.

The next speaker recently said he was going to be with us in Wisconsin and I told him it would be over my dead body and he asked me what kind of flowers I liked because he said he'd be there! He's Irish and full of jokes—I think if we gave him the microphone, he would be able to entertain us all until noon. He used to be an honest practitioner in Michigan—he even did a few rectals in dairy herds, etc., like some of the rest of us still do but he is now the Head State Veterinarian in the state of Michigan—he is president elect of the AVMA, a position he phased into without too much opposition because he did good work on the home front and I wish we could put earmuffs over him now so that he could not hear my next statement but I have to confess that I am decidedly proud that he is not only president elect of our parent organization but he is always kind enough to fly over Lake Michigan and address us this morning—John F. Quinn.

Response

Dr. John F. Quinn
President-Elect, AVMA
Lansing, Michigan

After an introduction like that I really do not know what to say; however, Francis did make me promise to tell a joke and, of course, when you first talk to Francis, the first thing that comes to your mind is bull and this joke involves a New York farmer whose bull quit working so he went to Francis and told him his problem. Francis said he thought he knew what was wrong so he gave him a sack of medicine and told him to medicate the bull

twice a day on his groin which he did very beautifully and, lo and behold! the bull changed his tactics and became very aggressive and bred all the cattle which needed to be bred on the farm. It rained the next day and a neighbor came down and the farmer was telling the neighbor what kind of a veterinarian Dr. Fox was. I guess he didn't know him too well, but he said he really cured my bull—he brought him right back and the neighbor asked him what kind of medicine that was. The neighbor said he would like a little of that handy. The farmer said he didn't know but it tasted like licorice!

Members of the Bovine Practitioners Association, it is indeed a great honor to have the opportunity to meet with you at your annual convention. I bring you the regards and best wishes of the American Veterinary Medical Association. AVMA is extremely proud of having the close association with the bovine practitioners. We are fully aware of the necessity of specialty groups closely aligned with AVMA. For years the most common complaint that we had following AVMA conventions were that there were not enough in-depth scientific programs to satisfy the various specialties within the profession. For this reason the parent organization is gratified and gives its full support to the existence of various specialty groups closely aligned with the mother association. In other words, what is good for the Bovine Practitioners Association is good for the AVMA. With 23,000 more or less active members of AVMA, we all realize that it is impossible at convention time to provide a scientific program which will satisfy all of the specialists in this profession. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the specialty groups to provide this in-depth scientific program for its members. Having operated a dairy cattle practice in Michigan for some years, I am more than aware of the need for and the wonderful progress that the Bovine Practitioners Association has done for the cattle practitioner. One of the greatest things that I saw yesterday afternoon—and I am sticking my head in the door of this room during your scientific lectures—was the room completely filled. Now we all know this is not a routine sight at professional conventions. Generally, the professional people combine the convention with fun as well as scientific lectures. However, I was tremendously impressed to see the attendance and the attention that you were giving to the speakers. It has been an established fact that in recent years the practice of pet animal medicine has more or less overshadowed the work of veterinarians who have limited their practice to the care and treat-

ment of food animals and I mean primarily the cattle practitioner. This shift in popularity within the profession to the pet animal practitioner can in no way be used as a measure of the importance in comparison with the bovine practitioner. While the cattle herds in this country are becoming somewhat disseminated, the remaining herds are becoming much larger and, with the increase in size of these herds, the disease and care problems are multiplying therefore necessitating on the part of the producer a much closer liaison with the practicing veterinarian. With the vastly increasing population, the demand for food and fiber from cattle is increasing and will continue to do so; therefore, along with this demand, the need for sophisticated professional veterinarians specializing in the care of beef and dairy cattle is increasing also. For this reason I commend the members of this association for providing themselves with the necessary expertise to carry out a modern-day cattle practice which will assure the average citizen of the production of healthy bovine animals and provide them with the sustenance they need. I hear that you have had a tremendous growth in your organization in the past year. One of the directors was telling me that your membership has increased by over 400 in the past year! This is very encouraging and I am sure it also points out the importance that you people have to American agriculture.

I thought I might just briefly mention some progress that is being made in the Chicago office of the AVMA in regard to bringing closer to reality the possibility of the AVMA having its own home.

(Left to right): Dr. Quinn, President-elect, AVMA; Mr. Bill Knox, Hoard's Dairyman; Dr. M. L. Weldy, AABP Delegate, House of Representatives; Dr. Leland Allenstein, Local Arrangements Chairman.

At the last meeting of the executive board, the executive vice-president was authorized to enter into negotiations with a real estate firm in the Chicago area for the purchase of some land to the northwest of the Loop. Progress has been made in this respect and I have heard verbally that this real estate firm has accepted a proposed offer from the executive office and it looks as though the purchase of the land which we all had looked at is going to become a reality. If so, plans will be immediately forthcoming to build a central office for the AVMA in a Chicago suburb. As you know, the House of Delegates set this rolling last summer in New Orleans. They instructed the executive board to get busy and provide a new headquarters for the AVMA. As you know, we have a lease at 600 S. Michigan Avenue. This lease will terminate in early 1974 and it is hoped by all involved that the new home for the AVMA will be ready at the termination of this lease. I want to thank you again for inviting me to attend this meeting and I personally wish you and all of yours a happy and joyous holiday season. Thank you very much. (Applause)

Dr. Fox: Thank you very much Dr. Quinn—those were very kind words. You must have a very good ghost writer somewhere back in Michigan and also, that bull story you've cleaned up a great deal since the last time I heard it pulled on me! I didn't know how you were going to pull it off but you did as per usual. The next speaker is certainly in need of no introduction here in Wisconsin. For those of you who are not personally acquainted with him, Dr. Lee Allenstein has done a yeoman's job of making the local arrangements. Lee, it is all yours to recognize some of your helpers, etc.



Introduction of Guests and Committee Chairmen,
Dr. Lee Allenstein
Whitewater, Wisconsin

I would like to welcome everyone here to the Fifth Annual Meeting of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners. What actually determines the success is very often difficult to ascertain but if it is your attendance, we have it. At the present time we have about 850 veterinarians registered and we hope to hit 1,000. Your part of the meeting has been a success—now it is up to us to provide the intelligence that you came to acquire.

Committees that have been serving at this convention have been numerous and I know it is going to be hard to mention them all; however, we do have a few names that should be mentioned and, in particular, Dr. Ben Harrington who has been chairman of the Program Committee. The entire committee is listed on the back of the program and I think Ben has done a tremendous job of putting this all together, including Dr. Bechtol for the feedlot practitioners and Dr. Don Williams for the beef cattle and other subsidiaries of this committee. We also have Dr. Sam Hutchins who you do not see very often but he is in charge of all these exhibits and I want to stress again, when we have a break, that we go and visit them. Sam has done a tremendous job along with Dr. Larry Smith from Wisconsin. Dr. Roger Meads has been my right hand man and I do not think I could get along without him. He is a general handyman—he was supposed to be on the program committee but he has been very active in doing things that I wanted to do. I want to mention Dr. Ed Krueger and Dr. Ron King who personally got all these Wisconsin practitioners together to come here and act as hosts. This hat which I am wearing was provided by them. We must take our hats off to the Wisconsin VMA and many of the local associations. They, in turn, donated all the money for the cheese and Wisconsin ADA donated the milk that will be served here for the next two days so we do have a few people that we have to recognize. I have Dr. Bob Keith and his wife who

did all the work setting up the dairy promotion tables and I do want to recognize them. Then we have Dr. Wayne Grover. He is the one person who contacted every speaker. This is a tremendous job. Back to the first two days of the convention, the pre-convention seminar, we had Dr. Ray Klu who we wish to recognize. He did a lot of the work for this. And then all the ones that went on the tour—Dr. Frazer, Dr. Gilleon, Dr. Clary, Dr. Burns, etc. I understand the tours were well attended. I think we had over 450 on the tours which is tremendous. Most of these were all Wisconsin dairy practitioners who took time off from their busy practices. I must also mention Mrs. Jean Meads and my wife Betty who were in charge of the women's program. Finally, I wish to recognize Dr. Harold Amstutz, our secretary-treasurer, to whom we cannot give enough credit for what he always does to formulate these meetings. Last year we recognized the National Holstein Association and this morning we were to recognize the National Guernsey Association. We do have several press people present including *Vet Economics Magazine*, the *AVMA Journal*, the *Feedlot* and *Dairy Farm Magazine*, *Hoard's Dairyman*, the editor of the magazine known as *Beef*, the *Milwaukee Journal*, and WTMJ-TV is to be here to take some pictures and tapes later on.

Dr. Fox: In addition to those people that Lee has just recognized, I am going to take the selfish prerogative of acknowledging two individuals in the audience for one reason or another. First of all, I see up here in front a very constant attendee at our United States meetings—Dr. Ashureaguy from San Juan, Puerto Rico. Please stand so we can recognize you. And the other individual I would like to recognize is Dr. Fincher. Would you please stand. Dr. Fincher started in the ambulatory clinic in Cornell in the mid-20's teaching obstetrics for a number of years and in the beginning of 1942 he became department chairman of large animal medicine in obstetrics and ambulatory clinic until his retirement in 1966. He was very instrumental in promoting infertility programs and knowledge in large animal medicine across the species board. I do not say that other institutions do not have outstanding individuals such as he that should equally be recognized, but I happen to see him here—he has long since retired and I am particularly proud that he is here with us in 1972 at our meeting and still very active in bovine medicine. Thank you for coming, Dr. Fincher, and have a good time.

Editor's Note: The papers presented by Mr. Bill Knox and Dr. Dan Laster during the opening ceremony are printed under the section "Developments for the 70's," pages 31-39.