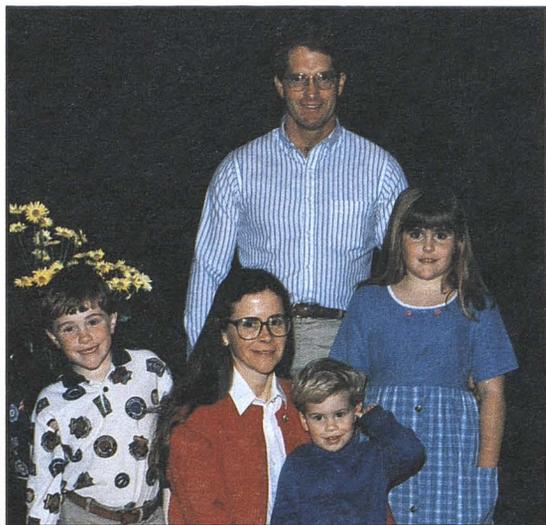


A Message From The President



established an ad hoc AABP History Committee. The charge of this committee is to write the history of the AABP. Dr. Eric Williams, AABP editor, has consented to coordinate this effort and has assembled an energetic group which is already at work. If you are aware of any little known pieces of AABP history, please forward the information to Dr. Williams through the AABP office.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) has become less of a headline and more of a subject for evaluation in a scientific forum. Representatives of the major cattle industries have worked diligently to evolve a strategy which will protect human and animal health without having a crippling economic impact on the cattle industries. Early assessment suggests that some form of HACCP program may provide solutions to many of the concerns in this area. Until such a program is developed and implemented, the AABP remains in support of the voluntary ban of ruminant protein to ruminant feeding called for by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the National Milk Producers Federation, and others.

At the present, there are several items progressing through Congress or the FDA/CVM which may have an effect on the practice of food animal medicine. The final form of the regulations promulgating the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act of 1994 (AMDUCA) is nearing completion. While these regulations reduce some of the uncertainty surrounding extra label drug use, they emphasize the responsibility placed on food animal veterinarians as they treat the animals under their care. The Animal Drug Availability Act (ADAA) is progressing through Congress at this writing. This proposed legislation amends the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act in a manner which enhances the drug labeling process. This should directly address the drug availability problem many face every day in practice. Professional Flexible Labeling is a concept being evaluated by the FDA/CVM as a means of making product labels more useful and informative for the practitioner. The AABP, AVMA, and all practice specialty groups have been involved in this effort from the outset. I doubt if subjects like the AMDUCA, the ADAA, or Professional Flexible Labeling were course material in any of our veterinary educations, but they certainly impact the way we practice. Hopefully, we have kept you abreast of these topics as they have arisen.

On a final note, I would like to thank each and every AABP member for allowing me the opportunity of being deeply involved in the operation of this association. It has been an honor and a pleasure that words cannot really describe. The rewards that I have reaped from the interactions with many members of this organization far outweigh the demands of the past few years. With Dr. Deb Stark installed as your new President and the AABP office in the very capable hands of Ms. Leigh-Ann Hunt and Dr. Jim Jarrett, I can foresee nothing but an exceptionally bright future for the AABP. This is without a doubt, the finest organization I have ever been associated with. Thank You!

**M. Gatz Riddell, Jr.
President**

Welcome to San Diego!! For those of you reading these Proceedings without the benefit of being in attendance at the 29th Annual Meeting of the AABP, welcome to the final phase of our publications transition. Certain items of interest which are usually published with our Proceedings, such as Award Recipients, officer elections, and a pictorial review of the Annual Meeting will be published in the first volume of *The Bovine Practitioner* early in 1997.

The planning of this year's meeting has been more enjoyable than most, primarily because Dr. Deb Stark and the members of this year's Program Committee did all of the work, and I did very little. What you will be treated to during this meeting or while reading these *Proceedings* will be the culmination of the efforts of a group of people dedicated to bringing you the best there is in the way of continuing education for bovine practice. I, personally, think that they have succeeded masterfully. It is amazing how each year's Program Committee is able to hit the ground running a full eleven months before the meeting occurs to arrive at a finished product like this.

The AABP Board of Directors is fully aware of the time-honored, sage advice of "If it isn't broken, don't fix it." However, it is important, in this age of rapidly changing continuing education needs of our members, that we keep our Program Committee on a level playing field. For this reason several significant changes in how the Program Committee works should allow it to continue the superlative past performance into the next century. Firstly, certain members of the committee will be involved for two years, rather than one, to enhance continuity from year to year. The other change of note will be the convening of the Program Committee at the Annual Meeting to begin preparations for the next year's meeting. The key advantage of this arrangement is that it provides the opportunity for all of the AABP Issues and Interests Committees to have direct input into the development of the subsequent Annual Meeting. Both of these changes should facilitate the best possible continuing education for AABP members.

Next year will be the 30th anniversary of the AABP. It is fitting that the Board of Directors has recently es-