

# A.V.M.A. Delegate's Report

Over 4,800 attended the 109th annual AVMA convention in New Orleans this year.

The special in-depth seminars were well attended, with over 1,000 veterinarians taking part. Approximately 300 papers were presented, along with 40 autotutorial programs.

The two AABP nominees for councils were elected. Dr. M. L. Weldy will serve on the Council on Veterinary Service, representing food animal medicine, while Dr. Vernon L. Tharp will serve on the Council on Education, representing clinical sciences.

Dr. Roger Link (ISU '34), professor and head, department of Physiology and Pharmacology, University of Illinois, was elected AVMA president.

The House of Delegates adopted the following resolutions:

1. to abolish the requirement for membership in a constituent veterinary association prior to AVMA membership and the granting of a choice to veterinarians in the method they may become active members of the association, i.e., through the recommendation of a constituent organization or through a certification by voucher.

2. the reduction of dues requirements of members pursuant to a graduate degree for a period of one year for the M.S. and three years for the Ph.D. degrees.

3. the conferring of dues exempt status on members who are permanently disabled and can no longer engage in veterinary practice and on

members for whom the executive board would determine extenuating circumstances.

4. providing honor roll status in special cases for veterinarians holding continuous AVMA membership from time of graduation until age 72.

As the result of two constitutional amendments, veterinary students will have a bigger voice in AVMA legislative affairs.

1. give the president and secretary of the National Conference of Student Chapters ex-officio status in the House of Delegates with the right to speak but not to vote.

2. the NCSC is recognized as an affiliation of the AVMA.

There was considerable concern in the House of Delegates over the proposed withdrawal of various drugs from the market as recommended by the FDA. The House adopted a resolution to recommend to the FDA not to withdraw drugs that are used in the every day practice of veterinary medicine.

The American College of Veterinary Internists was given probationary approval as a veterinary medical specialty.

As your delegate, I want to thank you for the privilege of representing you in this great legislative body of the AVMA.

I might add that the American Association of Bovine Practitioners is now respected as a major block of the AVMA structure.

Maurice L. Weldy, D.V.M.

## Prostaglandins (PG)

Prostaglandins are a group of potent "hormone-like" substances which occur naturally in many animal tissues. They were first described by Kurzrok and Lieb (1930), who found that human seminal plasma caused rhythmic excitation and inhibition of strips of isolated myometrium. Euler (1934) identified the active principle as an unsaturated fatty acid and named it prostaglandin because he believed (wrongly) that it was produced by the prostate gland. Human seminal fluid is a rich source of prostaglandins but they are present

in many tissues and their physiological functions are not restricted to the reproductive system.

Chemically, they are all variants of prostanoic acid, a 20-carbon fatty acid incorporating a cyclopentane ring; slight structural alterations are associated with quite distinct biological effects. On both structural and functional bases, they fall into four main groups (A, B, E and F) of which the E and F series are the best described and probably occur most widely.

Since the chemical structure of the primary prostaglandins was first reported the literature has described their profound influence on the function of many animal systems. Their precise physiological role remains obscure.

Vet. Rec., July 15, 1972, No. 96.

# AABP Officers



## President

Francis H. Fox, D.V.M.  
Ithaca, New York

### A Message from the President

Since I have been associated with our organization almost since its inception, I find myself, along with others, in a position to attempt to recognize and evaluate its growth, some of our achievements and some of our future goals which have not as yet been realized. It is difficult for me or anyone else, for that matter, to list the events in order of significance especially since all would not agree due to individual preferences, interests or needs. However, I should like to list a few of the highlights.

I believe the caliber of our annual meetings have reached a pinnacle of success that few of us dared to dream of, or hope for, at the time of our rather meager beginning in Chicago. Without exception and due almost entirely to our ramrod, Harold Amstutz, and the various program chairmen, the AABP has been complimented by virtually all in attendance. I have attended a meeting of the American Association of Equine Practitioners and I even "sneaked in" briefly at a meeting of the American Animal Hospital Association and I believe that I can truthfully say without exaggeration or bias that the feeling of singleness of purpose and achievement in bettering one's self in his chosen area which prevails in these senior organizations is equally present in virtually everyone in attendance at our meetings. It's possible for me to adequately put this feeling into words for those of you who have never attended one of our meetings—but believe me, it's a most gratifying experience to find yourself among hundreds of other practitioners interested principally in "taking something home with them" to

utilize in their practice. It's a feeling that one rarely or never experiences in a mixed veterinary conference or state meeting.

Through our delegates in the House of Representatives of the A.V.M.A. (Drs. Weldy and Amstutz), we are being heard and represented as bovine practitioners in this national parent organization. Through this representation, two of our members have gained membership on two very important Councils of the A.V.M.A.—Dr. Tharp on the Education Council and Dr. Weldy on the Council on Veterinary Services.

The Continuing Education Committee of the A.A.B.P., under the able chairmanship of Dr. John Herrick, has made its initial report, and I am confident, will serve as a guide and stimulus to all of us in the areas of self-improvement and changes in the area of our chosen specialization.

A.A.B.P. has been instrumental in promoting preconditioning over a period of years and whether or not most states (or even the federal authorities) eventually adopt our particular program and tags still remains to be determined. However, we can rightfully be proud of being the initiating stimulus regardless of the eventual outcome.

We can most certainly be proud of all our publications: newsletters by Harold Amstutz, *The Bovine Practitioner* and *The Proceedings* initially engineered by Ray Bradbury and more recently by Eric Williams. Hats off to them all!

Now to mention two of several not unsurmountable goals. There has been sincere pressure by various groups to have the A.A.B.P. develop a certification program for veterinarians in the field of milk quality control. This has been discussed in quite some detail at recent board meetings and it is the consensus to approach the need in a different way, i.e., either alone or in cooperation with the A.V.M.A. Committee on Mastitis to provide interested veterinarians with a set of minimum standards for proficiency in this area and to provide them with the necessary means to achieve these standards in the form of regional "barn meetings," short courses, etc. It is my feeling that this will accomplish the equivalent of a certification program on a voluntary basis and without the distaste of a forced program.

The other goal is one which we have achieved but some of us have feelings of trepidation in fear of losing it and that is unity. History reveals that



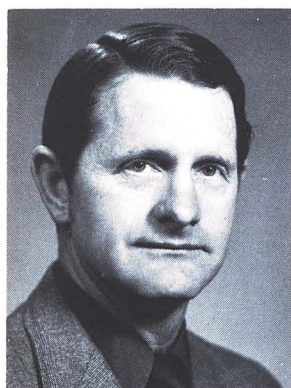
when an organization grows in number and strength to the point that minor members break off (splinter groups) because of specific areas of interest, both the parent organization as well as the splinter groups suffer in the end because of reduction in the strength of number in each. When the A.A.B.P. was conceived, I doubt that the thought of different areas of interest among *bovine practitioners* enter anyone's mind. We all dealt with the same species of animal. It soon became apparent that the dairy practitioner in Wisconsin, the cow-calf practitioners in Texas, and the feedlot practitioner-consultant in Colorado or Iowa did indeed each have a different and unique set of interests and problems. To this end we have made what I firmly believe an unbiased observer would have to admit has been a sincere effort to provide each area of interest with equal assessment of time and consideration. I'm speaking of such things as geographical location of our annual meetings, variable themes and split sessions of these programs; material covered in newsletters and our publication, *The Bovine Practitioner*; selection of officers with consideration to their areas of specialization and, not least of all, equal

representation on our Board of Directors from each of the eleven Districts of the A.V.M.A.

We do not look with disdain or disapproval at the formation of new groups of bovine practitioners with areas of special interest; it is their privilege. But we do plead with them to consider the benefits of remaining active in the "parent group," the A.A.B.P. at the same time rather than becoming splinter groups and working against or in a different direction from the parent group. In the end both would be the losers. Let your director know your needs. I am confident that this organization can meet most of them!

It is almost needless and superfluous for me to say that it is most gratifying and a distinct honor to serve as your president. I feel the greatest gain has been mine in my association with so many "great guys" to work with. I hope you will join us in Milwaukee and if you have never before attended one of our meetings, see if you don't experience that feeling of rewarding satisfaction that I inadequately attempted to described!

Sincerely,  
Francis H. Fox, D.V.M.  
President



## President-Elect

(and Program Chairman)

Ben D. Harrington, D.V.M.  
Raleigh, North Carolina



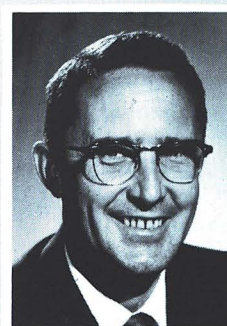
## Vice President

L. Mac Cropsey, D.V.M.  
Denver, Colorado

## New Directors



Joseph W. Sexton, D.V.M. (ISU 1942), M.S. (ISU 1970). 6th District, 1974. Engaged in dairy practice in Sumner, Iowa, until 1969. Presently head Department of Field Services, which includes ambulatory service and the bovine section in the ISU Veterinary Clinic. Married, 9 children.



Lloyd C. Faulkner, D.V.M. (CSU 1952), Ph.D. (Cornell Univ. 1963), Fort Collins, Colorado. 9th District, 1974. Three years in general practice. Now professor and chairman, Department of Physiology and Biophysics, CSU. Member Organizing Committee, American College of Theriogenologists. Married, 5 children.