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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Cal Poly Students Host 20th Annual Western Bonanza in Paso Robles Feb. 13 -15

PASO ROBLES -- Steers, heifers, lambs, goats and hogs will all be on display at the 20th Annual Cal Poly Western Bonanza Junior Livestock Show Feb. 13-15 at the Mid-State Fairgrounds in Paso Robles.

Western Bonanza is a nonprofit junior livestock show that was created as a Cal Poly senior project in 1984. Now in its 20th year, the show has evolved from its origins as a cattle show into a multi-species livestock show and competition. Each year, roughly 60 Cal Poly students enrolled in the livestock show management course provide all the labor and manage all of the activities involved in the show.

Western Bonanza has grown into one of the largest and most-respected junior livestock shows on the West Coast, said Cal Poly Animal Science Professor Wendy Hall, class instructor and Western Bonanza advisor.

Last year, it brought close to 500 exhibitors to the Central Coast to show more than 700 livestock animals, and even more are expected this weekend.

During its existence, Western Bonanza has proven to be a perfect example of Cal Poly's “learn-by-doing” philosophy, Hall said.

This year's Western Bonanza features an added market goat show and other specialty events. Exhibitors will be involved in many special events such as a scholarship award contest and a cattle fitting contest.
Western Bonanza awards over $10,000 in cash prizes in addition to several hundred awards provided to class winners and champions. The corporate sponsors of the 2004 Junior Livestock Show include Cargill-Nutrena Feeds, O.H. Kruse, Farmers Best Feed, Associated Feed, Manna Pro, Inc., L.A. Hearne-King Brand Feeds and High Noon Feeds.

The schedule for this weekends’ Western Bonanza includes:

**Friday:**
Beef Cattle Fitting Contest, 6 p.m.

**Saturday:**
Heifer Show, 9 a.m.
Swine Show, 9a.m.

**Sunday:**
Steer Show, 8 a.m.
Lamb Show, 9 a.m.
Goat Show, 9 a.m.

Additional activities for junior livestock exhibitors to compete in include showmanship and the Cal Poly scholarship contest.