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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly Celebrates its 50th Anniversary Field Day and Bull Sale September 30 and October 1

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Cattle buyers, breeders and ranchers from across the state will converge at the new Cal Poly Beef Center Sept. 30-Oct. 1 for the University's 50th Annual Field Day and Bull Test Sale - and the first look at the center.

Field Day begins at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, at the new beef center, located off Highway 1 at Education Drive, across from Cuesta College and behind the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education. Daytime events include the grand opening of the beef center, educational workshops, a commercial trade show, refreshments, lunch and a "bull session." The session gives buyers and consignors time to preview bulls to be auctioned the following day.

Cattlemen and women will be able to see the new Cal Poly Beef Center and learn about the latest advances and requirements for animal identification tagging. Workshop presenters include John Evans, Project Manager with the California Department of Food and Agriculture; Sarah Barnum, CDFA intern and Cal Poly graduate student; Brian Rainey, Regional Sales Manager with Allflex USA; Rob Cannel, Director of U.S. Supply Chain Management, McDonalds Corporation; Jim Maxey, CEO Cargill Beef; John Suther, CDFA Brand Inspection; and Mike Johnson, 101 Livestock Market

Evening events include a barbecue and auction at Twisselman's Alberti Ranch. The dinner and an auction will benefit the collegiate Cattlemen's Club and the Cal Poly Livestock Judging Team. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. with cocktails and appetizers; dinner begins at 7 p.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 1, the 50th Anniversary Cal Poly All-Breed Performance Tested Bull Sale Preview begins at 8 a.m. at the beef center with inspection of the bulls. Cattle breeds available for auction at 1 p.m. will be Angus, Red Angus, Charolais, Brangus, Hereford, Simmental, Sim-Angus, Limousin, Lim-Flex and Chi-Angus.

"The bull test is a breeder-financed program set up to identify and improve the quality of beef cattle," explained Cal Poly Animal Science Professor Michael Hall, a beef cattle specialist.

The test began with 164 bulls brought to Cal Poly earlier this year. Due to construction of the new beef center, this year the bulls were screened through a nomination process based on in-herd ratios and Expected Progeny Difference percentile rankings within their breeds. In an effort to eliminate respiratory illness, all test bulls are certified PI-BVD negative.

The bulls are raised in incline pens where they must travel hillsides for feed and water. Continuing to advise Cal Poly throughout the test this year is Lex Gamblin, Mineral Specialist for Cargill Animal Nutrition. "With his advice, we have adjusted the feed ration to be higher in roughages and fiber to ensure optimum breeding condition," Hall said.

For details and registration, contact Mike Hall at (805) 756-2685 or visit the Cal Poly Bull Test Site at: <http://bulltest.calpoly.edu>.

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For more details on the beef center and other Cal Poly Animal Science projects, visit: http://www.calpolynews.calpoly.edu/magazine/06_summer/beef.html

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