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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cattlemen Head to Campus for Cal Poly Field Day, Bull Test Sale Sept. 30-Oct. 1

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Cattle buyers, breeders and ranchers from across the state will converge at Cal Poly Sept. 30-Oct.1 for the university's 46th Annual Field Day and Tested Bull Sale.

At the Sept. 30 field day at the College of Agriculture Livestock Pavilion, cattlemen and women will get an introduction to the Cal Poly beef program and choose from educational workshops on trace mineral supplements in cattle nutrition, advanced beef quality assurance, practical cow and calf nutrition in drought conditions and genetic improvement in cattle. Presenters include UC Davis Extension Veterinarian John Maas and Cal Poly Animal Science Professors Jonathon Beckett and Joel Judge. Field day events begin at 10 a.m. with registration in the Livestock Judging Pavilion on Via Carta on campus.

The field day also includes a commercial trade show, refreshments, lunch and "bull session" time to preview bulls and horses up for auction at the Tested Bull Sale Oct. 1, as well as a 7 p.m. barbecue at Alex Madonna's Alberti Ranch on Foothill Boulevard.

The 46th Annual Cal Poly All-Breed Performance Tested Bull Sale begins at 8 a.m. Oct. 1 in the university's Livestock Judging Pavilion with inspection of the bulls. The bull test is a breeder-financed program set up to identify and improve the quality of beef cattle, explained Professor Hall, a beef cattle specialist.

This year's test began with 297 bulls. The bulls were rigidly culled down to the top indexing 130 sale bulls after a 100-day evaluation of their performance and structural and reproductive soundness. The test bulls are kept at Cal Poly in large hillside lots, with water located at the top of the hill, forcing the bulls to exercise, Hall said. They are fed a diet causing them to gain an average of three pounds a day during their stay at Cal Poly.

"That weight gain figure has proven to allow the bulls to manifest their genetic differences, while at the same time remaining in a hardy 'range-ready' condition," Hall said.

At the annual bull test auction, the cattle and horses are presented for sale already immunized, with full birth weight, average daily weight, body conformation and fertility assessment records.

Cattle breeds available for auction will be Low Birth Weight Angus, Multi-Trait Angus, Charolais, Red Angus, Simmental Composite, Brangus, Angus, Hereford, Continental Composite, Gelbvieh, Simmental, and Limousin. The bull sale begins at 1 p.m. Oct. 1, followed by a horse sale.

For details and registration, contact the Cal Poly Animal Science Department at (805) 748-4717, or visit the Field Day Web Site at: <http://bulltest.lib.calpoly.edu>.

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