

# A Great Pair

The National Western Stock Show and Colorado State University  
have been partners for 100 years.

**1870** Territorial bill authorizes creation of Colorado Agricultural College, a land-grant institution, in Fort Collins, Colo.

**1899** National Exhibition of Range Cattle occurs Jan. 24-26 in Denver, Colo.

**1902** Colorado Cattle and Horse Growers Association hosts a small livestock show in November.

**1903** The success of the Colorado Cattle and Horse Growers Association's livestock show triggers the development of an animal husbandry department at Colorado Agricultural College.

**1905** The Western Stock Show, now the National Western Stock Show (NWSS), formally opens in January under the direction of Elias Ammons, president of the Colorado Cattle Growers Association and brother of Theodosia Ammons, professor of domestic economy at Colorado Agricultural College; George Ballentine, general manager of the Denver Union Stockyard Co.; and Fred Johnson, publisher of the *Record Stockman*.

► On March 10, the Colorado Cattle and Horse Growers Association elects Elias Ammons, a Douglas County cattleman, as president of the Western Stock Show in recognition of his outstanding service to the range industry, influence in solving range problems and ability to meet new conditions.

**1906** The NWSS is born with the chartering of the Western Stock Show Association. The first Western Stock Show takes place from Jan. 29 to Feb. 3.

► The first grand champion steer exhibited at the stock show comes from Colorado Agricultural College. The 1,150-pound (lb.) Shorthorn steer is

bought by a Denver butcher, James Miller, at a record price of 33¢ per pound.

► Colorado Agricultural College wins \$475 for first prizes for Aberdeen-Angus bulls and females, 2-year-old Shorthorns, and grand champion Shorthorn bull. Complaints that the Aggies (Colorado Agricultural College) captured so many awards leads to a rule disqualifying them from competing in following shows, but the rule was not enforced.

► A trainload of students from Colorado Agricultural College in Fort Collins arrives on the first day of the NWSS and spends the full day "practicing judging and practical look studying of the animals."

► On a motion of Dean Carlyle of Colorado Agricultural College, "Western Livestock Show Association" is chosen for the name of the organization to operate the NWSS on an annual basis.

► Alpha Zeta, the first honorary fraternity at Colorado Agricultural College, forms to recognize scholarly achievement in agriculture.

**1907** George Morton accepts an animal husbandry position at Colorado Agricultural College and becomes the head of the department and a member of the governing board of the NWSS soon after.

**1908** The Western Livestock Show Association re-elects Ammons as president for another term.

**1912** After campaigning on a platform emphasizing the need for development of Colorado's natural resources in agriculture and mining, Ammons is elected governor of Colorado by one of the largest pluralities ever given a governor in the state's history.

► The Livestock Club at Colorado Agricultural College is founded by Roud McCann of the Animal Husbandry Department.

**1914** Colorado Agricultural College has its first livestock judging team at the stock show — a tradition that continues today.

**1922** Colorado Agricultural College debuts the Pure Seed Show in Colorado Springs, Colo., and quickly moves it to the NWSS.

► Beginning in the 1920s, faculty from Colorado Agricultural College serve on special committees for the NWSS.

**1925** Ammons, the first president of the Western Livestock Show Association, dies in May at the age of 64.

► W.L. Petriken, president of the Great Western Sugar Co., fine horse fancier and exhibitor in the horse show, replaces Ammons as president of the Western Livestock Show Association.

**1929** The first female livestock judge at the stock show is Evangeline Simmonds from Colorado Agricultural College's livestock judging team.

**1934** Colorado Agricultural College creates the Little National Western — a tradition that continues today. Students gain



## Changing names

Throughout the years, there have been several name changes at Colorado State University:

- ▶ 1870-1887: Agricultural College of Colorado
- ▶ 1887-1934: Colorado Agricultural College or State Agricultural College
- ▶ 1935-1944: Colorado State College
- ▶ 1945-1957: Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical College
- ▶ 1957-present: Colorado State University

experience in training, grooming and showing livestock.

▶ Beginning in the 1930s, members of Colorado State College's livestock club serve as ushers at the Denver stock show, including John Matsushima, now a professor emeritus in the animal sciences department.

**1941** George Lawrence, Colorado State College's well-known herdsman, shows the reserve grand champion steer, an Angus bred by Albert Kniese of Anton, Colo.

**1950s** Colorado State University (CSU) graduates three of the past presidents of the National Cattlemen's Association [NCA; now the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA)]: Robert Josserand (1953), Don Smith (1956), and Merlyn Carlson (1957).

**1965** The Fed Beef Contest increases in entries and becomes one of the major practical education highlights under Matsushima of CSU, the Colorado Cattle Feeders and the Colorado Beef Board. Matsushima continues to this day as honorary chairman of the Fed Beef Contest.

**1980** President Nicholas Petry announces the creation of the National Western Scholarship fund, with eight annual \$1,000 four-year grants to CSU and other institutions of higher education.

**1989** Patrick Grant heads up "National Western 2000," a fundraising group organized to support the city of Denver ballot proposal for a \$30 million NWSS building expansion.

**1990** Robert Moreng becomes the first CSU faculty member to be elected to the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame.

**2001** Grant, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the NWSS, joins CSU's Board of Governors.

**2002** Albert Yates, the 12th president of CSU, receives the show's Citizen of the West award.

**2005** Robert Shideler, scholarship committee chairman at the NWSS and CSU alumnus and retired faculty member, receives the Livestock Leader of the Year award from the university's Department of Animal Sciences. CSU receives 27 \$2,500 scholarships from the NWSS.

**2006** The centennial celebration of the NWSS takes place in Denver Jan. 7-22. Two CSU alumni are members of the 2006 executive committee: Don Norgren and James Heird.



**Editor's Note:** The article was provided by CSU News & Information. Sources include "A History of the Department of Agronomy/Soil & Crop Sciences," CSU; "History of the Department of Animal Sciences" and "A Century of Progress," by John Matsushima, CSU; "The Chronology of Animal Sciences," by Cheryl Miller, CSU; and "Riding High: Colorado Ranchers and 100 Years of the National Western Stock Show," by Thomas Noel.