

# Harpster Retires From B&B Club

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — After 13 years as adviser to Penn State's Block and Bridle Club (B & B) Club, Harold Harpster has decided to step down.

Harpster, associate professor of animal science, helps recruit new students to Penn State, assists in counseling new students every summer, advises student interns, and has served on the undergraduate program and student scholarship committees in the department of dairy and animal science.

With so many demands on his time, he reluctantly resigned as B & B adviser. "It's time for new leadership," he said. "New ideas and change will keep the club strong and healthy."

When he took over club leadership in 1980, Harpster set a goal to help increase national recognition for Penn State's chapter of B & B. Since that time, the club has consistently placed near the top in various areas of regional and national competition.

Last spring, Harpster coached four B & B members to victory in the National Beef Quiz Bowl competition at the National Cattlemen's Association Convention in Phoenix. Penn State won over Oklahoma State, Washington State, and the University of Missouri. The team captured top honors after answering questions on genetics, breeding, nutrition, management, marketing, and physiology.

Regionally, Harpster coaches many teams to victory in annual competition sponsored by the Northeast Student Affiliate of American Society of Animal Science and American Dairy Science Association (NESA). For three consecutive years, from 1984 to 1987, the club received first place overall honors in all three areas of NESA's competition, including judging, a quiz bowl contest, and a technical paper presentation contest. The Northeast Student Affiliate consists of eight member schools.

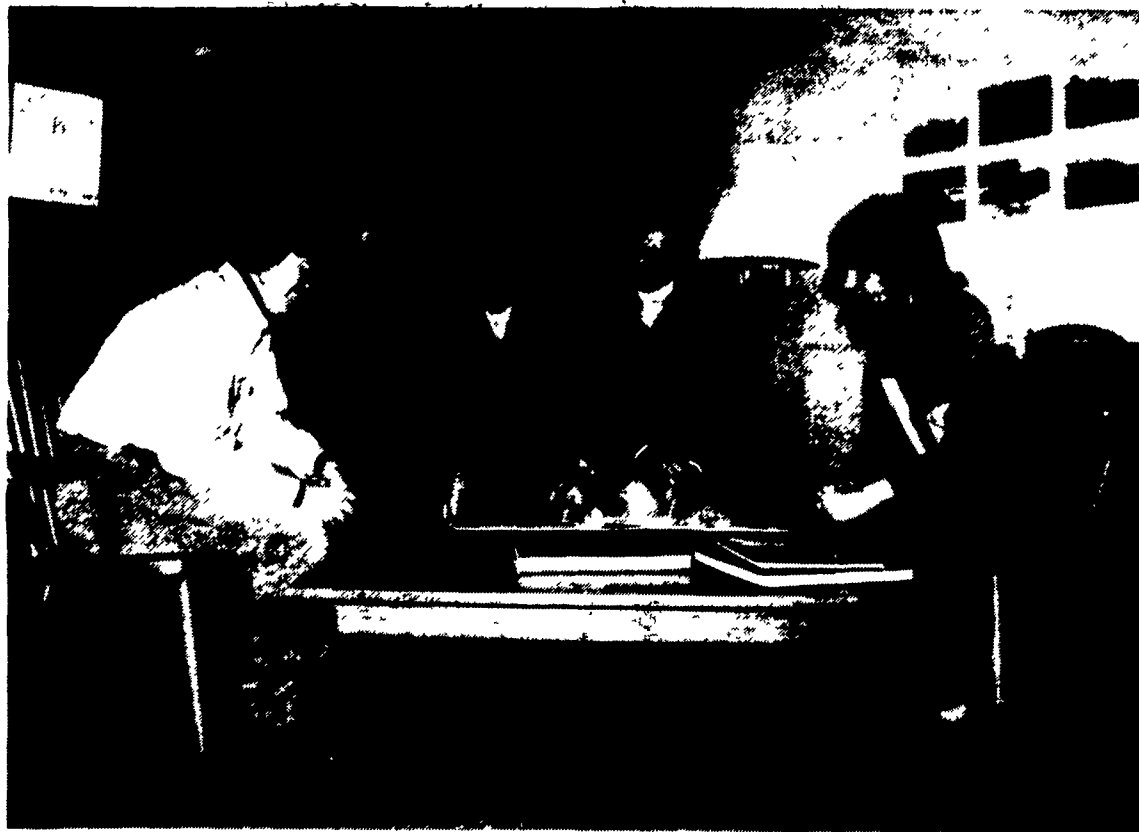
Penn State's B & B chapter has fared just as well as the national Block and Bridle Club convention under Harpster's leadership. Since the early 1980s, the club has received numerous first, second, and third place honors for its scrapbooks and published yearbooks and for its many activities.

The students thanked Harpster for his leadership and friendship by selecting him as the Little International Dedicattee in 1984 and again in 1992. They describe "Doc," as they affectionately call him, as a patient and helpful adviser, a great friend, and a person they all look up to. Harpster worked closely with club members, attending bimonthly meetings, traveling with the group to out-of-state functions, and shepherding the many club activities throughout the year.

"Doc has put a lot of time and a lot of heart into B & B over the last 13 years," said Michele Ruffing, the club's corresponding secretary. "He has been a strong supporter and a good listener for all its members."

"Watching students develop leadership skills, make industry contacts, and successfully enter a competitive job market are the most satisfying aspects of my work," said Harpster, who received the College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society's "Excellence in Academic Advising Award" in 1992. The award recognizes faculty with outstanding skills in academic advising, assisting students with goal setting, career planning, and personal counseling. Friend and colleague Erskine Cash, professor of animal science, said, "Few advisers devote more time to students."

Associate Professor Ronald Kensinger and Assistant Professor Edward Mills have joined instructor and former B & B member Keith Bryan as co-adviser to Block and Bridle. Bryan had been co-adviser with Harpster since 1991.



Former Adviser Harold Harpster, center, shares Block and Bridle Club memories with club members Sarah Johnson, Gary Schick, Liz Preston, and Heather Lagoda, who is a graduate student in Penn State's Department of Dairy and Animal Science.

Kensinger is excited about this new responsibility and hopes to provide incentive for better academic performance among club members.

"Mills said, "There is no way any of us will replace 'Doc.' We just don't have his wealth of experience."

A Pennsylvania Furnace native, Harpster received his undergraduate degree in animal industries in 1971 from Penn State, where he was involved in the meats and livestock judging teams and B & B. "I had the good fortune to belong to the Block and Bridle Club when Professor Glenn Kean was faculty advisor. He had a total commitment to the club and students in general. If I've had any success as a club advisor, it's largely due to the excellent role model I had in Glenn Kean."

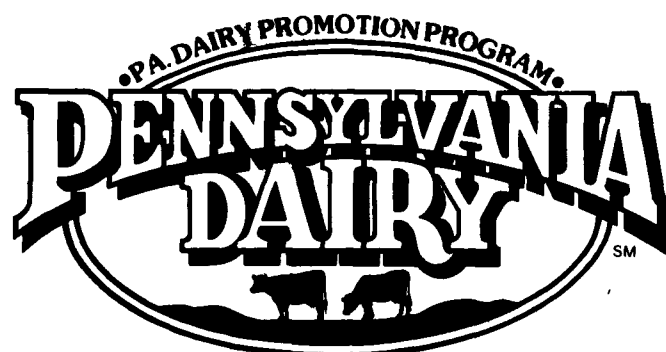
After receiving his master's

degree in animal nutrition in 1973, Harpster worked at the Penn State as a research assistant for two years before going on to earn his doctorate in ruminant nutrition at Michigan State University in 1978.

In addition to his many other activities, Harpster teaches undergraduate and graduate animal nutrition courses. His research interests include forage and by-product feed utilization and factors influencing growth and body

composition in ruminants. His work has taken him to Ireland, New Zealand, and several countries in Africa.

Harpster is a member of the American Society of Animal Science, Penn State Stockmen's Club, Pennsylvania Livestock Association, Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council, College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society, and honorary societies Phi Sigma, Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi, and Gamma Sigma Delta.



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