Loring Vinson Tirrell, 1896-1975: 
A Brief Biography

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Raised in the livestock industry where he was born in Weymouth, Massachusetts on September 28, 1896, Loring Vinson Tirrell helped drive livestock to Brighton, the first livestock market in North America, developed to feed George Washington's Continental Army. With such an introduction to fine livestock in an area steeped in early importations of livestock and their competitive marketing, he seemed destined to pursue that profession and to share that historic background with many.

Loring Tirrell attended the Massachusetts Agricultural College, now the University of Massachusetts, in Amherst, where he earned the B. S. degree in Animal Husbandry in 1920. His education had been interrupted by service as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army during 1918 and 1919. He obtained the lifelong nickname of "Cy" because of his prowess as a pitcher on the baseball team, during the era of Hall of Fame pitcher “Cy” Young. Later, he returned to his alma mater to earn the M.S. degree in 1940-41. He married Mary Jane Holbrook of Weymouth, Massachusetts on January 8, 1921, and they had four children, Muriel, Theron, Natalie, and Jean and 11 grandchildren. Mrs. Tirrell died in 1988, 13 years after his death. Their home and farm in Durham, New Hampshire was always a welcome haven to the many livestock people and former students who passed that way. Moreover, it was the very farm on which the famous Morgan stallion "Blackhawk" had been foaled. Coincidentally, "Cy" Tirrell learned anatomy from the skeleton of "Blackhawk", which was the teaching model used at the then Massachusetts Agricultural College when he studied there. The Tirrell farmstead overlooking Oyster River in Durham was a lovely, peaceful setting, especially when stocked with their favorite Dorset sheep.

Professor Tirrell's teaching career began as an instructor at the University of New Hampshire in 1921. Five years later he was enticed to join the Animal Husbandry Department at Connecticut Agricultural College (now the University of Connecticut), where he served for five years (1926-1930) as Livestock Extension Specialist. However, the University of New Hampshire recalled him to head the Animal Husbandry Department, which position he held as Professor and Department Head for 36 years until his retirement in 1966. During World War II, from 1942 to 1946, Loring Tirrell served as Lieutenant Colonel with the U.S. Army Infantry.

During his illustrious career, Professor Tirrell taught 15 different courses in Animal Science, enrolled 4,150 students in his classes in his 40 years of teaching, was major advisor to over 500 undergraduate students at the University of New Hampshire, coached the UNH livestock judging teams for over 25 years, served as advisor to four UNH clubs or organizations, chaired the UNH athletic committee on two occasions as well as numerous other college and university committees, and judged over 500 livestock and dairy shows throughout the U.S. and several foreign countries.

Professor Tirrell was a strict and demanding teacher, a trait that his students came to appreciate all the more after graduation and in their careers. Nonetheless, he had a fine rapport with his students and devoted a great deal of time and effort toward their development. In many instances his livestock...