

They even use the moo

By John Ortman

By the time a customer buys a lamb chop from the UNL animal science department's East Campus retail meat outlet, the animal it came from has already been used for a variety of purposes.

According to Roger Mandigo, professor of animal science and food science and technology, a typical case history begins with the animal being raised at the Mead Field Laboratory for use in teaching or research.

A small percentage of the animals raised at Mead are brought to East Campus where they may be used on-the-hoof for teaching, research or extension work, he said.

Mandigo said an animal destined for sale in the store may be observed live by animal science and judging classes, slaughtered by a food science class, have its carcass examined by the same animal science and judging classes, and finally be cut up for sale by the food science class.

While the number of animals slaughtered each year varies according to research and extension needs, Mandigo said the yearly average is approximately 50 to 60 cattle, 150 hogs and 100 sheep.

Teaching purposes

A wide variety of animals are slaughtered for teaching purposes, he said. Some are used in food science classes to illustrate the difference between cow and steer beef.

Lower quality meats, such as cow beef, are sold in ground or processed form, such as lunch meat.

However, most meat is sold cut and frozen in familiar retail cuts, he said, adding that all types of beef, pork, mutton, sausage, cured meats and lard are available. Selection varies according to the slaughter needed for teaching purposes, he said.

Although the store does not advertise, it has no trouble moving its inventory, Mandigo said. Because of the relatively

small volume of animals slaughtered, the store does not provide meat to dorms or campus food services, he said.

"We sell retail to anyone with cash," Mandigo said.

Loyal clientele

The store's prices are little if any below commercial stores', but it has a loyal clientele within the university and the community, he said.

Mandigo said many of the store's customers come back because it is hard to find items, such as mutton and leaner than usual ground beef.

Money from sales is used to repair and maintain the store and to purchase the live animals from Mead. Mandigo said the university buys the animals from itself on paper, paying the going market prices for livestock.

Also, because classes can not handle all the processing work, undergraduate and graduate students are hired on a part-time basis, Mandigo said.

The East Campus store, located in 203 Loeffel Meat Laboratory, is open from 1 to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Band: to go, or not to go?

Whether the UNL Marching Band will go to the Liberty Bowl in Memphis Dec. 19, may be decided today in a meeting between band officials and UNL administrators.

Jack Snider, director of bands, said the bowl game date may prevent the band from making the trip because it conflicts with final exams.

Final exams are more important to students than band, so participation in the Liberty Bowl is probably out, Snider said.

Snider said he expects today's meeting between UNL Chancellor Roy Young, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Ned Hedges, Marching Band Director Robert Fought and himself to determine if final exams can be re-scheduled.

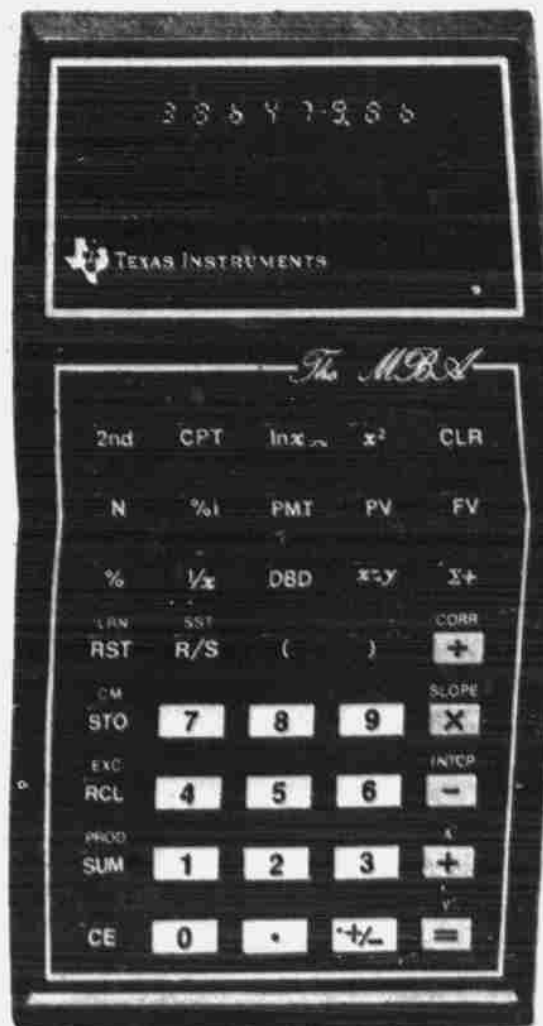


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