

# Thank You, Jack Turner



Jack Ward

We recently had a great surprise at the American Hereford Association (AHA) office when Jack Turner, owner of Turner Bros. Herefords, Oklahoma City, paid us a visit. He had called to set up a meeting with J.D. Russell, Matador Cattle Co. ranch manager, and the AHA staff to discuss the sale of his cows to Matador and how the Association could work with them to maintain the pedigrees and collect data on this great herd of Hereford cattle.

Jack has been a friend of the AHA and a supporter of many of the various research projects we had going on at AHA, both financially and with genetics. In addition, Jack has served on the Hereford Research Foundation (HRF) board since its inception, and his passion for performance recording and identifying good genetics has helped guide us by identifying the kind of projects with which we need to be involved.

Jack has never been more than a phone call away to help with any kind of project that would continue to build

the demand of Hereford cattle in the commercial industry. I think he is the epitome of the perfect seedstock breeder, as he has a real focus on his customer and the largest customer he had for many years was Matador Cattle Co.

Jack started his herd with the basic principles of the late Robert Taylor from Colorado State University by keeping an eye on birth weight. He kept mature size in check while emphasizing as much carcass as possible. He also believed in linebreeding, and Jack was always looking at ways to better identify good genetics within his herd. This led to his longtime relationship with Matador, and through his constant contact with those folks, he was able to continue to build the type of seedstock cattle that they needed to stay profitable.

Because of his focus on his customer and his goals, Jack did not worry about what others were doing and did not get caught up with the emotion or concern of others. He did his job, and I have always respected his dedication to his herd and his customers without worrying about others.

As a matter of fact, he was always supportive of others if they were providing customers the kind of genetics that they needed to be profitable.

During his visit, he honored the AHA by bringing a sculpture of Jet Domino L617. This bull was born in 1996 and was still breeding cows at 13 years of

age at Turner Bros. He was very identifiable when seen because of his offset horns. This bull may not bring a lot of thought to many, but he is really an icon for Jack and the basis for many of the interesting research projects at the AHA.

L617 was one of two bulls used in the global study done by multiple countries to look at comparisons across continents and environments, which allowed for the beginning of the current Pan-American Genetic Evaluation (PACE). In addition, L617 was used in the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Carcass Merit Project, which was a large project that looked at Warner-Bratzler shear force on a large number of steers of various breeds to measure tenderness.

This work led to the first tenderness expected progeny difference (EPD) in Hereford and was also the basis for the current genetic markers for tenderness. Finally, L617 has been used heavily in various Hereford sire test programs as a reference because of his highly proven, well-designed EPD profile.

This sculpture will be housed in the front lobby and will serve as a reminder of not only the big effect the bull had on the breed but the dedication that his breeder, Jack Turner, has for the seedstock industry. In addition, that sculpture will also be a reminder of how we need to continue to keep our focus on the commercial industry. **HW**



Jack Turner of Turner Bros. Herefords presented the AHA this bronze sculpture of Jet Domino L617. The sculpture was done by John David Rule, Oklahoma City.