

Jack Cooper Passes

Jack Cooper, 90, Willow Creek, Mont., passed away peacefully at his home on June 2 surrounded by his family.



Jack lived his entire life on his family's ranch. After he bought his father's small dairy farm, he built it into a nationally recognized cattle operation. He purchased his first foundation stock — 15 Line 1 females — from the U.S. Range Livestock Experiment Station in 1947. At that time, Jack's brother-in-law, Ray Woodward, was a Line 1 project leader at the station in Miles City, Mont. He ultimately convinced Jack and his half-brother, Leslie Holden, to become involved in this closed line of breeding.

Shortly after Jack's initial purchase, with the understanding that he could improve his stock by keeping precise records and breeding animals with desirable traits, Jack began number branding and performance testing his cattle. By the time the Montana Beef Performance Association was formed in 1957 with Jack as a charter member, he had 10 years of experience with Line 1 Herefords and performance testing. Jack later joined the American Hereford Association's (AHA's) Total Performance Records program in 1960.

Jack received numerous awards and recognitions for his accomplishments. In 1975 he was honored by the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) as Seedstock Producer of the Year and as Outstanding Cattleman by the Gallatin County Beef Producers. In 1980 he was inducted into the AHA's Hereford Heritage Hall's Honor Gallery.

He was an active member in the AHA, BIF, National Cattlemen's Association and Montana Stock Growers Association. He was a board member for the Federal Land Bank Association and an area trustee for the Yellowstone Boys Ranch. **HW**