

# Alanson L. Jones, DVM

devoted to **Nebraska**

A native of New Madrid, Missouri, Dr. Alanson (Lance) Jones spent his formative years in southeast Missouri. He developed a love of animals at an early age. His fondness of Hereford cattle was influenced by his uncle Howard Kinzer, son of R.J. Kinzer, Secretary of the American Hereford Association. He obtained his undergraduate degree in animal husbandry from the University of Missouri in 1950. After four years in the United States Air Force, he returned to the university, where he completed his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1958. In 1955, he married Sherrill Waldo from Gordon, Nebraska, and has enjoyed 62 years of marriage. They have three children and multiple grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Lance spent the summer before his senior year of vet school in Bakersfield, California, where he worked identifying the 'dwarf' trait in cattle. This established him as a foremost expert in the field. Dwarfism was prominent in many herds in central and western Nebraska, and because of his experience he was recruited by Dr. Don Walker to join the practice at Grassland Veterinary Hospital in Broken Bow. He joined Dr. Duane Rice.

As one of only a handful of veterinarians in this part of the state, it was not uncommon for Lance to travel two to three hours to ranches west of Valentine and even into South Dakota. His area went east to Mason County and Litchfield, south to Sumner, Eddyville and Oconto, west on Highway 2 to Mullen and Hyannis and north along Highway 83 from Thedford to Purdum and Brownlee on to Valentine (known as Hereford Alley). At one time his practice covered the sale barns in Thedford and Valentine.

Hereford Alley along Highway 83 was a favorite and held a special place in Doc's heart. He developed a huge clientele from this region and became very close friends with many of the ranchers along this drive. During the course of his 32 years in practice he could recall five generations in some families. It was not uncommon to pregnancy check 300 to 400 head a day. Lance thrived in this environment. Well respected, he was an exceptional veterinarian, close friend and mentor to many people. His knowledge of breeding programs, livestock management, as well as fitting and showing cattle was well known. Simply put, he was a 'cattleman.' In 1978, he opened his own hospital, the Jones Veterinary Service.

It was also here that he developed the nucleus of his own purebred herd. In 1962, from the ranches of Lyle Hughes, Harold Harms, Roger Imig and Steve Cooksley (to name a few), he began with the Domino bloodline. He would later adopt much of the Line One breeding. Eventually, his purebred herd consisted of 60 to 70 cows, and his commercial herd would surpass 200 head. Because of his busy veterinary practice, he trusted much of the herd management to Mr. Clarence Carr. Clarence worked for Doc for over 30 years.

Of course, the breeding program remained in Doc's hands. Artificial insemination and embryo transfer programs were started in the early 1980s. During the early years, he would sell most of his bulls at the Central Nebraska Hereford Association consignment sale in Broken Bow. He would also sell bulls in Kearney at the association's state sale and in Rapid City at the Black Hills Stock Show and also in Denver at the National Western Stock Show.

After retirement in 1990, you would see Lance and Sherry at multiple shows with cattle, including Kearney, the Nebraska State Fair, the Iowa State Fair, Rapid City and Denver. Lance's cattle were known to be athletic, sound in conformation and gentle. He always sold privately and had many happy local buyers. He remained very active with the Hereford Association his whole life.

