



**Jack Cowley** was born and raised in the then small town of Holladay, Utah. After graduating from high school, he served in the U.S. Air Force. He returned to the University of Utah and excelled in his class work. This earned him admission to medical school at George Washington School of Medicine in Washington D.C. He served his internship at the LA County Hospital and returned for specialized training in ophthalmology with a highly acclaimed residency at UCLA. Jack then traveled to the Sacramento area establishing a private ophthalmology practice and serving as a Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of California at Davis Med School near Sacramento. During those years, ranching was always the second field, not second in priority just the second field of interest. For many years, the Cowleys tried different spots for their ranch in California, from Placerville to Ione to Wheatland and Corning. Jack and his wife Barbara were always looking for the place to call “home”.

In the late 1980s they found their home in Little Shasta Valley near Montague. Jack continued to work in ophthalmology, traveling to the ranch nearly every weekend. Barbara spent the summers there full time. In 1994, retirement finally allowed Jack and Barbara to come home to Siskiyou County.

Previous ranching was focused on the purebred segment, while their Little Shasta ranch is a commercial operation of about 1,000 mother cows split into fall and spring calving herds. Weaned calves are backgrounded on the ranch, mostly on irrigated pasture. The calves get additional grain hay during this time in an effort to stimulate and increase development of fat cells for subsequent filling during the finishing phase for enhanced marbling. Jack says research indicates this is a critical time for the early development of marbling and either components of grain or relatively good rates of gain promote this development. Since the calves are marketed through the Harris Ranch PQ alliance program, this increased performance returns profit through carcass premiums.

The ranch, through Jack and Barbara’s planning, produces adequate hay for the cow herd and sells about the same amount each year. Alfalfa, alfalfa and grass, and grass and grain hay is produced. Most of this goes to the horse hay market; however, more and more is sold locally. Crop improvement is credited not so much to major changes as to just paying attention to details. These details include improved irrigation management, fertility, weed control and harvest procedures.

But Jack’s top interest is cattle improvement and especially genetic improvements. Throughout the 1980s, the Cowleys raised purebred Brangus cattle and were very active in the National and International Brangus Association. Jack was instrumental in getting the association involved in collecting and processing EPDs. He was a board member and past president of the California Brangus Association. Jack was also President of the International Brangus Breeders Association, chaired their successful building committee, elected to their Hall of Fame, and named International Brangus Breeder of the year in 1987. In California, he served on the Board of the

California Beef Cattle Improvement Association (CBCIA) and was their president, while Barbara was their secretary/treasurer. He was selected as Siskiyou County "Cattleman of the Year" for 2007. More recently Jack continues his service and work toward cattle improvement through participation in the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium. He is a member of Advisory Council to that group which investigates many of the new genetic models and tests including DNA testing and validation of markers for marbling and tenderness. He is very involved in a major project with that group investigating the variation and opportunities to genetically select cattle for beef products that are more healthful, especially as it relates to potential vascular diseases such as heart attacks. His work in this area includes participating as a cooperating producer with his calves. As part of this project, Jack communicates monthly with university professors across the nation regarding sampling and directions for the project.

One of Jack's keenest interests is being a member of the NCBA Beef Board. He sat on the Operating Committee, and e still sits on the Human Nutrition Committee. His educational and medical background along with his cattle producer knowledge make him a very valuable advisor in this area.

But Jack is no drugstore cowboy. He irrigates, runs the haying equipment and works the cattle. Most of the spring-born calves go to Butte Creek for the summer with the remainder staying in Little Shasta Valley or nearby areas. All of their calves are marketed through the Harris PQ alliance. Growth implants and enhancers are not used and cattle are identified for use or lack of antibiotic use. Participation in the Harris Ranch alliance allows Jack to further implement carcass improvements in his own herd. Since becoming retired and having more time to work with the cattle, the primary improvements have been increased uniformity and carcass traits while maintaining or increasing weights off the ranch.

Jack and Barbara have finally found a home in Siskiyou County after a very successful medical and ranching career in the Sacramento area. Jack serves locally as a President of the Siskiyou County Cattlemen's Association, is second Vice-President California Cattlemen's Assoc. and is very involved in all of the water issues. Barbara is equally involved with agriculture in the classroom both in Siskiyou County and statewide. Shortly after "retiring" from private medical practice Jack did occasional ophthalmology work for a private practice in Siskiyou County. After the untimely death of the primary doctor in that practice, Jack purchased the local practice and increased his hours as a local ophthalmologist. Eventually he said "heck I'm supposed to be retired to my home and I want to raise cattle." So, he sold the practice to devote his full efforts to the cattle and ranch. But, as you might expect he still fills in when needed as an "eye doctor" working about 1 day per week.

The Cowleys have been married 52 years and have two daughters, Kathryn and Cindy, who live in the Sacramento area, sons Steve in Los Angeles, Gordon in Florida, and David, Brian and Brent who live in Siskiyou County. They have 15 grandchildren.

Jack is outstanding in his fields, both of them. He is a terrific asset to the industry with his knowledge of cattle and human health.

(Thanks to Dan Drake, University of California, Davis, for compiling this biographical sketch of Jack Cowley.)