

PROFESSOR JOHN FRANCIS

CBE, BSC., VET. SC, DSC LOND., FRCVS, FACVSC, FRSM LOND., FAVA, HON. DIPL. AMER. VET. EPID. SOC



Professor John Francis CBE, BSc Vet Sc., DSc Lond., FRCVS, FACVSc, FRSM Lond., FAVA, Hon. Dipl. Amer. Vet. Epid. Soc

Joined Zebu-Cross Cattle Breeders' Association 1956

Committee Member Australian Tropical Beef Breeders Association 1959 - 1962

Committee Member Droughtmaster Stud Breeders' Society 1962 - 1980

Vice-President Southern Zone 1978 - 1980

Trustee 1966 - 1980

Honorary Life Member 1981

Board Member Droughtmaster Stud Breeders' Society 1980 - 1987

JOHN FRANCIS was born in England in 1915 and migrated to Australia in 1952 to become the first Professor of Veterinary Preventive Medicine at the University of Queensland. He devoted his life to the University of Queensland, the Queensland Veterinary School, the veterinary profession and the cattle industry.

Professor Francis contributed unbending loyalty to the Droughtmaster breed and the growth of the Society over a period of 45 years when he actively involved himself with the growth of the breed in Australia and overseas and established several research projects in third world countries where he believed the breed had a role to play.

All told Professor Francis served the Society 27 years on the Board from 1959, beginning with the Australian Tropical Beef Breeders' Association continuing on from the time the Society became autonomous in 1962.

He brought a new concept with his academic background into the arena in the early fifties when percipient graziers began to seriously accept the challenge for change and study the potential of Taurindicus cattle for tick resistance and general hardiness to perform under the harsh tropical conditions of north Queensland.

In delivering the Professor John Francis Oration in 1995, past (Society) President Noel Perry, referred to the appreciation of the Society to his knowledge and assistance that he contributed towards the establishment of the Droughtmaster breed. He cited that one of the stepping stones for the breed to be where it is today was commenced on the motion of John Francis who advocated the acceptance of the Appendix Register at a meeting of the Tropical Beef Breeders' Association held at Townsville in July 1960. This was an historic moment in the history of

the breed when he submitted "that when the Droughtmaster stud book is closed, females approved by the classifier shall be accepted into the Appendix Register and marked with an 'A'. The male and female progeny of the females by a Droughtmaster bull, if accepted by the classifier, will be entered into the stud book." That motion provided the stepping stone towards gathering the genetic pool the breed contains including bloodlines. Professor Francis was very vocal on retention of the Appendix System over the years and its genetic benefits. The grading up system, finally approved as the 'D' Rating Classification System almost a decade later is recognised as an excellent method and has brought the industry the Droughtmaster breed.

Professor Francis was responsible for the establishment of the University of Queensland's Vet School Stud - a Foundation Stud.

Extract from Droughtmaster, Putting the 'D' in AAA by John Boydell, 2001.