

# Everett J. Warwick, 1917–1995: A Brief Biography

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Everett J. Warwick was born on a livestock farm near Aledo, IL, on May 2, 1917. His family is of Scottish-Irish descent and migrated to Illinois via Pennsylvania and Ohio after entering the United States in 1790. As a youth, he participated in 4-H and FFA clubs and enjoyed the northern-Illinois rural environment: the fields, the livestock, the wood lot.

His first eight grades were experienced in a one-room Mercer County schoolhouse. After graduation from Aledo High School, he entered the University of Illinois and received a B.S. in general agriculture in 1939. He served as a high school vocational agricul-

tural teacher for a year at Griggsville, IL, before starting graduate school at the University of Wisconsin to study genetics. He earned an M.S. and Ph.D. from that institution in 1942 and 1943, respectively, under the leadership of L. E. Casida.

It was during this period (1942) that he married Esther Johnson, a Sandwich, IL, home economics teacher raised in the farming community near Leland, IL. They met at the University of Illinois when Everett was a senior and Esther was a junior. They raised three sons: James, Richard, and Kenneth.

Everett's first assignment after finishing his Ph.D. was to the Animal Husbandry faculty at Washington State College, Pullman, WA, where he joined the likes of Tony Cunha and Gene Ensminger, among others. In 1947, he moved back to the Midwest as a member of the Animal Husbandry faculty at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, with fellow staff members Fred Andrews and Mac Beeson.

Warwick started his long association with the USDA in 1950 as the coordinator of the Southern Regional Beef Cattle Breeding Project (S-10). This was a cooperative effort between the USDA and the state experiment stations. He was located at Knoxville, TN, on the University of Tennessee campus with people such as Charlie Hobbs. I believe this was the assignment he enjoyed the most, even though it was to last only 5 yr. It was during the "heyday" of beef cattle population genetics. Beef cattle breeding was being approached as a science based on records of performance rather than on an art dependent on visual appraisal. Experiments at 11 southern states contributing to regional project S-10 focused on the study of breeding systems and selection criteria and procedures to improve productive capacity and market quality of beef in the South. The regional breeding projects offered a way for beef breeders and geneticists to apply this approach by pooling numbers across the region. The job was application of genetics, working with geneticists and cattle across the South from Virginia to Florida to Texas—meeting people, traveling, and fostering cooperating to address research in beef cattle genetics.

The next assignment would be his longest in duration (1955–1968) and, in some ways, his most challenging. His appointment as chief of the USDA, Agricultural Research Service, Beef Cattle Research Branch involved the inheritance of a mature staff of employees reconfigured after the war years, without

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adequate funding and without a clear mission. It was Warwick's job to identify the mission and to build a new staff that would be enthusiastic and productive. He accomplished that goal by determined but quiet leadership. He and his wife, Esther, worked successfully to develop a "family environment" for those working in the branch. New staff members were recruited; laboratories were brought up to date; field locations in VA, FL, LA, OK, NE, and MT were strengthened in cooperation with the experiment stations of those states; and the coordinator positions in TN, NE, and CO were given close scrutiny. In addition, communications with breed associations and artificial breeding associations were strengthened. Cross-breeding studies were initiated, genetic  $\times$  environmental interaction projects were coordinated across regions, and nutrition and physiology programs were expanded. Another measure of success was the staff recruited by Warwick, which included a future director of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, two directors of the Meat Animal Research Center, and the area director of the Mid-South and Central Plains Areas. These recruits also served as presidents of the Northeastern Section, the Western Section, and the National ASAS organization. One served as editor-in-chief and others as section editors for the *Journal of Animal Science*. Those he recruited were also recognized by receiving the American Feed Industry Association Award, the Animal Management Award, three Animal Breeding and Genetics Awards, the Animal Industry Award, four ASAS Fellow Awards, and several ASAS Regional Awards.

In 1968, Warwick's responsibilities were expanded when he was appointed assistant director of the Animal Science Research Division. New responsibilities included coordinating all of the divisions' research with meat animals, guiding research in animal waste and agricultural chemicals, and participating with the director in the administration of the overall division programs. While his responsibilities increased several-fold, it was with great satisfaction during the latter part of his previous assignment and this one that he became involved in the establishment and development of what was to become the Meat Animal Research Center at Clay Center, NE. It was an opportunity for meat animal genetics to be investigated with herd population sizes simply not possible in the past, and it meant the fulfillment of his earlier hopes as a regional coordinator. Now, beef cattle geneticists would have herd numbers of sufficient magnitude to evaluate, in contrast to past efforts to combine data from small and distinctly different herds. As with most administrators, his hopes would be realized by younger and successive researchers, in this instance, largely by Gregory, Koch, Dickerson, and Cundiff.

Reorganization of ARS in 1972 brought a dramatic change to the previous hands-on management style Warwick enjoyed and employed so effectively. He was now assigned to a staff job—the National Program

Staff—where his responsibilities were for policy and program development, program review and evaluation, and coordination of research related to beef cattle. This change stimulated Warwick's interest in foreign agriculture, and in 1973 he accepted an assignment as a member of a USDA Agricultural Development team in Tehran, Iran. In Tehran he was a member of a seven-person team that served as an advisory group for an 18-mo period to the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the Imperial Government of Iran. The focus of activities was improvement and stimulation of livestock production.

He returned to the National Program Staff at Beltsville, MD, in 1975, where he continued until retirement from the USDA-ARS in 1980. Dr. and Mrs. Warwick then accepted an assignment as visiting professor and teacher at Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, as a part of the Rockefeller Foundation's "Education for Development" program. Everett consulted with faculty members on a wide range of animal husbandry research, teaching, and development issues; taught animal breeding to masters-level students and with two Indonesian colleagues, prepared an animal breeding textbook in the Indonesian language. He was senior author of the text *Permuliaan Ternak* (Animal Breeding), with coauthors Maria Astuti and Wartomo in 1983.

Warwick retired from full-time employment in 1984. Over the years, Everett participated in a series of International Animal Science activities in Chile, Europe, New Zealand, Italy, Australia, Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Argentina, Cuba, U.S.S.R., plus the assignments in Iran and Indonesia, usually as a lecturer, consultant, or teacher.

Warwick was an ASAS Fellow and an AAAS Fellow. He was active on a long list of ASAS committees and was secretary-treasurer, vice-president, and president of the Southern Section of the ASAS (1960–1963). He was among the first to receive the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Continuing Service Award (1972) and he received the BIF Pioneer Award in 1986 for his pioneering contributions to beef cattle breeding.

Other activities included NRC committees, biological abstracts editor/consultant, and livestock industry-related duties with National Cattleman's Association committees and as an ex-officio and charter member of the board of directors of BIF. He served as chairman of the BIF committee that developed and wrote the first guidelines for national sire evaluation in beef cattle. He also participated as a coauthor with V. A. Rice and F. N. Andrews on the book *Breeding Better Livestock* in 1953 and with the same men plus J. E. Legates on the 5th and 6th editions of the book *Breeding and Improvement of Farm Animals* published in 1957 and 1967. He was senior author, with Legates, of the 7th edition of this text in 1979.

He was a member of the Presbyterian Church (deacon and elder), International Rotary, Prince Georges

County, MD, YMCA (board of managers), Boy Scouts of America committees, and a volunteer Prince Georges County, MD, Tax Aid.

After several difficult years on dialysis treatment for kidney failure, Warwick died in 1995 at the age of 78. He was active to the very end with family and

civic interests. Everett is survived by his wife of 53 yr, Esther, their three sons, and two grandchildren. Those of us who were associated with him over the years viewed him with the highest respect for his professionalism and personal demeanor, as a mentor and as a friend.