

2012 College of Agricultural Sciences Honor Alumnus



Vaughn Cook
B.S. '74, Animal Sciences
Fort Collins, Colo.

Vaughn Myron Cook was raised in Southeastern Colorado, where he grew up helping on the family farm and looking after their Thoroughbred racehorses.

He then went to work for B.W. Pickett at CSU's Equine Reproduction Laboratory, eventually working on the lab's landmark research projects in equine reproduction and embryo transfer. When Dr. Pickett and James L. Voss formed a stallion reproduction consulting service, Cook traveled with them across the country, handling top stallions from all breeds and managed the lab's clinical embryo transfer services, bringing it into national merit.

In 1992, Cook left the ERL to join his wife, Jill ('90), in running Fossil Creek Equine Services and also established Royal Vista Equine, a breeding management company, which gained prominence on the national stage as a premier embryo transfer facility.

In 2000, the Cooks founded another embryo transfer facility, Royal Vista Southwest, in Purcell, Oklahoma, which they have since sold, and a Quarter Horse racing breeding facility, Royal Vista Ranches, in Wayne, Oklahoma. Royal Vista Ranches' stallion lineup has included such champions as Wave Carver and Ivory James. The Cooks have also raised and owned several Quarter Horse graded stakes-winning homebreds.

In addition to his successful business operations, Cook has been involved professionally in the horse industry at the state and national level. He is an American Quarter Horse Association national director for Colorado and has served on several national committees, including AQHA's stud book and registration committee and the research committee. He is a Rocky Mountain Quarter Horse Association past president and a director with the Colorado Horseman's Association.

Cook credits his success to hard work, a close association with CSU, and his wife. He is a proud father of his daughters, Brandi, Shannon, Bailey, and Jamie.