

Fernando Lagos (1960 BS Graduate) sends his greetings from his home in Argentina. In addition, Fernando sent the following recollections of his school days and update for those who knew him as a student.

Fernando Lagos (1960 BS Animal Science Graduate)

I entered N.U. as a freshman in September 1957. I traveled to Lincoln by train from Washington D.C., where my father was a military attache to the Inter American Defense Board. My father led the uprising that toppled Peron's dictatorship in 1955. He was made Commander in Chief of the Argentina Army. Later he was Ambassador to Spain.

I lived 4 years in Lincoln and majored in Agriculture, with emphasis in Animal Husbandry. Some of my former professors were Donald Clanton (advisor), Robert Koch, Johnny Matsushima, Dick Warren, Charlie Adams, and Vince Artahud. I was a fairly good student and got several scholarships on account of my grades.

I was a member of the Livestock Judging Team and competed in the annual Block and Bridle Judging Contest in 1960, which surprisingly I won. The prize was a beautiful Bulova self-winding watch. It was given to me in the presence of not less than 400 Nebraska ranchers! I competed in Forth Worth (where I was 6th overall, and 10th in sheep), in the American Royal and the Chicago Livestock Exposition. I did not do quite well in the last two contests. In Chicago, I completely busted a class of ewes, but incredibly talked a 50 point set of reasons. Dick Warren could not believe it! I also participated in a Dairy Science Livestock (Dairy Breeds) and Products Contest. I won it and still have the big bronze bell from the Brown Swiss Association.

I played Soccer as a goalkeeper of the N.U. team but was not too good at that! I participated in American Rodeos. Once a Brangus bull, during the Rodeo Club annual event in Lincoln, trampled all over me, as the clowns could not get him away from me !!! It hurt me quite bad. Finally, I decided I had not come to the States to ride "beasts" but to graduate in Agriculture, and that thought put an end to my rodeo rider career.

While I was at the University of Nebraska, I worked every summer in different places: a cattle ranch in the Sandhills, the Bar Eleven Ranch, at Valentine, property of the Reece family, and then a small farm in Galva, Iowa. I liked to drive in Iowa, where the speed limit, in contrast to the 65 mph of Nebraska, was the incredible "Proper and Reasonable." So if they ever stop you for speeding in Iowa, make them remember about those criteria they had in 1959. Finally, I worked on the top purebred operation of the Angus breed, the then famous Ankony Farm, on Rhinebeck and Claverack, on the Hudson River in upstate New York. A paradisiac place where the magnificent estates of the rich and aristocratic families of the eastern U.S. were located. I remember the Astor's, in particular.

In all those places, I gathered the field experience I did not have. I learned to build fences, fix windmills, put up hay for the winter (in stacks, back in those days the round bales were still on diapers). Also to milk cows, like Nancy, Flossy and Daisy. First thing I learned was that you had to tie the tail to the hocks, not get all the cow manure on your face, which I did only once, and it

was enough. There was also a collection of five or six cats, waiting behind me, so that I turned the teat in their direction and squirted milk straight into their throats, because they were masters at swallowing at five feet from the cow's udder. I also learned not to bother bumble bees. As a matter of fact, running after one of them with a broom, I destroyed the window of the barn at the Iowa farm...what a shame !! But they had stung me in Nebraska and I really feared them because they hurt badly!

After I graduated, I drove my old '47 Chevy coupe to Texas A&M at College Station, where I got my Master's in Animal Breeding and almost a Ph.D. on the same subject.

When I arrived back in Argentina, the King Ranch of Texas (in Argentina) hired me to conduct their Santa Gertrudis breed improvement program. Meanwhile, I founded a breeding consulting group, named GAP (Genetics Applied to Production). The name was "stolen" later by maker of clothing but I never complained.

Then the José María Aragón Foundation offered me a position (of course I accepted) to run their 100,000 acre beef cattle ranch, named Los Charabones (The Charabon is the baby Ñandú or American Ostrich). I had that administration for 20 years, and we signed a research agreement with the National Agricultural Research Institute of Argentina (INTA) and with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Province of Santa Fe, where the ranch was located.

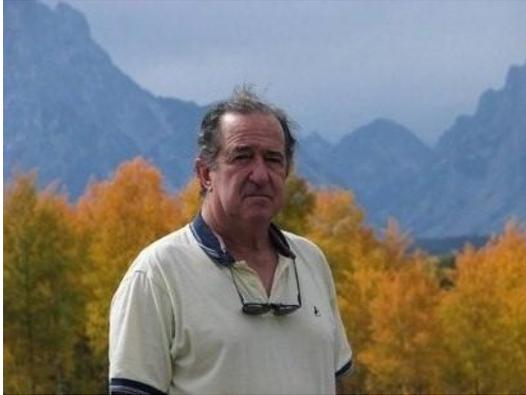
I founded with 12 other friends the Brangus Breed Association and was President of the Technical Committee for 15 years. I was also Technical Director of the Angus Association for 4 years.

I have been a cattle judge in Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil, in several shows of several breeds (British and Indicus). I also have given not less than 50 presentations on Animal Breeding and wrote not less than 50 articles about the subject. Besides Argentina, I have given talks in Colombia, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela and Brazil. I studied and described the 10 Criollo breeds of cattle in Colombia.

Presently, I am retired (74) and live out of the rents of the 1,500 acre top cropping land that my wife, Elisa de Uribelarrea, inherited from her father. We have one son, named Fernando María, who is married and has a two year old boy, named Belisario. A brother will join the family in July.

Sincerely yours

Fernando Lagos or Fred or Freddy for my American friends
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Front: Prof. Vince Arthaud-Coach, Charles Williams, Larry Williams, Doug Gustafson, Paul Bengtson
Back: Leslie Cook, Fernando Lagos, Richard Frahm, John Joyner, Angus Gary, Gary McDonald, (inserted picture) John Oeltjen