



Dr. Jack **BRITT** ('66)

Dr. Jack Britt ('66) has been making a difference in the fields of agriculture, education, research and entrepreneurship since his days on the family farm in Warren County.

As teenagers, Dr. Britt and his twin brother, Jenks, began building a herd of registered Holstein cattle on the 400-acre farm. After earning their bachelor's degrees at WKU, the brothers sold the herd to finance graduate school.

At WKU, Dr. Britt was a campus leader, including President of the Senior Class, was a co-founder of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity in 1963 and graduated in 1966 with majors in Agriculture and Biology.

Dr. Britt entered graduate school at North Carolina State University and earned a master's degree in Physiology with a minor in Animal Science in 1969 and a doctorate in Physiology with a minor in Biochemistry in 1971.

Dr. Britt's career included leadership roles at three land-grant universities. He joined the faculty at Michigan State University and later served as head of one of the world's top dairy science departments. He returned to North Carolina State University in 1977 where he served as a Professor in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Assistant Director of the North Carolina Agricultural Research Service.

In 1998, he joined the University of Tennessee System as Vice President for Agriculture and presided over academic programs at the Knoxville campus as well as extension programs and agricultural and forest research stations across Tennessee. In 2004, Dr. Britt was named University of Tennessee Executive Vice President and led the development and implementation of the UT System's strategic plan.

Even though he retired in 2007, Dr. Britt remains active as a consultant on animal agriculture and as a visionary for the dairy industry. He leads a team of experts from around the world who have been studying what dairy farming may look like in the future.

As a researcher in reproductive physiology, Dr. Britt's work on compromised ovarian function of dairy cows during reduced nutrition, known as the "Britt Hypothesis," is still being studied by graduate students worldwide. As an author, he has had 720 technical articles, papers and more published in numerous journals. Dr. Britt has received numerous awards and recognition for his teaching, research and service.

He remains a supporter of WKU where he established the Jack and Frances Britt Fund for Innovation and Learning in 2018.

Dr. Britt lives in Etowah, N.C. He and his late wife, Frances, had two daughters, Heather and Stephanie.

