

Fran Pritchard - 2017

Fran Pritchard was born and raised in San Francisco along with her two brothers and a sister. After marrying her husband, Chuck, they moved to San Luis Obispo, where he was attending Cal Poly as a Farm Management Major. Since they would eventually be living on a ranch Fran decided that taking Ag related courses would be the thing to do. She attended Cal Poly part time, since her prior experience with livestock was that of visiting the buffalo in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park and an occasional horseback ride on her uncle's ranch.

Upon graduation in 1962 she and her family headed east to the Carrisa Plains in eastern San Luis Obispo County with their two sons, Craig and Don. Initially, this new lifestyle was intimidating and somewhat of a culture shock. The transition however was easy because of a very welcoming community. A few years later a third son, Jeff and a daughter Paula were born. They farmed wheat and barley in the beginning, later switching to running a commercial Brangus Cattle operation.

Fran's involvement in the farming endeavor constituted of cooking for a crew for 10 years, running down parts in town (50 miles from the ranch), the unending cleaning and burning of thistle, etc. The cattle, however, were more complex, interesting and fun. She was now doctoring, pulling an occasional calf, feeding hay on those freezing winter mornings and loving those newborn calves.

Fran attended her first SLO County Cattlewomen's meeting (aka Cowbellees back then) in the 80's. Today, she is still involved with the organization because she believes in the philosophy of educating our youth about the "good life" in agriculture and feels that the cattlewomen embody that. Fran presently is a member of the board of directors, chaired the merchandizing committee for several years, has served as a delegate, assembled baskets for CCW luncheon, participated in the annual AGVenture, and volunteered for Cattlemen's Day at the Ca Mid State Fair.

When Fran is not volunteering for CCW or all the other organizations she is part of, Fran loves to spend time with her four children, 15 grandchildren and one great grandchild.