

Ralph Struve, 85

April 19, 1915 - May 20, 2000

IRWIN - Ralph George, son of George and Dora Gruhn Struve, was born April 19, 1915, near Manning. He attended rural school near his home and then went to school in Manning, graduating from high school in 1932. Following his graduation he continued to work with his father in the purebred Shorthorn cattle business on the family farm.

Nov. 2, 1941, he married Velma Datwyler at Winterset. They lived with his parents on the family farm for a short time and then moved to a farm southeast of Manning for five years. When his parents retired, they moved back to the home place where he farmed and raised purebred Shorthorn cattle with his brother, Glen. In 1957, the family moved and Ralph started his career as a herdsman for various Angus cattle breeders. In 1965, he received the prestigious John Sheets Herdsman Award for being the outstanding herdsman of the year. From 1965 to 1979, he lived and worked on the SuperCross Hybrid Seed Corn farm east of Manilla. When he retired in 1979, they moved into their new home in Irwin. He was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Manilla, a member of the Iowa Angus Breeders Association and the American Angus Association. Ralph lost his battle with cancer and died May 20, 2000, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 85 years, one month and one day.

He is preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Irene Doane; and a brother, Glen Struve. He is survived by his wife, Velma Struve of Irwin; three children, Glenda (Clarence) Baker of Pittsview, AL; Galen Struve (Elaine) of Blue Springs, MO; and Janene (Pat) Barry of Irwin; seven grandchildren, Brian Baker (D. Lynn); Brenda (Karl) Meyer; Kelli (Jason) Fineran; Kurt Barry; Megan Barry; Lynn Barry (B.J.) and Dana (Shawn) Hill; six great grandchildren, Nicholas Carazo; Jacob Baker; Shayla Hill and Courtney, Dillon and Kira Barry; sister, Fern (Kenny) Jensen of Manning; sister-in-law, Lois Struve in Manning; brother-in-law, Sam Doane of Davenport; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held May 23, 2000, at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Manilla, with Pastor Timothy Geitz officiating. Burial was in the Manning Cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were D. Lynn Baker, Kelli and Jason Fineran, Dana and Shawn Hill, Brenda and Karl Meyer, Megan Barry and B.J. Barry. Casket bearers were Allan Doane, Brian Baker, Kurt Barry, Curt Struve, Lynn Barry and Kyle Jensen. Ohde Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.