

2014 Spring Livestock Show Honoree

James "JT" Turner

James Turner, better known as JT, moved to Spring in 1969. He got his start by raising and showing animals himself but his commitment to Tri-Club would only grow as time went on. His daughter, Rhonda Jackson, started raising animals for Tri-Club in 1998. Over the next 5 or 6 years, they would raise and show rabbits, heifers, steers, and poultry. JT has served as the beef advisor as well as the rabbit advisor, which he currently still serves.

When we asked JT what keeps him active and so involved in Tri-Club, his response was simple, "Seeing the kids coming back and paying it forward." He has watched many kids like Dillon Anders, Casey Hershey, and Kelsi Cook grow through the program. He started working with Dillon helping him to raise rabbits when Dillon was in the 4th grade. Now, Dillon has moved on to college but helps out with the Tri-Club show every year.

Jana Anders says, "When Dillon decided to join Spring 4-H back in 2002 we decided to start with rabbits and JT was the leader (and to this day he is still the leader). He was so helpful and knowledgeable with our project as well as that first show with Tri-Club. JT never hesitates to answer questions and help out the students as well as always being there for the Auction. He is a great friend and project leader. If it was not for him I'm not sure we would have been so successful in the program. Thank you JT!!!"

Tracey & Brannon Hershey both said, "First of all, we would like to thank J.T. for being available to so many students and their parents for anything from "how do we do this" to "I need some advice". As a leader, when 4H needed a Rabbit Leader I asked J.T. and he was there. When Tri-Club needed a Rabbit Leader, we asked and again he was there. The key to this is that he is still here even though his

kids graduated years ago. He is still here to help the kids with their projects as well as filling a critical role at our show and on auction day allowing parents and other Tri-Club leaders to focus on other matters that present themselves during the Tri-Club Show and Auction. From a Leader's stand point, I can't thank J.T. enough. He has been there to help the kids whether they were from 4H or FFA no matter what their question. From a parent's stand point, many of those questions admittedly were ours when our son started doing rabbits, a project that we knew nothing about and for that we are very grateful that he shared a wealth of knowledge with us."

Ultimately, JT loves the way everyone works together as a part of Tri-Club. He enjoys that camaraderie a great deal more than sitting at a baseball or football game and having to pick a team to root for. Tri-Club is about working together and in the words of JT, "It kind of makes you think you did something right."