

## 2018 Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative “Meet Your Candidates”

**Name: Jeff Nevens, Lodi Breeds of Sheep Raised: Targhee and formerly Southdown**

**Describe your personal sheep background:**

What started over a decade ago as a 4-H market lamb project has turned into a continuing family enterprise. My wife grew up in a sheep family as a 5<sup>th</sup> generation shepherdess, and our children continue the long-standing tradition. My primary interests have been two-fold. First, I have been focused on youth involvement, be it at the local, state or national level. I have helped create and continue to co-chair with my wife two youth starter flock programs. We have also sponsored many youth awards at various shows over the years, including the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival. Second, our flock of Targhees has centered on quality wool as well as quality carcass production. As a family, we continue to exhibit and sell breeding stock and fleeces on a national level

**Describe or list leadership roles you have had in the sheep industry:**

- Columbia County Junior State Fair Sheep Leaders – 2008 to 2017
- United States Targhee Sheep Association (USTSA) Starter Flock Program Co-Chairperson - 2008 to present
- Wisconsin Junior Targhee Sheep Association Starter Flock Co-Chairperson – 2011 to present
- USTSA Board of Directors – 2010 to present
- USTSA Vice President – 2011 to 2014
- USTSA President – 2014 to 2017
- Co-Chaired the 2010, 2013 and 2016 USTSA National Shows & Sales
- WSBC Board of Directors – 2012 to present
- WSBC Vice President – 2015 to present

**Why would you like to be a director on the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative Board?**

It would be an honor to continue to serve on the WSBC board for many reasons. First and foremost, I feel that youth are at the heart of keeping this industry alive and fresh. Continuing on the board would allow me to continue to promote and encourage youth involvement at all levels throughout the state. I know what it has done for our family, and firmly believe that other families can benefit from being in this business. Secondly, I believe that there is an untapped market in Wisconsin that is in need of promotion – that of a quality wool market. The wool show at our own Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival is tremendous, and would like to continue to help promote and grow the show. Lastly, being on the board allows me to gain different perspectives on issues and concerns that face us today. Being on a national board, I have the privilege of hearing about national issues. However, sometimes those are not necessarily the specific concerns of our state.

**Additional comments:**

I would like to thank the WSBC for my nomination, and hope that if re-elected, I can continue to serve the membership well.