

## **Three Openings on Board as Candidates Line Up**

*2019 WSBC Nominating Committee: Sue Rupnow, Debbie Petzel, Warren O'brion*

The Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative (WSBC) is scheduled for Saturday, March 9, 2019, at the Public Events Facility, Arlington Agriculture Research Station, Arlington, WI. Held in conjunction with the Arlington Sheep Day, the dinner will begin at 12:30 p.m. and the recognition program, meeting and election will start at 1:30 p.m. For information please contact Jill Alf at 608 743-9080, email [jill.alf11@gmail.com](mailto:jill.alf11@gmail.com) or [wisconsinssheepbreeders@gmail.com](mailto:wisconsinssheepbreeders@gmail.com) .

There are three openings on the Board of Directors: Sue Rupnow is ineligible to run again; Todd Baumer resigned in the fall of 2018 and Stephanie Formo has chosen not to run for a full 3-year term. The candidates are: Tim Jergenson, Laurel Kiefer, Nancy Burton, Lynn Lee, Lisa Paskey, Greg Brickner and Dan Smerchek.

### **Greg Brickner - Wonewoc**

My name is Greg Brickner and, with my family, own and operate a sheep farm in Wonewoc, WI. We have raised sheep for 15 years and before that we milked cows. We currently have 250 ewes in a pasture-based system.

I am also a veterinarian and was in a large animal practice until 2016. Since then I have worked for Organic Valley, a farmer-owned dairy cooperative, as a veterinarian and grazing specialist.

I am interested in the sharing of ideas between shepherds of all size farms and flocks who are interested in producing quality meat, wool, and milk. I hope to promote the use of pasture and forages on Wisconsin sheep farms and have those farms share their best ideas. We want our farms and their produce to be looked at favorably by our consumers from the perspectives of human, animal, and environmental health. To that end it is necessary that livestock production be based on quality pastures and forages, with grain and concentrates playing a smaller role. I would like to see ideas shared at the Sheep and Wool Festival, in WSBC publications and at visits to Wisconsin sheep farms during the year.

### **Lynn Lee - Campbellsport**

Happy New Year fellow WSBC members! I am excited for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors of the WSBC. I have been involved in the sheep industry for as long as I can remember. My family started 'Highland Hampshires' in 1972, and my mom and uncles showed sheep at the county, regional and state level. As soon as I was old enough, my Uncle Gary had me showing sheep in the Open Class division at our local county fair. I still remember what I was wearing, the sheep I showed, and the 'pretty princess' that handed me my first blue ribbon. Needless to say, I have been hooked ever since!

As I continue into the depths of adulthood, sheep have remained an integral part of my being. My husband, Devon, and I established our own farm, 'Lone Rooster Farm' in 2011. Lone Rooster Farm focuses on raising happy, healthy animals for the freezer. In a typical year, we raise and butcher Hampshire and Southdown feeder lambs, Berkshire Pigs, Red Ranger Chickens, and Bronze Turkeys. We also have too many laying hens running around the yard! We market our products at the local farmer's market, and of course to family and friends as well.

In 2018, Lone Rooster Farm gained a permanent residence when we purchased a home with 22 acres in Campbellsport, WI. At that time, I was eager to get 'long-term' sheep at our place. I wanted more than just feeder lambs; I wanted some ewes! They say timing is everything, and I couldn't agree more. With our recent home/barn purchase and Barb Bishop's departure to South Dakota, we were able to purchase a great set of brood ewes from MB Genetics to get our Southdown flock up and running. Devon and I also manage my cousin Dylan's flock of Southdowns. As I write this, we are about 10 days out from our first group of lambs hitting the ground, and I couldn't be more excited to see what is in store for us!

In addition to staying busy on the farm, I am also the Sheep project leader for Lindenwood 4-H and a newly elected board member for the Wisconsin Southdown Sheep Association. Being involved in the sheep industry has allowed me so many experiences and opportunities that otherwise would not have been possible. I hope to continue this journey, and am hopeful that with my involvement and influence, I can encourage a few more to explore all the sheep industry can offer them.

### **Lisa Paskey – Cottage Grove**

Employed as a Certified Nursing Assistant in Madison, WI.

Wisconsin Sheep Breeder Cooperative member and previous 4-H member since pure bred Suffolk flock established in 1976.

Assisted with Dane County Fair and Dane County Sheep Producers during fair and other lamb promotions, ie. handing out lamb samples and recipes during events in Madison area.

Served as 1983 Wisconsin Suffolk Queen attending fairs and show events around Wisconsin.

1990 Graduate from MATC Farm Business and Production Management – Sheep Production.

Volunteer/participant at Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival since inception.

2012 Established Scrapie Free Certification for our Flock in USDA Program.

2016 Established Export Certification for our Flock in USDA Program.

2017 Started participating at Bodegas held at Breese Stevens Field in Madison, WI. as a way to promote lamb, wool, and all breeds of sheep raised in Wisconsin. Focus centered on public interaction/education.

2018 Participated in and obtained Certification in Carcass Ultrasound Class at UW Arlington Research Station.

2018 Assisted with, Pen of 3 Carcass Event, at Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival/  
committee member

I believe in education, participation and encouragement of youth in 4-H, FFA and Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative in this state.

Currently marketing lambs directly to our customers, 4-H youth and encourage education of the public in how animals are cared for on farms raising sheep.

People want to know where their food and products come from. We owe it to our Industry and youth to promote, educate and talk with the public to get to know what they want.

Thanks to the nominating committee for considering me for the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative board of directors.

Sincerely, Lisa Paskey

**Tim Jergenson - Almena**

I have raised sheep most of my life beginning with my first sheep as a 4-H Club member. My wife and I currently have a commercial flock of about 125 ewes near Almena in northwestern Wisconsin. We lamb our flock in an old dairy barn and utilize a managed intensive grazing system to feed our sheep during the growing season, finishing our lambs on grain before marketing them in the late summer and fall.

I recently retired after 30 years as a UW-Extension Educator spending most of my career as an Agricultural Agent and a few years as a 4-H, Youth Development Agent. I have been active in a variety of professional organizations related to my Extension work over the years. I have also been active in the Indianhead Sheep and Goat Producers since its startup in the 1990's. I am an active member my church and a member of the Cumberland Kiwanis Club.

Perhaps my most rewarding experiences have come from serving for nearly 20 years as Department Head in the Polk County UW-Extension Office and later in Barron County. I also served a term a President of the Wisconsin Association of County Agricultural Agents and was Executive Secretary of the 2013 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days in Barron County.

Through these experiences I have learned to work effectively with a variety of people who have unique personalities and life skills. I have learned to appreciate the wide range of opinions that people have and I have also learned to help diverse groups work toward a common goal.

The Wisconsin sheep industry is a small and diverse group of hard working producers. The Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative reflects that diversity. I want to effectively serve the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative as member of the Board of Directors and work together to strengthen our industry.

I wish to thank the Board of Directors for nominating me for a position on the Board. If elected, I pledge to work cooperatively with the current leadership of the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative for the benefit of all members of the organization.

**Nancy Burton – Argyle**

Hi, my name is Nancy Burton. My husband Sean and I live outside Argyle, Wisconsin. We have a flock of 75 Registered Suffolks. I have been involved with sheep for over 22 years. It began with three cross-bred ewe lambs that were given to me when I was pregnant with my first child. It has grown since then.

I have been a member of the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative for many years. I have been involved with various activities that the group has had over the years. I was a huge supporter of the Bred Ewe Sale that was held at the Rock County Fairgrounds for many years. I also participated in a couple of the “Field Days” they have had in the past. I have also been involved as a volunteer and established the Youth Poster Contest at the Sheep and Wool Festival. I have only missed one Festival since it’s conception.

I have been a huge advocate for the sheep industry and youth involved in all aspects of the livestock industry, but especially the sheep industry. I work the Junior Sheep Show at the Wisconsin State Fair, I work with Barb Bishop during the Second Rotation of the Open Sheep Show at the Wisconsin State Fair, and I am currently the President of the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association. I have gone through Pipestone Lamb & Wool Short Course.

It would be an honor to serve on the Board of the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative. I have met so many wonderful people and made many friends thanks to this organization. This organization has given so much to so many and still has so much more it can give. I would love the opportunity to serve the membership by being elected to the Board.

**Laurel Kieffer - Strum**

Laurel Kieffer has been co-owner of Dream Valley Farm LLC since 1991 and has milked sheep from 1997 through 2017. The farm imported purebred rams from Canada in 1996 and was one of few farms to participate in unofficial DHIA milk production testing from 1998 through 2017. Dream Valley Farm has been an active participant in UW sheep dairy research projects and collaborations since beginning sheep dairying. In addition, Laurel has worked as project manager for numerous private, state and federal multi-year grants and has worked as a private consultant to private and public non-profit organizations in areas of strategic planning, organizational development, team building, community-based needs assessment, among other items. She has served as chair of the Citizen’s Advisory Council for the UW Center Integrated Agricultural Systems, past president of the Dairy Sheep Association of North America, and organizer and project manager for the newly formed Sheep Dairy Association of Wisconsin. She is currently managing a genetics improvement project for DSANA to establish protocols for

estimating breeding values for dairy sheep, manages the farm with the few remaining sheep, donkeys and Border Collies, and teaches part-time at UW-Eau Claire.

**Dan Smerchek**

My family and I, wife Shelly and children Kelsi , Dathan and Kailen own and operate 85 brood ewe flock near Rosholt WI in Marathon county. The Smerchek flock consists 50 black face wether type ewes and 35 registered Southdown ewes. We work hard to breed sound healthy sheep that productive and efficient. I have been involved in all facets of the sheep industry and worked with many different sheep breeds over the years. I had the opportunity to work at WIS-Zona sheep company in Bancroft WI for 3 years, where I was responsible for the care and lambing of 3500 commercial ewes. I worked as the shepherd at UWRF from 1990 through 1995 managing the Dorset, Hampshire and Columbia Flocks. I have a deep passion for types and kinds of sheep as well as sheep breeders.

I have also held several leadership positions in the livestock industry. Board member of the Wisconsin Livestock breeders Association, President for 2 years. I was president of the Wisconsin Club Lamb Association from for 3 years.

I would very much like to selected to be on the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Board. I think I would bring an understanding of the commercial sheep Industry as well as the show sheep industry. Thank you for your consideration.