**WSBC Annual Meeting and Election of Board of Directors**

The Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative (WSBC) is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 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 or email wisconsinsheepbreeders@gmail.com. There are three openings on the 2020 Board of Directors: Alan Thorson has completed 3 terms and is ineligible to run again; Steve Bingen is eligible for and is seeking re-election and Debbie Petzel has chosen not to run for a third term. The candidates are: Steve Bingen, Randy Cutler, Kevin Lindow, Dan Smerchek, and Robin Starkenburg

**Your 2020 WSBC Board of Director Candidates**

**Kevin Lindow – Chili, WI**

My wife Ann and I got married on June 19, 2004 and we have 6 kids. Joshua, Jessica, Jamie, Jenna, Justine and Jacob. I am the fifth generation on our family farm. The farm was 100 years old and was honored by the Wisconsin State Fair in 1980. My wife Ann and I raise 6 kids and sheep.

I grew up raising hogs but in 2003, the Dorset flock which Ann and her grandparents started came to the farm. My grandfather used to raise registered Hampshire sheep when my dad was young. We are currently lambing 120 ewe consisting of purebred Dorsets, Hampshire, Suffolk (Leecrest), Montedales, Natural Colored, Southdown, Dorset Advantage and club lambs.

**Dan Smerchek – Rosholt, WI**

My family and I, wife Shelly and children Dathan, Kailen and Jordan and Kelsi (Smerchek) Hammer, own and operate 85 brood ewe flock near Rosholt WI in Marathon county.

The Smerchek flock consists of 50 black face wether type ewes and 35 registered Southdown ewes. We work hard to breed sound, healthy sheep that are productive and efficient.

I have been involved in all facets of the sheep industry and have 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 all 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 for 3 years.

I would very much like to be 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.

**Robin Starkenburg – DeForest, WI**

My family, (husband David, and children Rebecca, Brian and Bradyn) have been raising sheep for 14 years. We started with a market lamb 4-H project from Marv Pace when Becky was 10 years old. In 2013, we transitioned to a registered Lincoln Long wool flock. We run about 20 head total and are enjoy showing locally, regionally and nationally.

We have actively participated in community education hosting an Open Barn in the spring during shearing for 11 of the last 14 years. I serve on the Lodi Agriculture Fair Board and Livestock Committee. My career has allowed me to expand on my livestock experiences that started on a 300 cow dairy in Washington.

I have worked in global bovine genetics marketing and in the animal scale and feeding industry for over 25 years. Promoting the sheep industry for both food and fiber and identifying new markets for sheep products while supporting youth involvement would be key objectives I would strive for as part of the WSBC board. Thank you for your consideration.
Steve Bingen - Allenton, WI

I, along with my daughter Jillian and wife Michelle, raise purebred Oxford Sheep in Allenton, Wisconsin. We show at the State and National levels. Jillian in the past 2 years exhibited the Champion ram at Louisville and Champion ewes at the Wisconsin State Fair, the All-American Junior Show, and the Sheep and Wool Festival. I also maintain a commercial feedlot and supply lambs to local outlets on a weekly basis.

I have been involved with the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative since I first started raising sheep in 1976. I am presently the Vice-President serving my first term as a director and am seeking a second. I have previously served as a director for a number of terms as well as President.

I feel a strong commitment to the sheep industry and to sheep production in Wisconsin and believe that I can serve that commitment by continuing as a director if you will allow me. I am also a yearly volunteer at the Sheep and Wool Festival and the State Fair Blue Ribbon Livestock Sale, serve on our local County Fair Livestock Sale Committee, and a director on the American Oxford Sheep Association. I do get to work with the youth in our county and as a judge at a few county fairs each year. I truly enjoy working with my sheep and even more with the fine people who raise them. I would appreciate your support.

Randy Cutler - Milladore, WI

Randy has farmed in Central Wisconsin since 1976 coming from teaching high school agriculture. He received Bachelors in Science in Agriculture Education from the UW River Falls. He raises 50 Bluefaced Leicester breeding ewe, Dexter cattle, and various fowl. Randy has been in the livestock fencing, installation and supply business since 2004. He has given talks and fencing demonstrations for Spooner Sheep days, various pasture walks, grazing schools and conferences. In 2015 and 2017 he presented at MOSES Midwest Organic Farming conference. Randy made several trips to Asia teaching sheep and cashmere goat production to remote farmers after the fall of the USSR. He has crews installing livestock fence and pasture water systems state wide and sells Gallagher, Kenove, Plasson and the JUG water systems and supplies from his farm. Randy is married, has two daughters and four grandchildren. When he isn’t fencing he’s farming: growing vegetables in his high tunnel and green house and trying to demonstrate permaculture practices at their home of 210 acres in Milladore.

Randy has been in the livestock fencing, installation and supply business since 2004. He has given talks and fencing demonstrations for Spooner Sheep days, various pasture walks, grazing schools and conferences. In 2015 and 2017 he presented at MOSES Midwest Organic Farming conference. Randy made several trips to Asia teaching sheep and cashmere goat production to remote farmers after the fall of the USSR. He has crews installing livestock fence and pasture water systems state wide and sells Gallagher, Kenove, Plasson and the JUG water systems and supplies from his farm. Randy is married, has two daughters and four grandchildren. When he isn’t fencing he’s farming: growing vegetables in his high tunnel and green house and trying to demonstrate permaculture practices at their home of 210 acres in Milladore.

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