My family and I are fifth-generation Montana sheep producers, and we have been raising registered Hampshire sheep since 2015 through our 7 Mile Hampshires & Dorsets operation in Glendive, Montana. I am proud of the program we have built and of the many different ways sheep continue to be part of our family, our livelihood, and our involvement in agriculture. Our program focuses on producing functional, competitive Hampshire sheep while remaining actively involved in showing, youth development, and promoting the sheep industry.

Our operation includes registered breeding stock and show sheep, but we also believe strongly in diversification and finding practical ways for sheep producers to create additional markets. We sell farm-to-table lamb and range rams and produce value-added wool products, including dryer balls and wool pellets. I believe the future of the sheep industry depends on our willingness to respect our traditions while also looking for new opportunities to make our operations sustainable and profitable.

Agricultural education and youth development are also a huge part of my life. I have spent more than 20 years as an agricultural educator and currently serve as an FFA advisor. Our sheep operation has provided countless opportunities for youth involvement through 4-H, FFA, SAE projects, livestock judging, proficiency awards, and showing at the local, state, and national levels. I believe strongly that investing in our junior members is one of the most important investments we can make in the future of our breed.

Sheep aren't the only livestock that keep us busy. Our family also raises registered Shire horses through Big Sky Shires & Equine Services. Professionally, I am a Licensed Addictions Counselor and own Lead Changes Recovery & Equine Assisted Therapy Center, where I combine my background in counseling, agriculture, and horses to help individuals and families work toward recovery and positive change.

I am seeking reelection to the American Hampshire Sheep Association Board of Directors, and I am proud of the improvements and developments I have seen from both our Senior and Junior Boards. I am especially proud that, as a board and an association, we have continued to embrace the different styles of Hampshire sheep and the different goals of the people who raise them. Whether someone is raising Hampshires for the show ring, commercial production, range use, breeding stock, youth projects, or a combination of those purposes, I believe there is a place for them in our association.

Our diversity is one of our strengths. We can honor the history and traditions that built the Hampshire breed while continuing to welcome new ideas, new breeders, new markets, and the next generation of Hampshire enthusiasts. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue serving our membership and helping move our breed forward.

Unfortunately, I have had to cancel my trip to Louisville this year because I will be undergoing ACL repair and surgery. I am disappointed that I won't have the opportunity to visit with many of you in person there, but I look forward to meeting more of the people who make our breed and association what they are in the future.

Please know that I am always available to visit with members about concerns, ideas, and interests that affect our breed and association. I value hearing different perspectives, and I believe listening to our membership is an important part of serving on the Board. I look forward to continuing to meet Hampshire breeders from across the country, learning about your programs, and working together to strengthen the Hampshire breed for generations to come.