Mike Storms

Candidate for the American Hampshire Association Board of Directors At Large Seat

Mike Storms has been involved in the sheep industry since 1984, when he began raising Suffolk sheep. His family's involvement with Hampshire sheep began in 1997 when his son was active in 4-H. Mike's children began showing at the All-American Junior Sheep Show and the National Hampshire Junior Show at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in 1998 and continued until his daughter aged out of the junior program around 2011.

Today, Mike and his wife, Lee, operate Storms Hampshires, Dorsets and Border Collies. He resides in rural Washburn, Illinois, where the ewes are lambed out and the lambs are developed. After weaning, the ewes return to the family's farm near Lafayette, Indiana, where they graze on native fescue until approximately one month before lambing.

Mike's primary market is breeding rams, which he sells to sheep producers throughout the United States. An online sale in the spring of 2026 reached buyers in 10 states. He retains most of his females to continue improving his flock through selective breeding. In 2017, he established a registered Dorset flock and subsequently transitioned the flock to Piebald sheep.

Youth development has always been an important part of Mike's commitment to the Hampshire breed. For nearly 10 years, Alivia and Ainsley Porter have exhibited Storms sheep at the All American, NAILE, state fairs, and other shows. Their accomplishments include the 2018 NAILE Champion Slick-Sheared Hampshire Ram, the 2019 NAILE Grand Champion Hampshire Ram, the NAILE Reserve National Champion Ram in 2021 and 2022, the 2021 All American Reserve Champion Ram, and the 2023 All American Champion Ram. A more complete list of winners can be seen at Stormshampshires.com.

Mike believes raising sheep is an outstanding way to raise children, providing hands-on experience in life sciences, responsibility, animal husbandry, problem-solving, and decision-making. His own family is an example of the lasting value of these experiences. Through their involvement in Hampshire youth programs, he and his family raised a son who became a pediatrician and a daughter who became a veterinarian. He is excited to see that tradition continue as his 10-year-old grandson recently completed his second year showing sheep through 4-H. These experiences reinforce Mike's commitment to strengthening the Junior Hampshire Association and ensuring that future generations have opportunities to learn and grow through the sheep industry.

Outside the sheep industry, Mike has worked as a financial advisor and insurance agent since 1989. He operated his business through a bank until 2008, when he purchased the bank's shares

in the business and began operating independently. He currently maintains securities and insurance licenses in five states.

Mike's community leadership includes serving as a past president of his County Extension Board, a board member of a local community bank and a bank holding company, and president of Rotary. He currently serves as trustee and secretary of the Washburn Fire Protection District, volunteers as an EMS first responder, serves as a church trustee, and remains active in Lions Club.

As a director of the American Hampshire Association, Mike would like to continue strengthening the junior shows and establish a 501(c)(3) charitable organization to accept donations and endowments dedicated to supporting the Junior Hampshire Association. He believes in promoting Hampshire sheep in the show ring while maintaining a strong focus on the breed's ultimate customer: the commercial sheep farmer and rancher. He sees a strong future for the Hampshire breed in developing the next generation of breeders while continuing to produce sheep that meet the needs of commercial producers.

Mike hopes to bring his decades of sheep industry experience, practical breeding and marketing knowledge, financial background, and organizational leadership to the continued growth and success of the American Hampshire Association.