

# HAMPSHIRE HERITAGE AWARD

## TAMMY ZEDIKER LUIZ

### MONTAGUE, CA

#### ESTABLISHED 1986

During the 1986 summer fair season, I traveled the northern California county fair circuit with my sister who was showing Columbias and I helped the Roberson family fit and show their 2 strings of Hampshires. At the end of the show season, I was asked by my father if I wanted to purchase 1 registered beef heifer or a string of sheep that I could show at other county fairs. The decision was easy...sheep.

My father contacted a few California Hampshire breeders to see what they had available. He said I could purchase two ewe lambs that would show as yearlings the next summer and three aged ewes that were bred so I'd have some lambs to show. We left right after my league cross country meet ended in Redding, CA and drove to Sonora on the weekend

where I selected and purchased two Crego Dash for Cash ewe lambs from the Mother Lode Sheep Co. Over that Veteran's Day weekend, we drove to LeGrande and I purchased three bred aged ewes from Kathy Culpepper. The following year one of the ewes lambed with twins (a ram and a ewe). One of the other ewes lost her lamb and one ended up being open. I showed the lambs and yearlings the following year at six of the northern California county fairs.

My flock has included breeding from the following flocks over the years: Mother Lode Sheep Co., Kathy Culpepper, Rosie/Elizabeth Roberson, Rickow, Jones, Finder, Hubbard Roselawn, Image Club Lambs, Leventini, and Pumphrey to name a few.

While in college, I spent two summers fitting and showing sheep to pay my tuition. I showed up and down the state of

California at county fairs, at the California State Fair, Arizona State Fair, and Cow Palace. I showed sheep for Lazy E Shropshires, Beaver Creek Hampshires/Suffolks/Dorsets, Richards Southdowns/Cheviots, and Al Hull Columbias. At times our first string consisted of 63 head of sheep. I continued to show my own breeding sheep at 4 of the northern California Fairs as well. I've shown my sheep all but 2 of my college years.

My grandmother Virginia Zediker also raised registered Hampshire sheep for a while in the late 1980's and 1990's. Her father, Roy Phillips, also raised sheep in the Sanger area of California, but I don't have any official documentation of what breed he raised. My grandparents boarded my sheep while I attended college and when I got married in 1996, I purchased a house and some acreage with my husband Mike Luiz allowing us to take back full control of my flock at our new place. We've been raising them on the same ranch in Montague, CA for the last 20 years. I have two daughters, 7 year old Hailee and 16 year old Dusti that also help with the sheep and show them. Dusti shows Hampshire market lambs from our flock and Hailee has shown in peewee showmanship contests.



I served as a 4-H leader for a couple of years right after college. I currently help with local sheep show days, help local clubs with judging practice, put on fitting demonstrations, and have the kids help with working lambs/shearing in the spring so they learn more than they would with just showing a market lamb. I still enter showmanship competitions (also known as Over-the Hill Showmanship/Round Robin) here and there to model what I tell the kids to do.

While still in 4-H, I earned many Champion and Reserve ribbons as well as the Outstanding Jr. Sheep Breeder at the Modoc County Fair in both 1988 and 1989. My sheep have continued to receive many Champion and Reserve awards at local county fairs over the years. We've even won a few Supreme Champion awards at Siskiyou Golden Fair, Shasta District Fair and the Tulelake-Butte Valley Fair.

My husband served on the Sheep Advisory Committee for California Farm Bureau from 2008-2010. We have been members of the Siskiyou County Young Farmer's and Ranchers and California Farm Bureau.

In addition to raising registered Hampshires, I have also had a flock of registered Columbias since 1988. My flock currently consists of 27 Hampshire brood ewes, 5 ewe lambs, 2 stud bucks, and a ram lamb. I also have 28 Columbia brood ewes, 7 ewe lambs, 2 stud bucks, a yearling ram, and three ram lambs between my two daughters and I. I continue to show my sheep locally with my husband, and in 2014 I exhibited and sold at the National Columbia Sheep Show. I'd love to show at some of the bigger California fairs again, but I need a second showman that can travel with me.

Although the sheep are registered in my name, they are marketed as Luiz Hampshires. I couldn't have managed the sheep without the help of my husband Mike and my show help from my sister Jacki Zediker. We currently have both frame sheep and a few whether sire sheep. We market our lambs to 4-H members, to commercial sheep breeders, as custom butcher lambs, and for registered breeding programs.

