

# HAMPSHIRE HERITAGE AWARD

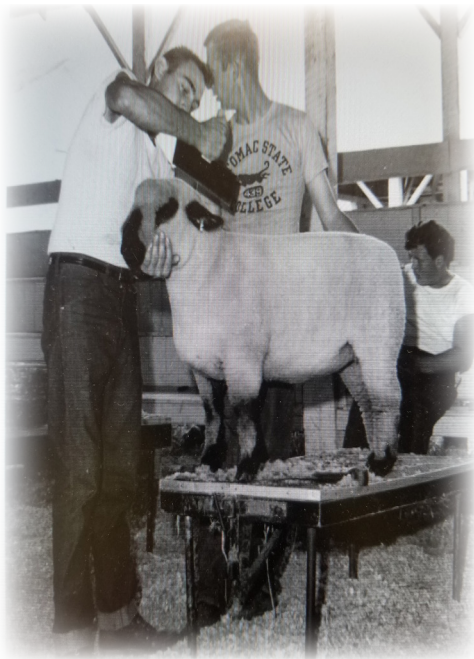
## FORT DONNALLY FARM      JOHN R. JOHNSON

### LEWISBURG, WV              ESTABLISHED 1959

I started raising baby lambs at the age of 9 or 10. I purchased my first Hampshire ram from Ivan Barlow in 1948. In 1959, I purchased 8 or 10 head of Lunsford ewes to start my Hampshire sheep business. Until this time I just had a commercial crossbred operation. I used money from my FFA projects to be able to purchase my Lunsford ewes.

Dr. James F Mann was responsible for encouraging me to start breeding Hampshires.

I was the first in my family to breed Hampshires. Now there are four generations involved with Hampshires. They include myself, my daughter, my son, my granddaughter, my grandson and my great grandchildren.



My daughter, Vickey Johnston Neel, always had a love for the sheep. She was involved when her daughters showed and now her grandchildren. She always helped on the farm with whatever tasks needed to be done. She works for the USDA Farm Service Agency.

My son, Don E Johnston, was involved in 4-H and showing for 10 years himself and showed all over the country with the farm flock.

My granddaughters, Jennifer Ervin and Brianne Williams, were involved in 4-H and showed all 10 years. Jennifer helped with the family flock and now helps with her children that are show. Brianne graduated from WVU with a degree in Animal Science and went on to Mississippi State Vet School.

My grandson, Devin Johnston, was involved in 4-H and showed all 10 years as well. He graduated from WVU with an Ag degree and works for the WV Department of Agriculture.

My great grandchildren, Josi, Hailey & Peyton Ervin, are showing sheep in 4-H and enjoy helping with the family flock.



We have received the

- Greenbrier Valley Conservation District Century Farm
- WV State Fair & WV Farm Bureau Farming Heritage Award (8 generations have farmed their 1400 acre farm on the original site of Fort Donnally established in 1794)
- Hampshire Heritage Award for 50 years
- Greenbrier County 4-h Meritorious Award
- My daughter Vickey won a trip to 4-H Club Congress with her sheep project

We have received many honors in the show ring as well. We have had Champion Hampshires at WV, VA, MD, PA, NC,



TX, Eastern and MidWest Stud Ram Shows, Corn Belt, Keystone and Ohio State with wethers. I am the first and only Hampshire breeder to have a wether on the front page of the 'Sheep Breeder'. We won the first class of wethers at Louisville, KY. We also showed in the last Chicago Fair in Illinois.

I have been a member of the AHSA since 1959 and we currently have a flock of 50. I believe I am supporting the sheep industry by breeding quality animals, offering advice and serving as a mentor to anyone that asked ( and sometimes when I wasn't asked), supporting 4-H and FFA in all endeavors, and have supplied numerous youth with lambs to show. Some of those lambs were purchased, but there have been many that couldn't and I have tried to help give them a start.

