

# Bobendrier Hampshires

## Charles Bobendrier

J. H. (Jack) Bobendrier won his first ribbon at the Minnesota State Fair in 1918, and his son Peter showed his first sheep at the MN state fair in 1922. Shropshires and Border Leicesters were the breeds comprising the Bobendrier flock from the onset to the mid-1940s, when the Border Leicesters were dispersed. Peter moved the Shropshires with him to his new farm in the mid-1940s and bred and showed them at the MN State Fair each year.

Peter always admired the looks and attributes of the Hampshires and longed to own some someday. He sheared local sheep part time to help keep the bills paid in those lean years, and on one of his shearing gigs in the spring of 1954, he came across a small flock of registered Hampshires for sale. They were owned by Lawrence Johnson from Forest Lake, MN, and were direct descendants of one of the more popular blood lines of the very recent past: Glueck Brewery from St Paul, MN.

Sons Jim and Chuck rode along with dad on the trip to pick up the new Hampshires,

and Peter had a big smile on his face all the way home! So in 1955, along with the Shropshires, the Bobendriers showed their first Hampshires at the MN State Fair, Peter in the open class and Chuck in the 4-H show.

When Chuck went away to college at the University of Minnesota in the early 1960s, the Shropshires were dispersed and all efforts were focused on the Hampshires. Chuck married Jan Olander in 1968, and their union brought forth seven children: Amy Lueck, Tom, Sarah Roob, Dave, Laura Kruse, Pamela Carlson, and Debra Bobendrier/Huynh. All of the kids were active with the Hampshires in their 4-H projects over the years. At present, Amy's children Austin, Erin, and Cole are showing Hampshires in their 4-H work, and Tom and his four boys--Brady, Mitch, Sam, and Nate--have their own flock of Hampshires, going by the

"Bobendrier Boys." They are active in 4-H and FFA, as well as open state and national shows. Dave is a very active participant and has great expertise in the fitting and showing of the sheep at the shows and sales. Laura and her husband Andy Kruse are involved with the operation by managing the web site..

It was in the early 1970s that the Bobendriers started venturing out of the state with their Hampshires, showing at Wisconsin, Iowa, and South Dakota state fairs and the National Cornbelt Sale in Des Moines, IA each year. In 1976, they made the first trip to Louisville with two fall ewe lambs and were quite pleased with a 3rd place finish in a class of about 15 lambs. The flock has been represented at Louisville every year since.

The first class winner at the "big dance" was "Rare Too", a yearling ram that claimed reserve grand champion in 1987. Their first championship was won by "Rare Stranger", a late-born spring ram lamb in 1991. To date the Bobendrier flock has won six Louisville champion rams and two reserves; one champion ewe and two reserves; and have accumulated a total of 51 silver cups for individual class winners. They have been awarded the premier breeder banner at the national show nine times in the past eighteen years. Without a doubt, the highlight of the Bobendriers' showing career was when "Rare Sonar", a fall born ram lamb, was named the 1996 Louisville supreme national champion ram.

Chuck was on the national board of directors from 1986 to 1995 and served as the president in 1994-1995. He was also honored with induction into the Minnesota Livestock Hall of Fame in 2004. Tom is currently a very active member of the national board and is serving as the vice president. Bobendrier Hampshires' "home" flock now numbers about 65 mature ewes, and the Bobendrier Boys' flock has grown to about 40. The stud rams are shared by the two flocks, but in the show ring, the two flocks have become fierce competitors!

