

HAMPSHIRE HERITAGE AWARDS

60 Years



Kleinert Hampshires Darryl Kleinert

Kleinert Hampshires began as a 4-H project when Darryl was nine years old in 1953. With the help of his father, William, Darryl bought two bred Hampshire yearling ewes. Throughout high school, Darryl was mentored by his agriculture teacher, Mr. Maynard Boudreau. As time passed and his experience grew, so did the size of his flock.

Darryl successfully showed his Hampshires on the Illinois County Fair circuit for several years in the late 1950s and early 1960s. In 1966 Darryl purchased the Famed Willobee Flock from Marshall Field, Jr. and Dr. Campbell of Libertyville, Illinois. This purchase of 200 lead to the first Kleinert Hampshires Production Sale in the spring of 1967.

Kleinert Hampshires winning ways continued with the Grand Champion Wether at the 1970 Illinois State Fair. They also sold the then record selling Hampshire ewe in 1974 in their spring production

sale to Keith Lamb for \$1,475. They also showed the National Champion Hampshire Ram at the 1975 National Show in Lubbock, Texas. At the same time Darryl was elected to the AHSA board of directors, where he served three consecutive terms.

The Kleinert Family tradition of raising and showing Hampshires continued with sons Michael, Brian, Scott and Bret successfully showing Hampshires in the 1970s and 1980s. In 1978 the family moved to the farm in Chebanese, Illinois. Unfortunately in the early morning hours on February 5, 1979 the main barn housing 121 ewes and 52 lambs was destroyed by fire.

However, by carefully researching the old Hogg and Olsen bloodlines, several daughters were purchased to help rebuild the flock. Prominent stud rams used during the early 1980s included 'Happy Days,' 'King Arthur' and 'Lou Hensen.' In the early 1980s Michael also became more heavily involved in Kleinert Hampshires and the flock in 1982 reached its peak of 280 ewes.

The tradition of Hampshires and showing continued into the third generation as Michael and Susies' sons' Kurtis, Kyle and Kory all showed Hampshires at local, state and national shows. Bret and Lisas son Will is now showing Hampshires as well and exhibited at the 2014 NAILE Jr. Show. Today Darryl, although retired, maintains a small flock of Hampshire ewes and keeps busy helping Michael. Michael, along with his oldest son Kurtis, continue the Kleinert Hampshires legacy started by his father and grandfather in 1953. They currently maintain a breeding flock of 100 Hampshire ewes. Michael can be seen at many Hampshire events promoting Hampshires and continuing the Kleinert Hampshire tradition where "Quality Breeding Lasts Forever."

