

Hampshire Heritage Awards

Roembke Hampshires

Established 1965

Richard Roembke started in the sheep business as a young child with Cheviots and commercial sheep and switched to Corriedales while in 4-H in the 1940's. He started in the Hampshire Sheep business in May 1965 with the purchase of 4 ewes from Craig Cannon of Cannon's Sheepberry Farm, New Berlin, WI. After losing 3 of those ewes that summer from Milk Weed Poisoning he purchased 2 more ewes from the flock of a friend he made while attending University of Wisconsin Madison Farm and Industry Short Course, John O'Donovan of Waupun, WI. The following year, another 16 ewes were purchased from Cannon's Sheepberry Farm. A ram was purchased in the early years from Ken Finder of Stoughton, WI. Jim Elphick, former Shepherd at the University of Wisconsin and a Short Course classmate, was also instrumental in Richard starting with Hampshires. In the years that followed, bloodlines of Hogg, Hubbard, Griswold, MacCarthy, Van Cleave, Rupnow and University of Wisconsin-Madison have had an impact on the flock.



Roembke Hampshires currently consists of the combined flocks of R J Roembke Family, David, Linda, Mark and Ellen and son Mark's flock MJR Hampshires, Mark, Julie, Erin, and Rebecca Roembke. Roembke Hampshires currently has 40 Registered Hampshire ewes.

Roembke has always been a proponent of production testing, annually entering rams in the WI Ram Test Station and in 1975 had the Top Gaining Pen of 5 Rams. From that pen came the 9th Certified Meat Sire of the American Hampshire Sheep Association in 1977 (Roembke 445). The flock has been in the WI and Badger Sheep Improvement Program since the early 1970's and in 2005 joined the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) of which Mark is actively involved. Roembkes have proven the #1 Carcass Plus Elite Sire in the NSIP Hampshire Breed with MacCarthy 227 from Don MacCarthy of Oregon, and bred and raised the #2 Elite Sire with Roembke 122013 currently residing in Colorado in the Marlin Helming flock. Roembke's produce Terminal Sires for purebred and commercial sheep operations throughout the United States. Production Testing also became the impetus for Roembke's slogan "Bred for Utility – Tested for Production".

Mark showed the Champion Hampshire Ram in 1981 and the Reserve Champion Market Lamb in 1983 at the WI State Fair Junior Show and sold in the Governors Blue Ribbon Auction. Many Roembke lambs have been named Champion and Reserve Market and Carcass Lambs at the local Washington County Fair. Mark's daughters, Erin and Rebecca, also exhibited in the WI State Fair Junior Show and had the Reserve Champion Hampshire Ewe in 2008, and Reserve Champion Carcass Lamb in 2012.

Richard has been married to wife Sylvia for 56 years and have 4 children and 7 grandchildren. He has been involved with 4-H since 1945. He has served in many capacities for the Town of Jackson, Trinity Lutheran Church, Washington County Agricultural and Industrial Society, Washington County Meat Animal Sale Committee, WI Hampshire Sheep Breeders Association and WI Sheep Breeders Cooperative and WI Livestock Breeders Association. He and Sylvia were instrumental in starting the WI Sheep Industry Conference which has now grown into the WI Sheep and Wool Festival.



Roembke has received the WI Sheep Breeders-Master Shepherd Award (1985), WI Livestock Breeders Award (1988), Dr. Art Pope Award (1997), Spooner Sheep Day Award (1998), Washington County Livestock Sale Committee Award (2001), Farm Bureau Friend of Agriculture Award (2001), Washington County Agricultural & Industrial Society Volunteer of the Year Award (2002), Washington County Agricultural & Industrial Society Fair Volunteer (2006), WI State Fair Sheep Barn Hall of Fame (2007), WI Sheep Industry Award (2008), WI Association of Fairs-Outstanding Fair Person (2008), University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Honorary Recognition Award (2010), WI Sheep Breeders-Friend of the Industry Award (2015).

Roembke Hampshires is located north of Milwaukee at 3696 Country Aire Drive, Cedarburg, WI 53012. Richard can be reached at (262) 377-1491, Mark at (262) 707-0032.