2019-2020
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Greg Smith, President
Roggen, Colo.
term expires 2022*

Steve Stassen, Vice President
Kerkhoven, Minn.
term expires 2021

Neil Knobloch, Executive Committee
Wolcott, Ind.
term expires 2020*

Vance Aldridge
Elmore City, Okla.
term expires 2020*

Jan Allen
Homer, Ill.
term expires 2020

Pete Brummer
Port Royal, Penn.
term expires 2022

Allen K. Conover
Baxter, Iowa
term expires 2021

Matt Ritter
Fortville, Ind.
term expires 2022*

Jeff Wippel
Orient, Ohio
term expires 2021*

* serving second term
May 9, 2020

Dear ABA members and stakeholders,

The purpose of this letter is to update you on a number of important American Berkshire Association topics.

**Director of Berkshire Operations:** The job description was updated and posted on April 26 to indeed.com and the ABA website (see "About" tab and "Careers"). We already have several intriguing candidates who have submitted their resumes. The ABA Board will begin interviewing candidates in June, and we hope to have the new Director in place by the 2020 STC. Please help us get the word out and if you know of any good candidates, please pass their names along to Greg Smith.

**Office Administration:** The ABA thanks Katie Brummet for her years of service to the Association. She has decided to pursue other opportunities. Katie has been a tremendous asset to the ABA team and its membership with improved efficiencies of our office and pedigree services. We wish her the very best in her ventures. Katie has been training Macie Wippel to assume a fulltime role with the ABA through early August. Macie is a former ABA intern with several years of experience in the ABA office. We welcome her to the team. She can be reached at office@americanberkshire.com or at the ABA office phone number.

**2020 Exposition and STC:** As many of you may have heard, The Exposition has been cancelled per the Indiana State government’s guidelines. Covid19 has effected us all in many ways and the purebred swine industry is no different. The ABA, CPS and NSR have teamed up to host a joint event for July 7-11 in Des Moines, Iowa. We anticipate this will be one of the largest hog shows in history and should be very exciting! More details will be forthcoming.

**Online Shows and Sales:** All three organizations have approved an online show and sale to be held in June 2020. The ABA understands in this difficult time of social distancing, an online event might fit the needs of many of its breeders. More information has been posted on the ABA website and on social media.

**Team Purebred:** 2020 is proving to be a very difficult year for the commercial swine industry. We are starting to see the impact of this on Team Purebred sponsorships and donations. Team Purebred is one of the most important functions of the American Berkshire Association and needs your support. If you are able, please make sure and donate to this great cause (https://teampurebred.com/donations/)

**2020 ABA Progeny Test:** The 2020 ABA progeny test started on April 11th in Terre Haute, IN. We are thrilled to have 16 pens on test with entries from Fly’n K Berkshires (6 pens), AJC Berkshires (5 pens), Pete Brummer and Family, England’s Berkshires, Dallas Kuper, Phenotypic Acres, and Lonnie Ploeger. A big thank you goes out to these breeders for their industry leadership!

**Experience Berkshire Magazine:** The ABA Board recently approved three more issues of the Experience Berkshire magazine to be mailed directly to ABA members. The purpose of this magazine is to tell the story of the Berkshire Breed and to promote the superior eating quality traits of Berkshire pork to a wider audience that includes retailers, restaurants, and chefs. The May 2020 issue is now available for your review (https://issuu.com/experienceberkshire/docs/may_2020_experience_berkshire_).

**Direct to Consumer Marketing:** The ABA Board is creating a direct to consumer Berkshire Pork Marketing program for ABA registered pigs. Under this program, ABA members will be able to purchase registered Berkshire pork promotional materials and meat stickers at the ABA’s cost to enable ABA members to promote registered Berkshire pork direct to consumers through farmer markets or on-farm freezer meat sales. Please watch the ABA website and Facebook for updates! It is the goal of this Board to provide more marketing opportunities for your Berkshire hogs, genetics and pork.

**The Future:** The old cliché of “The only thing that remains constant is change” applies with to the swine industry and to agriculture as a whole. The same rings true for the American Berkshire Association at this point in time. We have seen several changes and we anticipate several more in the coming months and years. Your Board of Directors has been and will continue to listen to industry leaders, government officials and to you, the membership of the American Berkshire Association. It is our intention to respond to the dynamics of the world around us.

The financial report will be a handout given at the annual meeting.

If you have any questions, please call Greg Smith at 970-443-5527 or any of your ABA Board members.
## ABA Member Recognition

### TOP RECORDER BY STATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Top Recorder</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama - Gulf Coast Genetics</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arkansas- Sean Bansley</td>
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<tr>
<td>California- Small Town Genetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado - Six Mile Farms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia – Kole Clark</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa- Biensen Breeding Stock</td>
<td>132</td>
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<tr>
<td>Idaho- Brad &amp; Logan Thornton</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illinois - Dan Helgen</td>
<td>298</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indiana - Nick &amp; Neil Mauck</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kansas - Lockman Genetics</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky- Ty Jones</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryland- Andrew Bauer</td>
<td>10</td>
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### TOP 15 SENIOR RECORDERS

1. Dan Helgen, IL 298
2. Six Mile Farms, CO 177
3. Diamond Livestock, CO 161
4. Melissa Larson, CO 158
5. Tuthill Family Farms Wyoming, IL 134
6. Biensen Breeding Stock, IA 132
7. Fly’n K Berkshires, IA 118
8. Brice Conover, IA 107
9. Kurobuta Berkshire LLC, MN 101
10. Phenotypic Acres, IA 84
11. Shipley & Snyder, OH 84
12. Wippel Family Berks, OH 83
13. Albright Swine Farms, MI 81
14. Austin Lane, IA 81
15. Heimer Hampshires, MO 80

### TOP 15 SENIOR TRANSFERS

1. Tuthill Family Farms, IL 297
2. Brice Conover, IA 185
3. Shipley & Snyder, OH 151
4. Fly’n K Berkshires, IA 130
5. Decker Showpigs, IN 105
6. Gulf Coast Genetics, 94
7. Brian Beaman & Family, IN 91
8. Austin Lane, IA 79
9. Heimer Hampshires, MO 73
10. Albright Swine Farms, MI 72
11. Nick an Neil Mauck, IN 71
12. Mellissa Larson, CO 62
13. Jon, Bill, & Tim Clothier, WI 56
14. Ben & Ethan Schmaling, IA 48
15. Harlan Reid, MO 46

### TOP 5 JUNIOR RECORDERS

1. Armstrong Kids, IL 57
2. Kolton & Knox Kauth, IL 23
3. Ty Jones, KY 17
4. Brady & Braxton Gill, WI 13
5. Blaze & Braxon Mock, TX 11

### TOP 5 JUNIOR TRANSFERS

1. Kolton & Knox Kauth, IL 57
2. Armstrong Kids, IL 56
3. Sydney & Chase Lowdermilk, IN 51
4. Blaze & Braxon Mock, TX 42
5. Haley & Madison Graf, IN 37
I. Welcome

II. Acknowledgments
   a. Introductions of Board, Staff and Honored Guests

III. American Berkshire Foundation Annual Report

IV. Awards

V. Official Call to Order
   a. Appoint Parliamentarian
   b. Announce Credentials Committee & Tellers

VI. Approval of 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

VII. Presidential Address

VIII. Committee Reports

IX. Old Business

X. New Business
   a. Membership Voting

XI. Office Report

XII. Adjourn
IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION:

1. There will not be extra copies of the packet at the meeting, please bring this packet along with you.

2. There are four ways members can vote:
   a. you may use the enclosed ballot to mark your vote submit by mail or fax
   b. you can vote online on our website at americanberkshire.com/annual-meeting
   c. you may assign your voting privilege to any member attending the membership meeting by completing the enclosed proxy form. If you use this option, the proxy form must be signed and notarized
   d. you can vote in person

3. The ABA will be utilizing a third party to have 100% control of all ballots submitted by mail, by fax or electronically. If you are mailing or faxing a ballot and/or proxy, please include the slip of paper with your breeder number and signature.

   Please send all ballots to:
   Heman Lawson Hawks LLP
   Certified Public Accountants
   2522 N. Salisbury Street
   West Lafayette, IN 47906-1492
   Fax: 765-463-0049

4. You are eligible to vote if:
   a. you have paid your year 2019 Annual Membership Maintenance Fee of $75,
   b. have recorded two (2) litters since July 1, 2019,
   c. and if all of your accounts are current (not past 120 days).

   If you are not eligible to vote, we have included a note stating why you are ineligible.

5. Voting will occur from June 8 to July 6, 2020.
   a. Mailed in ballots must be in the Heman Lawson Hawks LLP by Monday, July 6th.
      If mailing proxies and ballots, please allow 5-7 days to reach West Lafayette, IN.
   b. Faxed ballots are due to Heman Lawson Hawks LLP by 4:00 p.m. EDT on Monday, July 6th.
   c. Electronic ballots must be submitted by Monday, July 6th at 11:59 p.m.

If you have any questions, please call the ABA office.
No carry-in ballots or proxies will be accepted at the conference or the Annual Membership Meeting.
President Jeff Wippel called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. CDT at the Northfield Inn & Suites in Springfield, Ill.

The President appointed the following to assist with the Annual Meeting:
Credentials Committee: Tracie Goodnight-Egger, Julie Conover, Becky Bowen, and Jared Carr
Teller: Merrill Smith, Ken Lane, & Mclayn Musick
Parliamentarian: Erin Musick

Nina Biensen made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting. Austin Lane seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Jeff Wippel addressed the membership and gave a report on his future hopes for the ABA and how the membership, Board of Directors and office staff can reach the 2025 Vision.

Neil Knobloch reviewed the financial report. Adam Conover made a motion to accept the report. Vance Aldridge seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Matt Ritter reported on the 2018 Berkshire Progeny Test Results and the 2019 pens currently on test.

The Constitution & By-laws Committee presented their recommended changes, which were made available to the membership in their annual meeting packet. Proposed changes included amendments to Article 1 Section 3, Article 14 section 4, & Article 19, Section 4.

The Nominating Committee gave their slate of candidates: Pete Brummer, Bill Duffy, Brandon Gill, Matt Ritter, Randy Riviere, Kaden Roush, and Greg Smith.

Jan Allen made a motion to add Jeff Smith to the ballot. Dan Naughton seconded. Adam Conover moved accept the ballot with that addition of Jeff Smith. Lance Knobloch seconded. Motion carried.

The credentials committee handed out the ballots.

The tellers reported that the new board members are Matt Ritter, Greg Smith, and Pete Brummer. The three proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws were passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.
**PROPOSED CONSTITUTION & BY-LAW CHANGES**

**Constitution: Article II, Section 2: Membership**

**Current language:**
The members of this Association shall be subject to such dues and fees, and have such voting rights and special privileges as may be prescribed by the Bylaws of the Association. Inactive members have all rights and privileges, except voting rights. An inactive member may not serve on Board of Directors (BOD).

**New language, will be added to the end of the paragraph above:**

The members of this Association shall be subject to such dues and fees, and have such voting rights and special privileges as may be prescribed by the Bylaws of the Association. Inactive members have all rights and privileges, except voting rights. An inactive member may not serve on Board of Directors (BOD). **If the executive committee finds a board member has become inactive, that board member has 30 days to become active again before they are removed from the Board of Directors.**

**By-laws Article IV, Section 2: Junior Membership Fee**

**Current language:**

Section 2. Fee. Each membership application, except for Junior Membership, shall be accompanied by a fee to be set by the Board of Directors. Membership Maintenance Dues for recording activities shall be assessed each year. The amount of such dues shall be determined annually by the Board of Directors. Such maintenance dues shall be assessed each active membership with that member’s first application for recording, within a new calendar year, beginning January 1, each year. The Maintenance Dues shall also cover a year’s subscription cost for the breed magazine. No fee shall be collected for Junior Members as hereafter provided for.

**New language, will replace the last sentence of the paragraph with:**

There shall be a membership fee for Junior Members.

**By-laws: Article VIII, Section 10:**

New language will be added to the section:

**Handbook Policies: Board members shall follow relevant sections of the ABA Employee Handbook (i.e. Professional Ethics and Business Travel)**
If someone new asked you why they should raise Berkshires, how would you respond?
It’s an exciting breed with unlimited possibilities both through meat programs and youth involvement in the showpig industry.

What do you think is the biggest challenge the Berkshire breed faces and how do we navigate that challenge?
The meat program will take a lot of work and coordination with retail and packing plants.

What previous leadership experience do you have (church board, school board, pork producers, etc), and how will those experiences make you a good board member?
President of National Duroc Board. Served as rep on the national NSR executive board for 6 years during the merger of forming the NSR.

Why should ABA members vote for you?
I feel that I could contribute my experience, farming wise, raising purebred with integrity of what registered breeding stock values mean.
As a member-driven organization, how do you envision increasing member opportunities, in addition to increasing member involvement in current ABA programs?

To add members to the ABA, profitability remains the key factor for all participating members. Profits drive participation. Whether it is show pig production or direct marketing of Berkshire pork, people will always want to be a part of a good thing.

If someone new asked you why they should raise Berkshires, how would you respond?

People always ask me why after 51 years of pig production I started to breed Berkshires. I have worked with most all of the breed of swine, mostly Hampshires. Today, right now, the Berkshire breed is maybe the last honest breed of hogs left. Berkshires do many things well: unassisted farrowings, good mothers, good growth with soundness and an end product that is unparalleled compared to the rest of the hogs out there.

What do you think is the biggest challenge the Berkshire breed faces and how do we navigate that challenge?

The biggest challenge occurring right now is our country’s upside down economy. With all challenges come great opportunities. The direct marketing avenue of 100% certified Berkshire pork has the greatest potential for growth in the breed. The reduced revenues from the number of canceled shows and sales has created the need for other means for producers to market and sell their breeding stock and show pigs.

What previous leadership experience do you have (church board, school board, pork producers, etc), and how will those experiences make you a good board member?

My previous leadership experience entails starting the Central Coast Pork Producer’s Association in the mid 70’s and serving two terms on the Board of Directors of the California Pork Producer’s Association.

As a board member, I would be committed to promoting the Berkshire breed in California. The meat quality factor of Berks is an easy sell in a diverse state like California. The opportunity for direct marketing is unlimited.

Why should ABA members vote for you?

I hope to serve on the ABA board as a voice for the West Coast Producers. It would be an honor to serve.

Background and Personal Info:
I started breeding hogs 51 years ago with an FFA project. I married my high school sweetheart 43 years ago, (she's a keeper). I have three daughters and two grand children. We have a 30 sow herd on our 20 acre farm that includes English Walnuts and fresh market peaches. I have an Agribusiness Insurance agency which I started 35 years ago.

How many Berkshire litters did you record last year?

Last year we recorded 3 litters. This year we are on track to record 10 litters.

How many years have you been raising Berkshires?

We purchased our first Berkshire in 2018 at the WPX. She was the Champion Open Gilt. We now have 7 Berkshire sows.

In what ways are you actively involved in the Berkshire breed (local, state, national level)?

I have always had an active operation with respects of working with young people who have a love for raising quality hogs. Our commitment to promote Berkshire swine projects to 4-H and FFA members is increasing all the time.

Give a brief narrative of what motivates you to be an ABA Board member and your goals for the board.

The meat quality factor of Berks is an easy sell in a diverse state like California. The opportunity for direct marketing is unlimited.
ABA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEE:

LANCE KNOBLOCH

ALVORD, IOWA

Evenings are best, please call/text 605.366.4385 or email kance@alliancecom.net

Background and Personal Info:

I have been married for 25 years to my lovely wife Kristi and we raised our four boys on the 4th generation family farm that I grew up on. I graduated from Iowa State University in 1994 with a B.S. degree in Ag Studies at which time I returned home to farm. Our farm consists of 525 acres of row crops, 9,000 commercial wean to finish pigs/year in addition to our 110 Berkshire sows as our farrow to finish operation. In 2009, we started raising Berkshires, which has brought our family together and all four of our sons have an active interest in the Berkshire breed and our farm - Fly’n K Berkshires https://www.flynkberks.com/. Our oldest son Keegan is an ag pilot/aviation mechanic in Hutchinson, MN. Keegan and his wife Callie recently purchase their first Berkshire feeder pigs for their new venture in grass-based farming. They plan to direct market their products directly to the consumer. Kelwin had the nickname in high school of “Berk” which says it all. Kelwin lives, breathes, and loves everything about Berkshires. He was a national finalist for his FFA SAE Proficiency in Swine Placement for his work with Berkshires. Gabe has been active in all aspects of the farm including showing and training breeding stock for Fly’n K Berkshires. Dayton our youngest in charge of all website design and promotion and recently decided to take on marketing 100% Berkshire pork. Dayton also is very involved in the day to day operations of the Berkshire enterprise.

How many years have you been raising Berkshires?
I have been breeding and registering Berkshires for 10 years. I have been raising pigs my entire life. Growing up, my dad raised crossbred commercial pigs and I did not understand the value of pedigreed pigs or the Berkshire breed. We started raising Berkshires because my family wanted to raise pork that we “wanted” to eat. Initially we dabbled with Chester Whites, Durocs, and Berkshires. It didn’t take long for the Berkshires to show their excellence in meat quality over the other two breeds and we quickly focused on building our Berkshire herd and customer base. We started as “a little project” and now have 110 Berkshires sows, house 6 Berkshire boars at Sioux Center Swine Ai, and sell breeding stock from the East coast to the West coast.

In what ways are you actively involved in the Berkshire breed (local, state, national level)?
Locally, our boys have shown Berkshires at the Lyon County Fair (IA) and had success showing Berkshires in a crossbred only show. I also promote 100% Berkshire pork through local sales and our custom meat smoking business. On the state level, we show Berkshires at the Iowa State Fair open show. I am a member of the Iowa Berkshire Association, currently serve as President, and was on the committee that started a youth showmanship contest the night before the open show for young people that raise Berkshires. On the national level, we have shown Berkshires at the World Pork Expo and the National Barrow Show. I have participated in testing growth performance and meat quality of progeny from our boars and sows for 6 years, including last 3 years of the NBS Progeny Test and the last 3 years of the ABA 100% Berkshire Progeny Test. We have sold breeding stock and semen all over the United States on a regular basis and have seen a huge increase in demand for high meat quality and productive registered Berkshires. I have served on ABA Breed Improvement Committee for 4 years in which I helped recruit participants, coordinate deliveries, and provide transportation of pigs for the ABA Progeny Test. I am a certified producer in the 100% Pure Berkshire program and currently serve on the Berkshire Meat Program Committee. I have progeny tested 18 different sires since 2013 and have 5 sires currently being tested in the 2020 ABA Progeny Test. The sires that we have tested have produced 17 national awards for growth and meat quality excellence (6 Super Sires, 5 PORQUE Award winners, 3 Performance Sire Awards, and 3 Prime Pork Awards).

Give a brief narrative of what motivates you to be an ABA Board member and your goals for the board.
I am passionate about the Berkshire breed, and I want to invest time, energy, and leadership in helping Berkshires continue to grow in both numbers and quality. Some of the goals that motivate me to serve on the ABA Board are: (1) to source people that can help the ABA champion and promote all producers of 100% Pure Berkshire pork; (2) help facilitate more packers and processors for producers to work with across the country; (3) work to promote and grow the ABA 100% Berkshire Progeny Test; (4) develop an educational campaign to educate consumers and breeders of why 100% Berkshire pork is the best pork in

How many Berkshire litters did you record last year?
We have been registering over 100+ litters/year since 2014.
the world; (5) research potential options that could be implemented to protect the integrity of the Berkshire breed; (6) promote all youth exhibitions programs through Team Purebred as well as support and grow the national open shows; (7) develop a program for breeders to identify and be recognized for sows that extremely elite maternally; and, (8) be open to working collaborative with industry partners that will advance the Berkshire breed while maintaining ABA's autonomy to grow the Experience Berkshire brand.

As a member-driven organization, how do you envision increasing member opportunities, in addition to increasing member involvement in current ABA programs?
A member-driven organization needs to serve ALL members—the diversity of the Berkshire breed is a huge strength and encompasses so many different facets of the industry from shows, youth experiences, direct meat sales, and to niche markets. There is room for everybody as long as we listen to all members (and potential members) and try to help them meet their needs and desires to be successful. I see show side of the Berkshire industry as vitally important because it exposes the next generation of pig farmers to dynamic and dual-purpose breed of hog that could light a spark for them to raise their own Berkshires someday. We also need to listen to the producers that are selling into a 100% Berkshire meat program or direct selling their own 100% Berkshire pork to consumers. I also envision a pedigree system that offers so much valuable information to help them make better decisions that breeders will “want” to register their litters and provide data into the pedigree system. A new pedigree system that is being developed should be enhanced to help breeders make better breeding decisions that make their business more profitable.

If someone new asked you why they should raise Berkshires, how would you respond?
The Berkshire breed offers by far the most opportunities of any breed of hog for a new person to get into raising pigs. At the end of the day, all pigs end up being eaten by a consumer. There are three compelling questions I would ask: (1) Why not raise a pig that has the best meat quality of any pig in the world and one that can compete in the show ring? (2) Why not raise a pig that is hardy and can easily adapt to different outdoor niche marketing opportunities? (3) Why not be apart of a group of breeders who are willing to reach out and help you be successful in your new venture?

What do you think is the biggest challenge the Berkshire breed faces and how do we navigate that challenge?
The Berkshire breed’s biggest asset is that it has the best meat quality of all breeds of pigs that have been tested. I hear and read comments about “show pig” Berkshires and “meat quality” Berkshires. All Berkshires should have an ABA pedigree and be part of the Berkshire family because there is room for everyone! We need to promote production-orientated Berkshire breeders to listen, respect, and see the value in pigs for exhibition, and show-orientated breeders need to listen, respect, and see the value in production Berkshires. We need to be open and listen to everyone, and at the same time encourage everyone to live their passion and do their part in making Berkshires better. The ABA needs to fully support the junior and national shows, and at the same time educating youth on how to make breeding and management decisions to protect Berkshire meat quality. I personally have progeny testing some “show pig” genetics (Hostile Takeover, Neon Cowboy, Torge, Butch Cassidy/Wanted, Back Home) to see if they have good or bad meat quality. I personally did not gain a thing by progeny testing these sires. Advancing the Berkshire breed by testing and publicly sharing results is the collective power of a member-driven association. Other breeders are using this research to advance the breed. It’s pretty cool when you hear a breeder say that they have meat quality genetics and because it has “Hostile Takeover” in its pedigree. This is how we can continue to bring more value to the ABA pedigree.

What previous leadership experience do you have (church board, school board, pork producers, etc.), and how will those experiences make you a good board member?
I have leadership experiences by serving in the following organizations: ABA Breed Improvement Committee & Berkshire Meat Program Committee; Iowa Berkshire Association Board (currently President); Lyon County Pork Producers; NW Iowa Farm Business Association; West Lyon FFA Alumni Booster Club; Farm Bureau Young Farmers; Sunday School teacher; Sexton for the church cemetery. These experiences have taught me: (1) the importance of open and transparent communications among team members; (2) to be open-minded because there is more than one solution to a problem; and (3) to think broadly in representing the diverse views of other member’s concerns and desires. I appreciate people who have a “can-do” attitude and search for practical solutions to important problems. I appreciate the efforts in moving the Berkshire breed forward and would be honored to serve on the Board of Directors.
Background and Personal Info:
I grew up on a traditional family farm in Southeastern Oklahoma and started raising hogs as a 4-H project in 1979. Played Varsity High School Baseball and was a member of both the 4-H Clubs and the Future Farmers of America. Showed and Judged livestock in high school and successfully Judged Livestock at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College.

Graduated Oklahoma State University earning two degrees; Agricultural Economics & Accounting. Worked many years in private business as a Chief Financial Officer and Agriculture Consultant. I have Extensive Experience in the Daily Production, Operation, and Management of Business; Strong Principals of Financial Accounting, Auditing and Management; Overseeing Asset Inventories, Job Costing, Bank Reconciliations, Financial Statement Preparation, Government Tax Reporting and Compliance; Substantial Background in Economic, Statistical and Analytical Analysis; Strengths in Ability to Communicate Effectively, Time Management, Flexibility, Organize and Plan.

I have served many firms as a member of the Board of Directors, As Chairman of the Audit Committee; Been Responsible for Day to Day Production and Operations, Prepared and Distributed Monthly, Quarterly and Annual Financial Statements; Responsible for Job Costing, Workers Compensation Reporting and Audits, Corporate Tax Reporting, Performed Monthly Bank Reconciliations; Conducted and Assisted with Annual Financial Statement Audits; Responsible for Capital Formation, Business Development, U.S. Small Business Administration Government Reporting; Worked Closely other Minority Owned SBA 8(a) Firms and Customers; Including: Army Corp of Engineers, Northrop Grumman Marine Systems, Tetra-Tech, Union Pacific Railroad, and US Navy.

I have been a Financial Consultant, Registered Investment Advisor, and General Securities Principal for over twenty-five years in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. I reside in Stillwater, Oklahoma. I have three children and three grandchildren.

How many Berkshire litters did you record last year?
I farrow about 20-24 litters a year.

How many years have you been raising Berkshires?
18 years.

In what ways are you actively involved in the Berkshire breed (local, state, national level)?
I have served as the Payne County Pork Producers Treasurer and Secretary for the past 12-years. I’ve been a volunteer official at the Oklahoma Youth Expo during the Purebred Gilt Show for the past 11-years. I have also previously served as a volunteer for Team Purebred when my children served on the board ten plus years ago.

Give a brief narrative of what motivates you to be an ABA Board member and your goals for the board.
Throughout my 18 years of being involved in the Berkshire breed, I have valued my service to the breed and breeders. I have spent the large portion of those years serving the youth and the youth programs of the Berkshire Breed. As a supporter of those youth programs one, of my goals is to gain more involvement from youth and allow that involvement to become sustainable. The Berkshire breed is known for its history and quality and it will soon be the responsibility of the young breeds to keep the tradition and history of the breed alive.

As a member-driven organization, how do you envision increasing member opportunities, in addition to increasing member involvement in current ABA programs?
When I think of membership opportunities I think of the future Berkshire breeders. As an organization we need to come up with more and new innovative ways to involve our Youth and our Youth programs. Our youth are the future of the Berkshire breed and we need to allow our youth programs to grow and become more sustainable.

If someone new asked you why they should raise Berkshires, how would you respond?
Berkshires are a Heritage High-Quality Breed. They are the oldest purebred swine association and date back to Queen Victoria, as she herself owned them. Berkshires are very popular in the show ring at all levels of shows, and they are also sought after as a high-quality tasty-meat source in the restaurant and export markets. The heritage, history, and quality is what needs to continue to communicate about the Berkshire breed to producers and consumers.

What do you think is the biggest challenge the Berkshire breed faces and how do we navigate that challenge?
Sustainability! The Berkshire Breed must have more sources of income and broaden the base of membership. If in the future, income from the sales ring will decline due...
to other things that are out of our control like the most recent pandemic, we must be prepared.

**What previous leadership experience do you have (church board, school board, pork producers, etc), and how will those experiences make you a good board member?**

As I have previously stated, I have served as the Payne County Pork Producers Treasurer and Secretary for the past 12-years and I’ve been a volunteer official at the Oklahoma Youth Expo during the Purebred Gilt Show for the past 11-years. I also attend LifePoint Church in Perkins, Oklahoma. These current and past experiences and service has taught me to be a good listener and remain open to all and new ideas in order to help solve issues.

**Why should ABA members vote for you?**

I think my passion for youth would make me a good member for the American Berkshire Association Board of Directors. I think my family values and vision for the Berkshire breed will help carry the Berkshire history and heritage on for the future generations.
Currently we market a vast majority of our Berkshires as showpigs that are exhibited at local and state events. I try and attend as many national events as possible, and from time to time we exhibit at those events.

Give a brief narrative of what motivates you to be an ABA Board member and your goals for the board.

Since starting our Berkshire herd back in 2000, I have been highly impressed with the strides the breed has made, not only in the show ring, but also in the retail meat cases and restaurants across the country. The Berkshire breed has the capability to be one of the premier leaders within not only the showpig industry, but the retail meat business as well. The breed has multiple places within the hog industry. As a board member, I would like to see some continuity in our staff. It’s hard to move forward when you are taking a step back every few years. With that said, I would also like to help expand the opportunities that young people have exhibiting Berkshire hogs and also help expand our footprint in the meat cases.

As a member-driven organization, how do you envision increasing member opportunities, in addition to increasing member involvement in current ABA programs?

I believe this starts at the top, with the Board of Directors as well as the office staff working as one with one common vision. When all parties are working together toward one common goal, opportunities will present themselves to the members which in turn will help increase member involvement.

If someone new asked you why they should raise Berkshires, how would you respond?

First, I would ask them what their main goal is. The Berkshire breed presents many different facets that are very appealing to new producers. The popularity of the breed in the showing is a bonus if your primary goal is raising show pigs. If your goals are to produce a high quality product for perspective buyers to put in their freezer, the berkshire breed is at the forefront in that area. I think in the end, it’s where you want to set your priorities. I would encourage them do some research and find where their strengths are and where they would fit in in the industry.

What do you think is the biggest challenge the Berkshire breed faces and how do we navigate that challenge?

As I stated earlier, I think it starts at the top with having some continuity with employees and the board as a whole working together towards one common goal, and not having individual agendas.

What previous leadership experience do you have (church board, school board, pork producers, etc), and how will those experiences make you a good board member?

I have served on several boards and had various leadership roles over the years. In the late 1990’s I was the Junior Coordinator for what is now Team Purebred and one of the original members of the adult advisory board for Team Purebred. I also have served on the Illinois Spotted Association Board of Directors and have been President of the organization for the last five plus years. Also, I have served on the Ford County Fair Board since 2000 and...
have been the President of the Board the last eight years. While serving on these boards, I have learned how to work with different kinds of personalities and have gained numerous business skills needed to be a valuable asset to the Berkshire Board.

**Why should ABA members vote for you?**
I think I bring a vast array of experience to the board with the different experiences that I have had over the last twenty years. My passion is in the purebred hog industry, along with working with junior members and helping them gain life-long skills. I too want to help get the breed back on track and help to position the Berkshires as one of the premier organizations in the hog industry.
ABA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEE:

JIM PETRIK

GAYVILLE, SOUTH DAKOTA

The best time is in the evening on my cellphone: 605-661-7179

Background and Personal Info:
I graduated from South Dakota State University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Animal Science and Economics. I started raising hogs with my brother when I was 12 years old. I now own and operate a diversified farming operation where we have 1400 acres of row crops: corn, soybeans, and alfalfa. We have a cattle herd and we background calves. On the hog side of the operation, we have a commercial hog operation where we work with partners to produce meat quality and maternal line crossbred gilts. We also have 60 purebred sows, and Berkshire and Duroc boars which we supply semen for our boar stud Power Point Boar Stud. My wife Sharon and I have 4 kids Ryan, Alison, Chase, Olivia.

How many Berkshire litters did you record last year?
I recorded 15 litters Berkshire litters last year.

How many years have you been raising Berkshires?
I have been raising Berkshires for 35 years.

In what ways are you actively involved in the Berkshire breed (local, state, national level)?
Over the last 35 years, I have spent a lot of time promoting the Berkshire breed both locally and nationally. My operation focuses on the maternal side of the breed by selling Berkshire breeding stock to purebreds and crossbred producers across the United States and Japan. Through Power Point Boar stud, I supply 10,000 doses of Berkshire semen to large producers across the United States. Outside of my Berkshire operation, I serve on the South Dakota Pork Council Executive Board and National Pork Producers Council nominating committee.

Give a brief narrative of what motivates you to be an ABA Board member and your goals for the board.
My biggest motivator is that I like to see the Berkshire hogs continue to get better. The Berkshire breed competitors are getting better and we need to continue to establish the breed in terms of carcass and meat evaluation. As a breed, we need to make sure we are doing everything we need to do, to make sure Berkshire is the moniker when they think of high-end pork.

As a member-driven organization, how do you envision increasing member opportunities, in addition to increasing member involvement in current ABA programs?
The Berkshire breed right now is blessed with popularity in several different arenas. As members, we need to preserve the purebred heritage and take the right steps to make the hogs better.

If someone new asked you why they should raise Berkshires, how would you respond?
Berkshires have always been my favorite! I think Berks have the most potential market outlet. They produce high-end pork products and have grown in popularity at pig shows. If someone asked me why they should raise Berkshires I would just tell them they have more potential markets and they are a hearty, easy hog to raise.

What do you think is the biggest challenge the Berkshire breed faces and how do we navigate that challenge?
I think the biggest challenge we face as producers are the conversations with chefs, meat packers, and restaurants. As a breed, we need to make sure we improve the consistency of the hog and make sure we continue to improve the retail cuts on the carcass while improving the meat quality at the same time. Some of the conversations I have had with chefs focus on the size and consistency of the retail cuts when they get delivered to their restaurants. We need to get more consistent in retail cuts and the percent lean in the meat to make it better for those prepping our food.

What previous leadership experience do you have (church board, school board, pork producers, etc), and how will those experiences make you a good board member?
I have served and been involved in many different leadership roles. I’ve been involved in projects that were successful and ones that failed and I learned from those experiences which I can apply to the board. I currently serve on the South Dakota Pork Council Executive Board, National Pork Producers Council Nominating Committee (and other committees), I am a Chairman of my local Township and Chairman of the local School Board. I have previously served on North Central Pork Group, Board of Directors-Pork America, and Farm Credit Service of America Nominating Committee.

Why should ABA members vote for you?
I hope that my experience outside of the Berkshire business translates to me being helpful for finding direction for the future of the Berkshire breed. breeding stock values mean.
American Berkshire Association

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The Ohio Berkshire Association
Randy & Jan Allen
DONATION FORM

Name: ________________________________

Address: ________________________________

BECOME A CORNERSTONE DONOR
This program allows you to strengthen the Foundation and support the future of Berkshires and animal agriculture. \\
We have two options to donate:
   ____ Pledge $100 for 10 years
   ____ One-time payment of $1000

GENERAL DONATION
Every dollar will help support young breeders continue their education.

In Memory of: ________________________________

We would like to send a card to the family which the donation was made for. If you would also like us to send a card, please provide an address.

Address: ________________________________

STATE BASKET AUCTION
Held annually before the ABA meeting at Summer Type Conference in Des Moines, IA.

   ____ I would like to contribute a basket
   (baskets will either need to be brought to the show or mailed to the ABA office two weeks prior to be brought to the show)

   ____ I would like to purchase a state basket/memorabilia (check out the Foundation's facebook page prior to the shows. If you want to make a bid contact Kim Neumann at 320-220-3626)

ENDOWMENT/WILL
Please contact Kim Neumann if you would like to set something up

1% VOLUNTARY DONATION
Check the box on your entry form for Expo, Summer Type Conference, National Barrow Show, Fall Classic, and Southwest Type Conference

SHOP AMAZON SMILE UNDER AMERICAN BERKSHIRE FOUNDATION INC.

Send this form and payment to:
Kim Neumann at 29175 230th St., Wabasso, MN 56293
Please make checks payable to American Berkshire Foundation

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN OUR YOUTH’S FUTURE!