

149TH

ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE AMERICAN BERKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

June 14, 2024 at 5:30 pm EST
Indiana State Fairgrounds | Indianapolis, IN



AMERICAN
BERKSHIRE
— ASSOCIATION —

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pete Brummer, *President*
Jeff Smith, *Vice President*
John Barnes, *Exec. Committee*
Lane Bennett
Ernie Birchmeier
Brice Conover
Lance Knobloch
Austin Lane
Jeff Wippel

ABA STAFF

Rose Criswell
Director of Berkshire Operations
rose@americanberkshire.com

Drew Farrer
Membership Services Coordinator
drew@americanberkshire.com

AMERICAN BERKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

2637 Yeager Rd.
West Lafayette, IN 47906
(765) 497-3618
office@americanberkshire.com
americanberkshire.com



SCAN TO VIEW

ONLINE
Sire
DIRECTORY

Have you seen the ABA Sire Directory?
Check it out for registered Berkshire
show genetics, meat-quality genetics, and
distinguished progeny test sires!

Stay tuned for the next sire
deadline in July for the August update!



AMERICAN
BERKSHIRE
— ASSOCIATION —

**PROGENY
APPRECIATION
ONLINE SALE**

JUNE 6 ON SHOWPIG.COM

This online sale is a consignment opportunity exclusive to past and present participants of the ABA Progeny Test. Anyone is welcome to bid for a chance to buy genetics that have paved the way for Berkshire progeny.

Entries must be submitted by May 23.
Lots will be posted and shared shortly after.
Bidding will begin on the evening of June 6.

Lots must be registered and meet breed characteristic guidelines.



149TH
ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE AMERICAN BERKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

The American Berkshire Association invites you to the 149th Annual Meeting on Friday, June 14 at 5:30p.m. EST. The meeting will take place at the Indiana State Fairgrounds and be held in conjunction with The Exposition.

Important Voting Information

1. Meeting booklets can be found online at americanberkshire.com
2. There are four ways members can vote:
 - a. You may use the enclosed ballot to mark your vote submitted by mail or fax.
 - b. You can vote online on our website at www.americanberkshire.com/annual-meeting
 - We have received multiple submissions under the same name and herd mark in the past. We will only accept 1 ballot per herd mark and if multiple submissions are received under the same herd mark, the most recent submission before the deadline will be counted.
 - 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 at the meeting.
3. The ABA office staff will 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:
American Berkshire Association
2637 Yeager Road
West Lafayette, IN 47906
Fax: 765-497-2959

4. You are eligible to vote if:
 - a. You have paid your year 2024 Annual Membership Maintenance Fee of \$75,
 - b. have recorded two (2) litters since June 1, 2023,
 - c. and if all your accounts are current (not past 120 days).

** If you are unsure if you are eligible to vote, please contact the ABA office. **
5. Voting will open May 1, 2024 and close on the following date:
 - a. Mailed in ballots must be in the American Berkshire Association office by Monday, June 3, 2024. If mailing proxies and ballots, please allow 5-7 days to reach West Lafayette, IN.
 - b. Faxed ballots are due to the American Berkshire Association by 4:00 p.m. EST on Monday, June 3.
 - c. Electronic ballots must be submitted by Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. EST

If you have any questions, please call the ABA office.

No carry-in ballots or proxies will be accepted at The Exposition or the Annual Membership Meeting.

2023 ABA Progeny Test Results

100% BERKSHIRE PERFORMANCE SIRE INDEX

Awards are listed in **BOLD**.

100% Berkshire Performance Sire Index represents 90% weight on Lean Growth measures and 10% weight on Eating Quality measures.

BREEDER	SIRE	ADG	BF10	LEA	SOUNDNESS	PRIME PORK INDEX	PERFORMANCE INDEX
Seybold Berkshires	TSS2 Hollywood 3-5	2.05	1.01	6.88	8.00	98.9	107.0
Wippel Family Berks	DHST2 Smoked 4-2	1.83	1.05	6.91	7.63	100.3	101.8
AJC Berkshires	TSS1 L12 Tex 20-7	1.84	0.96	6.00	7.71	99.6	99.4
Phenotypic Acres	A3C9 Count 12-2	1.78	1.07	6.41	8.00	101.1	98.8
England Berkshires	TSS1 Lancelot 26-3	1.68	0.98	7.23	7.63	98.9	97.5
Oak Hill Berkshires	OHK1 Midnight Special 4-6	1.62	1.06	7.18	7.75	101.2	96.2
2023 Berkshire Test Averages		1.79	1.02	6.79	7.78	100.0	100.0

100% BERKSHIRE PRIME PORK INDEX

Awards are listed in **BOLD**.

100% Berkshire Prime Pork Index represents 10% weight on Lean Growth measures and 90% weight on Eating Quality measures.

BREEDER	SIRE	ULTIMATE PH	MINOLTA Y	MINOLTA L	IMF. %	INSTRON TENDERNESS	COOKING LOSS	SENSORY JUICINESS	SENSORY TENDERNESS	PERFORMANCE INDEX	PRIME PORK INDEX
Oak Hill Berkshires	OHK1 Midnight Special 4-6	5.63	15.40	45.79	3.01	5.65	20.77	5.92	6.91	96.2	101.2
Phenotypic Acres	A3C9 Count 12-2	5.64	16.10	46.88	3.46	6.02	21.25	7.06	7.16	98.8	101.1
Wippel Family Berks	DHST2 Smoked 4-2	5.52	19.02	50.64	3.53	5.90	22.34	5.96	6.65	101.8	100.3
AJC Berkshires	TSS1 L12 Tex 20-7	5.53	16.30	47.23	2.97	5.83	20.21	6.39	6.28	99.4	99.6
England Berkshires	TSS1 Lancelot 26-3	5.56	15.10	45.71	2.59	5.74	21.12	5.56	6.51	97.5	98.9
Seybold Berkshires	TSS2 Hollywood 3-5	5.59	15.51	46.09	2.31	5.89	20.95	5.97	6.90	107.0	98.9
2023 Berkshire Test Averages		5.58	16.26	47.08	2.98	5.83	21.13	6.12	6.73	100.0	100.0

THANK YOU TO THE PROGENY TEST SPONSORS:



AMERICAN
BERKSHIRE
ASSOCIATION
SINCE 1875



Measurement	Description
ADG	Average Daily Gain reported in lbs / day. Adjusted for sex and adjusted to a 90 lb on-test weight before sire average was calculated.
BF10	Backfat reported in inches. Measured off mid-line at the tenth rib. Adjusted for sex and adjusted to a 290 lb live weight before sire average was calculated.
LEA	Loin eye area reported in square inches. Measured at the tenth rib. Adjusted for sex and adjusted to a 290 lb live weight before sire average was calculated.
Leg Soundness	Front and back legs were scored by an independent evaluator for movement and structure on a scale of 1 to 5, where: 1 = very unsound and 5 = very sound. Front and back leg scores were then added together to compute an overall soundness score. For example, if a pig had a front leg score of 2 and a back leg score of 3, this resulted in a leg soundness score of 5.
Ultimate pH	Loin pH measured 48 hours postmortem. Higher pH is associated with less drip loss and darker color. The National Pork Board has defined the target for ultimate pH to be 5.6 to 5.9.
Minolta Y	Loin muscle color measured at 48 hours postmortem by Y values for light reflectance with a colorimeter. Lower values indicate darker color.
Minolta L*	Loin muscle color measured at 48 hours postmortem by L* values with a colorimeter on scale of 0 to 100, where 100 = white and 0 = black. The lower the value, the darker the color. The National Pork Board target for L* values is 37 to 49. See the National Pork Board's color standards for more details.
IMF	Percent marbling or intramuscular fat (total lipids) content of the loin. The National Pork Board target for intramuscular fat is 2 to 4%. See the National Pork Board's marbling standards for more details.
Instron Tenderness	Amount of pressure in kilograms required by a Star probe to puncture and compress cooked loin chops to 20% of their original height. Lower pressure indicates more tenderness. The National Pork Board target for mechanical tenderness translates to instron values \leq 4.5 kg.
Sensory Tenderness	Sensory panel score of cooked loin tenderness on a scale of 1 to 10. Higher scores are more tender.
Sensory Juiciness	Sensory panel score of cooked loin juiciness on a scale of 1 to 10. Higher scores are more juicy.
Cooking Loss	Loin chop weight loss from cooking (expressed as a percentage). Lower values are better.

THANK YOU TO OUR RESEARCH COLLABORATORS:
 Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Penn State University
 Purdue University
 Iowa State University



2023 Top Recordings & Transfers

TOP 15 SENIOR RECORDERS

BREEDER	LITTERS
1. Cedar Ridge Farms, IL	696
2. Tuthill Family Farms, IL	225
3. Six Mile Farms	189
4. Grant Ridge Farms, IA	167
5. Wippel Family Berks, OH	151
6. Bryan Cockerill, OH	142
7. Fly'n K Berkshires, IA	117
8. Shipley & Snyder, OH	95
9. Kurobuta Berkshire LLC, MN	94
10. Austin & Ken Lane, IA	92
11. Adam Jay Conover & Al Conover, IA	90
12. Cedar Ridge Farms, IL	62
13. Phenotypic Acres, IA	57
14. Brice Conover, IA	54
15. Charles Real, TX	49

TOP 15 SENIOR TRANSFERS

BREEDER	TRANSFERS
1. Tuthill Family Farms, IL	328
2. Fly'n K Berkshires, IA	215
3. Adam Jay Conover & Al Conover, IA	210
4. Cedar Ridge Farms, IL	195
5. Kurobuta Berkshire LLC, MN	183
6. Shipley & Snyder, OH	155
7. Decker Showpigs, IN	152
8. Phenotypic Acres, IA	137
9. Austin & Ken Lane, IA	127
10. Brian Beaman & Family, IN	106
11. Kent Brattain & Family, IN	78
12. Eggers & Sampson Showpigs, IA	70
13. Lockman Genetics, KS	69
14. Heimer Hampshires, MO	61
15. Albright Swine Farms, MI	59

TOP 5 JUNIOR RECORDERS

1. Armstong Kids, IL	43
2. Cullan/Jaxon/Maci Schmidt & Cade Jacobson, NE	18
3. Jacob Kershaw, LA	16
4. Maci Scher, IN	13
5. Abby & Mac Hannon, IN	9

TOP 5 JUNIOR TRANSFERS

1. Armstong Kids, IL	51
2. Cullan/Jaxon/Maci Schmidt & Cade Jacobson, NE	49
3. Abby & Mac Hannon, IN	34
4. Hunnter Bloch, IA	30
5. Kinley & David Claytor, OK	29

TOP RECORDERS BY STATE

AL	Cristen Haynes	4
AR	Corey Davis	13
AZ	Byron Garigan	6
CA	Donald Roy Naves Jr.	12
CO	Six Mile Farms	189
DE	David McClements	2
	Amanda Fabi	2
FL	Robert Karas	6
GA	Lane Bennett & Family	26
IA	Grant Ridge Farms	167
ID	James Moreno	2
IL	Cedar Ridge Farms	696
IN	Decker Showpigs	36
KS	Lockman Genetics	31
KY	Ty W Jones	10
LA	Jacob Kershaw	16
MA	Bill Duffy	5
MD	Andrew Bauer	27
ME	Knight Family Farm	3
MI	Albright Swine Farm	31
MN	Kurobuta Berkshire LLC	94
MO	Heimer Hampshires	40
MS	Hammons Showtock	2
MT	Blonde Farms	3
NC	Nahunta Farms	22
ND	Ross & Michelle Schoenwald	22
NE	Seybold Berkshires	19
NJ	Toni Baker	1
NV	Darquise Lovelace	1
NY	Maples Farm	2
OH	Wippel Family Berks	151
OK	Goss Livestock	17
OR	Lance Perry	4
PA	Rattlesnake Mtn. Farm	47
RD	Haley Haskins	1
SC	Jonathan Niksarian	3
SD	Petrik Farms	30
TN	Travis L. Loope	8
TX	Charles Real	49
UT	Scott W. Larsen	4
VA	Marshall R. Glass	14
WA	Jeremy Mellick	2
WI	UW - Platteville Farms	25
WV	Hampshire High School AVS Program	5
WY	Jessica Lynn Weinand	2

TOP 10 STATES FOR RECORDINGS

1. Illinois	1349
2. Iowa	994
3. Ohio	663
4. Indiana	659
5. Texas	369
6. Colorado	289
7. Oklahoma	240
8. Missouri	237
9. Minnesota	210
10. Pennsylvania	191

148th Annual Meeting Minutes

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2023

Rose Criswell welcomed everyone to the ABA Annual Meeting. She then introduced the Board of Directors and the office Staff. After the introductions, she welcomed Kevin Wendt to the podium for the annual ABA Foundation Basket Auction. Approximately \$3050 was raised for the Foundation. Dr. Charles Martin, President of the Foundation, thanked everyone for their support and gave the foundation report.

Rose and Pete then handed out awards to the top senior recorders, top jr. recorder, Sr., and Jr. transfers, the 100 club, service awards, and the 2022 progeny test winners.

President Pete Brummer called the 148th meeting of the American Berkshire Association to order at 6:22 pm in the Livestock Auction Pavilion at the Iowa State Fair Grounds, Des Moines, IA.

President Brummer gave the Presidents report. He thanked the board, Rose, and Erin for all their work this past year. President Brummer reported that there were seventy-four pigs in the Exposition Open Show.

President Brummer appointed Steve Stassen as Parliamentarian; Rose Criswell and Erin Scott as Credentials; Ken Lane, Howard Parrish, and Heather Brummer as Tellers.

Ernie Birchmeier made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting. Austin Lane seconded. Motion passed.

Pete Brummer gave the Executive Committee report.

Jeff Wippel, chair of the Finance Committee, gave the Finance Report. He discussed the Balance Sheet that ended December 31, 2022, and the Profit & Loss Statement ended December 31, 2022. For 2023 shows have profited \$31,000, Pedigree income is \$152,000. Lifetime memberships brought in \$25,500 income. Ernie Birchmeier moved to accept the Financial Report for 2022. Austin Lane seconded. Motion passed.

John Barnes, chair of the Marketing and Communications Committee, gave a report. He discussed the Registered Berkshire Pork program. The Experienceberkshire.com website and advertising opportunities for everyone to take advantage of.

Lance Knobloch, chair of the Breed Improvement Committee, gave a report, he talked about new testing that will soon take place. Discussion was held on this topic.

Pete Brummer gave the update for the Show and Events Committee, the ABA is sponsoring the same shows, one show has been added for 2023 Pandemonium in Timonium, MD at the Maryland State Fair. There will be an all-breed Jr. Show and a Berkshire open show and sale. Happening Labor Day Weekend.

Old Business: None

New Business: The floor was open for discussion. Dr. Pete Hoffman brought several issues to the floor for discussion. Members held discussions on these issues.

Jeff Wippel gave the Nominating Report: The following candidates are up for three seats on the board: John Barnes, NC; Lane Bennett, GA; Mike Hertsel, IN; Lance Knobloch, IA; Michelle Schoenwald, ND. Jeff Wippel as for any other nominations. Jeff Smith moved to close nominations. Vance Aldridge seconded. Motion passed. Ballots were handed to eligible members and collected by the tellers.

Pete Brummer read the proposed By-Law XXI changes, ballots were handed out to eligible members and collected by the tellers.

Pete Discussed the upcoming 150th Anniversary of the American Berkshire Association in 2 years. This year will also be the 25th year of the ABA Foundation. Celebration is being planned.

Results were given: Proposed By-Law change: Passed unanimously. President Brummer announced the new board members, to serve a 3-year term, as John Barnes, Lance Knobloch and Lane Bennett. Congratulations were given to the elected members. Pete thanked Jim Petrik for his years of service to the board.

Jeff Wippel moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 pm. Andy Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted.

Karla Smith, IL

American Berkshire Association

Profit & Loss

January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23
Income	
4004 · Dividend Income - ABA	1,495.96
4005 · CD Interest Income - ABA	8,980.30
4030 · Finance Charges	2,975.08
4031 · Credit Card Sales Fees	119.00
4034 · Transfer Funds	0.00
4035 · Miscellaneous Income	772.43
4100 · Pedigree	
4102 · Registrations	151,826.00
4104 · Transfers	60,714.00
4106 · Herdmark	2,035.00
4110 · AI Certificates	59,700.00
4112 · F-1 Certifications	610.00
4120 · Rush Fee Charges	10,320.00
4122 · Fax or Email	3,205.00
4123 · Priority Postage on Pedigrees	2,526.98
4124 · Returned Check Fee	30.00
Total 4100 · Pedigree	290,966.98
4150 · Membership Lifetime	
4151 · Membership Maintenance Fees	46,500.00
4152 · Next Year Membership Dues	8,400.00
4153 · New Membership Fees	1,500.00
4150 · Membership Lifetime - Other	21,000.00
Total 4150 · Membership Lifetime	77,400.00
4175 · Merchandise and Supplies	
4176 · ABA Calendar	161.82
4180 · Merchandise Sales	785.00
4182 · Supply Sales	290.00
4175 · Merchandise and Supplies - Other	0.00
Total 4175 · Merchandise and Supplies	1,236.82
4200 · Magazine	
4201 · Advertising	775.00
4207 · Subscriptions	350.00
4210 · Breeders Directory Listing	4,955.00
Total 4200 · Magazine	6,080.00
4276 · Website	
4277 · Sire Directory Listing	1,400.00
4278 · Sire Directory Renewal	250.00
Total 4276 · Website	1,650.00
4400 · DNA Certification	
4407 · Ear Tags	562.50
4408 · Blotter Cards-Blood/Semen	1,730.00
4409 · Lab Testing	16,132.00
4411 · Blotter Cards - Hair	455.00
Total 4400 · DNA Certification	18,879.50
4450 · ABA Progeny Test.	
4452 · ABA Progeny Pen Fee	2,400.00
4450 · ABA Progeny Test. - Other	7,485.65
Total 4450 · ABA Progeny Test.	9,885.65

American Berkshire Association

Profit & Loss

January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23
4500 · Berkshire Meat Products	
4505 · Royalty Payment/Packing Plants	
4515 · SIG	1,462.50
4517 · Innovative Foods	3,532.00
	4,994.50
Total 4505 · Royalty Payment/Packing Plants	4,994.50
Total 4500 · Berkshire Meat Products	4,994.50
4550 · RBP	
4557 · RBP Merch	
4556 · Gold Foil Seals	991.80
4558 · RBP Thank You	47.50
4559 · RBP Window Clings	40.00
4560 · RBP Tri Fold Broch	136.25
4561 · RBP Banners	43.00
4562 · RBP Food Service Booklet	24.00
	1,282.55
Total 4557 · RBP Merch	1,282.55
Total 4550 · RBP	1,282.55
4600 · Southwest Type Conference	
4602 · Gross Sales	48,600.00
4604 · Boar Entry Fees	1,040.00
4606 · Gilt Entry Fees	2,400.00
4630 · Commission	7,290.00
4631 · Cosignor Sale Fee	80.00
	59,410.00
Total 4600 · Southwest Type Conference	59,410.00
4650 · World Pork Expo	
4652 · Gross Sales	80,600.00
4654 · Boar Entry Fees	1,680.00
4656 · Gilt Entry Fees	2,660.00
4658 · Bred Gilt Entry Fees	40.00
4680 · Commission	12,090.00
4681 · Cosignor Sale Fee	20.00
	97,090.00
Total 4650 · World Pork Expo	97,090.00
4750 · Summer Type Conference	
4751 · Parking Passes	580.00
4752 · Gross Sales	53,450.00
4754 · Boar Entry Fees	2,110.00
4756 · Gilt Entry Fees	1,960.00
4758 · Bred Gilt Entry Fees	120.00
4780 · Commission	8,017.50
	66,237.50
Total 4750 · Summer Type Conference	66,237.50
4950 · Fall Classic	
4952 · Gross Sales	22,200.00
4954 · Boar Entry Fees	280.00
4956 · Gilt Entry Fees	640.00
4980 · Commission	3,330.00
	26,450.00
Total 4950 · Fall Classic	26,450.00
8600 · Winter Type Conference	
8601 · Gilt Entry Fees	920.00
8602 · Boar Entry Fees	600.00
8603 · Bred Gilt Entry Fees	40.00
8605 · WTC Commission	3,907.50
8606 · WTC Gross Sales	26,050.00
	31,517.50
Total 8600 · Winter Type Conference	31,517.50

American Berkshire Association
Profit & Loss
January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23
8800 · Maryland Summer Show	
8810 · MD Jr. Gilt Entry	5,670.00
8820 · MD Jr. Barrow Entry	1,755.00
8830 · MD Open Gilt Entry	1,840.00
8840 · MD Open Boar Entry	360.00
8860 · MD Open Barrow Entry	200.00
8870 · Gross Sale	11,675.00
8885 · Cosignment	20.00
8886 · Commision	1,751.25
	23,271.25
Total 8800 · Maryland Summer Show	23,271.25
Total Income	730,695.02
Gross Profit	730,695.02
Expense	
10000 · IT Support	
1000002 · IT Support	2,415.00
	2,415.00
Total 10000 · IT Support	2,415.00
5000 · Pedigree Expenses	
5002 · Pedigree Services	59,492.00
5005 · Registration Supplies	3,314.89
5000 · Pedigree Expenses - Other	3,952.50
	66,759.39
Total 5000 · Pedigree Expenses	66,759.39
5024 · Merchandise Purchase	45.74
5150 · DNA Certification Testing	
5151 · Lab Testing	18,202.00
5152 · Blotter Cards	1,838.22
5153 · Ear Tags for Certification	236.49
	20,276.71
Total 5150 · DNA Certification Testing	20,276.71
5180 · Progeny Test	
5181 · Progency Test Pen Feed	7,826.81
5183 · Livestock Transport	1,900.00
5184 · Product and Grading Evaluation	3,891.25
5186 · Progeny Facility/Housing Fee	6,957.07
5187 · Progeny Vet Services	1,129.79
	21,704.92
Total 5180 · Progeny Test	21,704.92
5190 · ABA Web Social Media	
5191 · Domain Hosting and Security	1,398.23
5192 · E-Communication Letters/Mailing	618.00
5195 · Web Site Labor	7,500.00
	9,516.23
Total 5190 · ABA Web Social Media	9,516.23
52001 · Seedstock Edge Mag	
52002 · Seedstock Issues	16,317.50
	16,317.50
Total 52001 · Seedstock Edge Mag	16,317.50
5300 · Meat Program (RBP)	
5337 · RBP Website Hosting	34.99
5339 · RBP Labor	7,500.00
5341 · RBP MERCH	623.65
	8,158.64
Total 5300 · Meat Program (RBP)	8,158.64

American Berkshire Association
Profit & Loss
January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23
5451 · NJSA Support	
5452 · Breed Support	20,000.00
5453 · NJSA- ABA Staff Lodging	2,115.10
5454 · NJSA- ABA Staff Travel	1,397.61
5455 · NJSA- ABA Staff Meals	82.21
	23,594.92
Total 5451 · NJSA Support	
5460 · Director of Operations	
5461 · Directors Salary	47,500.00
5463 · Directors Bonus	2,000.00
5466 · Directors Meal/Lodging	17.38
5469 · Directors Auto Rental & Fuel	73.05
5471 · Directors Auto Reimbursement	2,500.00
	52,090.43
Total 5460 · Director of Operations	
5500 · Board of Directors	
5503 · BOD Meal/Lodging Reimbursement	2,919.66
5505 · BOD Annual Meeting Awards	1,536.00
5506 · BOD Annual Meeting Expense	3,221.96
5508 · BOD Mileage Reimbursement	40.00
	7,717.62
Total 5500 · Board of Directors	
6750 · General & Operating Expenses	
6751 · Office Rent	19,200.00
6752 · Office Auto Reimbursement	2,166.63
6754 · Office Janitorial	1,560.00
6755 · Office Phone/Fax	2,400.00
6756 · Office Supplies	1,700.48
6757 · Office Shredding	143.00
6758 · Office Copies	1,474.72
6760 · Office UPS/Postage	16,511.62
6761 · Office E-Mail	180.00
6764 · Office Software Updates	2,751.72
6765 · Salary Employees Payroll	9,500.00
6766 · 2 Salary Employees Payroll	31,971.15
6768 · Payroll Service Expenses	706.25
6771 · Bereavement Gifts	100.00
6775 · Credit Card Processing Fees	
6776 · Visa/MC Processing Fees	10,514.66
6779 · Monthly Service Charge	550.00
	11,064.66
Total 6775 · Credit Card Processing Fees	
6785 · Memberships	3,055.00
6793 · State Corp Filing Fee	22.00
6795 · Subscriptions	1,926.48
6799 · Miscellaneous Expense	
6800 · Photography of Berkshires	16.00
	16.00
Total 6799 · Miscellaneous Expense	
6870 · Insurance	
6871 · Health Insurance	4,751.09
6872 · Liability Insurance	5,907.00
	10,658.09
Total 6870 · Insurance	
6880 · Professional Service Fees	
6885 · Acct/Audit/CPA Consult Fees	3,260.00
6888 · Legal Fees	3,369.00
	6,629.00
Total 6880 · Professional Service Fees	

American Berkshire Association
Profit & Loss
 January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23
6900 · Taxes	
6916 · State Unemployment	95.02
6918 · Federal Unemployment	84.00
6920 · FICA Payroll Tax	6,806.29
	6,985.31
Total 6900 · Taxes	6,985.31
6750 · General & Operating Expenses - Other	0.00
	0.00
Total 6750 · General & Operating Expenses	130,722.11
7500 · Southwest Type Conference Expen	
7501 · Fuel	20.11
7503 · Car Rental	352.76
7504 · Judge	400.00
7506 · Auctioneer	972.00
7507 · Airfair	437.96
7508 · Meals	87.18
7509 · Lodging	684.25
7512 · Ringman	815.05
7514 · Vet	341.76
7518 · Grounds & Security	2,037.43
7528 · Supplies	106.60
7530 · Check-off	0.00
7534 · Consignor Payments	48,600.00
7539 · Walton Webcasting	611.29
7540 · CCI	611.29
7542 · Tolls or Parking	20.84
	56,098.52
Total 7500 · Southwest Type Conference Expen	56,098.52
8000 · World Pork Expo Expenses	
8001 · Fuel	180.01
8004 · Judge	400.00
8006 · Auctioneer	1,605.00
8008 · Meals	409.93
8009 · Lodging	971.88
8012 · Ringman	1,500.00
8014 · Vet	500.00
8016 · Scanner	605.28
8020 · Bedding	318.45
8030 · Check off	0.00
8034 · Consignor Payments	80,600.00
8037 · CCI	875.00
8040 · Expo Facilities	5,521.38
8041 · Swine Pens	190.00
	93,676.93
Total 8000 · World Pork Expo Expenses	93,676.93
8050 · Summer Type Conference Expenses	
8051 · Fuel	43.58
8054 · Judge	400.00
8056 · Auctioneer	1,069.00
8057 · Lodging	993.47
8058 · Meals	348.67
8062 · Ringman	1,034.00
8064 · Vet	493.20
8068 · Grounds & Security	2,106.94
8070 · Bedding	369.21
8072 · Catalog	37.83
8074 · Awards	37.68
8080 · Check-off	0.00
8084 · Consignor Payments	53,450.00
8090 · CCI	1,500.00
8091 · Audio	326.42

American Berkshire Association
Profit & Loss
 January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23
8092 · Swine Pens	134.89
8093 · Parking Passes	360.00
Total 8050 · Summer Type Conference Expenses	62,704.89
8550 · Fall Classic Expenses	
8551 · Fuel	42.46
8553 · Car Rental	431.28
8554 · Judge	400.00
8556 · Auctioneer	444.00
8558 · Meals	79.59
8559 · Hotels	814.12
8561 · Tolls/Airport Parking	45.00
8562 · Ringmen	366.15
8564 · Vet	214.20
8568 · Grounds	177.01
8570 · Bedding	99.72
8574 · Awards	385.30
8580 · Check-off	0.00
8584 · Consignor Payments	22,200.00
8589 · CCI Live	326.92
8590 · Airfare	585.41
Total 8550 · Fall Classic Expenses	26,611.16
8650 · Winter Tyle Conference WTC	
8651 · WTC Judge	400.00
8652 · WTC Awards	385.84
8653 · WTC Auctioneer	521.00
8655 · WTC Auto Rental	424.58
8656 · WTC Hotel	1,010.49
8657 · WTC Meals	264.85
8659 · WTC Check-Off	0.00
8660 · WTC Cosigner Payments	26,050.00
8661 · WTC Online CCI Live	493.50
8662 · WTC Vet	181.33
8663 · WTC Grounds & Security	713.43
8664 · WTC Ringman	282.00
8667 · WTC Walton Webcasting	253.80
8668 · WTC Fuel	205.03
8669 · Tolls or Parking	8.75
Total 8650 · Winter Tyle Conference WTC	31,194.60
8871 · Mayland Show	
8872 · Open Judge	400.00
8874 · Auctioneer	233.50
8875 · Auctioneer Travel Expenses	854.39
8876 · Fuel	585.96
8877 · Meals	33.87
8878 · Check Off	0.00
8879 · Awards	46.84
8888 · Seller Payment	11,675.00
8889 · MD Entries Portion	4,455.00
8890 · MD Photos	112.00
Total 8871 · Mayland Show	18,396.56
Total Expense	648,001.87
Net Income	82,693.15



ABA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEE:

Ernie Birchmeier

Corunna, Michigan

What is the best time and method to reach you with questions about your candidacy?
Evenings at 517-420-2231

Background and Personal Info:

I own and operate Birchmeier Show Hogs, a 25 sow show pig operation consisting of Berkshires, Yorkshires, Durocs, Spots and crossbreds. I also have worked for Michigan Farm Bureau for 35 years doing public policy and advocacy work for agriculture.

How many Berkshire litters did you record last year? 12

How many years have you been raising Berkshires? 15

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

I am a current ABA board member and participate in state and national shows. I have judged livestock shows for over 35 years.

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

Being an ABA board member is an opportunity to enhance and promote the Berkshire breed and brand. As a board member we have the responsibility to guide the work of the organization while working collaboratively to offer new opportunities for Berkshire pork and Berkshire hog producers.

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

The best way to increase member involvement activities and participation is to ask them. My experience working for an organization for 35 years has taught me that those that are impacted by an issue will typically, develop the best solutions. It is important that we reach outside the board for increased member involvement and participation. Strength comes in numbers and the more people we have involved the stronger the organization will be.

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

The Berkshire breed offers tremendous opportunities. Meat quality, market opportunities, sow performance and productivity, show ring success and much more. Versatility is incredible and there are opportunities for producers of all sizes. I have encouraged producers of all size swine operations to include Berkshires in their breeding program. Consumers have sought out Berkshire pork and there are opportunities to continue to expand Berkshire pork.

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

The biggest challenge the Berkshire breed faces is to continue to expand the use of Berkshire pork and expanding genetic diversity. We can navigate this challenge through additional promotion opportunities and potentially working with the large integrators to increase the use of Berkshire genetics in their breeding programs. We must also remember the history of the breed and the importance of meat and muscle quality. We need breeders who will take the opportunity to reach back to old genetics while moving forward. I believe the Berkshire breed offers tremendous opportunity for success in many avenues.

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 worked for Michigan Farm Bureau for 35 years doing leadership development and agriculture advocacy work. Additionally, I led the efforts to start the Michigan Livestock Expo and build the Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund. I served two terms on the National Institute for Animal Agriculture Board of Directors, 25 years on the Michigan Swine Health Advisory Committee and Michigan State University Animal Science Stakeholder

Advisory Committee.

Why should ABA members vote for you?

My experience in organizational work and understanding of the swine industry are skills that I hope would be beneficial to the ABA. I will be the first to admit that the size of my Berkshire program is small in numbers, but I believe in the breed. I have had the opportunity to introduce many new customers to Berkshire pork and genetics through the sales of show pigs, breeding stock and pork and I look forward to continuing to build the breed and ABA programs and opportunities.



ABA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEE:

Brice Conover

Baxter, Iowa

I own about 100 sows, mostly Berkshires while also having a few other breeds and crossbreds.

I have been raising Berkshires for over 25 years.

I have been the Premier Exhibitor at almost every Berkshire National Show for over 20 years. I am also very active in selling Berkshire breeding stock to purebred commercial Berk producers. across the country on a daily basis.

I generate 100% of my family income off my livestock at the farm. Mainly Berkshire pigs. No off the farm job. No farming of any land.

I think the fact that my whole lively hood and income is centered around the Berkshire business would be the most important to my candidacy of the board.



ABA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEE:

Chad Decker

Columbus, Indiana

What is the best time and method to reach you with questions about your candidacy?
Text and Email are the most reliable methods.
812-592-0118
Chad@indianaagriculturalfencing.com

Background and Personal Info:

I was born and raised in Columbus Indiana. I am married to Lisbeth Decker with two children Reagan (5) and Weston (3). I graduated from Purdue University in 2006, majoring in Animal Science and Ag Econ. We run a large agricultural fencing company (Indiana Agricultural Fencing) as our primary occupation. I started that company as a freshman at Purdue, never spending a weekend on campus. Instead going home to build the foundation of the business so it could be the success that it is today. While I had a cattle background, I developed a love for swine as a junior in high school when I started an intern program at a 1,200 sow commercial unit. I learned an incredible amount about swine and swine management from my time there, as well as gaining a passion for swine. Managing a large commercial operation did not interest me, and owning/starting my own commercial operation from scratch was not an option. I found the showpig industry as a great outlet to quench my thirst for swine production, as well as provide a strong supplemental income for our family from the swine industry. I dabbled in the showpig industry from

2004-2014 with great success on the lower levels. However, in 2014 Lis and I decided that we would see if could take it to the next level. We made a big (at the time) investment and purchased what would be a true foundation crossbred female for us. That sow "Mouse" literally put us on the map, and the rest is history so to speak. The predominate portion of our crossbred sow herd today traces back to her, and that line is as relevant as ever in the showpig industry. We purchased our first Berkshire females in 2016, and haven't looked back since! We have achieved high levels of success in the Berkshire show ring every year since, including recently raising the Reserve Supreme Gilt at Oklahoma Youth Expo with a purebred Berkshire. We have also put multiple high quality Berkshire

boars (Above and Beyond (PBG), Over The Top (PBG), and Bulletproof (retired PBG) in stud that have proven to be elite generators for the showring and have produced elite showpig mothers.

How many Berkshire litters did you record last year?

Around 35 litters

How many years have you been raising Berkshires?

7 years

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

I try to attend the yearly state and national meeting when my schedule allows. I also serve on the ABA Show Committee.

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

I feel like it is valuable to have all facets of the breed represented. The show side is what I know the best, and I believe that I can represent this segment of the breed very well, while still understanding the production and meat quality sides from my production and animal science background.

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

I believe the junior swine program is the key to maintaining and growing our membership. I believe that wise moves and fostering of relationships are the keys to preserving all breed associations, including the Berkshire association.

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

They may be the most versatile breed out there in the showpig industry! They breed easily, they have and can raise big litters,

they can win on the biggest stages in the showring, and the pigs that are not show quality still have well above average value to the feeder pig and meat market. They literally do everything that a showpig producer could ask for!

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

I believe that the breed is in a great position as a whole and that our biggest challenges may lay in decisions made in overall management and affiliations of the breed.

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've recently served a term on our local school board. I have also served on our local 4-H council. I have managed our family business and swine operation successfully as well.

Why should ABA members vote for you?

For showpig producers, I will be able to truly represent all of our interests, while still understanding and balancing the other interests within the breed.



ABA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEE:

Troy Seybold

Wilcox, Nebraska

What is the best time and method to reach you with questions about your candidacy? I would prefer a phone call, but text, email, or Messenger will work. (Between 7 AM to 9 PM) (308) 627-3362 seyboldberks@gmail.com

Background and Personal Info:

I am 54 and married to Gina with 2 grown children, Dalton and Tyla. I have lived in the Wilcox area my entire life and graduated high school there. I went to Central Community College in Hastings, NE where I got an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Biotechnology. I worked on a construction crew after high school and during college where I worked my way up to become a foreman and a crane operator building bridges.

How many Berkshire litters did you record last year?

40, I have been the largest recorder of Berkshires in Nebraska for many years.

How many years have you been raising Berkshires?

I have been around the Berkshire pigs all my life. My parents raised Berks from the 60's to the early 90's. About 15 years ago I got more involved with starting my own herd.

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

I have been sending pigs to the NBS/ABA Progeny Test since 2013. I also show at the Iowa State Fair. Actively promote Berkshire meat to local consumers through direct sales.

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

I believe the Berkshire breed is the best breed in the industry with great opportunities in front of it. As a breed we need to keep the meat quality and performance at a high end and looking for better ways to identify superior genetics through DNA markers and making EPD's that will help all producers' select better stock. We also need to keep the show industry growing because the youth are the future of the breed's success.

In addition to increasing member involvement in current ABA program.

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

There is great opportunity in the Berkshire breed. Whether you want to raise production or show pigs you can find your own niche.

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

I believe some of our biggest challenges have to do with making sure DNA rules and regulations going forward that do not cut into a shrinking genetic base of the Berkshire breed. With this in consideration, the more pigs with data behind will make the DNA makers better to detach outliers in the Berk breed.

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 was an officer in FFA and 4-H when in high school and being a supervisor on a construction crew for 10 years gave me the ability to learn to navigate difficult situations that needed resolved in a hurry.

Why should ABA members vote for you?

I have a love for the Berkshire breed. With this passion, I will make sure to do my best to improve the breed.



ABA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEE:

Jeff Smith

Princeville, IL

What is the best time and method to reach you with questions about your candidacy? I can be reached in the evenings at home 309-385-2553, during the day on my cell at 309-678-7678. Our email address is smittys92@gmail.com.

Background and personal info:

After graduating High School, I went right into the family farming operation with my father and grandfather. We raise about 1000 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, hay, hogs, and a few cattle. We have about 50 sows, and farrow to finish. We sell breeding stock, show pigs, butcher hogs, and have a small retail business selling meat.

I married my wife, Karla, in 1992. We have 2 Children, Kristi Smith, and Andy Smith. Andy was recently married in October of 2020 to his wife, Becca. Together they have our first grand baby Brennan!

I live on the family farm that has been in our family for 115 years. Kristi and Andy were the 5th generation of Smith's to live where I live today. We are members of the Princeville United Methodist Church.

How many Berkshire litters did you record last year?

I am not sure, but I believe around 40 litters.

How many years have you been raising Berkshires?

We put Berkshires into our operation in 2000. I purchase gilts from Bill Seyfert. The gilts that we purchased were from litter mates of Bill's top indexing meat quality progeny pens at the National Barrow Show that year.

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

I am a member of the Illinois Berkshire Association. I attend the Annual Meeting of the American Berkshire Association every year. I support the ABA Foundation, my wife is a past president.

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

To be an American Berkshire Association Board member would make me proud! I would like to help have better relations between the members, board and staff!

I don't like the way that things have been handled in the past. I know I can help! We have to realize that Berkshires are so diversified in the areas of breeding, meat, show pigs, and junior association. We need to remain focused on all areas.

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

As I stated above, we are the most diverse breed. We need to focus on meat programs and how we can streamline into being the most cost effective for our members, while promoting our product on the tables. Also, we need to support the Junior Show pigs and Team Purebred. We need to remain focused on the breeding side with sow productivity (SPI). Without productive sows in breeding programs none of the above matters!

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

See answer above.

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

Meat Sales (producer to table) markets. I will try to help promote the most cost-effective way possible for all members to participate in programs.

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?

Currently, I'm on the ABA Executive committee and the Vice President of the ABA Board. I have been involved in Peoria County 4-H and Auction Committee most of my life. I have been the swine superintendent since 2004. I was a member of Dunlap FFA. Past president of Peoria County Pork Producers. I am a member of Peoria County Farm Bureau, served as a

Director for 6 years. I served on the Chester White Swine Record Association Board of Directors and the CPS Board of Directors. I have been the Illinois Chester White Association Secretary and Treasurer for more than 30 years and serve on the Illinois Swine Council Board. During my tenure on the Chester White board, we tried a pilot program, Chester White Marketing Co-op, where I learned a lot about the meat programs and met a lot of people in the meat industry.

I currently serve as Vice President of Expositions Garden's Board of Directors (home of the Heart of Illinois Fair) Where I am also the swine superintendent.

I work part time at Radnor Township with my dad, Jim Smith. Along with farming and raising 50 sows, farrow to finish.

Why should ABA members vote for you?

I have nothing to gain! But I believe in this breed and all of the diversification. We all have everything to gain with the right representation. I am a member wanting to be there to support and advocate for the members that are like me. I want the best for this association, it only helps each and every one of us to do better as an association.

Thank you.

AMERICAN BERKSHIRE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

Mission:

The Foundation works to ensure the future of the Berkshire breed by supporting the educational and career goals of our youth.

Board of Directors:

President: Brett Wright, *Kentucky* (513) 235-8354

Vice President: Matt Ritter, *Indiana* (317) 331-2854

Secretary/Treasurer: Kim Neumann, *Minnesota* (320) 220-3626

Charles Martin, *Nebraska* (308) 325-4354

Dr Kim Mudroch, *Oklahoma* (405) 227-8043

Karla Smith, *Illinois* (309) 645-4282

Julene Shaffner, *Illinois* (217) 822-3584

Lane Bennett, *Georgia* (770) 881-6138

Al Conover, *Iowa* (515) 491-8078

Priscilla England, *Iowa* (641)344-2471



Thank you to everyone that has donated to the Foundation!

There are a variety of ways to support the Foundation. (1) The **annual Basket Auction** continues to be a favorite. It will be held during The Exposition at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Please contact Kim Neumann or any board member to donate a basket. Many are designed around items significant to your home state, but we welcome any theme. If you can't attend but want to purchase an item, keep an eye out on our Facebook page. We will start posting pictures a couple weeks prior to the auction. (2) **Cornerstone** – Supporters donate \$1000, either a one-time donation or \$100 payments for ten years. Current Cornerstone Donors are listed below. We thank all of you. (3) **Voluntary 1% donation** of your National Sale proceeds. Make sure you check 'Yes' on your entry form for every show. Again, we thank all who have chosen to donate this way. (4) The **Memorabilia & Paraphernalia Online Auction** will be held on Giving Tuesday (December 3, 2024). Contact Kim Neumann or any board member to donate an item. Keep an eye out on social media or an email for more information on this auction. (5) **General donations** are accepted all throughout the year. It is a great tax write-off! Donations in Memory of a Berkshire breeder will have a card sent to the family.

Interested in donating to the Foundation? Contact Kim Neumann at (320)220-3626 or foundation@americanberkshire.com for more information.

Thank you for supporting our youth!

Cornerstone Donors

Chuck and Anita Martin
Phenotypic Acres: Drs. M. Peter and
Lorraine Hoffman
Ritter Farms/Matt and Megan Ritter
John Baker
Stephen Brown and Family
Steve and Jane Stassen
Walter Strickland
AJC Berks: Adam Conover
Kelly & Nina Bienson
White Knight Farm: Burdette & Alex
Conver
Nick & Neil Mauck
Indiana Berkshire Association
Iowa Berkshire Associaton
Illinois Berkshire Association
Montgomery Livestock: Luke & Bill
Montgomery
Mark Murphey

Real Hog Farm: Chuck Real
Brice Conover
Paul Caldwell
Ken & Julene Shaffner
Ray & Diane
Tekippe/usedswineequipment.com
Bonnie Acres Farm: Tom & Shirley
Conover
The Wendt Group: Kevin Wendt
Auctioneer
The Ohio Berkshire Association
Randy & Jan Allen
Doug & Priscilla England
Kim and Brad Neumann
Oak Hill Farm/Lane Bennett
Wilderness Farms/Randy Riviere
Ben, JaLynne, Grayson & Mack Schmaling

2023 Scholarship Recipients

Each recipient received \$1,250 after they completed their first semester of college.

In Memory of the Champions of the Cause:

Gracie Greene – Hope, Indiana

In Memory of Phyllis Conover:

Dayton Knobloch – Alford, Iowa

Brandon Vent – Nevada, Ohio

Cole Webster – Chrisman, Illinois

Foundation Board of Directors

- Two open positions
- Two-year term

If you are interested in serving on the Foundation Board reach out to any Board of Director.

Annual Meeting

The 2024 Annual American Berkshire Foundation meeting will be held on Friday, June 14th at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. If you are interested in attending the meeting, contact Brett Wright