

Name: Ryan Bingen

Breed of sheep produced: Wether-Type

Describe your personal sheep background:

I grew up in Allenton, WI on my parent's farm. My Dad raises dairy heifers and farms about 150 acres of corn, beans and hay. As a kid I exhibited lambs, hogs and cattle at our county fair. As I got older I became more involved with the sheep and began fitting and showing for a number of breeders. I graduated from UW-Platteville in 2014 and started my own flock. I currently lamb out between 30-40 ewes from January-March. I sell project lambs to 4-H and FFA kids in my area and enjoy working with them over the summer preparing their animals.

Describe or list leadership roles you have had in the sheep industry:

While getting my bachelor's in Animal Science, I was the president of the UW-Platteville Block and Bridle team for 2013-14 and was involved in coordinating shows, educational activities and participating in livestock judging and showing. I was an active member of the Collegiate FFA and American Society of Animal Science. I participated in the Academic Quadrathlon in Animal Science in 2013-2014 and was on UWP Deans List.

In 2013 I applied for my judge's license and have since had the privilege to travel and judge at county, regional, and jackpot shows across the state.

I've had the pleasure of being a WSBC board director for the last three years. I became involved with the Used Equipment Auction at the festival and soon found myself gathering donations for the Silent and Shepherds Auctions as well. I chaired the Shepherds Auction this past year. Because of the increase in the amount of donations I gathered I was able to bring in a record deposit of \$3100 to the Youth and Education Fund this year.

Why would you like to be a director on the WSBC board?

I would be happy to serve another term on the WSBC. I've enjoyed collaborating with a diverse group of board members and have valued the time spent making improvements to the cooperative. I've seen first-hand what the Wisconsin Sheep Breeder's Cooperative has done to help youth and fellow breeders over the years. I think of it as an opportunity to give back, to share with others our passion and to hopefully formulate new and exciting programs that keep people interested. The Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival has really taken off in recent years and it's nice to see such diversity and a wide acceptance from the general public. Becoming a breeder really brings this experience full circle. I think there is a perception that the WSBC is an organization for the long-time, seasoned shepherd. Having the younger generation represented on the board will hopefully encourage new breeders to become active members and bring with them some fresh, new ideas that will sustain the WSBC for many years.

Thank you for the nomination and I would be pleased to provide my continued leadership within the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative for another term.