

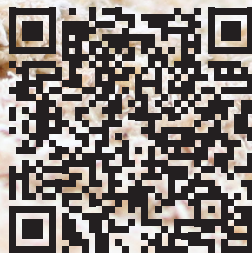


# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Cast Your Vote*

The nominating committees have made their selections, and the 2025 National Swine Registry Breed Board of Directors candidates are ready to serve. Don't miss the chance to cast your vote. Ballots will be mailed November 1 and should be postmarked and returned to the NSR office by November 30.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE  
CANDIDATES AND READ  
THEIR BIOS AT  
NATIONALSWINE.COM OR**



# UNITED DUROC SWINE REGISTRY

## At Large



**Taylor Farrer**  
Age 36, Royal Center, Indiana

**Spouse:** Kristen

**Children:** Scarlett and Stetson

**Size and scope of operation:** Farrer Stock Farms was started in 1947 by my grandparents Bill and Betty Farrer. We currently run 70 sows and 220 cows. Run a small boar stud consisting of 8 boars. We raise show livestock and seedstock in both species. We sell to individuals across the country. Farrer Stock Farms is a collaborative, family-owned operation where every individual contributes to its success.

**Swine industry leadership activities:** Past president of Team Purebred adult board and 2-time board member of the National Spotted Swine Association. Past member of NJSA and Team Purebred.

**Other Leadership Activities:** Club leader of the Jefferson Busy Bees 4-H Club, Member of the Baptist Christian Church, Member of the National Shorthorn Association, American Maine-Anjou Association, and American-International Charolais Association

I think as a breed organization we should continue to allow breeders the ability to operate with some genetic diversity on every farm. Allowing breeders the access they need to other markets whether it be show pigs, farm to market opportunities, and allowing our top notch genetics to be promoted worldwide for their breed genetics. Youth are the drivers of the future, but we also need to remember the tenured breeders that have allowed us to be where we are. With my family experience with different breeds, it has allowed my appreciation for different breed strengths. The Duroc breed has been one that I have a lot of appreciation for and continuing breed improvement on our farm and nationwide.



**Ben Lenig**  
Age 31, Greenfield, Indiana

**Size and scope of operation:** Co-Owner of Lenig Bros. Genetics consisting of purebred Duroc and Yorkshire sows.

**Swine industry leadership activities:** Former Vice President and board member of the Landrace Association. Current breed manager of the Indiana Duroc Association at the Indiana State Fair.

**Other leadership activities:** Assistant high school wrestling coach at Tri-West High School.

As a board representative I feel that examples of integrity, leadership, positivity, and demonstrating passion for new and current breeders are standards we have to lead by. In an industry that is always evolving we have to demonstrate the ability to listen with open ears, learn from each other, and engage in conversation to make our industry the best we can be. I wish to practice an open mind, speak truthfully, and be a voice for purebred livestock to breeders across the country.



# HAMPSHIRE SWINE REGISTRY

## Central District



**Rick Abbas**  
**Age 59, Aplington, Iowa**

**Spouse:** Melanie

**Children:** Becky Wiers, Travis Abbas, Brandon Abbas

**Size and scope of operation:** 75 sows farrow to finish, 45 head boar stud, showpigs and commercial semen

**Swine industry leadership activities:** Iowa Hampshire Board member

**Other Leadership Activities:** Served on Church Council

The National Swine Registry and Hampshire Swine Registry should focus on creating marketing opportunities for their members and expanding breeders' access to broader markets. Supporting youth programs like 4-H and FFA builds a strong foundation of future breeders who appreciate the value of purebred genetics. By sponsoring scholarships, hosting judging contests, and offering educational experiences, the registries can foster a new generation of breeders dedicated to purebred animals.

# AMERICAN LANDRACE ASSOCIATION

## At Large



**Matt Lawson**  
Age: 40, Sidney, Ohio

**Spouse:** Megan

**Children:** Isaiah and Lydia

**Size and scope of operation:** We have approximately 30 purebred sows consisting of Duroc, Hampshire, Landrace and Yorkshires

**Swine industry leadership activities:** Former President of the NJSA, volunteer of NSR events, and member of the OH-Pigs Show Circuit.

**Other leadership activities:** Piqua Christian Church Kids ministry, assistant coach for youth league sports

The Landrace Breed has been very near and dear to my heart pretty much my entire life. I was born and raised on a farrow to finish sow operation with a primary focus on creating F1 York-Landrace cross production females. Herd health was of the utmost importance as far as biosecurity and traceability is concerned because most of those females were raised for export. The breed associations played a pivotal role in assisting with breed traits and tendencies that increased the value of those females. It wasn't until I was nearing the end of my 4-H career that I discovered the NJSA which opened up a whole new facet of the industry that I didn't even know existed at the time. I attended a Leadership Conference in Dayton, Ohio and soon thereafter we bred some pures specifically to take to the Summer Spectacular. It was at that point that I was hooked on the

purebreds. The Landrace Association presents a very unique opportunity to the youth of today. The numbers aren't large, but the quality is high. I believe the Landrace Association has a distinct advantage of being able to stay focused on genetic integrity that keeps us strong in exports and use for the maternal traits in addition to offering kids at the local, state and national level an opportunity to compete for a banner!



**Clyde Shaffer, Jr.**  
Age: 60, Albanv, Indiana

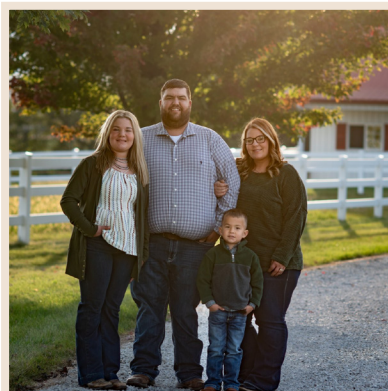
**Spouse:** Sandy

**Children:** Clyde 3rd, Josh, Cassandra and Jordan

**Size and scope of operation:** No sows in the US but registering Landrace, Yorkshire and Durocs in China.

**Other leadership activities:** Economic Development board for 12 years, Precinct committeeman, Community foundation board.

Keeping the STAGES program updated and current with today's genetic trends. Maintaining purebred lineage records, providing DNA testing services, and continuing international promotion and marketing efforts to expand the reach of NSR genetics globally. Developing the next generation of swine industry leaders though the NJSA program.



**Sam Scher**  
Age: 39, Huntington, Indiana

**Spouse:** Autumn Scher

**Children:** Maci and Samson

**Size and scope of operation:** 100 sow showpig operation

**Swine industry leadership activities:** President of the Huntington County Swine Boosters

**Other leadership activities:** Member of the Operations Committee for the Huntington County Fairgrounds

I feel the NSR's role should be to continue to manage and maintain breed integrity making rules equal across the board for all breeders. As well as providing and promoting marketing avenues such as conferences and sales for top end boars and baby pigs. It is also important to continue to support the National Junior Swine Association, which is the future of our industry.

# AMERICAN YORKSHIRE CLUB

## Western District



**Nick Hofschulte (2nd Term)**  
Age 36 Wyandotte, Oklahoma

**Spouse:** Holley

**Children:** Kinley, Harper, Hayslyn, Will

**Size and scope of operation:** Family run 100 sow, 10 boar show hog operation and feeder cattle farm

**Swine industry leadership activities:** I became involved in the NJSA at its beginning in 1998. Served on the NJSA junior board, currently serve on the Yorkshire Board, NSR Executive Committee and COBA executive board.

**Other leadership activities:** member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, member Ottawa County Farmers Union board

I think the NSR's role should be exactly what it does today. To provide a platform and standard way to market purebred and crossbred hogs for their membership. The junior support they provide is also very pivotal in the existence of the exhibiting of purebred hogs.

## At Large



**Mike Fagg (2nd Term)**  
Age 66. Clay City, Indiana

**Spouse:** Susan

**Children:** Summer Long, Granddaughter Emily Long

**Size and scope of operation:** 45 sows

**Swine industry leadership activities:** Have been President of National Duroc Swine Registry. Served on the first Executive Board for 6 years during the formation of The National Swine Registry. Have served as vice president of the Indiana Yorkshire for past 15 years

I feel as a board member we need to be innovative and keep our youth involved but yet not to forget about our large commercial operations in using our genetics in the making livestock to go into the food chain. The NSR is a great organization and we need to keep challenging ourselves to make it better and still be the leader it's always been in the livestock industry.