

## **RWHA Election Nominee newsletter**

It's election time again for the RWHA and we are truly blessed with dedicated members who want to help Red Wattles navigate the future while holding on to their great heritage.

Following are brief summaries of each nominee and the position they are running for. Please study each person before making your decision. Call or send a message to them. Look at their face book site if they have one. It's important that you feel comfortable with the people who are going to be leading the RWHA.

With this election newsletter is your voting ballot(s). You'll be choosing one person for Vice-President, and 2 people for Board Member at Large. We've made it easy for you. The ballot(s) are pre-addressed and stamped so just make your marks, sign and drop in the mail. The Livestock Conservancy will be monitoring our election and will let us know who our new board members are. Your ballot must be post marked no later than October 19<sup>th</sup>. No ballots will be accepted after that date so please don't delay. Our nominees are not listed in any particular order except by offices. Our new officers will take their places on November 1, 2019.

### **Your Nominees**

#### **Joe McCabe: for Vice President**

[pekinhillfarms@gmail.com](mailto:pekinhillfarms@gmail.com)

Hello, my name is Joe McCabe. Myself along with my wife, Amanda, and our 4 children; Trayton, Addison, Jaxon, and Hazel, own Pekin Hill Farms near Chatfield, Minnesota. On our farm, we raise Red Wattle hogs, pasture raised chickens, run a cow/calf operation and crop farm. I am 34 years old and have been farming full time for the past 15 years alongside my dad. I first started raising pigs 4 years ago in hopes to feed my family quality homegrown pastured pork. That led into selling pastured pork, poultry, and beef to surrounding areas at farmer's markets and wholesale. We started with Berkshires, but I wasn't happy with their personalities and mothering abilities. After doing intense research and being interested in heritage breeds, I came across the Red Wattle breed. I was attracted to their docile personalities, mothering instincts, their adaptability to pasture, and the quality of the meat. I enjoyed learning more about the background of this rare breed and purchased our first registered breeding stock last year. We now have 3 sows and 2 boars. I am excited for the future of our breeding program and the direction our pig business is going.

I believe I am an opened minded person who would like to see this breed expand while keeping the original qualities and values. I am eager to learn more from fellow members and if elected, I'd like to explore new ways to grow the number of active members and improve communication between them. Educating people about the breed and promoting the RWHA is important to the future of these animals.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Dale Stevens: for Vice President**

[sandridgefarm@att.net](mailto:sandridgefarm@att.net)

My name is Dale Stevens and for the years 2015 and 2016 I served on the RWHA Board of Directors as one of your Board Members at Large. My wife Tina and I own and operate "Sand Ridge Farm" located in Lucedale, Mississippi. Back in January of 2014 we, or I should say "I" became interested in raising Red Wattle hogs. It was at this time that I/we purchased the first of our hogs, 2 gilts and a boar. Since this time our herd has grown significantly with the purchase of additional breeding stock and starting our own breeding program. Today we have in excess of 150 purebred Red Wattle hogs on our farm. We've traveled to several different states seeking out and purchasing our breeding stock. We have hogs from Texas, Kentucky, Tennessee and Kansas. We've come a long way since January 2014. We've made some mistakes like we all will, but I feel we've learned a lot as well. To say there's been a lot of blood, sweat and tears gone into this venture would be an understatement, (the blood, sweat and tears is meant literally. It has happened). Me, being the type of person that if I am going to do something, I pretty much jump into it with both feet. I spoke with a lot of members in the Red Wattle Hog Association (RWHA) that helped me better understand what I needed to do, and a lot of things I didn't need to. Everyone that I spoke with was always willing to take the time to talk "PIG" with me and for that I am most appreciative.

I feel I have a better understanding of the breed and a strong desire to see the breed move forward in the best way possible for them and for the RWHA. I have a strong desire to protect Red Wattles and the heritage they bring with them while also promoting them to others. I would like to take the opportunity to ask for your support for the office Vice President in the upcoming election. While I still have a lot to learn about the Red Wattle hog, my goal as Vice President will be to contribute to the breed and the RWHA to the best of my ability by making open minded, nonbiased, and informed decisions on any issues that may come before the board and to protect their heritage while leading them into the future.

With the new elections coming soon I would like to take the opportunity to once again ask for your support for the office of Vice President.

**Dannie Prater: for Board Member at Large**

[dannieprater@gmail.com](mailto:dannieprater@gmail.com)

My name is Dannie Prater and I would like to officially be considered to run for the up-coming election as Board Member at Large..

My family and I found farming about 5 years ago. One season in and we knew that this was us. We did thorough research and fell in love with red Wattles just based on pictures and words. We ended up buying a breeding pair that pretty much overturned everything that we had ever heard about pigs.

We are not professional farmers or experts but are committed to providing exceptional care for our hogs and livestock.

I believe Heritage breeds of all things (animals and heirloom variety seeds) are very important to future generations. Red wattles are something special to us. One of the few heritage breeds that hasn't lost its edge.

Thankyou for your consideration.

**Julie DeMilt: for Board Member at Large**

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My husband Stephen, and I own and manage a 100 acre farm. This is our 6th year raising and breeding Red Wattles. We also raise beef cattle and dairy goats and we cut our own hay. All of our animals are raised on pasture. We are also AWA certified.

Steve has a day job working in wholesale distribution. I work full time on the farm now.

We both have Bachelor Degrees in Business Management/Marketing and have worked in corporate capacity for 25+ years.

We are dedicated to natural animal management and preserving the Red Wattle. Our customers are primarily wholesale, buying whole pigs for processing. We also sell finished pork products to restaurants and a local store. We sell feeders and a few breeders to supplement our operation. We do what we can to educate people about the Red Wattle and pastured pork.

I feel having a mix of new farmers, like myself, along with seasoned farmers provide good representation for all members of the RWHA.

**Larry Sandhass: for Board Member at Large**

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I'd like to present my name for the Red Wattle Association Board of Directors.

My wife Suzanne and I have been married for nearly thirty years, and have been farming for most of that time. We operate Holevoet Farms, which is named for her grandparents. Most often the local old timers know the farm by that name, so we re-established that name when we started our direct sales business five years ago. We market eggs, chickens and Red Wattle pork in northwest Illinois and Eastern Iowa.

We got started in red wattles about six years ago, purchasing registered breeding stock from Walt Wickham of Maquoketa, Iowa and others. We have sold mostly half hogs and feeders during most of that time to local customers. More recently we got our state of Illinois license to sell cuts directly to customers. People can't get enough of Red Wattle bratwurst and bacon. It's the best.

We started this journey as foodies, wanting to grow our own food. It's simply better quality than you can buy. We like the idea of bringing good food to local people that we know first as customers and then as friends. The motto of our farm that we put on our business cards is - good food, humanely and sustainably raised.

We operate a sustainable farming operation with minimum tillage and extensive use of solar generated electricity. A majority of our food comes from on farm sources, and from a cooperative relationship with a local homeless shelter using expired food waste as animal feed.

I'd like to contribute some to the Red Wattle Association by serving on the board of directors. They are great hogs, and deserve to be preserved and consumed. In our small independent farmers lies the legacy of genetic diversity that can't be lost.

**Amanda McCabe: for Board Member at Large**

[pekinhillfarms@gmail.com](mailto:pekinhillfarms@gmail.com)

Dear RWHA Members,

My name is Amanda McCabe, I am a stay-at-home mother of 4 children, and married to my husband of 10 years, Joe. Together we own and operate Pekin Hill Farms near Chatfield, Minnesota. I work behind the scenes doing all the marketing and business end of our farm. We offer pasture raised Red Wattle pork, pasture raised chickens, and all natural beef at farmer's markets and wholesale. We have had pigs for 4 years, but bought our first registered Red Wattles last year. We now have 3 sweet sows and 2 beautiful boars! I became intrigued by their sweet personalities and laid-back temperament. The more I learned about the breed, the more I knew they were the right fit for our family. We are working hard to improve our breeding program, which is important to both Joe and myself. I also think it's important to have core values to follow in hopes of preserving the future of this old breed.

If elected as a Board Member I hope to add my passion and ideas to the RWHA. Having a strong foundation starts with the members and I am confident we can increase the number of active memberships, as well as, educate the public about why we love our Red Wattles so much!

**Theresa Schieffelbein**

[hindsightheritagefarm@hotmail.com](mailto:hindsightheritagefarm@hotmail.com)

Hello members of the association!

Once upon a time I was a board member of this fine association....and I would like you to consider me for a board member at large post once again.

I started in Red Wattles in 2008 and have had a small herd for a number of years. I was hurt in the past couple of years and my little Hindsight Heritage Farm had to stop small farm marketing and reduce to feeders for myself and my family.

In spite of it all my dedication to the promotion of the breed and to this association remains strong.

A stronger association starts with a more involved board. I would be available for both the board meetings and the member's questions.

I would ask that support my bid for board member at large.

Thank you!

### **Membership News and Updates**

All RWHA memberships will expire on March 31, 2020 at midnight. If you haven't renewed by that date your name will drop from the membership roll. The RWHA will be accepting membership renewals starting Jan. 01, 2020. Please do not renew your membership prior to January 1 so that our records for the new year can be kept organized. The RWHA accepts new memberships at any time. You can find our membership forms on our website, redwattleproject.org. Click on the RWHA tab at the top and the next screen shows our forms. Scroll down a little on that screen and you'll see Pay Pal just below if you'd prefer to use it. **You do not need to do both**. Most people forget to include their phone numbers with Pay Pal so be sure to check for that. The information on these forms is what's used to update our records on the website so be sure they are correct and you've included everything. (This is also how people find you). Please make your membership dues payable to RWHA. You will not be sent reminders to renew your membership. Please mark your calendars.

For our Canadian members, please keep in mind the currency conversion for memberships, registrations and transfers. The RWHA bank is now charging a \$6.00 fee for foreign currency transactions of any kind including personal checks, money orders and cashier checks. To all our Canadian members, please keep this in mind. Convert your payment into U.S. currency amounts and include the additional \$6.00 U.S. transaction fee. This is an unfortunate but unavoidable circumstance and the RWHA has no choice but to pass those additional charges on.

**Don't forget to mail in your ballots. We need all members participation to be a successful association.**

## Tips

With the popularity increasing for self-sustaining and heritage livestock also comes the pitfalls with Inexperience or even from those looking to make a quick buck. Mistakes and poor breeding practices can cost you dearly. The RWHA cautions you to please do your homework. Know, study the Red Wattle breed standards and be comfortable with them. If registered, research the pedigree on line. Communicate with the owner/breeder and be comfortable enough to trust them. If a pig/hog is sold as registered or to be registered do not leave the premises with the animal unless you have the paperwork in your hands. Following are a few examples of mistakes made. There are plenty more. We've heard them all.

1. The breeder states that wattles grow later. They aren't born with them.
2. The breeder states that the other piglets sucked on and stretched out the long stringy wattles.
3. The breeder states typical wattles are on the cheeks.
4. The breeder states RW's always walk on their dew claws. It's a characteristic of the breed that makes them unique.
5. The breeder states RW ears stand up on the head. (like a german shepherd dog)
6. The breeder states the hog or sire or dam is registered with another association. (There is no other RW association).
7. The breeder states that white socks are typical on RW's and even a throw back to the older genes. He says this while smiling and making you think you're getting something extra special. RW's are consistent RED all over, top to bottom, end to end.
8. The breeder went thru the RW registry and picked out a hog (for sire and dam information) then advertised some of a litter for sale. You purchase with a promise of registration coming to you in about 6 weeks. (never leave without your completed and signed copy) Your registration never arrives. The breeder stops answering calls and messages. That breeder is not a RWHA member. You're stuck. Always verify breeder/ownership. Verify membership to the RWHA. This information is easily found on the website. Our registration and transfer forms are legal documents that will stand in court if necessary. Jan Black of Black Acres Farm and a former member, board member, and attorney helped to design them. The RWHA has no recourse for anyone who is not a RWHA member. It's up to you to cover yourself. You will have a lot invested, financially and for the future of your herd.

Always remember that anyone can own a registered Red Wattle. They don't have to be members. But they must be a member at the time the litter hits the ground, (is born), in order to register any from that litter.