



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Mike “Mickey” Gilster Inducted into the 2024 WPA Hall of Fame**

WEST ALLIS, WI- The Wisconsin Pork Association Hall of Fame Award recognizes an outstanding individual who has demonstrated a long-time commitment to the Wisconsin State Fair in the open and junior shows, and who has developed a quality swine breeding program.

This year’s Hall of Fame inductee was Mike “Mickey” Gilster of Bangor, WI. Mike is a long-time exhibitor and supporter at the Wisconsin State Fair. Mike started his herd with a Duroc sow when he was 9 years old, began showing at the Wisconsin state fair when he was 13, and has now developed a very successful Chester White breeding program that has earned many accolades and recognition across the country. He sells boars, bred gilts, open gilts, and high-quality show pigs to families and kids across the Midwest. Mike’s passion and commitment to helping young people get involved in pork production is evident to all who know him.

Mike’s industry involvement extends past the barn where he has been the La Crosse County Fair Superintendent for 27 years, the Livestock Sale Committee Chairman for 15 years, and the La Crosse County Pork Producers President for 20 years. He still enjoys helping at the state and national shows and supporting the industry in any way he can. He would like to thank everyone that has supported him throughout the years, especially his family: Paul, Barb, Jim, Dan, Norm, Chelsea, Hazel, Robert, and Vonnie Gilster.

Mike was recognized at the Wisconsin State Fair Swine Barn on Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, along with past Hall of Fame inductees. We would like to congratulate Mike on this prestigious award, wish him and his family the best of luck in the future, and thank him for his contributions to the Wisconsin swine industry!

#### **Past Hall of Fame Recipients:**

1992 - John Wollin, Lake Mills	2008 - David Gill, Platteville
1993 - James Walsh, Beloit	2009 - Gary Brewer, Albany
1994 - Lyle Nelson, Oregon	2010 – Paul George, Evansville
1995 - Don Lang, Beloit	2011 – Alan Butts, Evansville
1996 - Gerald McElroy, Pardeeville	2012 – Erv Nuttleman, Bangor
1997 - Earl Skalitzky, Waterloo	2013 – Roger Guse, Whitehall
1998 – Bob Grenawalt, Beloit	2014 – Dennis Jeffers, Poplar Grove, IL
1999 - LaVern & Marilyn Weller, Dwight, IL	2015 – Bill Clothier, Clinton
2000 - Schuster Brothers, Berlin	2016 – Charles Schmaling Family, Delavan
2001 - Ralph Wilson, Burlington	2017 – Hilman Schroeder, Sauk City
2002 - James Furlong, Jr., Watertown	2018 – Thomas Knauer, Avalon
2003 - William Schomberg, La Crosse	2019 – Gary & Diann Skalitzky, Waterloo
2004 - Mike & Donna Lindow, Chili	2020 – WSF Cancelled
2005 - Wayne Fowler, Cuba City	2021 - Todd Brewer, Albany
2006 – George Holst, Trevor	2022 – Robert “R.J.” Ellingson, Poplar Grove, IL
2007 – Francis Fahey, Belleville	2023- Tom Walsh, Beloit

For additional information, contact the Wisconsin Pork Association at [wppa@wppa.org](mailto:wppa@wppa.org) or call 608-723-7551.

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