



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Brinkmeier Inducted into WPA's Hall of Fame at Wisconsin State Fair

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 Jim Brinkmeier of Pearl City, IL. In 1965 Jim bought his first bred Yorkshire gilts from Hilman Schroeder. Jim and Linda, along with their children Chet and Tammy, quickly grew their love for raising pigs and began showing hogs at several county fairs in the area. After having much success locally, other breeders encouraged them to start showing at the state level. The Brinkmeier's showed pigs at the Illinois and Wisconsin State Fairs for several years and eventually competed and showcased their impressive breeding program on the national level.

Jim epitomized what it meant to be a purebred breeder and was especially passionate about the Yorkshire breed. Eventually they also added durocs to the herd and became known for raising high quality red hogs, too. Jim participated in testing boars at Belleville for many years and was an active leader of the Stephenson County Pork Producers and American Yorkshire Association.

Jim loved raising pigs but was truly passionate about the people. He never missed an opportunity to judge a show, help a young person or meet new friends that shared his love of the pork industry and making pigs and people better. Jim continued to advocate for the pork industry and devotedly attended the Wisconsin State Fair breeding show until his passing in 2023. We miss Jim's smiling face, but his legacy continues as his son and grandchildren still actively raise and show pigs across the country and have a passion for the pork industry which we know makes him proud.

Jim was recognized posthumously at the Wisconsin State Fair Swine Barn along with past Hall of Fame inductees on Sunday, August 3rd, 2025. We would like to congratulate Jim and his family on this prestigious award and thank and honor him for his unforgettable contributions to the Wisconsin swine industry!

Past Hall of Fame Recipients:

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

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2020 – WSF Cancelled
2021 - Todd Brewer, Albany
2022 –R.J. Ellingson, Poplar Grove, IL

2023- Tom Walsh, Beloit
2024 - Mickey Gilster, Bangor
2025- Jim Brinkmeier, Pearl City, IL

For additional information, contact the Wisconsin Pork Association at wppa@wppa.org or call 608-723-7551.



Pictured is Jim Brinkmeier's family members that attended the induction ceremony.

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The mission of the Wisconsin Pork Association is to promote and protect the state's pork industry in order to ensure its success now and in the future.