

## How the Idaho Pasture Pig Registry (IPPR) came to be:

We, Jodi & Dave Cronauer, met Shelly through the KuneKune breed. We loved the idea of developing a faster growing meat pig that still had the same disposition and grazing ability of the KuneKune pigs.

The development of the pigs themselves took the Farris' years to complete and when they were ready to start selling them, we purchased our first breeding trio. It was 2012 and little did we know how our lives would change with the addition of Idaho Pasture Pigs (IPP) to our farm. Their disposition, growth rate, and grazing ability was everything we had been hoping for. As our love for the breed grew, we decided to grow our herd and added some additional lines in the spring of 2013. We had hopes of Shelly starting a Registry to keep track of the lineage, but instead she let us know that she was getting out of pigs completely and that if we wanted to pick up the work of starting a Registry, that was up to us. We had no intention of ever starting or running a Registry and had only pictured us raising quality pork for years to come, BUT we knew that the only hope of preserving this amazing breed was to do that exact thing. So, we purchased what we could and through a collaborative effort with the Farris' we started a sometimes exhausting effort to put it all together. We did it for the love of the breed and the desire to not lose the lineages and everything this breed was. Without the start of the IPPR, all of the work of developing this amazing breed would have been lost, and except for a few of us lucky people who already owned them, most people wouldn't know what an Idaho Pasture Pig was let alone how amazing and delicious the pork is.

The vision for the Idaho Pasture Pig included developing a hearty, medium-sized pig with a good mothering ability, a good disposition, and the ability to graze well on grass and thereby produce quality pork. This vision is what the IPPR tries to uphold and what has become the breed standard for the IPP. The medium length of the snout with the slight upturn as well as the medium build of the pigs themselves were two of the main points both Shelly and Gary stressed. Such things as the carriage of the pigs and the structural soundness of the legs, feet, chest, and hind quarters are traits that are shared with all breeds and are important when having breeding stock. The three breeds that went into the development of the Idaho Pasture Pigs are the Duroc, old Berkshire, and the KuneKune pigs, for many distinct reasons. Each breed brought something to the mix that was desired, such as the temperament and upturned snout of the KuneKune which was important in the grazing ability of the pigs. The Duroc added the quicker growth and longer length of the pig when compared to the KuneKune and the Berkshire added nicely marbled meat and good mothering ability. These are just some of the reasons that each breed was chosen, but each of their attributes went into the development of the breed and had to be considered when noting a standard for the breed. Such things as the presence or lack of wattles or the color of the pig vary immensely and do not contribute to the overall conformation of the IPP.

When it came time to put all the information into a software program we had purchased to run the Registry, we had a combination of names. Some of the line names we carried over from the names Shelly gave us when we purchased the stock, while the rest came directly from us. Some of the lines were just noted as new boar or new sow lines and we were told to just put our own name on it. One fun example which I am sure people have wondered about over the years is the Love Pig name. When naming this line, we asked our sons for some ideas, and our

then young son was adamant that we use Love Pig because Dad loved pigs! Looking back, we probably should have used something simple like Love or picked a more sensible name completely, but it is unique – just like the Idaho Pasture Pig breed, so I guess it fits!

Early on we used the estimates we were provided, the growth we saw in the stock we purchased directly from the developers, and in growth of the piglets born on our farm, to put together such things as the growth chart. The growth chart is based on growth from birth to adult. Years of developing the breed meant that the Farris' had many different lines of all three of the breeds as well as crosses of each breed and couldn't always feed minimal grains, but grinding hay into their feed was a great way to supplement and get additional greens into the pig's diet. Having a pig that had a good grazing ability was and still is important. The mature weights of the pigs are a key factor in maintaining a medium sized pig, so that became a major part of the breed standard. The growth chart of the younger ages was based on the feeding regiment that we used as we didn't have any other crosses, Berkshires, or Durocs on our farm to feed and could feed all of our Idaho Pasture Pigs the same while having them on good grassy pastures. The growth chart is an estimate and will vary slightly based on the feeding regiment of each farm, but the mature weights of the boar and sow lines are important in upholding the medium size of the breed as it was developed to be.

Over the past few years, the IPPR has undergone some significant changes with the formation of an Advisory Board and an overall upgrade to the software system that it uses. The upgraded system has allowed for the online submissions of litter notifications and registrations that so many people had asked for. The entire upgrade has taken time but is worth it in the end as everything is faster and streamlined. The final upgrade is the addition of the herd book which will be implemented in the Registered Breeders accounts sometime in the future. The Advisory Board has broken down the United States into different regions with each member being designated a location. The climate, growing season, vegetation, etc. is different across the entire country and this allows the IPPR, as well as members and owners, the ability to have someone to reach out to that is familiar to the area that they live in and raise these amazing pigs.

After years of raising these amazing pigs, preserving the lines and lineages, and working relentlessly to maintain the Idaho Pasture Pig breed, we remain dedicated to preserving this amazing breed. It never ceases to amaze us how often we hear "this pig is perfect" or "I hope no one ruins this breed like has happened to other breeds." **That** is the goal of the Idaho Pasture Pig Registry. The mindset of some people is that bigger is better, but that isn't the case with the Idaho Pasture Pig, and it is the job of the IPPR to maintain the **integrity** of the breed. There are always other breeds available for those that don't appreciate the quality, size, temperament, growing ability, grazing ability, and overall Idaho Pasture Pig. The Farris' developed this amazing breed of pig and it is what it is today because of the dedication, education, and love we have for this breed and our continual work through the Idaho Pasture Pig Registry. We couldn't do it without the dedication of many responsible breeders who understand the importance of preserving this amazing breed.