

For Immediate Release
Ayrshire Breeders' Association

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DARRYL KEEHNER PRESENTED WITH
AYRSHIRE MASTER BREEDER AWARD

COLUMBUS, OH – The Ayrshire Breeders' Association presented its annual Master Breeder Award to Darryl Keehner of Guttenburg, IA at the National Ayrshire Convention in Oklahoma City, OK on June 16, 2016.

Many today know of the Sharwards prefix and the outstanding breeder behind those genetics. Over the years Darryl Keehner has worked hard to balance both type and production in his herd. His breeding method worked well in his herd. Keehner would mate based on two solid generations of production and come back on the third generation and use more type, although he never liked breeding to a bull negative for type regardless of how good his production was.

Many breeders have had the opportunity to buy Sharwards genetics over the years. Keehner says that one of the most satisfying things as a breeder is for people to tell you they're happy with the cows you bred. Sharwards Calimero Megan is a name that many recognize. "Megan" is owned by the Megan Syndicate of IA. She scored EX-94 2E, has records over 28,000M and is a four-time All-American. Also bred by Keehner and carrying his prefix is Sharwards Ashlyn, EX-92 2E. "Ashlyn" won the Rodriguez & Skiff Memorial Trophy last year for Damian Ullmer with a record over 41,000M in 305 days. These are only two highlighted animals pulled from a very long list of Ayrshires that resulted in pleased buyers from animals bred by Darryl Keehner.

The Master Breeder winner explained that he used many ways to stay educated about Ayrshires and motivated to keep his herd moving forward. He enjoyed browsing the Ayrshire herd average lists to see how his herd compared to others. He read anything he could find and then tried to apply what might be relevant in his own operation. Darryl also says that he always finds that his family members and other breeders motivate him. He feels fortunate to have had the parents that he did raise him. He parents had Ayrshires, and that got him on the way to staying true to the breed. Keehner is quick to point out that the Ayrshire cow made him money and profit drove his business. He had a farm to pay for and a family to raise, and he did it all with Ayrshires with their longevity, positive feed conversion and low somatic cell count.