

Fred Lloyd receives Master Shepherd Award

At their annual meeting in September, the Indiana Sheep Association (ISA) honored Fred G. Lloyd as Master Shepherd of the year.

To recognize individuals who establish a positive impact on the Indiana Sheep Industry, ISA grants the Master Shepherd Award each year to a resident of Indiana and member of ISA who has been involved in the Industry for at least 25 years and presently or in the past has owned sheep. The recipient must have demonstrated a commitment to the sheep industry, including serving youth and their local community, as well as being involved in the larger agricultural industry in the state. This year's Master Shepherd recipient is Fred Lloyd of Covington, Indiana.

Lloyd maintained a flock of Corriedale sheep for several years and has thus far exhibited a life truly bound to the sheep community. Like so many young shepherds, he became involved in the Industry through his participation in 4-H and FFA. Unlike most youth, however, he bought himself a truck before he was old enough to drive so he could work as a shearer after school and on weekends. He continued in the shearing profession after his graduation from high school, until 1960 when he decided to attend Purdue University and graduated with a degree in Animal Sciences.

After his time at Purdue, he worked out of Iowa as a meat salesman. In August of 1965, he married his wife, Carolyn, of Indianapolis and took a job as a youth agent in Fountain and White counties with the Cooperative Extension Service in 1973. He, Carolyn and their three sons lived in Fountain County until he took up a position with the American Sheep Producers Council out of Denver. Following that, he established his own business building high tensile fences. Through all of his positions, he kept a flock of sheep and even worked as a shearer in his spare time. He also trained new shearers and worked with youth and adults to promote the sheep industry. He served as an announcer in the sheep barn at the Indiana State Fair for several years, where he also took great enjoyment in participating in the annual shearing contest. He and all three of his sons were shearing champions in that competition.

Lloyd credits his success and passion for sheep to the friends he made in the Industry over the years, including former Purdue Sheep Specialist Jim Outhouse, and professional shearer Dale Culp of Goshen, who was his partner in shearing for many years. Due to health issues in recent years, Fred has had to reduce and then sell off his remaining sheep, but he continues to support the sheep project at his county fair, and loves to field questions and chat with anyone interested in raising sheep.