

2022 – Elizabeth Kinne Gossner

FBA Hall of Fame Inductee: Elizabeth Kinne Gossner

For nearly three decades, this year's Hall of Fame inductee has been a champion of Finnsheep. This shepherd has worked tirelessly to promote, preserve, and better the breed, while having a never-ending willingness to educate and mentor both new and existing breeders alike. In Elizabeth Kinne Gossner's own words, this has been her passion since 1994, when her own Stillmeadow Finnsheep came to life on her hilltop farm in Central, NY. According to Elizabeth, this was the fulfillment of a dream that began in 1977 with her first tiny flock. Back then, she kept Finn crosses, and was busy teaching handspinning classes on her farm in Connecticut. In 1993, after a twelve year shepherding hiatus, Elizabeth relocated to her current farm, and Stillmeadow Finnsheep was born the following year with the addition of 9 purebred Finns. While initially following the Cornell STAR system of breeding, allowing for lamb crops in quick succession, Elizabeth saw her flock grow quickly into one that has become a household name within the breed. In fact, amongst current Finnsheep, a large percentage can be traced back to the Stillmeadow flock. While her sheep have certainly been a mainstay of purebred Finns, Elizabeth produced many worthy additions to crossbred enterprises as well. While Elizabeth's contributions to the Finnsheep breed have been many, including her years of service on the Board of Directors, one of the most prominent has been her work in exploring and developing color genetics within her flock. Her work with piebald and brown sheep, and the many forms in which they show up, has been instrumental in creating the color diversity seen in today's Finns. Elizabeth has also been a big proponent of bio secure practices and health testing within flocks, and has lent her hard earned knowledge to other breeders, whether seeking to establish bio security protocols on their own farms, or to evaluate potential flocks from which to purchase. For all her countless contributions, and decades of devotion to this wonderful breed, please join the Board of Directors in congratulating the Finnsheep Breeders Association 2022 Hall of Fame inductee, Elizabeth Kinne Gossner.

