

F E R G U S

FEATURES

Member Newsletter ♦ Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc., Lewistown, MT ♦ www.ferguselectric.coop



Bred for success

Show-quality pig breeder began her career at age 14

Story by **CHARLIE DENISON** | contributing writer

ON January 1, Jordan Grindheim of Roy turned 21. And, this year, as usual, the New Year's baby has big plans.

As owner and operator of Jordie's Show Pigs — a business geared to supply show-quality piglets to 4-H and FFA members across the state — Jordan is gearing up for her seventh annual Silent Auction Sale on March 21.

2020 was a strange year, but life goes on, and Jordan is hitting her stride, having graduated in May 2020 from Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming, with associate degrees in ag business and vet assistance, as well as a certificate in ag production.

Jordan's dual degrees were not steppingstones into a career, as her choice of career began at age 14, when she established her pig-breeding business, which she operates from her family ranch.

That being the case, perhaps it was fitting she attended graduation from home in Roy (due to COVID-19 concerns), where she sees herself residing for the foreseeable future.



I always tell the kids when they buy a pig from me, they are not just purchasing a pig, I'm going to be helping them all year.

— **JORDAN GRINDHEIM**,
Owner of Jordie's Show Pigs

As preparation continues for this year's sale, Jordan can't help but reflect on how far Jordie's Show Pigs has come in seven years.

"This started with two gilts," she said, "and my focus then was pretty much the same as it is now, which is to help the kids. I always tell the kids when they buy a pig from me, they are not just purchasing a pig, I'm going to be helping them all year. I stay in touch and make sure their pigs are growing well."

A highly decorated 4-H and FFA representative, Jordan started showing pigs at age 9.

"I've always been around livestock, and I knew I wanted to show. At that time cattle were a little too big for me, so I tried out pigs, and I loved them right away," she said.

Five years after her first pig showing, she'd start breeding, which further enhanced her pig passion.

One of the first litters had a runt, Spartacus. Jordan befriended him immediately, as she does with most

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MANAGER'S MESSAGE

From Carson Sweeney

HERE at Fergus Electric Cooperative, the new year got off to a good start. Compared to previous winters, this winter is generally milder, except for the extreme wind gusts in mid-January that caused widespread outages and many broken poles throughout our system. On January 13, the news reported wind gusts of 95 mph near Judith Peak, and 84 mph gusts were reported near Grass Range. Thankfully, during that wind-storm, temperatures stayed above freezing. It has been a relatively open winter and we have been able to do work that, in other years, may have had to wait until spring.

I recently had the opportunity to complete some line patrol work in our Ruby Gulch area. By truck, four-wheeler, and on foot, I visited every pole within the 72 miles of overhead line that make up our Ruby Gulch 1 and Ruby Gulch 2 circuits. I was grateful for the incredible views each day as I followed our lines and discovered where many of our members call home. I can report back that those circuits are in good shape, and the members I met were gracious and kind. You will likely see our crews out and about fixing the few issues that were identified. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and to get better acquainted with the co-op's expansive service territory, during the coming years, I plan to get out and see our entire system in that detail, like my predecessors did.

Making great progress on AMI meter installations

Our crews are busy with new construction requests from members throughout the service territory. We are also making great progress on the installation of the communication



While patrolling line near the Kolstad place up Castle Creek, Sweeney came across mountain lion tracks as big as his foot.

infrastructure for the new metering system. Approximately 2,000 of the AMI meters have been installed, which equates to roughly one-third of our total system. Our partnership with local electricians is going well, and we sure appreciate their help installing the new meters. Using our automated phone notification system, we call to notify you that we will be installing meters in your area and ask you to contact us if you have a protective dog that would require you to be present while the electrician is on site. Since the power will be shut off momentarily, if you have equipment that needs to be manually switched back on, such as a sump pump, please give us a call so we can arrange a time for you to be home when the electrician arrives.

Trimming trees around powerlines

Creed Zibell, owner of CJZ Tree Services recently completed tree-trimming work for us in the town of Roy. After which, Creed kept busy as members reached out to him for additional tree work around their property. We are excited to partner with Creed,

New year off to a windy start


and we appreciate the good work he has been providing the cooperative and our members. Within the month, Creed will move over to the town of Winifred, where he will spend a few weeks trimming trees around our powerlines and the service wires to our member's meters. We will send out an automated phone notification to our members when Creed begins his work there.

Calving season

Many of you are preparing for the upcoming calving season. Give us a call if you want the co-op to replace bulbs or photocells in your exterior yard and security lights around your property. We will send out a crew to make sure your yard, barn and corral lights give off good light as you begin to care for those newly born babies. There is no charge for the co-op to perform maintenance on rental lights, however the co-op charges a fee to replace security light bulbs and photocells on member-owned lights, but we have the equipment to do the work safely. We rent and sell different exterior light styles, including LED lights. We wish you a successful calving season.

Scholarship winners to be announced next month

We recently advertised several scholarship opportunities that concluded January 27. We are excited to work through those applications and notify the winners. I look forward to sharing those names with you next month.

I hope you are enjoying the start of the new year. I encourage you to take a moment to slow down and appreciate the beautiful surrounding area that we all get to call home. 

JORDAN

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of her pigs.

"I enjoy their personalities," she said. "For the most part, the pigs are personable, and a lot of fun. They all have their quirks, like Lolli, for example, loves to eat Twinkies."

Jordan wants to share this love for pigs and do her part to empower boys and girls getting started in showing by providing them with high-quality pigs.

She's not just breeding pigs; she's breeding success.

"I love to see these kids win shows, and, fortunately, I've seen numerous class winners. In 2019, we had both Grand Champions and Reserve Grand Champions at a couple different fairs," said Jordan. "I also like to see the kids have a project they have fun with."

Seeing the interaction between the pig and the kid makes it all worth it.

Jordan also hopes to make showing a little easier for those following in her footsteps.

"When the pigs leave our house, they're so tame," she said, "and that's a testament to the hours I spend in the nursery with them. They are really



Jordan Grindheim, left, proudly stands next to Quinn Logan, who was a heavyweight class winner and took third place overall at the Montana Fair last year with one of Jordie's Show Pigs. | COURTESY PHOTO



Jordan Grindheim (right) and her parents Tammy and Shawn Grindheim at Shipley's in Newark, Ohio, one of three board stud farms that are associated with this year's pig sale.

sweet pigs."

Jordan said her business has also seen success with high carcass placings.

"Jordie's Show Pigs isn't just about how the pig is going to do in the show ring, it's also about how that pig is going to do on the rail," she said, "and that starts at our place. That starts with the breeding."

Jordan has high hopes for her seventh sale, one she expects to be a rousing success.

"We have three different boar stud farms associated with the sale this year: Shipley's out of Newark, Ohio; Southern Gold Sires out of Salem, Indiana; and Braaten Show Pigs of Townsend," she said proudly. "This gives us a different array of places to go, and different boars to use."

If all goes well, Jordan said, her business should have eight healthy litters on the ground by mid-February.

"We wait for

the litters to get on the ground and then we start planning the sale,"

Jordan said, "then it's all hustle, hustle, hustle to get things ready by sale time, which is always the third Sunday in March, weather permit-

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Jordan
Grindheim



JORDAN

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ting, of course."

The sale takes place at the Grindheim Ranch in Roy, where Jordan was born and raised.

"It's essentially a silent auction," she said. "I set the bottom on all the pigs at the same price, and we let the kids roll from there on how high they want to bid on the pigs."

None of the success of Jordie's Show Pigs would be possible without the support Jordan said she's received from her parents, extended family and her friends. She also very much values her Northwest roommate, who was a co-New Century Farmer with Jordan in

2019, a major FFA achievement.

Without these relationships, Jordan said, she couldn't imagine doing one sale, let alone seven.

"It definitely takes more than just me," she said. "It takes a team to put it all together."

For more information, call Jordan at (406) 350-0595. 

Editor's note: Jordan's parents, Shawn and Tammy Grindheim, have been members of Fergus Electric Cooperative since 2000.



Fergus Electric annual meeting set for June 10

Nominating Committee seeking candidates


In accordance with Section 4.3 of Fergus Electric Cooperative's bylaws, the committee for selecting board candidates has been appointed and will meet this month.

In addition to candidates selected by the committee, any 15 or more members acting together from District 3, District 5 or District 7 may make other nominations by petition not less than 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Such nominations are to be posted where the committee list is posted. No other method of nominating candidates for trustees is permitted.

Directors serve a term of three

years and are elected by ballot at the annual meeting of the membership.

At least two candidates from District 3 (Winifred, Roy and Hilger areas), District 5 (Roundup and Musselshell areas), and District 7 (Geyser, Denton, Stanford, and Hobson areas) will be nominated. Candidates must have their principal residence in the district from which they are selected.

If you are interested in running for a position on the board, watch for meeting dates and places in local newspapers, or call the office (406) 538-3465 for more information. 

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Account 2881 ● Account 49300

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You will receive a \$32.50 credit on next month's statement.

Karen King of Roundup was last month's winner!

*Numbers are drawn monthly.



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