



Established For the Members, By the Members Working Together, the Possibilities are Endless!

The American KuneKune Pig Society - AKKPS

An Official Breed Registry of Purebred DNA Verified KuneKunes Since 2013.



Photo Credit: Josh & Dayna Geraghty of Geraghty's Micro Farm

Monthly Society News, Recipe & Educational Article

February 2024

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AKKPS MEMBER VOTE REMINDER

- The AKKPS emailed a Member Vote on 2/5/24.
- Voting will close on 2/20/24 at 6 pm EST.
- Please vote so that your voice can be heard.
- Below is the link to the Vote.

[AKKPS MEMBER VOTE LINK \(click here\)](#)

FEBRUARY 2024 AKKPS MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



AKKPS MEMBER IN
THE SPOTLIGHT



Willow Creek Ranch

CHRISTINA BURNHAM

BATON ROUGE, LA



Established in 2020 amidst the challenges of a global pandemic, Willow Creek Ranch LLC stands as a family-owned and operated haven along the alluvial flood plains of the Mississippi River in Baton Rouge, LA. Co-founded by Amié Burnham and Jeremy Burnham, the ranch emerged as a response to the pandemic, serving as a testament to the importance of health – both for individuals and the environment. Motivated by a commitment to sustainable and regenerative farming practices, the owners envisioned Willow Creek Ranch as a space where the land and people could find healing. They sought to utilize their acreage to cultivate high-quality, healthy food products, aiming to not only enhance the well-being of the land but also contribute to the health of the local community. With a focus on fostering a connection between people and the land, the co-owners dedicated themselves to creating an environment where individuals could learn about sustainable farming practices while relishing in the pleasure of consuming wholesome, locally-sourced food. Amié and Jeremy, sharing the responsibilities as co-owners, bring their unique skills and experiences to the collective effort of managing and running the ranch.



AKKPS MEMBER IN
THE SPOTLIGHT



Fecundale Farms

CHENELLE KNAPP

ONTARIO, CANADA



Hello - we are Fecundale Farms, home to Ian, Chenelle, Rayna, Tate and Allistair. I grew up on a beef farm and had several types of animals over the years such as sheep and chickens. I inherited a farm in my 20's and have mostly rented it out since then as I wasn't able to farm at the time. I've always wanted to get back to farming, and we've found Kune's to be the perfect fit to get us started. The more I learn about the breed, the more I enjoy having them. Since we are just starting our farming adventure, having an animal that was low cost to feed, easy to handle, and put delicious grass fed pork in our freezer - checked all my boxes. We don't make our own hay or feed yet so being able to grow them on minimal feed compared to stock pigs was a huge advantage. We had some bad farming luck last year getting started, losing a sow that was part of my breeding pair. Despite the loss we decided to press forward and now have two gilts (Cedar and Scarlett) that we hope will farrow in the spring, and two boars (Gord Downey and Lord Amherst).

Along with our Kune's we board the family horses at our farm. We've had them graze together and the Kune's usually get a nibble on the back - I think the horses wonder why the hay bales are moving! We really enjoy learning new things every day and seeing the kids and their cousins run to the barn when they get home from school. We hope to increase our herd of Kune's to be able to have a good source of pork for friends and family. We can't get over the difference in flavor - I usually can't tolerate pork but I have no problem eating Kune pork. We hope to add a dog, Katahdin sheep, a donkey, and a few beef cows to our farm in the future.

The AKKPS is bringing back the Monthly Member in Spotlight!

10 Members will be randomly selected each month using a random number picker.

These 10 Members will receive an email and a deadline for submitting 1 picture, their logo (if they have one) and a bio about their farm.

Should a selected member choose not to participate, that is okay and the member does not need to do anything.

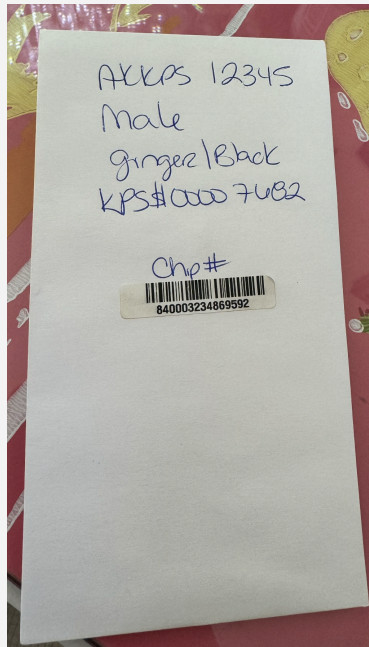
The Monthly Members in the Spotlight will be featured throughout the month on the AKKPS Members Only Facebook Page, the AKKPS Public Facebook Page, Instagram, on the AKKPS Website and in the monthly Society Eblast.

REGISTRAR TIPS

LITTER NOTIFICATION TIP

- Litter Notify ALL piglets born to the litter including stillborns and deceased piglets.
- When Litter Notifying, use the "Notes" section to make any notes about the farrowing. The notes are included on the bottom of your Litter Notification PDF for future reference. Notes could be anything from how farrowing went, meds given, deceased or stillborn piglets, labor length, etc. The Member is the ONLY person that can see these notes - they are not public.
- Update any deceased and stillborn piglets to Deceased - Other in the My Animals section of the AKKPS Member Portal
- Litter Notifying the complete litter will keep your Sow and Boars Progeny/Offspring accurate in the AKKPS Herd Book.
- This is NOT required but is strongly encouraged.

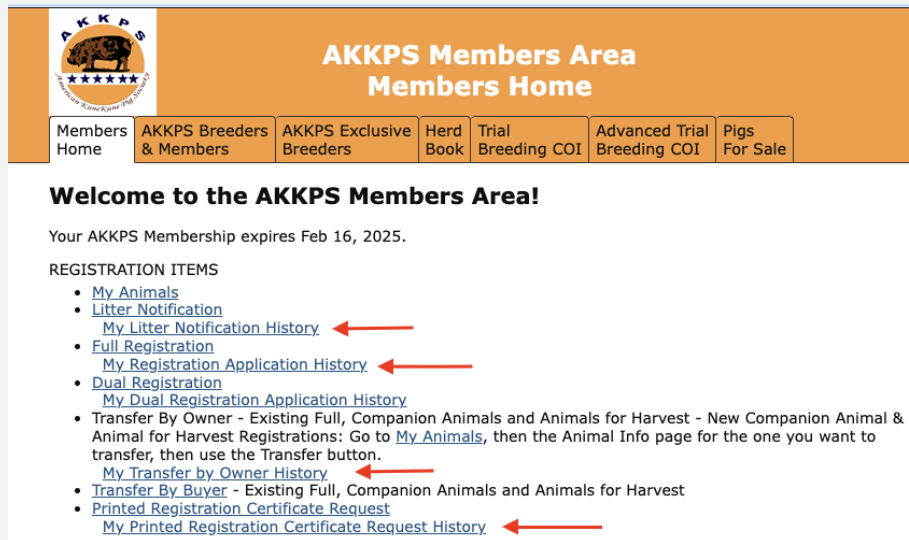
DNA & ID TIP



1. **Fill out the UC Davis test form FIRST** - using the picture option is very helpful but not required and make sure to put chip / ear tag / tattoo number in your request
2. **Have your DNA sample envelopes** filled out with Sex/Color/AKKPS Number/VGL Sample Number/ID Number prior to pulling hair samples and put the ID method in the envelope for use on the specific pig
3. **Ear Tag / Microchip / Tattoo** the pig at the same time you pull hair for DNA.
4. **Place the pig in a separate area** - this will avoid doing the same pig twice
5. **Repeat** 1-4 until all pigs are done
6. **Photo** - Prior to mailing samples to UC Davis take a picture of each envelope for reference for contracts
7. **Scan or verify ID number** when the pig leaves your farm and make sure the information is on your contract

By doing the above steps, you will avoid DNA sibling hair sample swaps and registration will be much easier.

MEMBER PORTAL "MY" FEATURES



**AKKPS Members Area
Members Home**

Members Home | AKKPS Breeders & Members | AKKPS Exclusive Breeders | Herd Book | Trial Breeding COI | Advanced Trial Breeding COI | Pigs For Sale

Welcome to the AKKPS Members Area!

Your AKKPS Membership expires Feb 16, 2025.

REGISTRATION ITEMS

- [My Animals](#)
- [Litter Notification](#)
- [My Litter Notification History](#) ←
- [Full Registration](#)
- [My Registration Application History](#) ←
- [Dual Registration](#)
- [My Dual Registration Application History](#)
- Transfer By Owner - Existing Full, Companion Animals and Animals for Harvest - New Companion Animal & Animal for Harvest Registrations: Go to [My Animals](#), then the Animal Info page for the one you want to transfer, then use the Transfer button. ←
- [My Transfer by Owner History](#) ←
- [Transfer By Buyer](#) - Existing Full, Companion Animals and Animals for Harvest
- [Printed Registration Certificate Request](#)
- [My Printed Registration Certificate Request History](#) ←

When logged into the AKKPS Member Portal you can see:

- the registration items that you have submitted
- the date and time the items were submitted
- the date and time the items were processed by the registrar
- access your litter notification PDFs
- Transfers including Companion Animals and Animals for Harvest do NOT show up in your member portal but do show up under the animals record in the Herd Book once the transfer has been processed - the programmer is working on adding this to Member Portal Screen in the next few months.
- the items show up under the MY section of the item (see below)

Parentage Verification DNA Testing

IMPORTANT - Please read the following 2 items in reference to DNA testing.

PV TESTS

The AKKPS requires DNA Parentage Verification (PV) on all pigs being fully registered.

Permanent Records (PR) DNA reports are NOT accepted.

All testing must be done through UC Davis.

Please make sure to choose the PV testing and not solely a PR DNA test.

Should you accidentally choose PR testing, you can easily add PV testing to the test at no charge and without sending in new samples. Please refer to the AKKPS Help Guide should you need directions.

DNA ENTRY

It is very important that the information is entered correctly for DNA Tests. Please refer to the help guides on the AKKPS website for help.

Please note:

- All information needed for DNA request is on the Litter Notification
- No call names should be entered on the DNA request
- Registered names are assigned at the time of full registration by the registrar

Full instructions ([Click Here](#))

Animal Name: AKKPS 12345 GMF
AKKPS Number Herd Prefix
Registration #: AKKPS 12345
AKKPS Number



American KuneKune Pig Society
Litter Notification
americankunekunepigsociety.org

Date Submitted: **Jun 1, 2023**

Owner Name: [REDACTED]

Owner Address: [REDACTED]

Owner City/State: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Sire: **RELIC Boris 12 AKKPS 31500** DNA Case #: AKB8542 ← Boars Info Name, Number, DNA Case #

Dam: **KC Farms Aria Giana 11 AKKPS 21760** DNA Case #: KPS5873 ← Sows Info Name, Number, DNA Case #

Litter Date of Birth: **May 31, 2023** ← Date of Birth

Litter Size: **7** ← Registration #

Litter Notification ID: **LN-12306150-9** ← Sex ← Color

→ Animal Name

Animal Name	Reg #	Sex	Color	Wattles
AKKPS 35695 RRK	AKKPS 35695	Male	Cream	2
AKKPS 35696 RRK	AKKPS 35696	Male	Cream	2
AKKPS 35697 RRK	AKKPS 35697	Male	Cream	2
AKKPS 35698 RRK	AKKPS 35698	Male	Brown	2
AKKPS 35699 RRK	AKKPS 35699	Male	Brown	0
AKKPS 35700 RRK	AKKPS 35700	Male	Cream	0
AKKPS 35701 RRK	AKKPS 35701	Female	Brown	2

AKKPS CODE OF ETHICS & FARM GOALS/VISION

Please take a moment to review the AKKPS Code of Ethics as a reminder to be respectful of other Breeders Farm Goals and Visions.

One of the awesome aspects of the AKKPS is that the AKKPS encourages a Farm/Breeder to choose their own vision and goals for their farm. Please keep in mind that all programs are not set up the same. ***Every farm has different goals and their own vision.***

The KuneKune is a versatile breed of heritage swine and breeders are encouraged to choose their own niche within the versatility of the KuneKune. This includes meat programs, grow out weights and methods, snout length, leg length, wattle status, companion animals, vaccines, etc.

AKKPS CODE OF ETHICS

It is incumbent upon every member of the American KuneKune Pig Society to represent the organization honorably and to abide by the AKKPS By-Laws, to treat their fellow members respectfully and courteously, to refrain from knowingly making misleading statements about AKKPS, fellow members, or the breed, and to be knowledgeable about the proper care of KuneKunes and to fulfill obligations to the animals in their care.

The AKKPS issues code of ethics violations when the AKKPS Code of Ethics is broken in a public form such as social media or on the internet.

The AKKPS cannot issue code of ethics violations in private communication such as emails, texts, pm's or verbal conversations.

REGISTRATION & UPDATING PIGS STATUS IS KEY

Registering your Litter Notified KuneKunes is very important.

THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT ALL KUNEKUNES SHOULD BE ON FULL REGISTRATION PAPERS.

A new owner/buyer does NOT have to be an AKKPS Member to receive AKKPS Pedigree Certificates.

3 types of registration available through the AKKPS.

All 3 types of registration come with an AKKPS Certificate

Full Registration

- breeding rights
- parentage DNA Verification required
- ID method required

Companion Animal Registration

- no breeding rights
- does NOT require Parentage DNA Verification
- ID method required
- can be converted to full registration by the breeder at any time with a parentage DNA Report

Animal For Harvest Registration

- no breeding rights
- does NOT require Parentage DNA Verification
- ID method required
- can be converted to full registration by the breeder at any time with a parentage DNA Report

IT IS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT FOR MEMBERS TO KEEP THEIR PIGS STATUS UP TO DATE IN THE AKKPS MEMBER PORTAL WHICH IS REFLECTED IMMEDIATELY IN THE AKKPS HERD BOOK.

Please remember to transfer animals out of your name to the new owner for:

- Animals for Harvest
- Companion Animal

Also, Please remember to mark animals as deceased after they have been harvested or if they are no longer living.

In the My Animals section of your Member Portal you can sort by registration status (Reg Status).

[Transfer Help Guide \(click here\)](#)

2024 DISCOUNTED AKKPS MEMBERSHIP DUES

The AKKPS Board of Directors unanimously voted to extend an automatic **\$40 Discount off of the \$65 2024 AKKPS Membership dues renewal** to all Active Current AKKPS Members effective 1/1/24 through 12/31/24.

MEMBERS MUST RENEW ON TIME. *LAPSED AKKPS Membership renewals will NOT receive the automatic discount when renewing membership.*

The new member portal along with a contracted volunteer registrar for all of 2023 and 2024 has saved the AKKPS financially. This savings can and should be credited to the AKKPS membership in the form of automatic discounted 2024 yearly dues.

The discount (\$40) will be automatically deducted from the \$65 AKKPS Annual Membership Dues when renewing anytime in 2024, making the 2024 yearly dues \$25.

Yearly Membership Dues continue to cover all registration related items except DNA and the ID method.

2023 Financials and the 2024 Budget will be presented to the AKKPS Members at the Yearly Society Meeting, available on the Members Only section of the AKKPS Member Portal and in the December EBlast.

A few things to note:

- Yearly Dues for 2024 remain \$65 however for 2024 existing members are automatically given a \$40 discount.
 - Dues must be paid on time. If your membership lapses, the \$65 Yearly dues will be applied with no discount.
 - The cost of joining AKKPS for the first time will remain \$65.
 - The cost of Sponsored Memberships remains the same - \$50 1 year and \$15 for 3 months
 - The price of Yearly AKKPS Membership Dues is evaluated each year. Dues are calculated and based on the AKKPS yearly projected budget. The discount is for 2024 ONLY. The 2025 Yearly Dues and discount amount if any will be evaluated in the 4th quarter of 2024.
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AKKPS EXCLUSIVE BREEDERS LIST

- A reminder that AKKPS accepts Exclusive Breeder Applications year round.
 - More information is available on akkps.org
 - Once you have been added to the Exclusive Breeders List, you do not need to reapply unless you have been removed by way of audit (no longer qualified) or by lapsed membership.
 - Audits to the Exclusive Breeders List are completed twice annually. Last audit date: July 1, 2023.
 - The link to the [Exclusive Breeders list application \(click here\)](#) is on the AKKPS Members Only Section of the AKKPS Member Portal.
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JANUARY 2024 Registration Statistics

Full Registrations: 198

Litter Notifications: 77

Dual Registrations: 37

Transfers / Companion Animals Registrations / Animal for Harvest Registrations: 115

Active Members: 1436

Registration statistics and processing times can always be viewed on our website

[Registrations Stats \(click here\)](#)

FARM ADVERTISEMENTS - AKKPS MEMBER BENEFIT

The AKKPS is continuing to provide **Farm Advertisements for AKKPS Members** on the AKKPS Website. This is a benefit for AKKPS Members and is included in the AKKPS Yearly Membership Dues. There is no additional cost to AKKPS Members as there was in the past. The ads will run randomly on the Breeders & Members page of the AKKPS website.

Please use the following form to submit the needed information to create your farm's ad. The form can also be found on the AKKPS Member Login Portal Members Only Section.

- [**AKKPS FARM ADVERTISING REQUEST FORM \(click for form\)**](#)

Below is a sample of what the ads will look like. The logo will either be an AKKPS Member & Breeder Logo or the AKKPS Exclusive Breeder Logo depending on your farm's qualifications.



The image shows a sample layout for a farm advertisement. It is enclosed in an orange border. At the top, it says "Members Logo" above an orange pig icon. Below that, it lists "Farm Name", "Members Name", "State", "email address", "Website", and "Phone Number". A line of text reads "Paragraph about the AKKPS MEMBER". At the bottom, there are three small images: a black pig, the AKKPS Exclusive Breeder logo, and a brown pig.

AKKPS MEMBERS ONLY FACEBOOK PAGES

Please remember to request to be added to the 2 AKKPS Members Only Facebook Pages.

- [**AKKPS Facebook Members Only Discussions \(click here\)**](#)
- [**AKKPS Facebook Members Only Photo Page \(click here\)**](#)

AKKPS also has a Public AKKPS page with many useful articles.

- [**AKKPS Public Facebook Page \(click here\)**](#)
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FEBRUARY PORK RECIPE

Kunekune Crockpot Spaghetti

Thanks to Charles Folsom of Let it Be Kunekune



- 2 lbs ground Kunekune pork or sausage
- 28 oz crushed tomatoes
- 28 oz diced tomatoes
- 6 oz tomato paste
- 3 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp oregano
- 2 tsp basil
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- 1/4 tsp crushed red pepper, optional
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 carrots, peeled

In skillet brown and crumble ground Kunekune pork or sausage on medium heat. Add to crockpot. Mix in all other ingredients and stir well. Place the lid on the crockpot and cook on low for 8 hours or high for 4 hours. Do not open the lid during the cooking process. Serve over noodles and enjoy!

We would love to share your favorite kunekune pork recipes. Submit your recipe [\(HERE\)](#) or via email to Denise@akkps.org for submission in a future AKKPS newsletter.

MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL ARTICLE

How to Predict Wattles in Kunekunes

By AKKPS Member K5 Farm KuneKunes

Melissa Knox M. Ed



Have you ever wondered how to predict the potential for wattles in your KuneKune litters? It's not as mysterious as you think. Wattles are a simple dominant trait. Which means that if your KuneKune has wattles, then they are either homozygous dominant (two copies of the wattle gene- one from mom and one from dad) or heterozygous (one copy of the wattle gene from one parent, one copy of the unwattled gene from the other parent). If your KuneKune does not have wattles, then they are homozygous recessive (both parents gave them an unwattled gene). If your KuneKune is wattled and has been bred to several partners and has had all wattled babies, then most likely they are homozygous dominant. If your KuneKune is wattled and they've been bred to several partners and have had unwattled offspring, then most likely they are heterozygous. Once you have identified the genes that your pigs carry, you can use something geneticists use called a Punnett Square to predict pretty accurately what kinds of wattle rates your litters will have. Let's look at some possible probabilities:

#1- Parent one has wattles and is heterozygous, parent two has wattles and is heterozygous. With this cross, an average of 25% percent of the babies will be wattle dominant and have wattles. 50% of the offspring will be heterozygous and have wattles. 25% of the offspring will not have wattles and will not have any copies of the wattle gene, therefore they are homozygous recessive.

#2- Parent one has wattles and is heterozygous, parent two does not have wattles. With this cross, an average of 50% of the litter will have wattles and if they do they are definitely heterozygous. That means they can produce both wattled and

unwattled offspring. The other 50% of the litter will be unwattled, and can only produce offspring with wattles if crossed with another wattled parent.

#3- Parent one is homozygous dominant, parent two does not have wattles (therefore homozygous recessive). In this case the entire litter will have wattles and every one of them will be heterozygous.

#4- Parent one is unwattled, parent two is unwattled. Both parents are homozygous recessive, neither carries the wattling gene. Therefore, neither one can pass it on and 100% of the litter will be unwattled.

#5- Parent one is homozygous dominant, parent two is homozygous dominant. This is the holy grail, 100% of the litters will be wattled and every offspring will be homozygous dominant themselves.

A couple important notes- the wattling gene is not affected by sex or bloodline. It is a myth that certain bloodlines are wattle dominant and also a myth that the boar has more influence on wattles than the sow. Also, keep wattles in perspective and in line with your breeding goals. Wattles are purely cosmetic and have no other influence on the quality of your pig or its meat. Therefore, if you are breeding for meat, wattles are not that important. If you are breeding for piglet sales, IKHR will not allow unwattled piglets to be registered while AKKPS allows unwattled piglets into their registry. If you are wanting to show your pigs or sell show prospects, wattles are required at IKHR shows while EKPA and AKKPS allows unwattled pigs and lack of wattles is only a minor point deduction.

The K5 Farm prioritizes wattle dominance but not before other important traits like conformation, growth rates, kind natures, and careful mothering skills. We do have higher than average wattling rates in our litters. We also provide free wattling evaluations of your current herd (up to five animals) with the purchase of a piglet from us, don't forget to ask!



The American KuneKune Pig Society - AKKPS

Established 2013

www.americankunekunepigsociety.org