

The Banner



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On The Cover

Two different rams. Two different judges. One historic State Fair. The Pettey family excitedly presents the two Supreme Champion Rams from the 2018 California State Fair on the cover of this month's issue of *The Banner Sheep Magazine*.

The first of the two rams, bred by us, is Wishbone 7008 "Justify" – the Supreme Champion Ram in the junior show, exhibited by Audra Brown. His pedigree is deep in Wishbone genetics on his dam's side, and his sire is Forsee 14-353ET, a son of the Forsee stud, "Chiseled." With four rams to select from for the show flock, it wasn't until two weeks prior to the State Fair, that the decision was made to take him to Sacramento. Fortunately we chose well and he earned his name. He is a big, bold addition to a long lineup of trendsetting yearling rams Wishbone Ranch has shown over the years. He is the first Supreme Champion for us at the California State Fair.

Two weeks later, we struck California gold again. The second ram pictured, "War Hawk" Forsee/Miller 17-034, is a yearling ram owned jointly with Forsee Southdowns of Owenton, Ky. He was the Supreme Champion Ram in the open show as well as the Reserve Champion Southdown in the junior show. "War Hawk" has a pedigree that needs no introduction – sired by "War Admiral" and out of a Jennings ewe sired by "Riot Maker." This flashy dude has the length, balance and style to continue producing the type of Southdowns Wishbone Ranch is known for, but he also brings a massively wide top and hip to add the power sought by breeders today.

The Wishbone Ranch Southdown flock was established in Southern California by Lee and Bonnie Pettey in 1980. The three "Pettey Kids" (Sandra, Allen and Jaimie) were raising and showing Southdowns on the west coast in the 80s and 90s with frequent trips to Sedalia and NAILE to promote and market the sheep. The majority of the flock now resides with Lee and Bonnie at their ranch in Red Bluff, Calif., with a smaller, elite group of ewes managed by Allen and his wife, Erica, in Dixon, Calif. The showing duties have been largely passed on to the next generation, the grandkids, Audra Brown (daughter of Sandra) and Tyler Pettey (son of Allen).

Shown below are some of the faces of the Wishbone Ranch family spanning the generations – (left to right) Lee, Tyler, Allen, Audra, and Sandra.



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