

United Suffolk Sheep Association

2016 Director Election Candidate Bio

District 1



Gayle Lucas, Phillipsburg, MT

My name is Gayle Lucas. I am a Suffolk breeder in Montana and I own and operate the Prairie Rose Suffolk flock. I raise stud bucks, ram sires, terminal sires, direct marketing sires, seed stock and some show animals as part of my living.

My experiences with sheep began over 34 years ago as a range conservationist for the U.S. Forest Service in Idaho and Eastern Oregon where I administered several thousand acres of grazing allotments on public land and worked directly with sheep ranchers and herders. I also spent a tour of duty at the ARS/ U.S. Sheep Experiment Station, in Dubois, Idaho, where I was directly involved in research and production aspects of the station, which at that time had between 10,000-12,000 head of sheep on hand. From there, I began building a flock of cross-bred, commercially oriented production ewes where we used Suffolk rams as terminal sires. The lambs from this operation went into a direct 'farm to table' gourmet meat enterprise. I began incorporating purebred Suffolk ewes into the operation and soon replaced the cross-bred flock with the superior Suffolk ewes. The Prairie Rose flock evolved from those original, papered Suffolk sheep into what it is currently today.

I've had the pleasure of being a youth sheep leader & county coordinator in Montana 4-H for 20+ years. Additionally, I've served as a director and/or officer on one of the state sheep associations in Montana for 20 years and am currently involved with others in developing & promoting a new all breeds sale in Montana. These experiences have enabled me to deal with, and understand many facets of the industry and I believe it gives me a solid foundation to serve as a director for the U.S.S.A. board.

The Suffolk breed is an amazing, diverse, versatile, economically important breed & is embraced by both purebred breeders, show breeders, niche breeders and commercial sheep producers alike. Not many breeds can boast that they can hang a premium carcass, work as a superior terminal sire, produce fast growing lambs with vitality, and yes, even reign in the show ring whether slicked or fitted. The *strength* of the breed is born of this diversity, utility & versatility. We can build the Suffolk breed stronger by accessing & building upon the variety of Suffolk genetics available to shape the future.

I am looking forward to serving as a District 1 Director and will work openly for the membership and earnestly in the promotion of the Suffolk breed.