

United Suffolk Sheep Association

2016 Director Election Candidate Bio

District 4



Randy Hodges, North Branch, MI

I have raised Suffolk sheep for over 50 years, starting with a 4-H project in southeastern Nebraska. I have served as sheep superintendent at our county fair and have judged open and junior classes at several county fairs. My wife and I have owned our farm in North Branch, Michigan for nearly 30 years. I firmly believe that Suffolks are the most productive breed in terms of pounds of lamb per ewe. Their lambs are fast growing with a lean and desirable carcass. No other breed can beat a Suffolk ewe in lamb production a fact that sometimes gets lost when attention is given only to show ring results.

I also think that support of junior breeders is vital to the future of the industry. We can do this by continuing to support the ewe lamb futurity and the USSA junior shows at the both the regional and national levels. I am looking forward to the day when my 2 grandsons will be old enough to be a part of the UJSSA.

As a current director for District 4, this past April I participated in the USSA retreat where we developed a strategic plan for increasing the registered Suffolk market share. Four areas of focus were identified: breed improvement, promotion, maintaining a financially viable association, and youth development. As your director, I will work hard to support the association in working toward the goals identified in this strategic plan.

I believe that I have a range of experiences with the Suffolk breed in both the commercial and purebred settings that qualify me to represent the variety of Suffolk breeders within the district. As a representative of district 4, I will make every effort to convey the ideas and concerns of the breeders within the district to the board. When I was a director previously I took my responsibilities seriously. I never missed a conference call or face-to-face board meeting in the three years I was on the board. I encourage you to contact me if you have any concerns you would like to discuss before you cast your ballot.

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