

United Suffolk Sheep Association

Call of Fame



2013 Inductees

United Suffolk Sheep Association Hall of Fame

2013 Inductees – Inaugural Class

Wes Azeltine
Betty Biellier & Family
George and Fred Buckham
Fred A. & Marian Coble
Robert Hall
Heggemeier Sheep Farms, Bill & Alice Heggemeier & Jim & Jody Heggemeier
Dr. Harold A. Henneman
Bill & Helen Hurst
Jarvis Sheep Co.
Allan & VeNeal Jenkins & Annette Benson
Warren Kuhl
Jack Larsen
Pearson Linn
Larry Mead
Roger Nichols
Olsen Brothers, Alden & Snell
Bob & Margie Paasch & Family, Donner Trail Ranch
Richard Roe
Roland (Rollie) & Ruth Rosenboom
Wayne & Mary Skartvedt
DuWayne Swenson
Craig Van Arkel, Van Arkel Suffolks
Harlan & Edwina Wagner
Farrell Wankier
Roy & Joe Warrick
Bud & Julia Westlake & Family

The 2013 USSA Hall of Fame inductees were honored on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky during the USSA Annual Meeting and Dinner.

Wes Azeltine

Wes Azeltine was from Latimer, IA. He developed a top herd of Brown Swiss cattle, which he successfully showed and sold breeding stock. When he decided it was time for he and his wife Lillian to reduce the workload on the farm he decided to disperse the cattle and establish a flock of sheep. While driving through Wisconsin one day he saw a flock of Suffolk ewes coming down a hill from a pasture; he was struck by the beautiful black heads and long bellshaped ears. This was at the time when Suffolks were just starting to gain popularity.

His flock featured very productive ewes that were great milkers; a result of his dairy cattle background. Most of the showing that Wes did was limited to Iowa, but his flock was very competitive. In 1966 the 1st and 2nd place pens of 3 ram lambs at the International Livestock Exposition were from Iowa, but an Azeltine pen of 3 won the Iowa State Fair.

Joint production sales with Richard Roe were held from 1967 through 1970 featuring great sets of yearling ewes. In one of their ads he commented that 80% of the buyer were or became repeat buyers.

Wes was a charter member of the Iowa Suffolk Sheep Association serving as President, Vice President and director. He also served as director of the National Suffolk Sheep Association in the late 1950s and early 1960s. He developed a slide set on a carrousel to be used at Suffolk meeting and shows; that was the latest technology at the time.

Wes specialized in helping young breeders get started raising Suffolks. At the 1970 Iowa State Fair four young Suffolk breeders; Alan Kjeldgaard, Wayne Skartvedt, Richard Roe and Don Bartholomew; honored Wes by establishing the Wesley Azeltine traveling trophy for the Champion ewe. At the same show Wes and Alan Kjeldgaard exhibited the Champion Suffolk ram; the first of the "big framed" Suffolks from out west to be show at that show. Three weeks later on September 7, 1970 Wes suffered a heart attack and died; he was doing what he loved to do, working with his Suffolks. The entire flock was sold to Alan Kjeldgaard.

Betty Biellier & Family

Betty (Garbee) Bieller was born in Billings, Missouri, attended and graduated from Billings High School and attended Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri for two years.

Betty married Harold Biellier and had two children, Nancy and Wesley. Betty's children also worked in the NSSA Office for many years. The family's involvement with the office included being the "second check" in many of the registry steps. Betty held to the standard of excellence - when filing of the many, many cards that were a part of the registry process needed to be done, she insisted that the person who alphabetized or put the cards in numerical order NOT be the person who ultimately filed them. So, when the work was slow and especially when the office was busy, the family would be the 'other' worker.

Betty was hired as Secretary of the National Suffolk Sheep Association (NSSA) March 1, 1961 and served as Secretary until 1987. Prior to position with the NSSA, she had worked for the Yorkshire Hog Registry and was the office manager for the American Corriedale Association. She had also been Secretary of the National Society of Livestock Records

The NSSA office was located in Betty's home until to 1982. The office then moved to an office building in Columbia, Missouri in June of 1982.

Not only did Betty contribute to the supervision and organization of the NSSA Office, but was also active in sheep affiliated activities outside her day to day duties. Betty, along with NSSA President John Shonkwiler created and executed the first ever Ladies Lead Class at the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago. Today this event can be found from county fairs to national livestock expositions from coast to coast. Along with the Ladies Lead event, Betty was known to work with 4-H groups, particularly with sewing and wool apparel activities.

Betty was honored by the NSSA in 1999 for her distinguished service. Betty passed away in 2001 at the age of 79.

George and Fred Buckham

“Never take for granted the privilege of showing purebred livestock” was an idea that fueled their passion for raising livestock. The phrase “Breeders of Quality Livestock” was painted on their signs, truck and show box. These were words the Buckham brothers lived by.

They had been raising Shropshires all their lives as their father had done before them. Throughout the forties and into the fifties trends in the showing had turned nearly ideal farm sheep into a small compact breed that had lost touch with the commercial sheep industry. The Shropshires were becoming obsolete and irrelevant to the farm flocks on which its former greatness had been built.

Twin brothers, George and Fred also maintained a herd of 40-50 Angus cows. The cattle business had been through a cycle similar to the sheep and was quicker to realize the need to be larger and more productive. The Angus reached out to the western commercial herds for new genetics to improve their breed. Realizing that a shift in styles was coming they saw that the Suffolks had much more to offer than the Shropshires. A new breed addition was in the fold for Buckham Brothers.

The Buckham brothers had always had strong ties with Michigan State University, from which Fred had graduated. Close friendships with Drs. Henneman and Nelson provided direction and access to the quality breeding stock they demanded.

Early on Fred was the more recognized member of the Buckham brothers, serving two separate terms on the Board of Directors for the NSSA. The first term was during the early sixties, travelling to Chicago for the International where he spent his honeymoon, leaving his bride Barb to fend for herself while he attended to “business”. His second term was more eventful. He helped with the development of the National Jr. Show which was modeled after the National Jr. Angus Show. It was at this time that “The Spider” syndrome arose. Fred was among the first to believe this was a genetic abnormality and that action should be taken to control its spread. Fred was a man of few words. When he spoke, they were words that needed to be said and people listened.

Together on many trips to Sedalia, George and Fred argued over which ram they should buy. Once they each bought a ram unbeknownst to the other.

After Fred's battle with cancer concluded with his passing in 1986, George stepped into the limelight, best known for his "Story Telling Time". Much time was spent at shows "researching" for his next article. Some more noteworthy quotes include "Men standing around pooling their ignorance" and while I'm offending people anyway.... Many things were written tongue in cheek, but still to make a point. The other constant through all the articles is that his wife Thelma must be the greatest woman on earth!

After witnessing the decline and fall of the Shropshires and eventual resurrection, George started to express concern over the trends currently presiding over the show ring, expressing the need to moderate if you were going to remain viable to the commercial industry, lest history repeat itself. A quote from one article mentions, "The Reserve Champion Suffolk ram and The Reserve Champion Market Lamb in Louisville were both of the same breeding. The Suffolk business was going wild, sadly we may never see that again."

Perhaps the greatest achievement breeding Suffolks was the bittersweet moment showing "White House". Reserve Champion and high selling ram at the Mid-West Sale in 1987, a year after Fred's death.

Fred A. & Marian Coble

Fred Coble, native of Potter Valley, California, spent most of his life working with sheep. Together with his wife, the former Marion Moore, he owned and operated the Green Valley Ranch near Winters.

The Coble Suffolks were known throughout the United States and Canada as winners in the show ring. Their Suffolks sold at premium prices at the ram sales. Fred's animals were Champions at county fairs all over California, state fairs in Oregon and Arizona as well as California, and many regional fairs such as Ogden, Utah and Canadian Livestock Expositions. One of the more prestigious winnings was of the English Cup at the Chicago International Exposition.

Fred Coble's ability to judge sheep was recognized by his peers. He was invited to judge at the major North American Livestock Expositions including the Chicago International, British Columbia International, the Grand National in San Francisco, and the California State Fair. Marion worked right along with Fred and was as knowledgeable of sheep as Fred. She was a mentor to many of young and old alike. Marion was secretary of the California Suffolk Breeders Association for many years.

Fred also served the livestock industry. He was one of three founders of the California Suffolk Association and also served as president. He was president of the American Suffolk Sheep Society, a director of the National Suffolk Sheep Society, and a 42-year member of the California Wool Growers Association.

The Coble Suffolks are remembered for their size, bone, and characteristic heads. They made a lasting impression on the Suffolk breed.

Robert Hall

Robert Hall, Jr., (Bob) is a native of Scott County. He was born on the farm where he is currently living with his wife of 55 years. He attended Scott County schools and graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in General Agriculture. After graduation he worked for R.R. Dawson in Bloomfield, Kentucky as a farm manager. His next field of endeavor was in upstate New York as a manager of a purebred Angus herd. After a year and a half there he served in the U.S. Army as a veterinary food inspector.

He married Bonnie Pearce in 1958 and began a 6 year stint as beef cattle herdsman at the University of Kentucky. While working there he was fortunate to win many ribbons and awards the most notable of which was Reserve Champion Shorthorn Steer at the prestigious show in Chicago.

In 1964 he purchased Farmers Feed Mill in Lexington, Kentucky where he continues to work to the present day. He has watched many changes which have occurred in agriculture over the years and has not lost his enthusiasm and optimism for agribusiness.

He raised Suffolk sheep from 1952 to 2006 on the family farm. He has served on numerous committees and boards related to the livestock industry. His longest service was as chairman of the sheep show at NAILE for 37 years. He was instrumental in getting the show moved to Louisville from Chicago in 1975. The NAILE Sheep Show is now considered to be one of the largest and best in the United States.

He and Bonnie have two children, a son, Lee and a daughter, Julia. They also have two grandsons.

Heggemeier Sheep Farms

Bill & Alice Heggemeier & Jim & Jody Heggemeier

The Heggemeier Hampshire flock began in 1932 and later, in 1935, the Suffolk flock was added. They are one of the oldest breeders in North America. Bill's father started Bill and Uncle Gib in the sheep business with the purchase their first bred ewe. Bill and Uncle Gib had no sheep experience and were warned that everything they accomplished would be up to them. They had a tough journey but were hooked. After graduating from college Uncle Gib joined the Navy and later became a county agent in Spokane, Washington. Bill continued in farming away from the home place on shares and sometimes maintaining a sheep flock was impossible but he kept gravitating back to his love (the sheep). By 1954 Bill had the sheep back with him and soon after, his son, Jim, was in the sheep business.

Over the years, genetics from purchased flocks were added to Heggemeier's flock including Lost River Ranch Flock (1963), Fred Coble Flock from California (1971), Reed Shepherd Flock from Utah (1979), Marzuke Flock from Illinois (1980) and Alison Keith Flock from California (1981). These flocks were maintained by the Heggemeiers through the 1980s. Bill brought the first Suffolks to the state of Illinois in the 1940s. The Bill Heggemeier flock was located at their home in Kirkland, Illinois as well as Idaho and California. Bill and Alice had six children; Susan, Steve, Jim, Judy, Nancy and Chris.

Bill and Jim traveled to Calgary to import top bloodlines, worked side by side at home and traveled to state fairs together. By the time Jim was 18, he was traveling to Calgary, state fairs and California on his own.

After Jim graduated from Illinois State University in 1971, they began purchasing sheep from Olsen Brothers and Jim Caras of Utah. These sheep, in addition to the Coble flock were more extreme individuals. The breeding of the western sheep along with the Heggemeier/Lost River Ranch genetics, produced numerous National Champions in the 1970s. For years, Heggemeier bred sheep have risen to the top in the showing and are still proven today.

From Bill's experiences in the commercial sheep industry, he was not only aware of the needs of the small farm flock but also that of the large western ranches. He bred sheep for different types of climate conditions and for different personal preferences within the industry.

After Bill passed away in 1987, Bill's Hampshire and Suffolk Flocks were reduced and offered for sale in a Spring Dispersal. In 1988, the Smith Ranch Suffolk flock was added to the Heggemeier flock; this flock was owned by Bill's final doctor, Dr. Doug & Diane Smith. Genetics from the Smith Ranch flock were some of the cornerstone genetics in the Heggemeier flock. In 1989 Jim and Jody moved to the Magic Valley in Burley, Idaho where they worked with Bruce and Barb Bean to combine their great genetics into their present breeding program. The Heggemeier flock then moved to Platte City, Missouri where they managed Tom Burke's flock until 2011.

In May of 2011, after 57 years of raising Suffolks, Jim offered his flock for sale in his Retirement Dispersal. Eleven and half months after the Retirement Dispersal Jim was back in the business again, even though only in a small way. Jim discovered he still loved working with the good ones and all the joys that go with it. After working during the day, Jim finds it a welcome relaxation to come home and be a shepherd. Today, Jim and Jody are still involved in the Suffolk business and can be found at many sheep events across the country fitting and showing sheep.

The Heggemeier Suffolk flock was based on years of progressive breeding; Heggemeier genetics are still found in flocks from coast to coast.

Dr. Harold A. Henneman

Dr. Harold A. Henneman developed his appreciation for animal husbandry and high-quality livestock on his family's farm in Belmont, Wisconsin. He earned a B.S in 1940 from the University of Wisconsin and later received his M.S. and Ph.D. from Michigan State University. He served as the professor in charge of the Michigan State University sheep flocks from 1950 to 1959 and again from 1962 to 1985. His primary responsibilities were teaching the introductory Animal Husbandry class and sheep production.

Dr. Henneman's real passion was the MSU Suffolk flock. During the decades of the 1960's & 70's he teamed up with shepherd George Good. Together they conducted a breeding program that improved the growth rate and productivity of the flock. Their efforts resulted in the MSU flock gaining an international reputation. Many of their champions were exhibited at National Suffolk Shows in Chicago and later in Louisville.

Under Harold's direction the breeding program was based on sound selection criteria incorporating production records and carcass information long before the industry moved in that direction. MSU hosted an annual production sale on Memorial Day starting in 1970 with the following catalog statement: "In presenting this first sale consignment we are providing as much information as possible to the buyer. The sheep are shorn, sires and dams will be on display and the production records on the flock are included. Each of these factors should add to the accuracy of your selection." He also used the production sale to provide his students with experience in purebred livestock merchandising, emphasizing ethics and customer service.

After dispersing the MSU Hampshire flock in 1973, MSU shocked the sheep world a few weeks later by buying "The King" from Olsen Brothers of Spanish Fork, Utah, for a record-setting price of \$12,600.00. Figuring he could only be fired once, Henneman followed up by purchasing "The Queen" a few moments later for another record price. After receiving the bill, the dean did ask if the decimal point was in the wrong place.

With selection based on production as well as show ring quality, MSU set the pace for Suffolk sales annually with the pinnacle being set in 1979 by selling 49 Suffolks at an average price of \$1,999.12. Most of these were ram lambs. The top ram sold for \$17,500.00.

In the spring of 1985 Henneman wrote a letter to the editor of *Suffolk Banner* magazine revealing the presence of the spider syndrome in the MSU flock and the belief that it was genetic in nature.

The final sale under Henneman occurred in 1985, a Suffolk dispersal that acknowledged the presence of the spider gene in the flock. MSU then repopulated the Suffolks by purchasing sheep believed to be free of the syndrome.

Much criticism was heaped on Dr. Henneman for his position. The Dean of the College of Agriculture at MSU received a letter threatening legal action against it from a then prominent breeder.

Fortunately the truth prevailed and in 1994 Dr. Harold Henneman received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Suffolk Sheep Association. His legacy lives to this day through the MSU Suffolk flock, which continues to be bred and managed by his principles.

Bill & Helen Hurst

One cannot be thinking about Suffolk Sheep and not remember the name Bill Hurst & Family from Greencastle, Indiana. A long time breeder of the original good heads, muscular bodies, and cleanfleeced animals that originated from the English flock with the ram, Ashbocking John Long.

Bill's life centered around the love and development of high quality Suffolks. As a young boy, with five older siblings, growing up on a family farm during the great depression, Bill's father emphasized the financial gains of raising sheep and working hard.

WWII came along and changed Bill's farming plans. Drafted and sent to the frigid landscape of Alaska, Bill's rugged childhood allowed him the ability to survive injuries while blasting an air force field for what would later be the theater for the bloodiest forgotten battle of the war, ATU. He missed the battle, lived ten years in severe pain, unable to open his fractured jaws, sent home by military doctors maimed for life, to his beloved farm, to spend his last days.

Bill made lemonade from his lemons. An avid reader and poet, Bill read about five ewes and a ram with clean faces and legs in Michigan. With his old Willy's Jeep and a two wheeled wagon, he drove there and purchased the first wool free black faced sheep to be seen in Indiana. About this time he reunited with his friend, recently returned from North Africa, army nurse Helen Hurst. Her father, Walker Reasor owned and showed Hampshire sheep with his son James. Soon an unscheduled elopement to Illinois caused rumors that Bill had for sure returned with a "EWE". Bill's love of sheep began early and the life lessons have truly been instilled in his family today.

Bill was the president of the local county fair and was soon making a name for his fine Suffolks, exhibiting at fairs in Indiana, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Missouri and Michigan. He sold sheep to Chile, Canada and, of course, many of the states. As secretary of the National Suffolk Sheep Association, he volunteered eight years attending meetings in Washington, DC and Chicago to promote the sheep industry. He participated in the Purdue and Michigan State ram weight of gain programs and assisted with state lamb pooling stations for market lambs. Judging sheep shows throughout Indiana, and even the Illinois open class, became a legacy for people who knew Bill.

Hosting sheep judging clinics for 4-H and FFA youth at his home, at local fairgrounds or presenting workshops at Purdue, became a way of life that

spanned his 87 years. Bill and Helen were always teaching and sharing their skills and knowledge with young people.

He was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Indiana Sheep Association and was accepted into the Purdue University Hall of Fame for his conservation practices on the farm.

Being called a quiet man of strong faith, who loved to tell stories, he was called "one of the most respected sheep producers in the state and is a gem of a person, a man of integrity, a wonderful man, a wealth of information, and a good neighbor who will be deeply missed."

His life lessons have not yet ended. Bill & Helen's dedication to the farm and sheep industry, honesty, service to our country, and work ethic have been instilled into their children, grandchildren and now great grandchildren. Carolyn & Beverly are in professional occupations serving people, the great grandchildren all have college degrees, and now the great grandchildren (which happen to be 5 boys, 9 years old down to 8mos.) are being introduced at an early age, to the caring and love of animals that Bill so truly loved. The 9 year old began his 4-H life this year and in the same arena where Bill showed and taught and made his way. BILL'S LIFE LIVES ON.....

Jarvis Sheep Co.

Jarvis Sheep Company began when Lee Jarvis purchased three Suffolk ewes as an FFA project for \$25.00 per head. At that time he set the goal to someday acquire his own sheep ranch. This FFA project has grown to become one of the most respected flocks in the nation with over 700 registered Suffolk and Columbia ewes.

Jarvis Sheep Company has been a true family affair from the beginning. Lee's wife, Joan has always been an integral part of the organization, working alongside Lee. They are the parents of six children, all of whom spent their childhood working with the sheep and farming. Lee's son Matt stayed on full time.

Lee, Joan, and Matt have worked hard to make Jarvis Sheep Company what it is today. They operate 300 acres of irrigated farmland in Utah County and have a 1500 acres ranch in Soda Springs, Idaho. Matt spends his summers raising alfalfa, corn silage, oats and barley in Utah County and feeding over 500 range rams. Joan and Lee spend each summer herding the ewes and lambs in Idaho.

Jarvis Sheep Company spent years showing their Suffolk and Columbia sheep at shows around the country, but now the main focus is producing range rams for commercial operations in the western United States. They purchase stud rams at major shows and sales finding the traits that commercial sheepmen desire.

It is a true honor to be a part of this elite group of Suffolk breeders and Jarvis Sheep Company thanks the Board of Directors for this recognition.

Allan & VeNeal Jenkins & Annette Benson

Allan began raising Suffolks in 1939 when he purchased three registered Suffolk ewes at the National Ram Sale which would grow to a flock of over 300 head. Allan and VeNeal's son, Van, assisted him on the farm. In the later years, Van participated in showing and selling the Suffolks. Their daughter, Annette, was to take care of the "little babies" that needed love and attention.

Over the years, Jenkins Suffolks won many awards, were in demand by producers and eventually became the top-selling sheep. In addition to his Suffolk flock, Allan ran an irrigated farm in Newton, Utah and owned land in Idaho with Lee Jarvis. His son Van, along with his sons, still run that same Newton farm today.

Allan was very active: he served as the sheep department supervisor at the Cache County Fair and supervisor of the Golden Spike Livestock Show, and was a director or held officer positions with the Cache County Wool Pool, Farmers Grain Co-operative in Ogden and the Utah Wool Growers. He received the Utah Purebred Sheep Breeders' "Award of Merit" in 1950 and again in 1965.

Allan served as a Director of the American Suffolk Sheep Society (ASSS) and was elected President and later appointed as secretary. Allan and VeNeal were responsible for securing a location and moving the Society office to Ogden, Utah in the late 1960s.

In 1969, Allan began a 2 year battle with cancer and passed away in July of 1972. Allan's daughter, Annette, kept the office running until 1978, when VeNeal was appointed as secretary. VeNeal was involved in the Wool Growers Auxiliary, serving as an officer and Chairwoman of the Make It Yourself with Wool Contest. She was a talented seamstress, frequently designing and wearing wool ensembles, a talented pianist and an excellent cook (noted for preparing leg of lamb). As Secretary she always gave her best efforts and told the staff that they should autograph their work with excellence. VeNeal attended many events and took a particular interest in young breeders, going to great lengths to personally answer all letters and requests.

In 1984 the ASSS office moved to Newton, a more cost effective location where VeNeal remained secretary through the majority of 1984 when her daughter, Annette, took over.

A few years after moving the office to Newton, the two Suffolk registry offices voted to merge into one organization. Since the Newton office had not been

computerized Annette was responsible for acquiring an office program to process documents effectively. Later, when it became necessary to merge the National Suffolk Sheep Association records and the ASSS records, the Society office had a large task to make sure that each registration had 3 generations represented as only one was recorded in the past. If any of them were not yet recorded in the new computer program, they had to be registered, resulting in up to 13 additional registrations.

In the success of the 2001 merger forming the United Suffolk Sheep Association (USSA), the board voted to close the Missouri office and have one central office in Newton. With excellent staff, registry papers were processed and mailed in a single business day. Annette was assisted by Marsha, Helen, Pam, her daughter, Andrea, husband Mark. For a number of years the USSA office was responsible for the Suffolk News publication and the junior association in addition to registry work. The office's first priority was its service to the breeders, they strove to always be pleasant and accommodating while maintaining the integrity of the records.

In 2009 Annette was recognized by Cambridge Who's Who and the following year honored as "Professional of the Year" representing excellence in administrative support. Annette fulfilled many church callings, taught 4-H, served on various committees and community organizations, and has been nominated as "Homemaker of the Year".

Annette, like her father and mother before her, came to love the Suffolk breed and the wonderful breeders and directors whose friendships she still values today. After 30+ years of service to the Suffolk Associations, Annette retired in 2010, but will never retire from all that evolved from her work with Suffolk sheep.

Warren Kuhl

Warren Kuhl was born into a cattle ranching family in South Central Montana. He attended a one room school until 8th grade then went to high school in Sheridan, Wyoming and continued to live in Sheridan where we started college.

Warren started raising Suffolks at a Montana ranch in 1962 then worked with Jimmy Davidson, Shepherd at University of Wyoming.

Over the years Warren worked for and contributed too many sheep flocks throughout the United States and Internationally:

- 1966- Shepherd at Lord St. Aldwyns Estate in Coln St. Aldwyns Glos, England
- 1967 – Shepherd at Sugar Loaf Farm (Hampshires) for Dave Canning of Stauton, VA.
- Shepherd for Dr. James F. Mann (Hampshires), Lewisburg, WV.
- 1968 – Worked with Jack Matthews Hampshires, Ovid, ID.
- 1973-74 – Shepherd for Olsen Bros of Spanish Fork, UT.
- 1974-2002 – Shepherd at BYU; Administration and teaching, Advisor to Rodeo Team, Advisor to Block & Bridle Club
- 1990 – Served for producer sector of American Suffolk Sheep Society in negotiated rulemaking in Washington, DC for two days a month for one year in regards to Scrapie.
- 2002 to present – Shepherd and ranch manager for Drageeta Ranch in Cayucos, CA. Raised Grass Beef Seedstock.
- 2005-2009 – Served on CA Wool Growers Board
- 2011 – Sold Purebred Suffolk business

Jack Larsen

Jack Larsen was born and raised on a small irrigated farm near Spanish Fork, Utah. Jack was one of the leaders in both the Suffolk and Columbia Sheep breeds.

Jack's first experience with sheep came in the 4-H Show Program. Jack's father had bought him two "fat" lambs to show, both of which were sifted. After that experience, he would make sure that never happened again.

Jack attended school in Spanish Fork and after graduation attended college at Utah State University where he majored in Animal Science. While attending Utah State, Jack met his first wife, Mary. They married the day after graduation. Jack then entered the military where he spent 3 years. Returning from the service, he attended BYU where he did post graduate work. Upon the completion of which, he returned to Spanish Fork where he taught 5th grade for 6 years.

Jack and Mary had three daughters. Marthanne, the oldest is a retired school teacher and is married to a crop duster. They have two children. Melinda is married to Steven Paasch. They have 4 children and reside in California. Steven worked for Jack for several years. Millicent is the youngest, is married with 3 children, and resides in Salt Lake City. Millicent is the principal of an elementary school.

Jack and Mary divorced and he remarried Bessie Perkins, she later died of cancer.

Jack credits his family for much of his success saying: They were behind him all the way! They were always there to help no matter what.

Along with the 600 head of Suffolk ewes Jack ran 150 head of Columbias. He also farmed in Spanish Fork, had a barley farm in Idaho, ran 150 head of Hereford cows and raised Quarter Horses. Although the cattle did well, the sheep were his priority.

Jack credits Snell Olsen with him first getting started raising sheep. Snell went and got him out of high school one day and they went to Delta and bought twenty Hampshire ewes. The ewes were shipped back to Jack's by railroad car. Those would be Jack's first ewes.

Jack credits much of what he learned about sheep from Mark Bradford, whom he trimmed and showed for and to Hartley Stock Farms in North Dakota. Jack worked as a shepherd at Hartley Stock Farm, which raised both Columbias and Suffolks during the 1950's.

From nothing to one of the most respected names in the sheep business did not happen overnight. The Suffolk flock was built gradually over the years after Jack returned from the service. The Columbia flock was started with the purchase of the Alma Esplin flock of Logan, Utah.

Both the Columbia & Suffolk flocks had many champions and high selling individuals all across the United States. The Larsen flock was operated with sheep herders, dogs and horses. The operation consisted of moving up the mountain in the summer and to the foothills in the fall, and down on the desert in the winter. The main business was selling commercial rams.

Jack felt some of the breeders had gone off the deep end and worried more about height and daylight under lambs. He felt the sheep needed to be big, but they also needed to be long, correct, sound, have some bone and keep some meat in them. Sheep like these is what kept him as one of the top sheep breeders.

Jack retired in 1990 but not before leaving his mark on the sheep industry. His genetics and breeding were known worldwide. It would be safe to say he was one of the founding "fathers" of the sheep industry. He liked breeding good sheep, showing good sheep and selling good sheep. Some of his stud rams included "Mule Face", "Quest" and "The Key".

Pearson Linn

Pearson Linn, along with his son-in-law, Kenneth Taylor, owned a Suffolk flock from the 1950s to the early 1980s. Their flock, also known as Linn & Taylor, held the flock prefix Freedom Acres. Some of the Linn & Taylor's genetics were imported from Canada. Linn & Taylor held production sales at the farm and were well attended. In addition to raising Suffolks, Pearson farmed outside of Bucyrus, Ohio.

Pearson dedicated many years to the NSSA and served as President of the National Suffolk Sheep Association from 1958-1967. During the time of his service, the association hired Betty Biellier as Executive Secretary.

Pearson exhibited at Chicago International Livestock Exposition and the Ohio State Fair. Their genetics were dominant in the show ring, especially in the ram lamb classes. In 1961 Linn & Taylor had the Champion Ram at the Chicago International Livestock Exposition.

Pearson lived and breathed Suffolk Sheep and anything he did had to do with the Suffolks.

Larry Mead

Larry Mead began with sheep as a 4-H project with a crossbred market lamb in 1949. He became a Corridale breeder, but as a teenager and college student exhibited Suffolks for a number of breeders, including Keith McMillan and Burnell Hays.

Larry applied for the National Suffolk Secretary position in December of 1960, as he was about to graduate from college. Other applicants at the time included Gene Megli and Betty Biellier, who was subsequently hired as of March 1, 1961. Larry joined the staff of the Sheep Breeder magazine in March of 1961.

The Midwest Sale was founded in 1945 but discontinued/cancelled in 1962 due to insufficient entries. Larry engaged as Sale Manager in 1963. Larry was engaged to re-establish the Midwest Sale. The 1963 Midwest Sale had 123 entries, consisting of Suffolks, Hampshires and Southdowns. In 1988 the Wether Sire portion of the Midwest Sale was created and staged. It was an immediate success. Within two or three years Wether Sire Sales were everywhere.

The Midwest Sale can be noted for selling many "high selling" Suffolk Sheep including George Brothers "Dynamite" sold to Larry & Eric Shroyer for \$23,000; Jodi Christensen's "Mile High" sold to Larry & Eric Shroyer for \$25,000; Lynn Gilchrist/Treasure Valley's Grand Champion Ram "Khemosabe" to Smith Ranch for \$30,000; The Fabulous Fifteen in the early 1980s sold to Rollie Rosenboom for \$85,300 just to mention a few.

Larry also managed numerous Suffolk Sales that have included several high selling sheep including Olsen Brother's "The King" sold to Michigan State University for \$12,000; George Brothers "Enforcer" sold to Strahl & Sons & Shroyer for \$36,000; Mike Nelsh's "Knockout" sold to the Catron Family for \$40,000; Mike Nelsh's "Vegas" to Doug Zimmerman, Maurcie Strahl & Sons, George Brothers and Shroyer Suffolks for \$90,000; and a record ewes at Heggemeier's "Western Influence" Sale to Ken & Holly Spint, Holliken Farms for \$56,000, just to mention a few.

Larry served as a consultant to the Canadian Government and played a major role in organizing the first World Sheep and Wool Congress in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Larry was also the announcer and sale manager at this event.

In addition to managing numerous, Larry also served as the announcer for the National Suffolk Show for some 25 years, when this event was always featured

on Saturday, the first day of the North American Sheep Show, and would have seats in the stands filled with observers standing four deep all around the ring. Larry would not only introduce all the exhibitors, telling about each of them, but their showmen as well... plus all the Suffolk Breeders and their families, and also other Sheep Industry Personalities standing around the ring.

Larry also served as the announcer for the first ever Ladies Lead Class held during the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, an all breeds event sponsored by the National Suffolk Sheep Association. This event was the brainchild/creation of the NSSA President John Shonkwiler & Betty Biellier and this invention by the Suffolk Association is now a common event across the country.

When the NSSA Office was struck by a tornado, Larry opened the doors of the Sheep Breeder Magazine office the next day for the NSSA office to continue to operate out of, providing uninterrupted service to its members. The NSSA continued to rent this space until the merger when the office was relocated to Newton, Utah.

Today, Larry still serves as the Sale Manger of The Midwest Sale and continues to travel to sheep events throughout the country. Larry and his wife, Kathy, have two children, Stewart and Amanda. They reside in Columbia, Missouri.

Roger Nichols

Roger Nichols is a Suffolk breeder and Pharmacist from Prairie City, Iowa. Roger began raising Hampshire sheep as a 4-H project as a kid. In 1970 Roger purchased 150 large Suffolks from the Western U.S. after selling most of his Hampshire flock. Most of his foundation flock was purchased from the Olsen Brothers in Utah. Over time, Roger developed his own bloodlines which included the rams "Premier", "Exciter" and "Pipeline".

At peak Roger had around 200 head of Suffolks; he currently runs 20 head. Roger sells everything he raises. Roger semi-retired from showing Suffolks in 1986.

Roger is known to be an out-of-the-box thinker when it comes to breeding and raising sheep. Roger's breeding is like a science – his barn is his laboratory and the sheep are his specimens. Stud rams that Roger bred were on the "edge" and many foundation Suffolk breeders invested in Nichols lines to get a genetic "punch".

Olsen Brothers, Alden & Snell

Experts & summary from biography written by Kirk Olsen, Snell Olsen's son.

Snell and Alden were two of seven brothers raised in a two-bedroom home in Spanish Fork, Utah. They began their lives in the “roaring twenties” and experienced the full wrath of the depression. Snell and Alden like all the boys helped with the family farm - daily feedings, daily milking, seasonal farming including hoeing beets and peas, thrashing grain and stacking loose hay on wagons. Snell and Alden excelled in raising fat lambs for the stock shows in Utah. They also raised breeding sheep to sell. They built a reputation of being very good feeders, raising healthy sheep and, in short, were excellent husbandry-men.

Alden served as a Reconnaissance Marine in the Pacific during World War II. Snell later served as a Drill Sergeant at Ft. Hood, Texas during Korea. It was told that Alden had won enough money in poker on the ship home from the war to purchase a pickup and two barns. This became the nexus of their Sheep Production. The business grew during the 50's, 60's and 70's as the numbers of sheep in Utah and the Intermountain West continued to grow. During the summer, the sheep were pastured in the Strawberry Valley and at their ranch in Lonetree, Wyoming.

Marketing their herd included long distance deliveries of bucks to surrounding states and points East. The California market was and continues to be one of the most important buck markets and is enjoyed by many Utah /Idaho producers as developed by Snell, Alden and Burroughs of Oregon. Peak production leveled off at 1600 Suffolk ewes, 400 Rambouillet, 200 Hampshires, farming crops of Alfalfa Hay, Oats and Corn were produced full time with no other income.

The secret to their success was not a secret at all; it was based on discipline of good husbandry. For decades, they feed the sheep at relatively the same time morning and night, fed high quality grains and hay, constantly sorted the pens to help the bloomers grow faster and the medium ones grow well and vaccinated almost daily if needed. Alden always preached, “Good clean water and good clean air do wonders for raising sheep”. Attention to genetics yielded two famous sires, Thousand Peaks and his son Long Ears (who is buried in front of the peavinery). Thousand Peaks was sold partial interest to a ranch in Weber canyon that holds that name, but he resided most months at the farm. Long Ears sires are still seen today in his trademark “Long Ears” and sired lambs that bred true to the breed, long black ears, long black head, strong boned legs and highly meaty body.

His bloodlines can be found in most Suffolk herds and Snell and Alden sold well over a million dollars of breeding stock over a 20-year period.

In 1977 plans for dividing the herd started. One for Alden went to the left; one for Snell went to the right at the sorting gate. Snell ventured from the purebred breeding business into commercial sheep, while Alden bought a herd of Hereford cows. Snell purchased thousands of commercial sheep and also bought ownership rights into a slaughter plant in Chino for fall and winter processing into steaks, chops and roasts. Snell had a massive heart attack in October of 1993 while he was trimming sheep for the Utah Ram Sale. Just three weeks later Alden joined the homecoming in heaven with his brother. They were very close in life and in death.

Today Snell's son Scott Olsen continues to run the farm. Snell & Alden influenced hundreds of people in American Sheep Industry. Thousand Peaks and Long Ears fundamentally improved the Suffolk breed with meaty large framed Rams. If they were still with us today they would somehow break new ground in breeding skills, feeding skills and marketing skills, and yes they would be Internet saavy.

Bob & Margie Paasch & Family

Donner Trail Ranch

Bob and Margie have two sons, Robert K. and Steve, and a daughter, Mary. The sheep have always been a family affair; all three children were very involved with the flock during their youth. All of Steve's children, Bob & Margie's grandchildren, were also very involved with the Suffolks, and now the great grandkids can be found 'helping' out on ranch. Today on the ranch, the flock is comprised up of Bob & Margie's 'white tag' ewes and Steve and family's 'blue tag' ewes.

Bob and Margie met in Rescue, CA where Bob was visiting his grandmother's ranch. Both Bob and Margie attended U.C. Davis together where Margie received her B.S. degree in Home Economics of 1952. Bob received his B.S. degree in Agricultural Engineering from Cal Poly in 1954 and his Master of Education degree from U.C. Davis. While earning his Agricultural Teaching credential from U.C. Davis in 1954-55, Bob and Margie lived on the Ervin Vassar ranch in Dixon, CA. Bob learned a great deal about the purebred sheep business working part time for Buckman and Vassar. The Paasch's purchased the nucleus of their present flock in 1959 from Harlan and Edwina Wagner's Stony Point flock. The granddams of these ewes were primarily Stoneman, Trentham, and CPR Canadian breeding, and the sires were 2 Green Valley ram from Fred and Marian Coble.

Bob taught vocational agriculture in Hamilton City, CA for 3 years at which time he bought his first registered Suffolks at the Calgary Fall Sale from Harold Trentham. In 1958 the Paasch family moved to Chicago Park, CA, where they leased a 40 acre ranch. While the boys were growing up in the '60's', the Paasch's purchased 40 acres, 1-1/2miles from the original ranch. In subsequent years with Robert K. and Steve's help a large barn and house were built. Bob taught vocational agriculture at Nevada Union High School, Grass Valley for 30 years from 1958 to 1988, serving as Department Head for 23 years. Bob was awarded Honorary American Farmer Degree at the 1973 National FFA Convention, Kansas City; Regional Star Advisor in 1977; and the Teacher of Excellence Award at the 1977 California Agricultural Teachers Association convention.

Bob, with much support from Margie, has been instrumental in the promotion of the Suffolk breed and has served in numerous leadership roles within the breed associations. Bob is a past president and served over 15 years on the Board of Directors for the American Suffolk Sheep Society. Bob is also past

president of the California Suffolk Sheep Breeders Association (CSSBA) and was a 20 year member of the organizations Board of Directors. Bob is also a long-time member of the Board of Directors for the California Wool Growers Association and Nevada County Farm Bureau. Bob spearheaded numerous shows and sales promoting Suffolks. Working closely with other CSSBA board members, Bob was instrumental in bringing the concept of a "Grand" Suffolk event to fruition. Bob served as Sale Manager for the first nine Nugget All-American Suffolk Show and Sale events (1980-1988) at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel and Casino in Sparks, NV. These unique Suffolk only events included a 'lottery' for selecting judges at ring-side (it was unknown till show time which judge would be judging which class), a cocktail party with the top placing sheep on display in the convention center, and selling Suffolks across the Celebrity Room stage. Bob was also instrumental in organizing many national and regional shows throughout the West and managing other CSSBA sales such as the Purple Circle Show & Sale and Cow Palace Suffolk Sale.

For many years Paasch Suffolks were familiar competitors at many of the major sheep shows across the country, including the California State Fair; Great Western in Los Angeles; Pacific International in Portland, OR; Golden Spike in Ogden, UT; Grand National Livestock Show and Rodeo (Cow Palace), San Francisco; and the Chicago International Livestock Exposition, Chicago, IL. An early accomplishment, with a brood ewe flock of 15, Bob & Margie captured the English Perpetual Challenge Cup for 1st Flock at the 1962 Chicago International Livestock Exposition. This 1962 winning flock was anchored by Circle P 29, Champion Ewe at the National Show. The Paasch family has won the English Challenge Cup six times through the years.

More recently, the Paasch's have primarily exhibited at the California State Fair and North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE). During their last trip to the NAILE in 2011, they exhibited the National Champion Ram "Big Gold" and Reserve National Champion Ewe "Margie's Big Girl". As rewarding, the National Champion Ewe exhibited by MacCauley Suffolks was sired by a Paasch ram.

The Paasch family has also consigned to most of the major purebred Suffolk shows and sales, including Mid-West Stud Ram Sale, Nugget All-American Show & Sale, NAILE Suffolk Sale, Crossroads Show & Sale, Purple Circle Show & Sale, and Top of the Rockies Show & Sale. As the sale of range rams has been a key market, similar to many western flocks, the Paasch's have had top Suffolk consignments at the National Ram Sale, California Ram Sale, Bakersfield Ram Sale, and Willow Ram Sale.

Richard Roe

Richard established his Suffolk flock in 1954 on a farm near St Ansgar, IA. He developed a flock of practical fast growing sound sheep. He wanted sheep that would not only do well in the show ring, but also sire exceptional market lambs and work as terminal commercial sires. Richard had an on-farm test facility where ram lambs were tested for rate of gain and feed efficiency.

His wife, Beverly; sons Rick, Steve, and Jeff were all involved in the sheep operation traveling to shows, sales, and meetings. In 1967 they exhibited the Champion lamb carcass at the Iowa State Fair. They had the top gaining ram at the 1968 Iowa Ram Test. A home raised ram, Profiteer Jr., was named the breeds 2nd Certified Ram in 1969. The Champion Suffolk Ram at the International Livestock Exposition in 1974 was a ram lamb Roes raised and showed. In 1975 they exhibited the Grand Champion Market Lamb at the new show in Louisville.

An annual production sale was held jointly with Wes Azeltine, a breeder who helped Richard get started in Suffolks. Sales were held from 1967 until 1970. They also consigned to many consignment sales throughout the country.

Richard held the position of Coordinator of the Lamb and Wool Program at the Albert Lea, MN area vo- tech school helping sheep producers increase the production and income from raising sheep. He wrote numerous articles published in the various sheep and Ag magazines.

Richard was active in the Iowa Suffolk Sheep Association. He served 8 years on the National Suffolk Sheep Association board of directors. He was elected as president in 1971, 1972 and 1975. He worked hard to initiate the merger of the two Suffolk associations. He was also a big supporter of the Ladies Lead and Decorator classes as a way to get young people involved in Suffolk Shows.

Richard was killed in an auto accident in February 1976 while serving as President of the NSSA. His flock dispersal of 225 head was held during the Memorial Day Sales in Des Moines. The crowd was so large that the people moving the sheep to the sale ring had problems getting the sheep to the ring. The sale was extremely spirited; when the young ewe lambs sold at the end of the sale they average one selling every 20 seconds.

Roland (Rollie) & Ruth Rosenboom

One of Roland's first experiences with sheep was to feed and fit a carload of Shropshire lambs for the Chicago International Livestock Show.

Rollie had a sheep shearing business during high school with his brother Russell. The Ag Teacher, Mr. "Max" Boundreau would shear with him. Max would get Rollie out of school at 2:00 to shear and then sometimes he would have to return to school for a track meet. To this day, Rollie has the shot put record at Central High School. More than 56 days of school were missed for work.

In January 1960, Rollie married Ruth and soon afterward bought his first purebred Suffolks. In 1962 he obtained his auctioneering license. In 1967 earned his real estate license, something which his mother and father had.

Also in 1967, Rollie had the Champion Ram at Sedalia. The ram sold for \$400 and Rollie thought he had gone to heaven. Then, in 1968, he had the Champion ewe at Sedalia.

In 1978 Rollie purchased the first fifteen yearling ewes of the 153 that were sold. That probably was the most nervous twenty minutes of his life. The first yearling ewe brought \$16,000 and the second brought \$8000. Larry Mead helped set up the purchase by giving four people numbers to buy a total of 15. No one knew the place except Larry and Roland. After the first two sold, Rollie began to wonder where he would get the money. He bought those ewes because he knew that Walkin Tall was the buck to breed them to and he certainly was. Shortly after this purchase, five out of the first six ewes or rams at Louisville carried the Walkin Tall blood.

Roland bought a six seat plane and had an aluminum crate made to deliver rams. His son Lyn had his pilot's license at age 17 which is the youngest a pilot's license was issued. The plane also was loaded with PA equipment to do many of the sales.

After doing production sales for many breeders, Rollie was invited to be one of the auctioneers at the Midwest Livestock ram sale in Sedalia. He continued this tradition for approximately 25 years until they decided to have Democrats do the job.

Rollie did several production sales at his farm. One of the memorable production sales was that of Steve George. There was a ram named Vegas that sold for \$40,000.

With the help of Larry Mead, he did sales all over the United State and Canada. One of the best sales they had together was the one where Larry forgot the catalogs. Larry always seemed to remember the name of every person bidding on sheep along with their fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers along with even some of their birthdays. Roland remembers Larry crawling in the rafters of his pole barn to do a shot in the game of horse basketball. Larry was an amazing man! Rollie could write a book on the experiences and fun the two of them had during the grueling sale season.

Roland served on the National Suffolk Board of Directors for 23 years. The Board was comprised of the greatest bunch of guys that he had ever worked with. They are still some of his best friends.

Roland also spent time with Roy Warrick and Byron Good. The two men did a lot to help Rollie with his breeding program when he started in the Suffolk business.

Wayne & Mary Skartvedt

Wayne purchased his first Suffolks in 1962, there were six head of registered bred ewes from the local sale barn, they cost \$22 per head. The flock grew until at it's largest there were 200 brood ewes in the flock. 1968 was a year of several milestones in his life; he started farming in March, graduated from Iowa State University in August, was elected vice president of the Iowa Suffolk Sheep Association in November and married his wife Mary in December.

Like many of the people being honored by the Suffolk Hall of Fame the operation is truly a family operation. Many of the accomplishments in the flock would not have happened without Mary's hard work and support. Actually Mary was raising sheep before Wayne; as a 4-H member she had first Montadales and then a Hampshire flock. It may have been preparing meals for friends and customers who stopped, mixing lamb milk, or fitting sheep, in every way she has been a total partner in the operation

Wes Azeltine and Richard Roe both from Iowa were very influential in the first years of the Skartvedt Suffolk flock. In the following years five stud rams were purchased from the Roger Nichols flock.

Wayne strived to produce massive fast growing Suffolks that were sound on their feet and legs. Production records have been kept from the beginning and used to help select replacements. Several production sales were held in the late 1970's and early 1980's. Each sale had about 25 head of breeding sheep and 85 head of club lambs. In those days you could use the same bloodlines to produce both types of sheep. Mary was in charge of fitting the sheep, which meant that often one of the boys was found in a car seat or playpen in the barn while the sheep were being fitted. Rams were entered in the Iowa Ram Test and the Illinois Ram Test. He had the top gaining ram in the Iowa test in 1987 and tied for first another year. Their three sons were active in the Iowa and National Junior Suffolk organizations helping with all aspects of the flock.

Skartvedt Suffolks have been consigned to numerous sales throughout the county over the years and have been well received. A highlight came last June when one of his son's ram was named Grand Champion Ram at the Midwest Stud Ram Sale. In past years sheep have been exported to Mexico and semen exported to Germany and Hungary. Wayne judged shows in eight states and especially enjoyed judging junior shows.

Wayne and Mary were awarded the Iowa Master Lamb Producer award in 1980. Wayne served as an officer or director of the Iowa Suffolk Sheep Association for over 40 years. He was elected to the National Suffolk Sheep Association board of directors in 1976 and served until 1986. While on the board he was on the committee that found and remodeled the new office in Columbia, MO. He also served as chairman of the Youth Committee of the NSSA. While at a board meeting in Louisville in November of 1981 Wayne proposed sponsoring a National Junior Suffolk Show patterned after the Angus and Jersey cattle junior shows. The board agreed to back the show if Wayne would manage it; seven and one-half months later the first National Suffolk Junior show was held in Des Moines, IA in July 1982. The goal was to have at least 200 sheep exhibited; 302 head of Suffolks were shown in two days. The show grew and is still going strong today. The following year the board decided that with the show and other Junior Association activities a Junior Coordinator was needed. Gary Jennings from Texas was hired; as chairman of the Youth Committee Wayne oversaw the position. Creation of the position increased the number of juniors active in the association and its activities.

Skartvedt Suffolks remains a strong family affair. Wayne and Mary plus sons and daughters-in-law; Doug and Jodi, Paul and Shannon, and Jim and Danelle and eight grandchildren enjoy various sheep shows and sales. The Iowa State Fair is always a highlight of the year.

DuWayne Swenson

DuWayne would like to first of all thank you for this nomination, it is greatly appreciated. He would like to begin by recognizing some of the key people who have helped him in this business: Merle Light and Wes Limesand from NDSU, Gary Te Stroete, Tom Burke, Rollie Rosenboom, Daryl Anderson, and Jim Marshall.

DuWayne started with the Suffolks in the early 60's as a 4-H and FFA project for his sons. The local FFA advisor talked them into showing at the Minnesota State in 1966; they showed lambs and placed at the bottom of the open class show. From that learning experience and the purchase of a new stud ram from Gary Te Stroete, the Swensons went on to raise thier first Champion Ram at the 1969 Minnesota State Fair. DuWayne named him the "Big Swede", naming rams wasn't very common those days. Other important rams included: Tall Swede, a Rosenboom ram; Black Diamond, a Michigan State ram; and Gambler, a Paasch ram that was champion 1992 at Sedalia.

They showed at the Chicago International, the National Show in Louisville and the Black and White in Oklahoma for a number of years. DuWayne also showed for many years at the Midwest Sale in Sedalia, Missouri. Also, for many years, DuWayne sent show sheep on the road with Brenda Bohn and Duane Bauck.

The Swenson's are proud to state they showed at the Minnesota State Fair for 42 years, from 1966 to 2007, and the South Dakota State Fair for 35 years. They have made a lot of friends at both shows and still attend to see their friends. The Swenson's retired completely from the farm in 2008 and had a farm equipment and Suffolk sheep dispersal sale on the farm.

DuWayne's first bred ewe sale was with Roger Reghr at Sioux Falls which continued for 10 years. One of the highlights was having a bred ewe sell for \$5900. They had various sales in Oklahoma City and Newell, South Dakota and also has sold ewes locally in the popular North Star sale at Pipestone, Minnesota.

DuWayne was involved in various organizations including the Minnesota Suffolk Sheep Association and the National Suffolk Sheep Association (NSSA). DuWayne served as a NSSA director for 6 years and held the office of President for 2 years, which he felt was very rewarding.

DuWayne would like to relate that his philosophy through raising Suffolks was to always give back and make it better and try to get more people involved, and DuWayne feels he succeeded at that. The Swenson's are very supportive of 4-H and other Suffolk Shows.

DuWayne and his wife, Vic, have 3 children Dean, Brad, and Joyce; 7 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. Both Dean and Brad had their own Suffolk sheep which their families showed.

One person DuWayne would like to thank personally is Vince Adelman, who has been with him for 30 plus years. Vince has been very dedicated to the operation in DuWayne's absence.

Last but not least DuWayne wants to thank his wife, Vic, for all the work she put in and for just being present through this tremendous journey, she has made it that much more rewarding.

Craig Van Arkel

Van Arkel Suffolks

Craig grew up on a farm near Grinnell, IA. There were always a few commercial ewes on the farm, but Craig's first enterprise was raising purebred Chester White hogs; the hogs put him through college. Craig graduated with honors from Iowa State University in 1973 with a degree in Animal Science. He began farming and raising sheep fulltime in March of 1974. Craig preferred sheep over hogs and traded his hogs to his father for the commercial ewes. Craig knew the Suffolk ewes in his commercial flock had the fastest growing lambs and he saw more profit potential with purebreds by selling breeding stock.

In his quest for production data, he started being involved in the National Lamb Show in Minnesota and was a regular at the Iowa Ram Test Station and surrounding states test stations each year. He was notorious for his record keeping and ability to recite the genetics and production behind every individual in the flock. To identify superior replacements, he used an objective approach with scales, a calculator and a tape measure. At birth, lambs were weighed and scored using a system he devised using four measurements: from the last rib to the pin bone, length of hip, from dew claw to the elbow of the back leg and on the front leg. By plotting it against their birth weight, he had a frame score for the individual. Also he noted any other significant observations in the infamous lambing book. This allowed him to track both ewes and rams from top to bottom in different traits finding truly superior females to determine which ones would become mothers of stud rams. Pictures of the ideal Suffolk ram and ewe were always on the wall near his desk which supported his personal flock goals and judging guidelines: good bone, long strong tops, level rumps, structurally correct with natural muscling.

It was always a family affair; wife Debbie and daughters Emily and Thea worked alongside Craig especially in the preparation for showing and sales. It was one of the major family "together" activities. Annual family events were the Iowa Junior Suffolk Show, the National Junior Suffolk Show, the Iowa State Fair, the North American Livestock Exposition and other major shows and sales throughout the country.

In 1990 one of Craig's rams, "Country Music" was recognized as only the third Certified Meat Sire in Suffolk history. The recognition was based on rate of gain and carcass merit of a ram's offspring. The Van Arkels exhibited many champions at the various shows and sales over the years. Rams from the flock went on to be stud rams in many of the leading flock throughout the U.S.A. At

its peak the brood ewe flock numbered about 200 head with 100 head of yearling ewes. Semen was sold in the United States, Mexico, Canada and Europe.

Craig judged numerous county fairs, the Denver Stock Show, Toronto Canada, and the North American Livestock Expo in 2000. He enjoyed “talking sheep”, sharing with fellow breeders and encouraging youth getting started in the sheep business. He hosted tours at the farm to share his experiences and foster the industry. He helped several new breeders by creating satellite flocks where he could test rams he raised while helping the breeder improve the new flocks bloodlines.

Craig served 11 years on the board of directors, first on the American Suffolk Sheep Society, then through the merger and continued on the United Suffolk Sheep Association until his death in May of 2002.

Harlan & Edwina Wagner

Harlan was born, raised, and died, on the family's Stony Point Ranch in Petaluma CA. Raising, breeding, showing, and selling sheep was his life-long passion. As a youngster, he was a member of the local 4-H club and then Petaluma High School's FFA Chapter. While in FFA, he raised Hereford steers, winning Grand Champion three consecutive years at the county fair and started his prize-winning, purebred Suffolk flock. He graduated from the University of California, Davis CA. Married to his wife, Edwina, for almost 40 years, they raised three sons and one daughter—all of whom had 4-H sheep projects. Besides managing the ranch, he worked as a construction superintendent.

He was a 4-H sheep leader for over 15 years and was voted County Outstanding 4-H Leader. He served as president of the Sonoma Co. 4-H Council and was chairman of many county livestock events. Harlan enjoyed hosting weekend judging days on the ranch for 4-H Clubs, FFA Chapters, and college teams. He also coached winning local 4-H judging teams.

He started his Suffolk flock while a high-school freshman, buying his first group of ewes from a breeder in Sonoma, CA, whose seed stock came from England. Fred Coble, Winters CA, a life-time good friend, was also a source of early seed stock. Harlan became a member of the California Suffolk Sheep Breeders Assn. when he was 18 and a board member at 20, a position he held until his death. He served as president for five years and was later elected a voting, Lifetime Director.

Harlan's goal was to raise an all-purpose, hardy Suffolks that would be valuable as a commercial range ram and win in the show ring. Every year he sold between 60-100 yearling Suffolk range rams at the California range ram sales in Bakersfield, Sacramento, Dixon, and Willows. He was awarded Best Suffolk Consignment four times at the California Ram Sale where over 1,000 head of rams were consigned yearly. He also sold at the Midwest, Oklahoma, Top of the Rockies, and many California purebred sales where he also took his Hampshires and Dorsets.

Harlan served as the CSSBA's long-time sales manager of both the Bakersfield and Willows ram sales. He also helped start up the CSSBA's Purple Circle and Reno All-American Shows and Sales. He was elected to the board of directors of many local, state, and national sheep organizations. He judged at sheep shows and sales, both local and out-of-state. At any of the sales he attended, Harlan could be found checking out all the other breeds as he was entrusted with evaluating and purchasing breeding seed stock for many buyers.

The Stony Point Suffolk flock went on to produce many show and sale champions across the nation. He was proud that his seed stock also produced show champions and sale high-sellers for other breeders. He loved the sheep, the sales, and all the friends he made along the way. He will always be remembered fondly for his ready smile and willingness to share his time and knowledge with others.

Farrell Wankier

Farrell Wankier's first association with Suffolk sheep came when he was 4 years old looking out the back of a Model A car, pulling a small 2 wheel trailer with 3 Suffolk ewes from Idaho in 1938. The ewes were from Michael Barclay of Idaho who was an acquaintance of his mother's.

Farrell was active with the Suffolks in both 4-H and FAA, going to many local shows and sales. As a State FAA Officer he continued to show and promote Suffolks.

Farrell attended and graduated from Utah State University in 1955 with a degree in Agriculture. While he was at Utah State University he was active on the livestock judging team. In part due to his extensive sheep back ground, he then was selected to go to Ecuador as a good will ambassador where he set-up a sheep improvement program. Upon returning from Ecuador and two years of service as an Officer in the Army he returned home to assist his father with the sheep and peruse his Master's Degree from Utah State University. He accepted a position with the National Wool Growers Association, the predecessor to ASI and worked there for 8 years managing many events and projects including the National Ram Sale.

Farrell served on the American Suffolk Sheep Society Board of Directors during the merger with the National Suffolk Sheep Association to form the United Suffolk Sheep Association and then served as President of the USSA. Farrell has been active in many other sheep affiliated organizations including California and Utah Wool Growers Association, National Scrapie Oversight Committee, Director of the Utah Farm Bureau, Chairman of the American Farm Bureau Sheep Advisory Committee and served on the committee appointed by the USDA that led to the formation of the American Lamb Board. In 2013 Farrell was awarded Master Shepherd of the Year by the California Wool Growers and Sheepman of the year by the Utah Wool Growers Association.

Farrell consigned to the National Ram Sale and was one of the original consignors of the Utah Ram Sale. He's has consigned and/or continues to consign to numerous sales including the Craig Ram Sale, California Ram Sale, Dixon California Ram Sale and Bakersfield Ram Sale. He has also consigned sheep to sales in New Mexico, Oregon, Southern Utah, Colorado and the Midwest Stud Ram Sale. In addition to sheep he consigned, he also held production sales in Des Moines for over 15 years and Junction, Texas for 2 years. Farrell's Suffolk sheep have gone to a majority of the states in the U.S. Also, for many years he exported thousands of Suffolk ewes and rams to Mexico.

Farrell and his wife Deanna have been married for 48 years and have four children, three daughters and one son and have 7 grandsons and one granddaughter, the oldest is 10 years old. Farrell and his wife reside in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Roy & Joe Warrick

Roy B. Warrick was born December 21, 1906 on a farm in rural Wayne County, Iowa and later moved to a farm near Rose Hill, Iowa during his teens. He raised all kinds of livestock, but liked sheep the best.

After purchasing a place in Oskaloosa in the late 1930's, he got into the Hampshire sheep business, but was looking for another breed. He thought about the Columbia breed, but after talking to Phillip Rock of Drumheller, Alberta, Canada, he decided that Suffolk was the breed of the future because of their size, fast growth and lambing ease. Roy was a strong supporter of the Suffolk sheep business as Suffolk was a little known breed.

In the beginning, his early ewe flock was CPR ewes (Canadian Pacific Railway) that he bought from Phillip Rock. He obtained a ram, 118D, from Phillip and that ram produced the Warrick's own stud ram, 44F. Roy authored an essay entitled 'The Unequaled Record' that outlines the success of these sired by Warrick 44F and his progeny.

Roy was a director on the National Suffolk Sheep Association Board in the early 1950s and he also attended the American Suffolk Sheep Society meeting. Roy was also President and Board Member of the Iowa Suffolk Sheep Association. He also was a director from Iowa for the American Sheep Producers Council.

Roy sold and showed sheep from border to border, coast to coast and beyond. He showed sheep at the Calgary Stampede in 1960 and 1967. He had champion Suffolk ram and Supreme Champion. Roy held an annual production sales yearly over Memorial Day weekend from 1950-1969. Roy judged numerous sheep shows in the United States and Canada. He had a 'stockman's eye' for evaluating and judging livestock.

Roy died at age 62 in 1969. Roy is the father of two children, Joe Warrick and Joan Warrick White.

Joe Warrick was born December 18, 1940 in Oskaloosa, Iowa. Joe was introduced to the sheep business from day one. Joe learned how to care for sheep by watching his dad and doing things the way Roy wanted them done. There was an exception that you learn on the first try or that you should have already learned by observing what Roy did with the sheep. The expectation in the Warrick family is that care of the sheep comes first.

Joe initially cared for Hampshire sheep and added Suffolk sheep. The first Suffolk ewe that Joe owned was a gift from Phil Rock of Alberta, Canada.

Joe travelled with his father to multiple shows and sales over the U.S. and Canada. After his father's death, Joe carried on the tradition of hosting an annual Memorial Day weekend Suffolk production sale until the early 1990's. Joe continued to show at several major fairs and expositions. Joe remains an active sheep judge.

Joe served as President of the Mahaska County Sheep Producers and the Iowa Sheep Industry Association. He was a delegate from Iowa to the American Sheep Industry Association and is a current member of the Iowa Suffolk Sheep Association and the United Suffolk Sheep Association.

Joe met prominent individuals in the sheep business that had a positive influence on his life. Also, future leaders in the sheep business worked with the Warrick sheep while they were in college. These hired hands were like big brothers to Joe.

Joe maintains a flock of Suffolks and assists his daughter and son-in-law with Boer goats. Joe plans to remain in the sheep business to educate his grandchildren about the business.

Joe and Judy have two daughters, Jennifer Peterson (son-in-law Dr. Nathan Peterson) of Oskaloosa and Jean Warrick of Idaho Falls, Idaho. Joe has two grandsons, Reed and Tate Peterson.

Bud & Julia Westlake & Family

Bud Westlake has devoted his whole adult life to the breeding, managing, and promoting of purebred Suffolk, Hampshire, and Shropshire Sheep and the entire sheep industry. During this period, he has developed his Suffolk flock to National prominence at shows and sales throughout the nation. He has also coordinated export of United States sheep into foreign countries, such as Canada and South America. Throughout this time he has always approached the sheep industry with integrity required of a purebred livestock producer.

Bud Westlake was born in Union County, Ohio, on December 20, 1930, to Sam and Mary Westlake. The family farm consisted of grain and livestock. Bud and his father, Sam showed registered Shropshire and Suffolk Sheep at various county fairs and the Ohio State Fair. Bud graduated from Broadway High School in 1948 and joined the United State Air Force to serve in the Korean Conflict. He later met Julia Cone and she became his bride in August of 1952. Together they built a bond of being in the Suffolk Sheep business. Besides farming 700 acres of soybeans, corn, oats, and hay, Bud showed and judged across the nation. Julia kept the home fires burning, raising three children, Karen, Steve, and Danny. Bud and his family have been an integral part of the Ohio State Fair Sheep Barn. In addition to exhibiting many champions in both breeding and market divisions during his 58 years, he has also been selected by his peers to judge many breeds of sheep at the Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, New York, Michigan, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Iowa, and California State Fairs. He has also judged the Chicago International Livestock Show, North American International Livestock Exposition, Eastern States Exposition (Springfield, MASS), Nugget All American Suffolk Show in Reno Nevada, Keystone International Livestock Exposition, Cow Palace (San Francisco CA), Los Angeles County Fair, Midwest Stud Ram Show, Saskatoon Saskatchewan Fair, Canadian Royal in Toronto, and Expotiba Internacional in Curitiba, in the state of Parana, Brazil.

Over the course of their lifetime, Bud and his family have received a lot of recognition for their work pioneering the Suffolk breed in the Midwest, including the 1988 Ohio Master Shepherd Award in honor of Charles B. Boyles – Ohio's highest sheep honor, recognized by the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association. Bud was on the board of the National Suffolk Sheep Association for two terms and received their Distinguished Service Award in 1991, in Kansas City, MO. He was inducted into the Ohio State Fair Hall of Fame by then-governor George Voinovich in 1994 for his 40 years of exhibition and judging in Ohio. He has also been involved as President and Director of the Ohio Suffolk Sheep Association, Vice President and Director of the National Suffolk Sheep Association, and Ohio Lamb and Wool Committee Member.

Today, Bud has retired as of November 1993 (if you believe that – I have some swamp land in Florida to sell you with sheep on it!). He still has 140 breeding ewes, Julia, the three kids, 6 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. He and Julia grin when they proudly talk about grandchildren, Emily, Derek, Leigh Ann, Jarret, Josh, Jake, Evan, Karrigan, and Karis.