

## *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.