

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 Cattron 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.