

## *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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.