

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.