

Tom Burke

Tom Burke purchased his first Suffolk in 1979 and has been a continuous Suffolk breeder for 35 years on his farm near Platte City, Missouri.

Besides being a Suffolk breeder Tom Burke has been a registered Angus breeder his entire life and has managed registered Aberdeen Angus cattle sales for the past 50 years. During these 50 years he has conducted 8,500 Angus auctions in 47 States, 7 Provinces of Canada, and the Caribbean. He has given addresses at Angus Field Days in over 35 States and 7 Provinces of Canada.

During his Tour of Duty Tom Burke annually is away from home 340 nights a year, this means he recently celebrated spending his 17,000 night in a motel room. He annually travels 400,000 miles by plane, car and train, this would equate to 20 million miles which would be 800 times around the world. During the past 50 years Tom has rented 10,000 rent-a-cars. In 1994 the nationally syndicated newspaper, U.S.A. Today, recognized Tom as the most traveled person in America. Tom has been an Angus sale manager for 50 years, longer than anyone in the history of the breed.

Tom was recognized as 'Marketer of the Year' in Denver, Colorado during the National Western Stock Show in 2004. He was inducted into the American Angus Associations prestigious Angus Hall of Fame in 2004. In 2006, Tom received The American Angus Association's "Historic Angus Herd Award", honoring Angus breeders who have consistently been in business for fifty years or more.

On August 6, 2013 Tom was honored by the Livestock Publication Council in Buffalo, New York as their lifetime LAMPLIGHTER Award Winner.

On November 18, 2013 at the 130th Annual meeting of the American Angus Association in Louisville, Kentucky Tom Burke was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Angus Association.

Tom has co-authored eight of the breed's bestselling books that have been keepsakes for all that have been fortunate enough to acquire them.

In 1988, he was elected to the National Board of the National Suffolk Association and re-elected in 1990 and 1993. He was elected President of the National Suffolk Sheep Association and served in that capacity from 1994 through 1996 and was elected Vice President of the Missouri Suffolk Breeders Association in 2001 and 2002. In 2003 – 2007 he served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Missouri Suffolk Association. In 2002, he was selected to judge the 29th Annual North American International Suffolk Show in Louisville, Kentucky and has judged the National Suffolk Shows at the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh, Scotland and the Palermo Show in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In 2005, Tom was elected to the Board of Directors of the United Suffolk Sheep Association and re-elected again in 2008 and served as President of the United Suffolk Sheep Association in 2009. Tom has served as the announcer for the United Junior Suffolk Show for the past twenty years. In November of 1992 President elect Bill Clinton and Vice President elect Albert Gore nominated Tom Burke as their first choice to become United States Secretary of Agriculture. Only after a short consideration he declined the invitation to continue his life's work. Tom has exhibited Suffolk sheep aggressively on the National scene for the past thirty years and has exhibited numerous Louisville Champions and First Prize Winners. He has been the Premier Exhibitor at the North American International Livestock Show in Louisville, Kentucky at the National Suffolk Show for four consecutive years.

In 1981, Kentucky Governor John Y. Brown named Tom Burke a Kentucky Colonel. He has served as Chairman of the All-American Angus Breeder's Futurity which is one of the most prestigious Angus shows in the breed since 1972, currently in his 44th term.

In 1974, Tom was appointed to the Board of Directors of the International Livestock Show in Chicago, Illinois. Annually Tom guest lectures at fifteen Colleges and Universities across the United States on livestock activities.

Tom resides on his farm in Platte County, Missouri with his daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren as well as oversees his family's 400 acre farm in Dodge County, Minnesota.

Today, Tom's sale management firm, The American Angus Hall of Fame, manages purebred Angus cattle auctions. In the 140-year history of the Angus breed in the United States the American Angus Hall of Fame has managed more "million dollar plus" Angus sales than all competitors combined. The American Angus Hall of Fame has continued to grow and expand in total dedication to the welfare of the Angus breed worldwide and is celebrating its 75th year anniversary.

Tom Burke is proud to be a registered Suffolk Sheep breeder.