

Bob & Mark Chapman

Joseph Chapman drove a flock of sheep from Vermont and settled on the current location in Monroe County, Michigan. Robert and Mark Chapman are currently the 6th and 7th generations of the Chapman family to raise sheep on the farm. The Chapman family were prominent breeders of first Shropshire, then Southdown, and Hampshire sheep in Michigan from the early 1900's. The family was also one of the longest running exhibitors at the Michigan State Fair in Detroit. Robert and his dad, Delmont, routinely fed over a thousand lambs in the 50's and 60's. Robert married Shirley Shetterly in 1954, whose family raised Suffolk sheep. In 1956 Robert purchased his first Suffolks, Robert and Mark have raised them ever since.

When Mark graduated in 1978 from Michigan State, they increased the ewe flock eventually to 200 ewes, with the majority being Suffolks. The flock size has been cut back currently to 90 ewes, with the majority still being Suffolks as well as Dorsets and some crossbred ewes. Their flock is rich in George Bros., Frostaire, Sponaugle, Luxford, Buckeye Acres, Buckham and more recently Kimm genetics.

They have never selected for the extreme, but focused on sound, productive animals. Their market lambs were very successful at numerous wether shows in the 60's, 70's and 80's. This led to them having a very successful club lamb sale in the 80's and 90's. Remember this was before the shift to the wether type sheep and this was lambs out of their normal breeding program. To this day they still stress soundness and muscle in their sheep, as well as growth. Some would call their sheep tweeners, but they prefer to think of them as practical and functional. Mark's wife Debra has developed a loyal and thriving business for their lamb products at local farmers markets.

Even though they do not exhibit sheep at shows currently, they have had much success over the years on a state and national level. Their sheep have been sold to buyers over the years throughout the U.S. as well as Canada, Brazil, and Israel.

Robert has been active in the sheep industry most of his adult life. He is a lifelong member of the Michigan Sheep Breeders Association. He served many years as the Michigan-Wisconsin representative to the old American Sheep Producers Council, where he also spent time on the Wool Committee.

Mark has served many terms on the MSBA board of directors, and managed the Michigan Bred Ewe sale for 20 years. He spent 2 terms on the American Farm Bureau sheep advisory committee. He has also served 2 terms on the old NSSA board of directors as well as one term on the USSA board. Over the years Mark has had the great opportunity to judge sheep shows across the country as well as two

Suffolk shows in Brazil. He has always been honored by fellow breeders selecting him to judge the National Suffolk Show at the NAILE in 1995. Robert and Mark have been lifelong supporters of youth shows and programs. Mark has worked on numerous National Suffolk Jr Shows over the years. Robert was superintendent of the 4-H sheep show at the Monroe County Fair for most of his adult life, and now Mark serves in that capacity. Robert is retired now, but still helps out on the farm. Mark with the help of Deb are still very active with the farm and in the sheep industry in the state. They are both on the steering committee for the new Michigan State Fair in Novi, MI and serve as the sheep superintendents for the fair.

Robert, Shirley, Mark, and Debra are thankful for the people they have met and friends they have made over the years through their association with Suffolk Sheep. They would like to thank the Suffolk breed and the Board for this honor.