

United Suffolk Sheep Association

Call of Fame



2015 Inductees

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Hall of Fame

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B.B. Burroughs
Bob & Mark Chapman
John Eagle
Dr. Ben Huff
George Hunter
Sherwood Jackson
Donna Mays
Pearce McKinney

The 2015 USSA Hall of Fame inductees were honored on Sunday, November 15, 2015 at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky during the USSA Annual Meeting and Dinner.

United Suffolk Sheep Association Hall of Fame

Year	Inductee
2014	Andrus Suffolks, Ken & Jim Andrus
2014	Andy Asberry
2014	Tom Burke
2014	Jim & Jacky Caras
2014	Hawkins Farm Suffolks, Glen "Sadie" Hawkins & Joy Hawkins
2014	Marvin & Sandy Heupel
2014	Joe Holbrook
2014	Bob Kimm
2014	Norman Olsen Family
2014	Tom Slack, Slack Club Lambs
2013	Wes Azeltine
2013	Betty Biellier & Family
2013	George and Fred Buckham
2013	Fred A. & Marian Coble
2013	Robert Hall
2013	Heggemeier Sheep Farms, Bill & Alice Heggemeier & James & Jody Heggemeier
2013	Dr. Harold A. Henneman
2013	Bill & Helen Hurst
2013	Jarvis Sheep Co.
2013	Allan & VeNeal Jenkins & Annette Benson
2013	Warren Kuhl
2013	Jack Larsen
2013	Pearson Linn
2013	Larry Mead
2013	Roger Nichols
2013	Olsen Brothers, Alden & Snell
2013	Bob & Margie Paasch & Family, Donner Trail Ranch
2013	Richard Roe
2013	Roland (Rollie) & Ruth Rosenboom
2013	Wayne & Mary Skartvedt
2013	DuWayne Swenson
2013	Craig Van Arkel, Van Arkel Suffolks
2013	Harlan & Edwina Wagner
2013	Farrell Wankier
2013	Roy & Joe Warrick
2013	Bud & Julia Westlake & Family

B. B. Burroughs

B. B. Burroughs of Homedale, Idaho started his flock of Suffolks in 1936 from stock obtained from J.P. Gray of Napa, Idaho. Mr. Gray was a large producer and major importer of Suffolks. From the onset, B.B. went against the trend of Suffolk type being selected in the show ring. He claimed to breed toward the Norfolk side of Suffolk genealogy by selecting and breeding rams with both frame and depth. He also claimed to select for a thin rind top sheep. B.B. selected top studs from Canadian Pacific Railroad Farms of Tilley, Alberta, Canada. Their shepherd was Jack Stevens. B.B. claimed that Jack was the only man in North America that was unconventional and would bred toward the Norfolk side.

Later, he selected Hampshire studs from Matthews Brothers of Ord, Idaho. At one time B.B. carried up to 3,000 blackface ewes and was one of the largest blackface ram producers in the West. B.B. Burroughs was a major influence when Suffolk type changed to what would become termed by some "The Mountain Sheep of the West." This radical change to sheep that Burroughs was advocating did not take place until the late 1970's and early 80's.

B. B. Burroughs initial influence occurred in the Spanish Fork area of Utah. There was a coalition of breeders who were in the range ram business but also produced, exhibited and sold registered seed stock. B.B. hadn't registered his sheep for many years and he tried to protect his type by not selling studs to his competitors. Breeders acquired some of Burroughs commercial pens at range ram sales and selected the best one to use as stud rams. B.B. referred to these sheep men as "eager beavers."

In the mid-70s interest in Burroughs sheep grew to the point that large sums of money was being offered to him by prominent mid-western breeders. Some of the most well-known Suffolk breeders in the United States purchased or leased Burroughs genetics. Not only was B.B. having an impact on Suffolks on the western ranges, but Burroughs studs and ewes were also seen in flocks in the Corn Belt. He described the wide range of visitors to his flock as the following: "like women going through a dress shop during a major discount sale."

One ram purchased from B.B. by a prominent Iowa breeder was the national champion Hampshire ram at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Kentucky. This ram had a marked effect on both Hampshire and Suffolk breeds.

Many of these breeders were looking for that "changer" buck; a ram that would enable their breeding program to progress to what they believed was a higher level

of Suffolk excellence. Their selections were, quite often, a very extreme type of sheep; the taller and longer, the better. B.B. Burroughs was quoted as saying, "They come and pick out of my pistol barrels and pay good money for them and I laugh all the way to the bank." (Pistol barrels was a description of a tubular sheep with no "guts".) The Burroughs sheep had a pronounced impact on making the fitted Suffolk of today the longer and taller sheep.

B.B. sold his sheep in the mid to late 1980s and passed away in June of 2001.

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.

John Eagle

Sheep in general and Suffolks in particular have given a rhythm to John Eagle's life since 1977.

They were a part of the package that came with his wife, Mary, who had sheep from 4-H days, usually with a Suffolk ram at the helm. Sheep were an important contributor to the family income. They decided to try registered ewes in 1978, and what followed was a way of life that has provided a chance to meet and make friends with some of the country's most talented and interesting people.

Meeting the late Weldon Heard, and his friend Ed Fisher, was an opportunity to learn about animal husbandry from two of the world's greatest livestock practitioners, and has provided some of the most important life lessons.

Paying attention during breed challenges has brought the opportunity to visit with world class scientists, and the reminder that what you see in your own backyard, while important, may not represent the breadth of experience that sheep production entails around the country or the world. He has always thought meaningful production records and pedigrees are an important part of the craft of shepherding.

Eagle Suffolks stud rams have been used in flocks from coast to coast, which is a great source of pride.

John was also a commercial winemaker in Oregon—always looking for the perfect red wine to go with the perfect lamb chop!

He has greatly enjoyed judging county and regional fairs on a limited basis. Eagle Suffolks showing has been mostly limited to sales.

John has participated in state and national sheep organizations, in Oregon until 2004, and now in Idaho. He held offices in the Oregon Suffolk Breeders Association, and thinks he remembers being a director in the Oregon Purebred Breeders. He was the last President of the American Suffolk Sheep Society, and the first President of the United Suffolk Sheep Association, and tried to make sure that all members and employees were treated honestly, fairly, and openly.

He has been greatly blessed with the friendships of some really great Suffolk breeders.

On Christmas Eve you can usually find him in the barn, following some of the first advice given to him by Doc Heard many years ago. Sometimes you just have to sit, look, admire and thank the sheep that have given so much and asked so little.

Dr. Ben Huff

Dr. Lewis Ben Huff was born in West Virginia. Dr. Huff was a graduate of Ohio State University School of Veterinary Medicine. He practiced veterinary medicine Cleveland, Pasadena and Covina, California and Keizer, Oregon which he later sold. Dr. Huff met his wife, Doris while living in California; they have two daughters, Jeannie and Melissa. Dr. Huff also has three children from a previous marriage; Linda, Pam and Gary.

Dr. Huff was raised in a sheep breeding family. At the age of 12 he began consigning Southdowns to the Eastern Stud Ram Sale in Virginia and dominated the events he participated in from early on. He was one of the first breeders to import Southdown studs from New Zealand, selecting for their larger size and longer length. He was very successful with the Southdowns he imported; he continued to breed record topping sheep with these genetics.

In the late 1960s Dr. Huff sold his Southdown flock and entered into the Suffolk business – at full speed. With his outstanding ability of evaluate sheep, he developed one of the finest Suffolk ewe flocks. He was successful on the west coast with his line of Big Joe genetics. Big Joe influenced Walking Tall through the sire side, his influence to Huff genetics came through on the female side.

Within a short time Ben was winning major Suffolk show and sales. In 1983, at the National Suffolk Show in Louisville, Kentucky he was the first individual to exhibit both the grand champion ewe “The Countess” and grand champion ram “The Baron”. Other notable Suffolks he developed, fitted and showed include “Royal Lady” who was selected as Supreme Champion ewe at NAILE in 1978. As mature ewe, Royal Lady was so massive that she outweighed many stud rams.

In the mid-1970s he served as a director on the board of the National Suffolk Sheep Association for several years. He never held the office of President but has been credited as an influential member of the board. Dr. Huff was one of the outstanding spokes persons and promoters of the Suffolk breed. His attention to detail, understanding of genetics and success in the show ring contributed greatly to Suffolk popularity.

In the early 1980s Ben began to show interest in Llamas and 1986 sold his Suffolk flock, selling many of his top ewes to Burke & Nelsh. Dr. Huff then went on to raise an extremely influential herd of llamas until his death. Dr. Huff passed away in June of 1987 at the age of 59 of cancer.

George Hunter

George was born in Grove City, Pennsylvania on June 6, 1917 to the late Samuel Robb and Mary Denniston Hunter. He married Evelyn McMichael on June 12, 1943. They celebrated their 70th anniversary in 2013. On March 18, 2014 George passed away.

During his life, George was a self-employed farmer and a metal smith at Arthur Armour Forge in Grove City. He served his country during World War II as a U.S. Army Medic. He was a member of the Tower Presbyterian Church in Grove City and in recent years had been affiliated with the Irwin Presbyterian Church. He taught Sunday school class for decades. He often was the chosen “preacher”, sharing the Good Word at many livestock shows for informal Sunday services.

Active in agriculture throughout his life, George attended Penn State University. He was an active member of numerous sheep and wool organizations. He was the secretary for over four decades of the Pennsylvania Suffolk Sheep Association. His unique Suffolk newsletters were popular, not just in Pennsylvania, but across the entire nation. George was well-known for his signature style of artfully blending current livestock news with a history lesson and a little dose of humor. He also served as secretary for the Pennsylvania Shorthorn Cattle Association for many years. George was a past president of the Mercer County Board of Extension. He was enthusiastic and passionate in his endeavors to promote the livestock industry.

George was well known in Pennsylvania and nationally for exhibiting prize winning sheep and cattle at many county fairs, Keystone Livestock Exposition, Pennsylvania Farm Show and the Chicago International Exposition for more than 50 years. George and his fellow exhibitors often rode in railroad cars, with their livestock, to some shows out west. He was a frequent judge of sheep and cattle in the Eastern United States. He also managed sheep sales in Pennsylvania. He received numerous awards for his outstanding contributions to the livestock industry.

The George Hunter Family was honored as the 1983 Pennsylvania Farm Family of the Year. In 1984, George was inducted into the Pennsylvania Livestock Hall of Fame at the Keystone Livestock Exposition. Also, in 1994, the Keystone Sheep Sale was dedicated to him in honor of many years of contribution to the sheep industry. Nationally, George was recognized in 1997 at Louisville with the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award by the National Suffolk Sheep Association. His service to the Suffolk industry began in 1939 with the purchase of his first Suffolk. Decades later, he was still promoting Suffolks. His outstanding loyalty, motivation and dedication as a Suffolk breeder continued into the 2000s.

Sherwood Jackson

Sherwood's life as a sheepman started when his father bought him two Shropshire ewes from John Telford from Emington, Illinois. Sherwood was a freshman in high school. The Shrops did well for him but he went on to Hampshires which he showed at various county fairs in Illinois. The clean heads and legs of the Suffolk breed were what really impressed Sherwood. His first Suffolk was a ewe lamb he bought at a Roy Warrick sale in Oskaloosa, Iowa. The ewe lamb was from a breeder in western Canada. She was champion at the Illinois State Fair that year. Sherwood kept going back to the Oskaloosa sale to add to his Suffolk flock.

Sherwood graduated from the University of Illinois in 1944. There were 13 openings for teachers in Illinois that year and Sherwood chose the Mendota High School because of their outstanding agriculture program. But one year later he received an offer from Seneca High School, his home town, which he accepted. Sherwood taught at Seneca High School for 29 years. During those years there was one student teacher he still remembers fondly, Jim Heggemeier. During his years as teacher Sherwood started many students and other young people in the purebred sheep industry. After "San Francisco" Sherwood served several years as a member of National Suffolk Sheep Association Board of Directors; he was known for serving with great integrity and honesty. On July 7, 1951 Sherwood married Lorraine Johnson and they moved to their farm north of Seneca.

Sherwood's Suffolk flock grew to around 800 head. He used rotational grazing on 43 acres divided into eight sections. He says he never could have managed all this work along with his teaching duties if it weren't for Lorraine and their border collie, Panda.

Sherwood credits his success in the sheep business to several people: Jack Hampton and Benny Doan, both shepherds from the University of Illinois; Carl Stasell and Walter Baysinger, high school ag teachers from Streator and Ransom Illinois; Ralph Yohe from Mt. Zion, Illinois who worked as a sheep specialist for the *Prairie Farmer*; and Jimmie Davis, University of Wyoming shepherd. He and Lorraine traveled throughout central and western Canada and the western United States looking for good Suffolks to add to their flock.

Sherwood showed his Suffolks at county fairs throughout Illinois, the Illinois State Fair as well as other Midwestern state fairs and the International Stock Show when it was held in Chicago. He recalls Robert Jackson and Jim Van Cleave as two of the best sheep fitters he worked with.

Sherwood also had the honor to judge many sheep shows ranging from county fairs to the Cow Palace in San Francisco.

One high-light of Sherwood's tenure as a board member was the opportunity for him and Pearson Linn of the National Suffolk Association to travel to Washington D. C. to meet with the USDA and British sheep leaders to exchange ideas about the control and eradication of scrapie.

Sherwood and Lorraine, both 93 years old, now live in Ottawa, Illinois but still call the farm "home." They are still very interested in the sheep industry and agriculture.

Donna Mays

Donna Mays established her flock in 1950 with two ewe lambs from the oldest and most well-known flock in the nation, Green Valley/Fred and Marion Coble. Marion was Donna's mentor as she was to many other youth. Today Donna's flock consists of 35 foundation ewes. As soon as she was out of 4-H Donna became a livestock leader for over twenty years. During that time Donna started the Northern California Junior Sheep Breeders Club. Donna gave clinics on showing, fitting, feeds and health.

Donna donated her time to teach students at Chico State College in Chico, California about showing, fitting and judging sheep. She gave school tours at her ranch in California, and continued to do so after moving to Idaho. She also put on showing and fitting clinics for southern Idaho.

Donna was a co-coordinator of the United Junior Suffolk Sheep Association along with Andy Asberry, they both donated their time and travel costs to the association. Andy and Donna enjoyed working with the juniors. Donna started the silent auction to raise money for the junior association at Sedalia and Louisville. The first year she contacted Alum-line for purchase at their cost a sheep topper. The juniors sold the raffle tickets and the highest selling junior won a Suffolk embroidered jacket. That raffle along with the silent auctions brought in around four thousand dollars.

Donna served three terms as a USSA board member, one of those years as vice president. Having shown at Louisville when all Suffolk's were fitted she thought that we needed another avenue for showing Suffolk's. Donna was given the chairmanship of that committee. It was not easy getting the slick sheared classes started. The first year all the slick ewe lambs were in one class and all of the slick ram lambs were in one class - that was a start. There were a lot of calls were made to NAILE management along with asking Sam and Pat Wiford to help with those efforts. The next step was to get the same classes for slicks as there were for fitted. The following year was to get a separate judge. The thought was for the classes be for middle of the road or frame type sheep, we now have wether type being shown.

Donna was also on the scholarship committee for a number of years. Donna enjoys judging a number of state fairs, county fairs in Idaho and surrounding states. But her most memorable show was judging the Suffolk Show at NAILE in 2006. It was a great honor.

Donna and her husband James sold his ranch and range sheep operation two years ago. They moved to Rigby, Idaho on seventeen acres so she could continue what she loved most - raising Suffolk's. Donna co-managed the sheep operation of the

6,000 ewes in Howe. Her wool classers/graders number is #14 along with the highest graders license you can have to grade wool anywhere in the United States. She also has a CDL and hauls sheep in state and out of state. Donna has retired from the Idaho Wool Growers board after many years of service.

Donna has two daughters, Jeanette and Brenda. Jeanette works for the state of California Department of Education. This year Jeanette was the recipient of the Chico State Distinguished Alumni Award for Agriculture along with being honored by California State Legislature Assembly Award. Six years ago Jeanette was an Honoree of the American FFA Degree at the National FFA Convention. Jeanette oversees all the agriculture teachers and students in Northern California. Brenda won the 1985 California FFA Diversified Farm Award, in 1986 the National FFA Sheep Proficiency Award winner along with being the 1986 California FFA Agri Businessman Award winner. Both girls showed sheep in 4-H and FFA. Brenda had a nationally known Hampshire flock. Jeanette raised and showed Suffolk's.

Pearce McKinney

Pearce McKinney began in the sheep world when he borrowed \$300 from his Grandmother in May of 1954. He was 13 at the time. He went to Roy Warrick's May Sale in Iowa and bought three ewe lambs to start a 4-H project. As it turned out, it was money well spent. Nine years later in 1963 he had Reserve Champion Ram at the Chicago International. Michigan State had Champion on a lamb. Freedom Acres and Paasch had champion and reserve ewes that same year. From that time on the sheep world has been a part of Pearce's life.

Pearce was a board member of the National Suffolk Sheep Association from 1996-1999, serving as Vice President. Pearce was instrumental in merging the National Suffolk Sheep Association and the American Suffolk Sheep Society into the United Suffolk Sheep Association. More recently, Pearce dedicated time to the United Suffolk Sheep Association by serving on the Sheep Advisory Committee for the North American International Livestock Exposition from 1996-2005. Pearce was the superintendent of the Suffolk Show and represented the USSA at the NAILE Sheep Advisory Committee Meeting for several years.

In addition to Pearce's involvement with Suffolks, locally, he served as a 4-H leader, FFA advisor and as a committee member of the Purdue University Livestock Extension. Additionally, he has been active with several state organizations; member of the Indiana Board of Animal Health, Indiana Sheep Association (serving as President from 2006-2010), and board member of the Indiana State Diagnostic Lab at Purdue University, to name a few.

Not only has Pearce been an advocate of agriculture, serving at both the local and state level, he has also been actively involved at the national level. He was a member of the National Scrapie Oversight Committee, North American Livestock Exposition Committee, North American Saddle and Sirloin Club and the Indiana Representative of the National Animal Industry Institute. Pearce has also served on the board of the Montadale Sheep Breeders and the St Croix Hair Sheep International Association.

Pearce has always appreciated the time and the many friends he met and made along the way. He still receives letters from those many friends that he treasures. After all the years past he still has a special relationship with old friends in the Suffolk Sheep. He and his wife, Alice, made the decision in 2007 to see the Suffolk Flock. They had gotten into Montadales and later sold that flock and kept the small sheep, St Croix. They are also small in numbers of sheep but life is going great.

Recently Pearce has experienced some health issues but is doing well at the present time. He plans to retire in April 2018 after 50 years of working as a State Farm Agent. Pearce states that he's been fortunate to work with wonderful sheep families through his life.

Banquet Sponsors

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