

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.