

# *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.