

United Suffolk Sheep Association

Call of Fame



2016 Inductees

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Clyde & Justina George & George Brothers
Millers Livestock, Brentford & Brenda Miller
Chuck Ream, Windswept Ranch
Duane & Marcia Sickels
John & Pam Sponaugle
Dwight Stone, Stonemark Suffolks

The 2016 USSA Hall of Fame inductees were honored on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky during the USSA Annual Meeting and Dinner.

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Year	Inductee
2016	Clyde & Justina George & George Brothers
2016	Millers Livestock, Brentford & Brenda Miller
2016	Chuck Ream, Windswept Ranch
2016	Duane & Marcia Sickels
2016	John & Pam Sponaugle
2016	Dwight Stone, Stonemark Suffolks
2015	B.B. Burroughs
2015	Bob & Mark Chapman
2015	John Eagle
2015	Dr. Ben Huff
2015	George Hunter
2015	Sherwood Jackson
2015	Donna Mays
2015	Pearce McKinney
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

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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

Clyde & Justina George & George Bros

My parents, Clyde and Justina worked in the healthcare field for over 40 years. Our family has four brothers, me (Steve), Bob, Bernie and Jim. The brothers most involved with the sheep operation and most recognized in the Suffolk Industry are Steve and Bob.

Dad loved livestock. He never trimmed or showed sheep but he loved to feed, lamb out the ewes and visit with sheep people. Mom was always at the nursing home. She did go to the Ohio State Fair & Louisville with Dad. Both being raised on a farm, my parents thought we should have a livestock project growing up. In 1957 Dad went to the Ohio State Fair to look at Hampshires. The Hampshires were showing that day and the exhibitors didn't have much time to visit. While at the fair Dad saw some other sheep with black heads and legs. He noticed they had no wool on their heads and legs. He was visiting with the Orwick brothers (Larry & Roger) when he purchased 2 yearling ewes to be bred at \$50 apiece and George Bros. Suffolks was born.

In the 60's, the sheep were shown in 4-H at half a dozen county fairs and the Ohio State Fair. In the early 70's some ewes were purchased from the Spanish Fork valley in Utah. In 1971, JDLG304 "Spanish Jack" was purchased with Old Trail Farms (M. A. Bosse) at auction for \$1,150. People couldn't figure why that school teacher and red head would buy a ram like that. For the time he was too big, didn't have enough bone and was plain headed. The thought was that you couldn't breed him to just any ewe. As luck would have it, he worked on any ewe and was a breeding machine! In 1973, the original 20 Olsen Brother's ewes were purchased from Roger D. Nichols. They were a great impact on our program for years. Part of the Andrus flock was purchased in the late 80's. In the following years we added a few select rams and ewes to our breeding program. We focused on raising and selling stud rams from our outstanding brood ewe flock. At that time we lambed 220 ewes, grew out 25 yearling rams and 80-90 yearling ewes. We marketed the sheep through production sales in Ohio and Iowa and consigned to major sales across the country. We consigned to the Midwest Stud Ram Sale from 1974 through the early 2000's. We are proud of having many high placing and selling sheep at that prestigious sale. We learned a lot about promoting and selling our sheep from Larry Mead. We didn't show a lot but did exhibit at the Ohio, Indiana, and Iowa State Fairs, Louisville and the Chicago International the last 3 years it was held.

We are extremely excited and pleased with how well our rams worked for our customers over the years. There were many bargains as well as the high sellers that worked well for our customers. We sold lots of sheep privately from the farm which gave us the opportunity to meet and get to know many breeders and families that are lifelong friends.

Bob is currently running the Soil & Water Conservation District Henry County Ohio. He has held this position for 35 years. Bob is on more committees than I could mention. He is like Dad, he can't say no. His wife Marsha is a nurse in Findlay, Ohio at the Blanchard Valley Hospital. Their daughter Megan lives in St. Louis, son Zack is in Cincinnati and other son Luke is living in Toledo.

Steve has served on the board of the Ohio Suffolk Sheep Association and two terms on the USSA board. In 1993 Steve acquired his realtor and auctioneer license and has been working with Farthing Real Estate & Auctioneers in Findlay, OH since. Steve has also been working for Best Buy Distribution for the past 13 years. Steve's Daughter Kacie has her masters in Meat Science from Oklahoma State University. She lives in Ankeny, IA and works for Marel, an International company that innovates and produces meat processing equipment. Steve's son Jase lives in southern Wisconsin (Sharon). He works for Peterson Farms in grain production and farm machinery repair.

George Bros. now has a group of ewes located in Southern Illinois near Campbell Hill, which are managed and cared for by Steve's wife Joyce Burnham, owner of Custom Stockdogs.

Joyce raises black face wether ewes and Angus cross cattle. She breeds and trains Border Collies and provides lessons and Demonstrations. Joyce also does custom shearing and fitting sheep for shows and sales.

The sheep industry has changed over the years. There are different types of sheep within the breeds. I believe that you should raise the type that you like and that you can sell.

I would like to thank my fellow breeders for George Bros. success. Without their management, feeding, fitting and promotion of the progeny they raised from the sheep they purchased, we would not have the success we enjoy with our sheep.

The most important thing to me about raising Suffolks is the people I've met and the friends I've made over the last 55 years. I am grateful to my parents for giving me that opportunity.

Brentford & Brenda Miller, Millers Livestock

The origins of Millers Livestock started back in 1857 when George Miller first moved to the property when it was considered 'brush and timber' ground and developed the land into production agriculture use. Over the next 160 years all types of livestock have been raised by the family including harness horses and Dairy cattle, milked by hand in the 1800's, to beef cattle in the 1930's and 1940's, and sheep and hogs that are raised on the farm today.

Brentford was a 10year 4-H member and recognized as the 1940 4-H Livestock Champion at the Oregon State Fair, however he would become known for his registered Berkshire, Yorkshire and Spotted hogs that were shown for many years at the Oregon State Fair and the Pacific International Livestock Show. When his two children Scott and Brenda were old enough for 4-H in addition to hogs, they exhibited market lambs from the commercial sheep that were grazing the barnyards. It soon was apparent that better animals were needed to do well at the fairs so a quality Hampshire ram was purchased to improve the flock. As fate would have it, just a week before he was to be put with the ewes, he suddenly dies--a replacement was quickly needed. A fast trip, with the county sheep specialist, to Oscar McCarty's of Echo, OR found us the proud new owner of a Registered Suffolk ram for our mixed breed flock...it was the 1960's and probably they were Southdown influenced females as that was popular at the time. In 1967 the first Registered Suffolk ewes were purchased--three ewe lambs the 1st year and three more the next--and in 1971 the last ten ewes were purchased from an elderly local couple who were looking for a young family to take over their flock that they had spoiled for many years, at least half of which were 10 to 12 years old. Those females had Ace Eoff, Floyd Fox and Eldon Riddel breeding...after that group arrived less than half a dozen other outside ewes have been added to the flock since that time.

As the years went on Scott was supportive of the animals but his interest was in farming. Until his death in 2014 he was very successful with fruit, vegetable and seed crops on the Miller farm. His son Ben is now carrying on in his father's footsteps.

After 10 years in 4-H that included three Grand Champion Market Lambs at the Pacific International Livestock Expo and Master Showman awards at the county and state fairs Brenda capped off her 4-H days with a trip to the National 4-H Congress as the state Swine Project winner. It wasn't until 1971

that girls could join FFA and Brenda had only one year of High School to try all they had to offer. One of the best memories was being one of four girls selected to the National FFA Chorus, along with about 95 guys, and performing at their national convention. Brenda has a B.S. in Animal Science from Oregon State University but during 1975 was an exchange student at South Dakota State University. This was a unique opportunity to be a part of the Livestock Judging team that had the privilege of competing at the last Chicago International Livestock show and the first North American Livestock Expo.

With Brenda out of college, she and Brentford started expanding the sheep flock - it was a time of rapid growth and popularity of the Suffolk breed. Influenced by his years in hog production, Brentford was an advocate of practical and productive, thick bodied sheep and success at the Willamette Valley and California Ram Sales resulted. The trips to California were on commercial trucks combined with Ronald Hogg, Chauncy Hubbard and Don Bischof. After a number of years attending ram sales and Brenda's interest in going to purebred shows and sales like the Purple Circle and Nugget Sales, the rams were eventually sold as lambs off the farm to private parties and only a few were grown out to sell as single stud rams. Both Brentford and Brenda were active and officers in the Oregon Purebred Sheep Breeders Association and the Oregon Suffolk Breeders Association, the OSBA was the sponsor of the Northwest Classic sale that drew sheep people to Oregon from a wide area. Other events like the Inland Northwest Sale, Washington Ram Sale, Top of the Rockies Sale, Cow Palace Sale and Midwest Stud Ram Sale were all opportunities to market sheep across the country. We are proud to have had sheep at or near the top of these events and have Miller genetics make their way from coast to coast and to Mexico, Japan and Canada over the years.

Brenda is also grateful for the many opportunities, and faith placed in her by fellow breeders, to judge livestock in her state, around the country, several times in Canada and the National Show in Mexico. It was truly an honor to judge the 2001 North American Suffolk Show and be the first women to do so.

The number of livestock, both sheep and hogs, have been reduced in recent years as Brenda is now taking on all the farm activities solo. Brentford passed in 1988 and Helen, her mother, died in December of 2015. The interest in quality purebred livestock is still strong and the privilege to work with them on a daily basis is not taken for granted.

Many, if not all, of these lifetime highlights would not be possible without the help of trusted advisers, family and good friends. Many thanks for all your help along the way. Suffolk People--surely a great flock to be a part of.

Chuck Ream, Windswept Ranch

Charles (Chuck) Ream was born and raised in Mechanicsburg, Ohio. He was a farm guy living in town, milking a few Jersey cows. His brother Jim, had Shropshire sheep and they combined when Jim was 11 and he was 14 to rent their own farm, 5 miles from town. They were both devoted to 4-H and were both on state winning judging teams, Chuck on dairy and Jim on livestock.

After attending Ohio Wesleyan University and selling his Jersey herd, he entered the Navy and became a Lieutenant serving as the Boiler Officer on an aircraft carrier, the US Lexington, CVA 16. He then worked for NATO in Naples, Italy, for a combined 6 years.

The Navy exposed him to California, where he moved to San Francisco and worked until he could save enough to move to the country where he bought his ranch in Willits, California.

He immediately became involved in the local 4-H program, which was in some need of support. He purchased his first Suffolk Sheep from Ray Craig, in Atascadero, Ca in 1975, his consignment to the Midwest Stud Ram Sale; a yearling ram, two yearling ewes, and two ewe lambs, all sired by "California Jack" a Jack Larsen ram and that was the start of the Windswept Ranch flock. He subsequently bought more Larsen ewes and expanded with a Westlake ram and finally got intrigued with the Luxford sheep, which have taken me on a wonderful ride.

Chuck has been involved with the local 4-H groups for 43 years and FFA chapters for 11 years, and he's been on the Mendocino County Jr Livestock committee for 43 years, and 13 years as its Chairman.

In 1996, Chuck founded the North Coast Jr. Suffolk Sheep show, which has evolved into the North Coast Invitational Sheep Show. This show welcomes all breeds and wether dams, the show celebrated its 20th year in 2016 and is still going.

One of Chuck's greatest joys is working with the youth. With the help of the California Sheep Commission he started the California Jr. Fitting Camp, hosted at Windswept Ranch. The camp has been an ongoing event for 17 years and is still a favorite topic of many young folks. He was selected as the Sheep Person of the Year by the Sonoma Co. Purebred Sheep Breeders in 1998. Additionally,

he served as the Jr. Coordinator and Scholarship Coordinator for the Junior Grand National Livestock Show, 1985-1995.

Chuck had the great opportunity to be the UJSSA Junior Coordinator for 4 years commencing in 2001, truly one of the joys of my entire life. The majority of our Jr. Board members during his time as Coordinator are very active in the sheep business today. In addition to serving as Junior Coordinator, he has served on the USSA Scholarship Committee for approximately 8 years. He's also had the pleasure of judging the UJSSA show in Spencer, Iowa in 2007 and the Tunis Show at the NAILE in 2014.

Over the years, Chuck has exhibited many Champions at the California State Fair, the Grand National Livestock Show at the Cow Palace, and at the Reno All-American Show. Other notable winners include- Grand Champion Ram, Midwest Stud Ram Sale, 2009; High Selling Yearling Ram, Midwest Stud Ram Sale, 2016 and Res. Champion Ewe, NAILE, 2012.

It has been the greatest pleasure of Chuck's life to be involved with the Suffolk breed, meeting the wonderful group of people involved with it and working with the inspiring young people that this great breed has attracted and fostered.

Duane & Marcia Sickels

Duane and Marcia Sickels are from Winchester, Indiana. Duane started his Suffolk sheep flock as a 4-H project. He bought nine ewes and a ram in partnership with his Dad. He expanded his flock through his own replacements and purchases from other breeders. In 1970 he purchased half the Stonemark flock from Dwight Stone (Kansas). He also purchased Larry Clendenin's flock (Indiana) and Sam Winfree's flock (Tennessee), adding good foundation ewes. Sickels Suffolks were at one time a flock of 250 Suffolk purebred and Suffolk cross ewes. The flock, now Sickels Club Lambs & Meat Goats, has about 100 ewes and 25 Boer cross does. Duane and Marcia continue to keep accurate records of genetics and pedigrees with Duane keeping his own replacement ewes and reaching out with new rams. This January will mark his 61st lamb crop.

Duane showed sheep at the Indiana State Fair for many years, as well as such shows and sales as the Chicago International, The Pennsylvania Farm Show, The Big E in Mass., the Eastern Stud Ram Sale, VA, the Mid-West Sale, the Ohio Suffolk Sale and several state fairs and jackpot shows. He held three Production Sales and a spring Club Lamb sale for several years.

Duane served on the Board of Directors of the National Suffolk Association from 1975 through 1984 and is a past Vice-President. The National Junior Suffolk Association was formed during his tenure on the board with Duane being a strong supporter of its foundation. He has served in several capacities in sheep and livestock organizations at both the state and local levels. Duane was inducted into the Indiana Livestock Hall of Fame in 2005 and has been named an Indiana Master Shepherd.

Teaching youth through livestock is one of Duane's passions. He has supported 4-H and FFA and has officiated several 4-H and FFA judging contests, has judged numerous jackpot and county fair shows. He judged the 2010 Market Lamb Showmanship at the North American Livestock Show. Some of Duane's favorite classes include showmanship classes. It is not uncommon to see him along the sidelines at a sheep show talking with a young showman. Duane and Marcia held several one day showmanship lamb camps at their farm--Sickels Lamb Camp.

Duane and Marcia have a Christmas Tree Farm in addition to the livestock. Greg is now farming the row crops. Marcia and Duane have two sons and

daughters-in-law, Dex and Molly, and Greg and Janette, and six grandchildren. The grandchildren are all aged five and under so the Sickels are looking forward to many fun sheep days ahead.

John & Pam Sponaugle

John was raised in Highland County, Virginia, the sheep capitol of the state. His family always had sheep at home and John started his own small flock with the purchase of 6 Suffolk ewe lambs from Mr. Kenton Rexrode from Blue Grass, VA in the mid 1960's. However, college and other time restrictions forced him to let them go. After college, John began a career as a high school math and physics teacher. With a desire to farm, John purchased a small farm in 1976 and 10 registered Suffolk ewe lambs from Ansel Luxford. He has never lost the love for the beautiful Suffolk sheep since.

On May 12, 1979 John and Pam were married in the front yard of their new 75 acre farm and so began Sponaugle Suffolks. They were blessed with two daughters, Sarah born in 1981 and Laura born in 1985. The family has grown to include six grandkids.

One thing John and Pam are most proud of is the creation of the Virginia Junior Suffolk Sheep Breeders in 1988 and its growth to the Virginia Junior Sheep Breeders Association. The VJSBA will celebrate its 25th year in 2017.

John and Pam have exhibited Suffolks at the Rockingham County Fair and consigned rams to the Virginia Performance Test for the past 38 years. They have exhibited their sheep at the local, state and national levels throughout the years, with a highlight being Reserve Champion Suffolk Ram at the 1992 Midwest Stud Ram Sale selling for \$11,000. John has been very active in the Virginia Sheep Producers Association and has served as president of the group numerous times.

On a national level, John served two terms as director of the National Suffolk Sheep Association in the late 1980's and early 1990's. He also led that group as President in 1990. John is very proud of his work with Mr. Jim Caras, President of the American Suffolk Sheep Society, in producing an ad in the Sheep Breeder magazine to jointly promote Suffolks. He also was instrumental in working with Mr. Caras and Mr. Craig Van Arkel on joint sponsorship of the Suffolk show in Louisville after the NSSA had been in Kansas City for two years. In 1999, John had the honor of judging the National Suffolk Show in Louisville, Kentucky.

John is currently a 4-H leader for a local club. He and his daughter, Laura, and son-in-law, JT, are still actively working with youth and their lamb projects.

Pam has in recent years shown her support of the Suffolk youth by donating a stained glass art piece to the juniors silent auction.

Their philosophy has always been: "If it's worth doing, then do it right!"

Dwight Stone, Stonemark Suffolks

Dwight Stone was third generation to be born in Medicine Lodge, Kansas and raised on the family farm. He married Jean Sitler in 1948 and they raised two girls, Kim and Cam.

Stonemark Suffolks began in 1951 with ewes and rams purchased from PJ Rock in California. With a passion for raising livestock and a good eye for judging the breed Dwight was able to develop consistency and quality in the flock as it flourished during the production years.

Raising, breeding, and selling Suffolk sheep provided many opportunities for the family to travel extensively from coast to coast in the United States. These trips provided many fun filled adventures and wonderful memories.

In the show ring, Stonemark Suffolks were known as winners and often placed as Champion or Grand Champion with their rams and ewes.

Dwight served as a director on the American Suffolk Sheep Association board and was also elected President from 1973 to 1975. He always enjoyed serving and improving the association.

Beginning in January 1971, plans to reduce the flock were implemented due to the work load and labor involved. The closing chapter of Stonemark Suffolks was 1978. Those twenty years of breeding had produced consistent and quality sheep.

In the following years Dwight continued farming with his father and later with his grandson, Mike. Dwight passed away in December 2006.

We would like to thank the Board of Directors for this honor and recognition of Stonemark Suffolks.

