

# *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.