

Suffolk Newsletter

The United Suffolk Sheep Association

USSA Office Contact Information

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Winter 2016

Volume 6, Issue 3

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Season's Greetings Suffolk Enthusiasts!

Now that NAILE has come and gone, I'd like to say thank you to all who helped during 2016 NAILE Suffolk Events. There were many wonderful activities during NAILE such as the Suffolk Junior Show, Open Suffolk Show and the Hall of Fame inductions during the Annual Meeting – it was great to see you all and meet many new faces! Also, congratulations to all the exhibitors, "Welcome" to the new USSA Directors, Gayle Lucas and Bill Gergen and "Thank You" to the retiring USSA Directors, Larry Pauly and Amanda Dobson. During the USSA board meetings in Louisville, Paul Skartvedt was re-elected President, Rob Zelinsky as Vice-President and Bill Royer will again serve as the Treasurer.

Before you know it lambing will be well underway... Before that joyous time of year begins, don't forget to register your replacement ewe lambs before they turn 1 year of age -- ensuring you receive the reduced registration price! Additionally, if you have sold a bred ewe in the last few months and need to transfer ownership, don't forget to include the breeding certificate information on the back of the ewe's registration certificate. And lastly, if you've sold a ram this summer or fall, don't forget to transfer ownership!

Annual dues letters will be arriving in January. There are a few items that will be included in the letter that I ask for you to respond to the office about. The simplest way to respond is to send back the second page of the dues letter with the requested information answered. The office is requesting information on the following topics:

1. Membership Information. Again this year, the letter will include a current record of your membership information, please review the information and notify the office of any additions or corrections. Your account balance will also be noted.
2. USSA Website Breeder Listing. If you would like to be listed as a breeder on the USSA website and are not currently listed, please contact the office. Members are not automatically listed on the website for privacy reasons.
3. Member Access to the New Registration Program. As the USSA Office continues to forward with implementing the new registration program there is a little leg work required by the USSA Office in order for a member to use the program. If you plan to register sheep yourself using the new online program (rather than sending in applications to the office), please let the office know. Further instruction will be mailed the members planning to utilize the online registration program.

As I make note of the yearly dues letter, I should mention that once again this year USSA is partnering with Greg Deakin and Banner Publications to create the 2017 Breeders Directory. As always, this will be a magazine-quality, informational listing of USSA members that you can count on to keep in touch with other breeders within the association. Members whom pay their dues prior to March 1st will be listed in the 2017 Breeders Directory. Membership dues paid before March 1st are \$35.00. Membership dues

(Continued on page 2)

USSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President:

Paul Skartvedt (Exp. 2018)
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Vice President:

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District 1

Ron Alves (Exp. 2018)
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209-404-6585
torpysonoma@yahoo.com

Kip Kuntz (Exp. 2017)
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swakgk@aol.com

Gayle Lucas (exp. 2019)
Philipsburg, MT
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sheep@blackfoot.net

District 2

Matt Beals, (Exp. 2018)
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402-749-3134(h), 402-200-0444 (c)
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920-864-7732
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District 4

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540-577-9303
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Bret Henderson (Exp. 2017)
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Randy Hodges, (Exp. 2019)
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810-441-6218
hodgesrk@yahoo.com

(Continued from page 1)

submitted after March 1st are \$50.00, so I encourage everyone to send their payments early and be included in the directory.

Just a few other reminders:

- ◆ Let's Grow Grant Funding – Members can still have their flock's NSIP data entered into LambPlan through the USSA. If you are interested in participating or hearing more details please contact the office. There is no cost to members to have their data entered. NSIP fees still apply.
- ◆ Association Mailing Address- The office mailing address is PO Box 121, Holland, IA 50642.
- ◆ Transfer Fee- Effective January 1, 2015, all non-family transfers are \$10 per transfer. There will no longer be two different fees, dependent on sale date, for transfers. Within family transfers will remain \$3 per transfer. Additional revenue from the increase in transfer fees will be used to support junior activities throughout the country and marketing and advertising of the Suffolk breed and the USSA.
- ◆ Email Blasts - The USSA offers services for members to purchase an email blast for \$100 to be sent to our email database of over 900 individuals. This email database is a select audience of those who raise, exhibit, purchase or are interested in Suffolk sheep. Contact the office for more details.
- ◆ 2017 National Junior Suffolk Show- Mark your calendars for the 2017 National Junior Suffolk Show to be held June 29 – July 2 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wisconsin along with the All American Junior Sheep Show. See the UJSSA website for more details.

Wishing you all Happy Holidays and a joyous 2017 Lambing Season!

Amanda Events

A Message from your USSA President

Hello Suffolk breeders we have had a very productive year on the board. 2016 was the first year in a while that registrations were up and transfers were up for the association.

The board had the opportunity to get together and continue our strategic planning for the association last spring. A few things we had the opportunity to work on building the youth program within the association also the process of rebranding the logo for the association.

I am very excited for the new year to get started, with lambing season and the holidays upon us there is excitement and anticipation for the new year.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I wish everyone a safe and happy lambing season.

Paul Skartvedt
USSA President



DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR 2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES BY MARCH 1ST!

- ⇒ *receive the reduced membership rate (\$35)*
- ⇒ *be listed in the 2017 breeders directory*



...new members, returning past members (whom have not been active in recent years) and past UJSSA members who have joined the USSA.

Homer Day, Kentucky
Keith Gebhart, Wyoming
John Miller, Maine
Seehusen Farms, Iowa
Kurt Strueh, Indiana

United Suffolk Sheep Association

-Mission Statement-

"To define, register, promote and improve the Suffolk breed to provide leadership for the advancement and future of the entire U.S. Sheep Industry"

-Vision Statement-

"To be the most innovative, value adding, member-driven sheep breed organization for an evolving U.S. Sheep Industry"

USSA Member News

Our condolences to the following Suffolk Family...

Gary L Te Stroete, 79, Sioux Center, Iowa passed away September 25, 2016 at Sioux Center Health Hospital surrounded by his family.

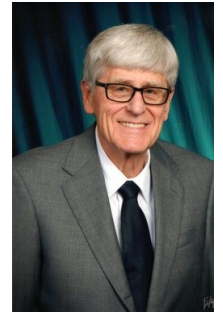
Gary began his journey on earth on May 2, 1937. Born into the family of Henry (Hemp) and Harriet (Vanden Berg) Te Stroete, he grew up in Hospers, Iowa, with one sister, Joyce (Reekers). His entire immediate family preceded him in death.

Gary married the love of his life, Arloa Korver on August 10, 1960. They had three children: Ruth who married Al Vermeer, Renae who married Terry Schuiteman, and Scott who married Sally (Dykshorn). They were also blessed with 13 grandchildren - Blake, Sara, Jana Vermeer; Maria (Michael) Gallagher, Rachel (Jon) Eveland, Julie (fiancé' Blake Boone), Emily, Erica, Amy Schuiteman, along with Anna Maassen; Katie, Kyle, Brooke Te Stroete.

After graduating from South Dakota State University, Gary and Arloa first moved to Manchester, Iowa, later to settle in Sioux Center in 1965. Together they built Arlo Farms, where they raised and sold many sheep, dogs and horses in the years since. Gary also worked for Production Credit Association until 1979 in both the Sioux Center and Inwood offices.

Gary was a friendly, outgoing man, and loved life. He had many passions, foremost of which were being a Man of God, devoted husband, father and grandfather. His greatest joy was spending time with the entire family. A story, joke or prank was never far away. He also had a love for many kinds of animals; sheep, dogs and horses. Cross breeding animals with different traits to bring out the best in them brought him great fulfillment. He not only raised them, but took great pride in judging many local, regional and national sheep shows. He earned that right by winning the National Collegiate Livestock Judging Championship at SDSU in 1962.

Gary is survived by his wife and children, in-laws, Fred Reekers, Rev. Harold and Shirley Korver, Ruth Korver, Bill and Frances Korver, Harriet Brouwer, Gladys and Dave Vander Berg, and several nieces and nephews. Even though Gary's life here has ended, his legacy of honesty and integrity lives on through everyone he touched. We will miss him greatly, but heaven has gained a new, bright star.



NEW ARRIVALS!

Breelyn Rose Slack was born Tuesday December 13, 2016 at 6:21 pm. She is the first child of Brett and Kaitlyn Slack. Breelyn weighed 7 lbs 2 oz and was 22 inches long. Breelyn's daddy joined the National Junior Suffolk Sheep Association and attended his first National Junior Show in Elkhart, Indiana when he was born in 1989. Include is a photo of Kelli holding Brett at that National Junior Show. Her Grandpa Tom has been a member of a Suffolk registry since 1964.



Ewe Lamb Giveaway Winners Announced

Congratulations this year's Suffolk Ewe Lamb Giveaway winners.

District 1 – Margarite Humphrey, Chehlais, WA

District 2 – Cally Faulhaber, Plankinton, SD

District 3 – Rylee Schultz, Montevideo, MN

District 4 – Josiah Antram, Somerset, PA

All the videos are posted and can be viewed on the USSA website.

Notes from the UJSSA

Attention Suffolk Breeders! Would you be willing to help the UJSSA plan and coordinate the 2017 National Junior Suffolk Show to be held in Madison, WI? The UJSSA is looking for volunteers to help with this year's events. If interested, contact UJSSA President, Andrew Slack.

2017 National Junior Suffolk Sheep Show Sponsorship Would you like to help sponsor the 2017 National Junior Suffolk Show? If you are interested in sponsoring a specific class or would like to just be a general sponsor please

2016 NATIONAL JUNIOR SUFFOLK SHOW



Now posted on the [UJSSA Website](http://www.ujssa.org): Photos • Complete Results • 2016 UJSSA Directors

UJSSA Board of Directors



www.ujssa.org

The UJSSA is on Facebook!

Officers

President

Andrew Slack, Lake Geneva, WI
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Vice President

Jaclynn Knutson, Centerville, SD
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Secretary

Alison Knutson, Centerville, SD
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Coordinators

Janet Hukowicz, Hadley, MA
413-584-8549 (h), jhu-kowic@smith.edu

Taylor Peck, Pittstown, NJ



2016 USSA Scholarship Recipients Announced

Congratulations to the 2016 Scholarship recipients. Juniors are encouraged to apply for the 2017 USSA Scholarship and Let's Grow Suffolk Scholarship (deadline is Oct. 1, 2017).

USSA Scholarship

There were two \$1000 USSA Scholarships awarded:

Raelynn Thompson of Patoka, Indiana is currently enrolled in Land of Lincoln Community College. Raelynn is majoring in Ag Communications and plans to transfer to a university in the fall. Her future plans include working with livestock publications and social media, continuing to show livestock, livestock photography and returning back to her family's operation, Five Star 'J' Farms. Raelynn has shown Suffolk sheep since she was young at the local and national level, including the NAILE and the National Junior Suffolk Show. She has also served as a UJSSA Director.

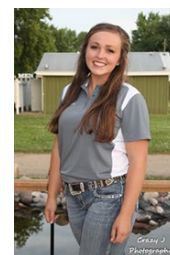


Rikken Zelinsky of Brookings, South Dakota is currently a senior at Brookings High School. Rikken plans to attend South Dakota State University in the fall, majoring in Animal Science. His key interests are animal pathology and nutrition. Upon graduation Rikken plans to pursue a career in animal nutrition continue to stay active with his family's Suffolk flock. Rikken has shown Suffolk sheep since he was young at the local and national level, including the NAILE and the National Junior Suffolk Show. He currently serves as a UJSSA Director.

Let's Grow Suffolks Scholarship

There was one \$1000 Let's Grow Suffolk Scholarship awarded:

Alison Knutson of Centerville, South Dakota is currently a senior at Viborg High School. Alison plans to attend South Dakota State University in the fall, majoring in Ag Business and Ag Education. Upon graduation she plans to teach agriculture education and be an FFA Advisor. Alison has shown Suffolk sheep since she was young at the local and national level, including the NAILE and the National Junior Suffolk Show. She currently holds the office of UJSSA Secretary.



USSA FUTURITY RESULTS—See next newsletter for photos!!

Ewe Lambs Futurity Results

District 1

24pts - Theodore Jackson (ID), JO 647

District 2

80 pts – Wesley Linke (SD), Kimm 16227
59 pts—Bauer Burch (TN), Skartvedt 4630
58 pts—Rikken Zelinsky (SD), Kimm 12123-16257
39 pts—Raesa Zelinsky (SD), Kimm BZ2005-16230
37 pts—Rhett Zelinsky (SD), Kimm 13098-16251
32 pts—Kyle Gross (NE), MacCauley 3672
3 pts—Rikken Zelinsky (SD), Kimm 10107-16278

District 3

45 pts – Victoria Arnevik (WI), RB Wilwerth 302
40 pts—Madison Binder (IL), Arndt Acres 15-044
40 pts—Savannah Bailey (WI), K Slack 1304
15 pts - Kevin Werner (IA), Kimm 16262

District 4

68 pts—Ashley Gouge (DE), MacCauley 3513
51 pts—Chad Hoover (PA), Russell Sheep Co 6088
42 pts – Kasse Getter (OH), Kimm 16219
37 pts —Allee Hoover (PA), Russell Sheep Co 6017
34 pts—Madelynn Pimm (NY), MacCauley 3591
34 pts—Madelynn Pimm (NY) MacCauley 3678
32 pts—Olivia Mason (MA), MacCauley 3626

Yearling Ewe Futurity Results

75 pts—Skilar Burch (TN), MacCauley 3324
71 pts— Bauer Burch (TN), EB Suffolks 328
59 pts – Wesley Linke (SD), Quam 11469
33 pts—William Christlieb (TN), Adams Suffolks 2552
32 pts—William Christlieb (TN), Adams Suffolks 2554
24 pts—Lillian Christlieb (TN), Adams Suffolks 2527
23 pts – Victoria Arnevik (WI), MacCauley 3236

JUNIOR DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

Name: Lily Skartvedt

Age: 16

Hometown: Radcliffe, IA

School/Major: South Hamilton High School

How did you become involved with Suffolk Sheep and the Association? I became involved in with the Suffolk Sheep Association after showing for many years and being talked to by my dad, the current USSA President, and Tayler Wolff who was a former board member.

What is your favorite Suffolk memory? My favorite Suffolk memories are fitting sheep with my grandma, and showing with my whole family at state fair.

What advice/words of encouragement do you have for other Suffolk juniors? Don't be afraid to ask the older showman for help, and don't be afraid to try new things.

What is your favorite food/meal? Ice Cream

What is your favorite band/singer? Brett Eldredge

What is your favorite season & why? My favorite season is fall because all my favorite things, including ISU football, volleyball, fall clothing, and Louisville are in that time.

What is your pet peeve? My biggest pet peeve is when people don't say thank you.

Who is your celebrity crush? Liam Hemsworth

What is an interesting fact about you? An interesting fact about me is that I love ear piercings.



Mark your calendars for....

2017 National Junior Suffolk Sheep Show

June 29—July 2 • Alliant Energy Center • Madison, WI

Of Interest...

Sheep Book App

Reprinted from ASI Weekly

For sheep producers looking for a web based application along with a mobile app to help manage their sheep data, Sheep Book may be for you. The app allows producers to track lambing data and generate reports by rams or entire lamb crop. It also allows producers to enter breeding information on a ewe flock and project lambing dates. This application will generate individual ewe productivity by keeping annual sale prices for your lamb crop.

There is a 30-day trial period after which the app costs \$15 annually. Check it out at <http://sheepbook.net>.

UJSSA Director Spotlight

Name: Jaclynn Marie Knutson

Age: 18

Hometown: Centerville, SD

School/Major: South Dakota State University; Majoring in Animal Science with minor in Agricultural Business and Agricultural Marketing

How did you become involved with Suffolk Sheep and the Association? My dad has had sheep since he was in 4-H and I began showing at age three, attending my first National Junior Suffolk Show in 2007. In 2012, I became a member of the Junior Suffolk Association Board of Directors. Since then, I have been President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President (current).

What is your favorite Suffolk memory? At my county fair sheep show this summer, I had a mom walk up and tell me that her daughter didn't want to tuck her shirt in. After the mom said "but the Knutsons have their shirts tucked in", her daughter tucked her shirt in. I have always had role models in my life and I love when I can be that person for others.

What advice/words of encouragement do you have for other Suffolk juniors? Although competing in the show ring is fun and I love watching my hard work pay off, the experiences I have had outside of the ring are what make showing that much better. I encourage all juniors to enjoy scooping manure, working in the lambing barn, and getting sheep ready for the show because those moments are what make the moments within the show ring that much more enjoyable.

What is your favorite food/meal? Chislic of course! During sweet corn season, my favorite meal is marinated, grilled chislic, sweet corn, and fresh fruit.

What is your favorite band/singer? I appreciate any country song, but they just don't make songs like they used to in the 90s. I got to see Shania Twain live and made me fall in love with her songs that much more.

What is your favorite season & why? My favorite season is definitely spring because that is when I really start to get excited for show season because I can see the potential in my show string. I also enjoy spring because then it starts to warm up and plants start turning green.

What is your pet peeve? When someone doesn't strive to reach their full potential. I believe that everyone has a potential that they don't even know about so if they don't work on their strengths and strive to be the best they can be, they can't reach that potential.

Who is your celebrity crush? I have had the opportunity to see Luke Bryan live in concert twice and I definitely appreciate his love for music and watching him entertain an entire stadium of people.

What is an interesting fact about you? I consider myself a very well rounded young adult. From being very involved in showing sheep and driving tractors on the farm to being Miss Teen South Dakota International and a South Dakota State FFA Officer, I enjoy staying busy and being involved.



2016 Hall of Fame Recognition

On Tuesday, November 15th, during the 2016 Annual Meeting the 2016 class of the USSA Hall of Fame was honored. It was a great evening of reminiscing and honoring those who have contributed to the Suffolk Breed, National Suffolk Sheep Association, American Suffolk Sheep Society and the United Suffolk Sheep Association. Here's photos of the inductees (and/or their families) who were able to attend the dinner. Special thanks to Greg Deakin for taking these photos.



Clyde & Justina George, George Bros



Brentford Miller & Brenda Miller



Chuck Ream, Windswept Ranch



Duane & Marcia Sickels



John & Pam Sponaugle



Dwight Stone, Stonemark Suffolks

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

The USSA is honored to be chosen as one of the 2015 Let's Grow Grant recipients. A major focus of our grant proposal is to offer an opportunity for USSA members to enter their NSIP data into LambPlan through the USSA. If you are interested in participating or hearing more details about this opportunity, please contact the USSA Office!





2016 NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION



D Henderson 16-7
Res. Champion Ram
Champion Fitted Ram
Clayton, Brady & Aubrey Henderson, IN



KJ Lansing 6524
Res. Champion Fitted Ram
Andrew Slack, WI



MacCauley 3484
Champion Ram
Champion Slick Shorn
Kyle MacCauley, PA



Circle T Farms 24
Res. Champion Slick Shorn Ram
Celia Dodd, TN

To see complete NAILE results visit: www.livestockexpo.org



2016 NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION

Junior Breeding Show Ewe Results



McClure 15-14
Champion Ewe
Champion Fitted Ewe
Andrew Slack, WI



Knutson 16-30
Res Champion Fitted Ewe
Shania Knutson, SD

Fitted Senior Champion Ewe— McClure 15-14, Andrew Slack, WI
Res Champion Senior Fitted Ewe— LynLee Farms 15035, Marissa Bilyeu, PA
Fitted Junior Champion Ewe— Knutson 16-30, Shania Knutson, SD
Res. Champion Junior Fitted Ewe— 4 Js & a T 1677, Graeme Jacoby, OH



MacCauley 3431
Res. Champion Ewe
Champion Slick Shorn Ewe
Kyle MacCauley, PA



Slack 5109
Res. Champion Slick Shorn Ewe
Jordyn Leininger, IN

Slick Shorn Senior Champion Ewe— MacCauley 3431, Kyle MacCauley, PA
Res. Champion Senior Slick Shorn Ewe — Slack 5109, Jordyn Leininger, IN
Slick Shorn Junior Champion Ewe— MacCauley 3655, Kyle MacCauley, PA
Reserve Champion Junior Slick Shorn Ewe— WEG 16-P-14, Holly Swearingen, KS
State Flock—Pennsylvania



2016 NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION

Open Show Results - Slick Shorn Show



MacCauley 3484
Res. Overall Suffolk Ram
Champion Slick Shorn Ram
Kyle MacCauley, PA



MacCauley 3708
Res. Champion Slick Shorn Ram
Kyle MacCauley, Pennsylvania

Slick Shorn Ram Senior Champion - MacCauley 3484, Kyle MacCauley, PA

Slick Shorn Ram Res. Sr Champ - MacCauley 3222, Kyle MacCauley, PA

Slick Shorn Ram Junior Champion - MacCauley 3708, Kyle MacCauley, PA

Slick Shorn Ram Res. Jr Champ - Silver Dollar Farm 6093, Tad Thompson, IN



MacCauley 3481
Champion Slick Shorn Ewe
Kyle MacCauley, PA



Slack 6147
Res. Champion Slick Shorn Ewe
Jordyn Leininger, IN

Senior Champion Slick Shorn Ewe - MacCauley 3481, Kyle MacCauley, PA

Res. Sr. Champion Slick Shorn Ewe - Silver Dollar Farm SW5024, Phantom Hills Fitting & Training, IL

Junior Champion Slick Shorn Ewe - Slack 6147, Jordyn Leininger, IN

Reserve Junior Champion Slick Shorn Ewe - Slack 6485, Jordyn Leininger, IN

Slick Shorn Flock & Premier Slick Shorn Exhibitor - MacCauley Suffolks



2016 NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION

Open Show Results - Fitted Show



"Buck Naked" Ruby Mtn 1601
Champion Overall Suffolk Ram
Champion Fitted Ram
Ruby Mountain Sheep Co., NV



"Rollin Deep" Ruby Mtn 1626
Res. Champion Fitted Ram
Ruby Mountain Sheep Co., NV

Senior Champion Ram—Quam 05299ET, KC Suffolks, IA
Reserve Senior Champion Ram - Tom Burke 7242, Rogers Suffolks, IL
Junior Champion Ram—"Buck Naked" Ruby Mtn 1601, Ruby Mountain Sheep Co., NV
Reserve Junior Champion Ram—"Rollin Deep" Ruby Mtn 1626, , Ruby Mountain Sheep Co., NV



McClure 15-14
Champion Overall Suffolk Ewe
Champion Fitted Ewe
Andrew Slack, WI



Oak Hill 15-1270
Res. Overall Suffolk Ewe
Res. Champion Fitted Ewe

Senior Champion Ewe—McClure 15-14, Andrew Slack, Lake Geneva, WI
Reserve Senior Champion Ewe - Oak Hill 15-1270, EB Suffolks, OH
Junior Champion Ewe - WHS 6-34, Whispering Hill Suffolks, ID
Reserve Junior Champion Ewe - Hoskins 16-32, Hoskins Stock Farm, IA
Fitted Flock & Premier Fitted Exhibitor - Ruby Mountain Sheep Co., NV
Best Headed Ewe—Paasch 15-772, Steven J Paasch & Family, CA
Best Headed Ram—KJ Lansing 6524, Andrew Slack, WI

USSA Director Spotlight—Dale Dobberpuhl

DePere, Wisconsin, District 3

My flock is Mint Gold Ranch and we have only Suffolks with a small grain farm of 100 acres. Although we have moved back to the 3 generation family farm for 18 years, we have had Suffolks for 25 years. We started with Suffolks to be competitive in the market lamb classes but our county fair also had a carcass show the following week after the fair. The carcass show became our major focus. We have since scanned for loineyes on all our lambs for 18 years. In addition we have input NSIP data on the whole flock since around 2000.



Our flock of about 70 ewes has about 1/2 bred for muscle mass with the scan data being the leading factor for their focus. We have many 4H families that utilize our rams for their small flocks. The other 1/2 of the ewe flock has a focus based on Carcass+ index on NSIP data. The Carcass+ index is a combination of growth and loin eye depth measurements. We have used the leading growth rams of the breed on our heavily muscled ewes. These offspring are sold at the Center of the Nation Sale in Spencer, Iowa (last Saturday of July) as well as to other commercial ram buyers.

At the Wisconsin State Fair, I am a cofounder of the Performance lamb class. This class competes for a total of 100 potential points. 20 points from the show ring, 40 points from the scan data taken at the fair and 40 points taken on rate of gain before the fair. This is a true learning experience for the youth in production agriculture. Our lambs have done well in this class and we see this as teaching true production in the sheep industry.

My interest as a director is to represent the vast genetic diversity of our breed. With this genetic pool we need to continue the development of sheep for the improved profitability of the industry. Therefore we need to register our Suffolks not only for the show but also to maintain accuracy in the production data under NSIP. We truly have the lead of the terminal sires in NSIP and encourage additional breeder support to further the profitability of the whole sheep industry. If you are a young breeder or a long time breeder and want to help in developing the breed for the future of the sheep industry, please direct your question to me and I will help to get you started.

I am enclosing a picture of our annual Grandpa's Sheep Camp. 14 grandchildren, seven years and older from South Dakota, Minnesota and western Wisconsin come for the week to Grandpa's eastern Wisconsin farm. Each grandchild trains and show a ram and ewe lamb (27 total lambs). Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we train them to lead along with other fun things. Thursday they are cleaned up and the truck and trailer are loaded. Friday we travel across state to the Interstate Livestock Show. Saturday is the show. After the show all return to their families. A truly busy week for the grand parents.



USSA OFFICE

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Open weekdays 8am-5pm central

UJSSA FUNDRAISER

The UJSSA board is selling t-shirts and sweatshirts as a fundraiser for the National Junior Suffolk Show. T-shirts are \$20 and sweatshirts are \$30; prices include shipping. Contact the USSA Office to order!



Recipe Corner!

Do you have a lamb recipe that is absolutely delicious you want to share? Do you have a child that loves to cook? We'll feature their recipes, too! Please email recipes to news@u-s-s-a.org to be featured in an upcoming newsletter!

SOPHIA BUSH'S SHEPHERD'S PIE

From: <https://www.facebook.com/buzzfeedtasty/videos/1841557556096885>

Ingredients

2 lbs Ground Lamb	4 Sweet Potatoes (peeled & quartered)
2 Heads of Celery (diced)	Ghee
One bag Organic Carrots (peeled & diced)	Garlic Cloves
One bag Brussel Sprouts (diced)	1 ½ tbsp Oregano (minced)
One Sweet Yellow Onion (diced)	1 ½ tbsp Thyme (minced)
One Can Organic Coconut milk	Kosher Salt & Ground Black Pepper

Directions

Place quartered sweet potatoes in a pot with boiling water, cook until fork tender. Once cooked, place them in a blender with the coconut milk, and one tablespoon of ghee. Blend until creamy.

Melt one tablespoon of ghee in the sauté pan. Begin sautéing the diced brussel sprouts and carrots, add one tablespoon of water to the pan, cover and allow to steam. Add diced celery and onion, season with salt and pepper to taste, and continue sautéing. When vegetables are almost tender, add the lamb, pressed garlic cloves, thyme and oregano. Drain any excess water out of the sauté pan.

Brush your casserole dish with a little melted ghee, add the meat and veggies to the casserole dish, and then top with the coconut and sweet potatoes purée. Bake in a 375-degree oven for 30-40 minutes.

SUFFOLK NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

1 page—\$200/issue

1/2 page—\$100/issue

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Ads should be emailed to: news@u-s-s-a.org. Please include the ad size and which quarter the ad should be run. Ads must be "publish-ready".

CLASSIFIED ADS

USSA Members only. Ads are free. Must be sheep related: animals, vehicles, trailers, equipment, transportation, working dogs, etc. Include your contact information. Email your ad to: news@u-s-s-a.org. The newsletter may not contain all of the classified ads or include photos that are posted with the classified ad. To find a full listing, please visit our website: www.u-s-s-a.org.

Ewes For Sale

10 Suffolk ewes - ages 5, coming 2 yr olds, and 5 aged 3 & up.

5F Suffolk's, Brad Fetters, 641-344-5011, Email: bbbc4f@grm.net

Registered Suffolk Ewe Lambs For Sale

Offering nine quality ewe lambs (including the one pictured) to help improve your flock. We continue to use NSIP to improve the focus of the flock. The last NSIP report shows 5 of the top rams for loineyes were used or bred by Mint Gold Ranch. We have carcass champions in nearly all the counties our MGR ram offspring are involved in. Info and photos are available on our website: www.mintgoldranch.com

Flock For Sale

Yearlings, 2 year olds and some 3 year olds on sires side are strong with Luxford breeding and Dreher's "Black Cobra". Dams side goes back to Bierle's "CV's Promise", "Le Monster", "Carnegie", Van Arkel's "Blue Print", KC Suffolks "Spectacular" and Silver Dollar's "RSVP" 2474. Semen for sale out of "CV's Promise", "LeMonster" and Van Arkel's "You Bet". Cheryl Bierle - 641-344-2462 or Doug Bierle - 641-782-0866

Registered Suffolk Ewe For Sale

2 - 5 years old - open or bred. Sired by River Ben 1880 "Son of Jack", Kimm 12211 "Jack" and Slack 5026i. Scrapie Export Certified Flock. Elmer H. Held (Suffolk breeder since 1976), Wisconsin., 920-583-3084 (h), 920-948-1831



The American Lamb Industry Roadmap Project

[Click Here](#) to access the American Lamb Board's Final Lamb Industry Roadmap Report!

Let's Grow Webinars

Did you know that the Let's Grow Webinars are archived and available online to be viewed at YOUR convenience? Topics covered include genetics, nutrition, management, and MUCH MORE!

Webinars can be viewed by visiting:

http://www.sheepusa.org/Growourflock_Resources_EducationalWebinars



Have something to share?

We're looking for photos, news, show and sale information, classified ads, recipes, helpful hints & tips, educational opportunities and questions for the question and answer section to include in the Suffolk Newsletter! Or anything else that may be of interest to fellow Suffolk Breeders you would like to share! If you have any suggestions on other items that should be included in the Suffolk Newsletter, please send those ideas as well! Information can be emailed to news@u-s-s-a.org or contact the USSA Office.

ASI Weekly's Upcoming Events Calendar

Reprinted from ASI Weekly—ASI does a great job of sharing upcoming sheep industry events in their weekly newsletter. To sign-up for the ASI Weekly electronic newsletter please visit: <http://www.sheepusa.org/> - scroll to the bottom of the homepage and type in email address under "CONTACT US" and then click "subscribe".

Jan. 3-5 - Texas State Shearing School - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, San Angelo - Reid Redden, reid.redden@ag.tamu.edu or [325-657-7324](tel:325-657-7324)

Jan. 6 - Deadline to register for the NLFA Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School - Albany, OR. - www.nlfa-sheep.org

Jan. 6-8 - Michigan's Shepherds Weekend - East Lansing - Maury Kaercher, kaercher@msu.edu or [269-569-9592](tel:269-569-9592) - <http://misheep.org/event/shepherds-weekend-january-6-8-2017>

Jan. 12-14 - Utah State University Sheep Shearing School - Logan, USU Sheep Facility - Anthony Steinfeldt, apsteinfeldt@gmail.com or [435-813-2587](tel:435-813-2587)

Jan. 12-Feb. 2 - Basics of raising sheep on small acreage. Four-week class meets on Thursdays at Helena (MT) College. www.UMHelena.edu/continuinged

Jan. 25-28 - ASI Annual Convention - Denver, Colo. - Details Available at [www.sheepusa.org/About Events Convention](http://www.sheepusa.org/About%20Events%20Convention)

Feb. 10-11 - Pipestone (Minn.) Lamb and Wool Program Lambing Time Short Course and Bus Tour - www.Pipestonesheep.com or Claire Beekman at Claire.stone@mnwest.edu or [507-825-6822](tel:507-825-6822)

Feb. 18 - Iowa Sheep Field Day, Washington, 10 am-4 pm - Hosted by ISU and Premier - www.premier1supplies.com/pages/sheep-field-day-2017.php

Feb. 23-25 - Colorado Wool Growers Shearing School, Brush - Marlin Eisenach, marlin.eisenach@colostate.edu or [970-542-3543](tel:970-542-3543)

Feb. 27-March 1 - Missouri Shearing School, George Washington Carver Farm, Jefferson City - Erin Brindisi, brindisie@lincolnu.edu or [573-681-5312](tel:573-681-5312)

March 12-15 - NLFA Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School - Albany, Ore. - www.nlfa-sheep.org

March 21-22 - Kentucky Shearing School, C. Oran Little Research Center, Versailles - Don Ely, dely@uky.edu or [859-257-2717](tel:859-257-2717)

ATTENTION SUFFOLK BREEDERS

Plan to be part of the 2017 Breeders Membership Directory

The Directory will be published by THE BANNER in glossy magazine format. All members of the United Suffolk Sheep Association will be mailed a directory. Directories will be distributed at every major show and sale in 2017!



Breeders & Commercial Advertisers Deadline is February 28

BE PART OF IT!

Leap on the Bandwagon & Contact THE BANNER Now!

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Next Newsletter: March 2017

Submission Deadline: February 20th

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Have a Suffolk related event you would like to add to the calendar of events? Email your event to: info@u-s-s-a.org. The newsletter may not contain all upcoming events. To find a full listing, please visit : www.u-s-s-a.org or www.ujssa.org

January

25-28 ASI Convention, Denver, CO www.sheepusa.org/About_Events_Convention

March

1 Last day to pay USSA membership dues at reduced rate *and* be included in the 2017 Breeders Directory

April

7-8 Illini All-Breeds Spring Sale, Bloomington, IL www.bannersheepmagazine.com

26 Stars of the North On-line Breeding Sheep Sale, contact: Jeremy Geske, jeremy.geske@gmail.com or 612-756-1200, www.wlivestock.com

May

11-13 Big Ohio Sale Weekend, Eaton, OH www.bannersheepmagazine.com

27-28 Great Lakes All Breed Sale, Wooster, OH www.bannersheepmagazine.com

June

1 Entry deadline for National Junior Suffolk Show

1 USSA Ambassador Applications Due

1 UJSSA Director Applications Due

1-3 Nugget All-American, Sparks, NV www.wlivestock.com

19-24 Midwest Stud Ram Sale, Sedalia, MO www.midwestsale.com

29- 2 National Junior Suffolk Show, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI www.ujssa.org

July

29- 2 National Junior Suffolk Show, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI www.ujssa.org

14-15 Crossroads of the West Sale, Heber City, UT www.bannersheepmagazine.com

2017 Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School Enrollment deadline January 6

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ♦ December 7, 2016 ♦ Contact: NLFA Office 503-364-5462

Participants interested in all aspects of sheep production and marketing Oregon-style have until January 6, 2017, to register for the March 12 – 15, Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School. The intense three-day program features close examination of year-round lambing, grass fed operations, and unique livestock handling systems being utilized in the Willamette Valley during the sheep industry's most active time of year in Oregon.

Tours will include Kalapooia Grass Fed Processing plant, vineyard grazing and a variety of winter lambing, shearing and working facilities. The program ends with an optional one-day tour to the Oregon Coast that ends back at the Portland airport for either a night flight or overnight stay for a flight the next day.

Participants, who must be 20 years of age and older, must submit a completed application form by January 6, 2017. Although there is no fee to apply, a registration fee of \$200 is required once accepted to the school. Fee includes food, lodging and site tours. Transportation to and from Albany, Oregon is additional.

For more information, call 503-364-5462 or visit www.nlfa-sheep.org.

Newborn Lamb Management

By: Scott P. Greiner, assistant professor, and Mark L. Wahlberg, associate professor, Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, Virginia Tech

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For direct access to the article: <http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/410/410-026/410-026.html>

At no other time during the year are the investment of time and sound management practices more important for a sheep producer than during lambing. The financial success of a sheep operation largely depends upon maximizing the pounds of lamb weaned per ewe exposed while minimizing costs of production. In turn, pounds of lamb weaned per ewe depend on saving the lambs that are born. The largest percentage of lamb deaths occurs at or shortly after birth.

The three primary causes of death of lambs around lambing time are:

- Difficulty during the birthing process
- Starvation
- Hypothermia

Therefore, solid management practices at lambing time are essential for the economic viability of the sheep operation.

Lambing Time Procedures

1) Frequent visits to the lambing barn

Dystocia (lambing problems) can be a significant cause of lamb mortality. Losses due to stillbirths and dystocia can be reduced by frequent visits to the lambing barn and timely assistance to ewes. Pregnant ewes should be checked every three to four hours. If ewes are checked at 11:00 p.m. or midnight it is not necessary to check again before 5:00 or 6:00 a.m. Ewes that will lamb between these times usually show signs at the late-night observation.

Ewes close to lambing will be restless and may try to claim other newborn lambs. Ewes in labor will normally separate themselves and frequently choose a corner or area along a wall or feedbunk to nest and deliver. The lambing area should be dry, well-bedded, and free of cold drafts that will chill newborn lambs. A heated lambing barn is not necessary; a dry, draft-free area is more important.

The lambing process can vary considerably between ewes. Ewes in labor should be left undisturbed. However, once the ewe begins forceful straining and the water bags are passed, delivery should normally take place within 45 to 60 minutes. Once the front legs are visible, lambs should be born within 30 to 45 minutes. After the first lamb is born, subsequent lambs are normally delivered within 30 minutes.

Prolonged delivery beyond these times may indicate lambing difficulty, and the ewe should be examined and assisted if necessary. Prior to assisting the ewe, the examiner should wash the ewe's vulva with mild soap and water. Likewise, the shepherd should thoroughly wash his or her hands and arms and wear an OB sleeve when assisting or examining a ewe. When assistance is required to deliver one lamb, the uterus should be examined for additional lambs. For lambs that are pulled, a piece of straw may be gently inserted into the nostril as an irritant to help stimulate breathing. Lambs that are delivered rear legs first should be gently shaken upside-down by holding the rear legs to allow fluid to drain from the lungs.

2) Move ewes to a jug after lambing

When possible, allow ewes to give birth where they initially bed down. Moving ewes to individual pens when they start lambing may prolong the birthing process and cause other complications. Additionally, allowing ewes to complete the lambing process before moving them to jugs helps keep the jugs drier and prevent injury to lambs in multiple-birth situations.

Lambing jugs should measure at least 5 feet x 5 feet, with a maximum slat spacing of 3 inches. Large breeds and multiple births may require larger jugs. The environment of the jug is critical to newborn lamb health and survival. The jugs should be kept well-bedded, dry, and free of drafts. Facilities with concrete floors should have a base of lime or sawdust/shavings under the straw. Concrete floors can be cold and damp, causing chilling and pneu-

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monia in newborn lambs. When feasible, clean the lambing jugs between ewes. Feed troughs and water buckets should be suspended out of the reach of newborn lambs.

The first 24 to 48 hours after birth are a critical time for the ewe and her lambs. During this time, bonding occurs and the ewe as well as her lambs learn to identify each other. The jugs also assist the shepherd in keeping a close eye on the ewe and lambs.

When moving the ewe into the jug, clip the lambs' navels and immerse in a 7% iodine solution. Many navels (less than 2 inches) will not need to be clipped. Iodine helps prevent infection and promotes drying of the navel.

3) Ensure lambs receive adequate colostrum intake

Colostrum is the milk produced by the ewe for up to 18 hours after birth. It has important nutritional value for the newborn lamb. Colostrum contains essential antibodies that provide protection against certain diseases for the newborn lamb and provides energy to keep the lamb warm. Newborn lambs are susceptible to hypothermia due to their relatively low energy reserves and their large body surface area relative to body weight.

Lambs should receive adequate colostrum within 30 to 60 minutes after birth. To help ensure this, strip the ewe's teats to remove the wax plugs that frequently obstruct the teats. In some cases, lambs that appear to be nursing may not be getting milk due to these plugs. Stripping the teats will also confirm the ewe has milk. Lambs should be monitored closely to make sure they nurse. Lambs that have nursed will have a full stomach upon palpation. Crotching ewes prior to lambing will enhance the lambs' ability to access the udders, particularly with long-fleeced ewes. Lambs that have not nursed should be assisted. Most lambs have a strong suckling reflex shortly after birth, and will nurse when presented a teat. It may be necessary to close the lamb's mouth on the teat and/or squirt milk in the lamb's mouth to initiate suckling. An effort should be made to help the lamb nurse the ewe before other methods are used to get colostrum into the lamb.

In some cases, the lamb is unable to nurse the ewe even with assistance. These lambs may be small, weak, chilled, rejected by the ewe, or injured. In these cases, stomach tube feeding is necessary to get colostrum into the lamb. Lamb stomach tubes that attach to syringes are available commercially and should be on hand for all shepherds. With the lamb's head in a natural position, insert the tube in the side of the lamb's mouth, following the roof of the mouth down into the throat. Don't force the tube down; rather allow the lamb to swallow as the tube goes down the esophagus. The tube can be felt on the outside of the neck as it is inserted down into the stomach, and will go in about 12 inches. Although it is difficult to get the tube down the trachea (windpipe), the tube can be checked to see if air is being expelled (listen or moisten end of tube to see if bubble forms). After inserting of the tube, give the colostrum slowly. Lambs should receive 20 cc colostrum per pound of body weight. As a reference, 30 cc equals approximately 1 ounce. Therefore, a 10-pound lamb should receive 200 cc or about 7 ounces of colostrum in the first 30 minutes after birth. After the initial tube feeding, many lambs will respond and begin to nurse on their own. If not, the lamb may need to be tube fed every two to three hours after the initial feeding.

The source of colostrum for these cases is another important consideration. The first choice would be from the lamb's mother. If colostrum is not available from the ewe, another ewe that has just lambed may be a source. It is a good idea to freeze colostrum for future use from ewes that lose their lambs or ewes with singles that are heavy milkers. Colostrum should be pre-measured and frozen using ice cube trays or freezer bags. Frozen colostrum should be thawed with indirect heat (water bath), and not a microwave or direct heat as these can produce enough heat to destroy the antibodies. In an emergency, goat or cow colostrum may be used. There are also commercially available artificial colostrum substitutes.

Post-Lambing Management

The ewe and her lambs need to be monitored closely for the first few days after birth. Healthy lambs are content, and will stretch when getting up and wag their tails when nursing. A gaunt and weak appearance may be indicative of starvation. Check the ewe to be sure she has milk. In the case of multiple births, the smallest lamb may not be able to compete for the milk supply. Constipation can be a problem in newborn lambs if feces dry and mat down on the tail. Cleaning the area with a damp rag will alleviate this problem.

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Time spent in the jug will depend largely on the number of jugs available and rate at which ewes are lambing. Strong, healthy singles may be removed from the jugs in 24 to 36 hours after birth and twins after 48 hours. Triplets and ewes with weak lambs may need to stay in the jug for three or more days. Remove ewes and lambs from the jug as quickly as possible, as the longer they are confined, the greater the chances of them contracting pneumonia and diarrhea. Labor requirements are also much greater when ewes are confined to the jugs. Before turning ewes and lambs out of the jugs, record pertinent information on the ewes and lambs. Appropriately identify the lambs (ear tags, paint brands, ear notches, etc.) at this time as well. The ability to match a ewe with her lambs can be a very helpful management tool. Thin, poor-doing lambs may indicate a health problem in the ewe (mastitis) or inferior milking ability.

Most of Virginia is deficient in selenium. Selenium and/or vitamin E deficiency causes white muscle disease in lambs. To prevent this disease and for all-around flock health and performance, provide the ewe flock with a high-selenium complete mineral mix specifically formulated for sheep during gestation (fed free-choice). Additionally, lambs should receive 0.5 cc Bo-Se a day or two after birth. Bo-Se is a combination of vitamin E and selenium.

For systems in which ewes and lambs will be going to pasture immediately after lambing, ewes should be dewormed either two to three weeks prior to lambing or upon leaving the jug. Ewes shed an increased number of worm eggs during the last weeks of gestation and continue through just after lambing.

Upon removal from the jugs, ewes and lambs should be put into a mixing pen with three or four other ewes and their lambs. This will help acclimate them, and they should be closely observed to identify abandoned and rejected lambs. After a day or two, the ewes can then be put into larger groups.

Lambing jugs should be cleaned and rebedded after each ewe and her lambs are removed. Even though the area may look clean, urine and manure in the pen will release ammonia, which is harmful to the newborn lamb's lungs and can lead to pneumonia.

Complications with Newborn Lambs

Hypothermia and Starvation

Hypothermia is defined as low body temperature. This condition may result from a variety of factors including exposure, weakness, trauma, and starvation. Lambs with hypothermia appear weak, gaunt, and hunched up. In severe cases, the lamb may be unable to hold its head up and may even be unconscious. The ears and mouth may feel cold, and the lamb may lack a suckling response. The normal body temperature for lambs is 102° to 103°F. Lambs with temperatures below 100° are considered hypothermic. Use a rectal thermometer to measure body temperature.

In newborn lambs, true hypothermia may result from exposure. In these cases, it is necessary to get warm colostrum into the lamb immediately to bring its body temperature up. Tube feeding is an effective means to administer this colostrum. It may also be necessary to move the lamb into a warmer environment to elevate its body temperature. If wet, the lamb should be dried off and wrapped in a towel. A cardboard box can be used to confine the lamb, with jugs of warm water used as a heat source. This method is similar to the heating boxes that are sold commercially. Heat lamps may also be effective. However, heat lamps should not be used routinely in the lambing barn. They are expensive to operate, and do not supply enough heat to prevent hypothermia. They also are a fire risk. Healthy lambs are adaptable to very cold temperatures, provided the environment is dry and free of cold drafts. As the lamb warms up, monitor its body temperature. Water baths have also been used to warm lambs, although care should be exercised not to use very hot water (>105°F), which will warm the lamb too quickly and cause shock.

For lambs that are older than 24 hours, hypothermia usually is a result of starvation. Without energy from milk, lambs become hypoglycemic, then hypothermic and may die. Treatment for these situations is similar to that used for the newborn, with the exception that older lambs need not receive colostrum. Milk replacer can be fed with a bottle or feeding tube. The milk should be warm, but not hot when a drop is placed on the inside of your wrist. As a guideline, these older lambs should receive 6 to 8 ounces of milk per feeding.

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Orphan Lambs

Orphan lambs may result from abandonment, rejection, or the death of the ewe. Options to consider are grafting the lambs on another ewe, artificial rearing with milk replacer, or selling the lambs if an outlet is available. Many methods are used to graft orphan lambs to other ewes. The largest, most aggressive lamb is usually the best candidate to graft. Grafting works best when the lambs to be grafted are similar in age to the ewes' own lambs. Grafting a triplet lamb to a ewe with a single is the usual case. The grafting process should be initiated as soon after birth as possible. The longer the ewe and her lambs are together, the stronger the bond to each other becomes. Older lambs are difficult to graft not only due to rejection by the adopting ewe, but also rejection of the ewe by the orphan lamb. In all cases, as described previously, colostrum intake by the orphan lamb in the first 24 hours is important.

To get a ewe to accept an orphan lamb, the ewe must think the lamb is her own. Some ewes are easier to fool than others. If grafting to a ewe that has just given birth to her own lamb, rub the orphan lamb in the birthing fluids and afterbirth to give the orphan lamb the smell of her own lamb. Another method involves a stocking that is worn by the adoptive ewe's own lamb for a day or two, and then placed on the orphan lamb. In all cases, place the ewe's head in a stanchion so she can eat and drink but not turn to smell and fight the lambs. This forces the ewe to allow the orphan lamb to nurse. The length of time required for successful grafting varies. Over a period of three to seven days, most ewes will accept the new lamb. Ewes with grafted lambs should be monitored closely once they are turned out.

Lambs may also be raised artificially on milk replacer. The milk replacer should be specifically formulated and labeled for lambs. Again, lambs require colostrum within the first 24 hours after birth and then may be placed on milk replacer. The best candidate for artificial rearing in a multiple birth situation is the smallest, weakest lamb. The sooner the lamb is taken off the ewe, the easier it is to train to the bottle. It frequently takes several feedings to train the lamb to the bottle. Starting with a hungry lamb (five to six hours since last feeding) will assist in training. It may be necessary to force-feed the bottle. Lambs will consume around 20 percent of their body weight in milk per day. This would equate to about 38 ounces per day for a 12-pound lamb ($12 \text{ pounds} \times 16 \text{ ounces per pound} \times .20 = 38 \text{ ounces}$). This amount should be divided according to how many times the lamb will be fed per day. One- to two-day-old lambs should be fed a minimum of four times a day, while older lambs can be fed only twice. Initially, the milk should be fed warm to stimulate intake. Once lambs are acclimated to the bottle, time and labor are saved if the lambs are fed cold milk in a bucket feeder. It is important to thoroughly clean the nipple bucket at least twice daily and to keep the milk fresh to avoid spoiling. When putting lambs on the self-feeding bucket, group them by age and size to avoid competition. A warm, dry pen is important for the health of artificially reared lambs. Another important aspect of bottle feeding is to get the lambs started on dry feed and water as soon as possible. Have fresh lamb creep feed (20 percent protein) available to these lambs at one week of age. Artificially reared lambs can be weaned as early as three weeks of age (minimum weight of 20 pounds). Research at Virginia Tech has indicated lambs can be artificially reared for around \$25 per head. For more information on this subject, refer to Profitable Artificial Rearing of Lambs, Virginia Cooperative Extension publication 410-023.

Docking and Castration

There are several tools available for docking and castration, including:

- Knife
- Emasculator
- Elastrator
- All-in-one Castrator
- Burdizzo Emasculatome

Your choice of instrument depends on your management practices and the lamb's age at docking and castration. All of these tools, when used correctly with proper sanitation, are effective.

Lambs that are docked stay cleaner and are less likely to have fly strike. Mature sheep with intact tails may have problems at breeding and lambing time. Intact males are frequently discounted at marketing. Feeding ram lambs and ewe lambs together may result in decreased weight gains and unwanted pregnancies.

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Docking and castration are best when performed at the same time, usually two to five days after birth. At a young age, there will be less stress on the lambs. Additionally, these practices are faster and simpler to perform for the producer when the lambs are young. Lambs should be docked before they reach two weeks of age, and castrated by six weeks of age.

Vaccination of ewes with *Clostridium perfringens* type C and D with tetanus approximately three weeks before lambing will provide protection for lambs against tetanus (via colostrum), provided docking and castration are done a few days after birth. If ewes have not been vaccinated with tetanus prior to lambing, lambs should receive 300 IU of tetanus antitoxin as well as tetanus toxoid. Do not mix the antitoxin and toxoid in the same syringe or give in the same location (use opposite sides of neck). The toxoid produces an immune response in the lamb, while the antitoxin provides antibodies. For lambs that are three to four weeks old at docking and/or castration, vaccinate with tetanus toxoid. The antitoxin may be used in high-risk situations. As a guideline, the tail should be docked at the point in which the caudal skin folds join into the tail. These skin folds are found on the underneath side of the tail, just above the anus, and terminate about 1 inch down the tail. Exercise care to avoid docking tails extremely short. Excessively short tail docks, in combination with other factors, contribute to an increased incidence of rectal prolapses.

An emasculator is frequently used for docking. The emasculator has both a crushing and cutting mechanism. The crushing mechanism seals the blood vessels on the tail remaining on the lamb, while the cutting edge effectively removes the tail. The burdizzo works in a similar fashion to crush the tissue on the end of the tail. A knife is used to cut off the long end of the tail (inside the burdizzo). With the emasculator and burdizzo, each device should be left on the tail for approximately 30 seconds to help prevent bleeding. Application of elastrator bands is also quite common, especially for producers with sheep that will be exhibited at shows. Since tail removal with the elastrator bands is a two- to three-week process, fly strike can be a problem. The tail can be cut off below the band after two or three days to speed the removal process.

Before castration, it is important to confirm both testicles are descended. The most popular choice for castration is the knife. With the lamb held in a sitting position, cut the bottom third of the scrotum off with a knife or the scissors portion of the all-in-one tool. Push the cut end of the scrotum towards the body to expose one testicle. Use your fingers, or all-in-one tool to grab the testicle firmly. With your free hand use your thumb and index finger to grab the neck of the scrotum and hold it firmly against the lamb's body. Between your fingers you should feel the cord of the testicle. Slowly and gently pull the testicle out until the cord breaks, allowing the cord to slip between your thumb and index finger while maintaining pressure on the scrotum against the body wall. This procedure will help prevent hernias. Repeat the procedure for the second testicle. Cutting or severing the testicle cord with a knife will cause bleeding and should be avoided.

An elastrator band may also be used for castration. The band is placed around the neck of the scrotum, just below the teats. Be sure to have both testicles in the scrotum when the band is released. In two to three weeks the scrotum will fall off. As with the tail, the scrotum may be removed below the elastrator band after a few days, which will leave a small cut that will heal quickly.

After docking and castration, wounds should be treated with iodine or wound dressing. Docking and castration should be delayed for lambs that are small, weak, thin, or unhealthy. These lambs should be allowed to regain strength before processing.

Checklist of Supplies and Equipment for Lambing Time

OB sleeves	docking and castration tools	injectable selenium/vitamin E
OB lube	stomach tube with 60 cc syringe	tetanus antitoxin
thermometer	bottle with lamb nipples	fly spray
ear tags and tagger	frozen colostrum	propylene glycol
vaginal retainer	lamb milk replacer	antibiotics
lamb warming box	18 and 20 gauge needles (1 inch)	electrolytes
heat lamps	3, 6, and 12 cc syringes	
scissors	7% iodine solution	

Suffolk Associations Close to Home



Ever wondered if there is a state or regional Suffolk Association near you? The following is a listing of active state and/or regional Suffolk Associations across the United States. If there is an active local Suffolk Association that has been overlooked, please contact the USSA Office. Local Suffolk Associations are encouraged to share news, events or updates through the Suffolk Newsletter!

CALIFORNIA SUFFOLK AND HAMPSHIRE SHEEP BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION **Website**

President: Greg Ahart, Sacramento, CA Phone: 916.716.0089 Email: greg.ahart@superiorfarms.com

ILLINOIS SUFFOLK SHEEP ASSOCIATION

President: Bill Royer, Washington, IL Phone: 309-444-2356 Email: royerfarm@aol.com

IOWA SUFFOLK SHEEP ASSOCIATION **Website** **Facebook Page**

President: Kathy Krafka Harkema, Montezuma, IA Phone: 641.623.7200 Email: truechamp@aol.com

MINNESOTA SUFFOLK SHEEP ASSOCIATION

President: Jeremy Geske, New Prague, MN Phone: 612.756.1200 Email: jeremy.geske@gmail.com

MISSOURI SUFFOLK SHEEP ASSOCIATION

President: Amanda Dobson, Lexington, MO Phone: 660.232.1433 Email: adobson.rvt@gmail.com

MONTANA SUFFOLK SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION **Website**

Contact: Jane Rath, Miles City, MT Phone: 406.232.1060

NORTHEAST SUFFOLK SHEEP ASSOCIATION **Website** **Facebook Page**

President : Josh Miller, Schoharie, NY Phone: 518-231-8113 Email: millers@midtel.net

OHIO SUFFOLK SHEEP ASSOCIATION **Facebook Page**

President: Deanna Knapke Phone: 419-953-0791 Email: knaped@msn.com

PENNSYLVANIA SUFFOLK SHEEP ASSOCIATION **Facebook Page**

President: Jodie Hoover, Washington, PA Phone: 724-222-9325 Email: jhoover@fortcherry.org

SOUTH DAKOTA SUFFOLK SHEEP ASSOCIATION

President: Jim Van Dyke, Wessington Springs, SD Phone: 605-770-1095 Email: seedstock@venturecomm.net

WISCONSIN SUFFOLK SHEEP ASSOCIATION **Website** **Facebook Page**

President: Kevin Slack, Lake Geneva, WI Phone: 262.903.5971 Email: kslacksuffolks@yahoo.com

Do you know a junior that would like to win a Suffolk Ewe lamb?



How to enter: Submit a video, two minutes or less telling who you are, why you want a Suffolk Ewe Lamb and how it will impact your life.

Deadline: Email the Video along with your name, birth date & contact information to info@u-s-s-a.org by November 1, 2016. The winner will be announced during the Suffolk Open Show at NAILE.

Open to juniors age 18 or younger as of January 1, 2016 who do not currently own registered Suffolks.

United Suffolk Sheep Association

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We're on the Web!
www.u-s-s-a.org
www.ujssa.org

SUFFOLK SCENES

Attention Members: Please feel free to submit at Suffolk Scene to be featured in an upcoming newsletter!



"Our kiddos participated in the 2016 Dyer Co Fair Suffolk Breeding Show. They won the 2016 Bred by Exhibitor Award. These Ewe lambs were born and raised on our farm this year and we couldn't be more proud of them! Our kids are 9 years old and have been showing their animals since they were about 4 years old."

Submitted by Kim Sipes, Sipes Farms, Dyersburg, TN

Sheep Resources

The USSA Office often gets phone calls asking for resources producers can go to for sheep-related questions. The following are resources the office is aware of for producers to use. Since this may not be a complete list, if there are additional resources that you use and would like to share please email those to news@u-s-s-a.org.

Sheep Producer Resource Website

Sheep Community of Practice is a new web-based tool available to sheep producers through the eXtension Foundation, a non-profit entity. This website offers a Ask the Expert Tool that will connect you with experts and allow you to ask questions. Through the Ask the Expert Tool, the producer can even attach images. The website also offers information about sheep feeding and nutrition, reproduction and breeding, management practices, genetic selection, health and veterinary care, grazing and pasture, and wool. To visit the Sheep Community of Practice website go to: <http://www.extension.org/sheep>

Ask a Sheep Vet

This website is a blog written by sheep veterinarian Dr. Kennedy of Pipestone Veterinary Clinic, Pipestone, MN. The blog contains answers to various sheep related questions, with new information added often. To visit Dr. Kennedy's blog please go to: <http://askavetsheep.wordpress.com/> Also, if you "LIKE" [Pipestone Vet Sheep-Goats](#) on Facebook, are several question and answers posted daily.

A Guide to All Things Sheep©

A Guide to All Things Sheep© is a new resource for sheep breeders and producers by Premier 1 that offers information on several topics from educational guides, how to's, photos, recipes, an events calendar, view points and industry spotlights. To visit A Guide to All Things Sheep© please visit: www.premier1supplies.com/sheep-guide/

Check out the USSA Facebook page!

