

Suffolk Newsletter

The United Suffolk Sheep Association

USSA Office Contact Information

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Winter 2017

Volume 7, Issue 4

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Greetings Suffolk Enthusiasts!

As the 2017 holidays become a memory, we move into another special time of year. Now you transition from wrapping gifts and baking cookies to sorting your ewes into lambing groups, preparing lambing jugs and double checking to make sure you have your supplies.... I want to wish you the best of luck with lambing. To help you prepare, I've included lambing management article again this year - whether you're lambing for the first time or a seasoned veteran, it's a quick review!

Don't forget to take advantage of the USSA Amnesty Program! USSA and UJSSA members can register Suffolks over 1 year of age for \$8/head. Program runs August 1, 2017 to March 1, 2018. Take advantage of this program – late registrations will increase to \$15/head after March 1st.

Reminder: During the June USSA Board of Directors meeting there was a lengthy discussion on how to balance the proposed 2017/2018 budget. Through this discussion the USSA BOD approved the following changes to the association's fee structure. Please note the effective dates below.

Membership Dues (effective 10/01/17):

New - \$40
Paid prior to March 1 - \$40/yr
Paid after March 1 - \$60/yr

Rush Fees (effective 10/01/17):

Needed within 72 hours: \$25/hd
Needed in less than 14 days: \$10/hd

Late Registrations (effective 03/02/18):

Late Registrations (over 1 yr old)-\$15/hd

For members who are interested in learning more about NSIP, please watch your email (or check your voicemail), the USSA is putting together a webinar in partnership with NSIP...details will be posted and shared soon! You can still take advantage of having the USSA enter your flock data into NSIP.

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. To date, funding has covered the cost to enter data for 6 Suffolk flocks totaling approximately 500 head!

Amanda



USSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President:

Matt Beals, (Exp. 2018)
Alexandria, NE
402-749-3134(h), 402-200-0444(c)
drysandysheep@gmail.com

Vice President:

Treasurer:

Bill Royer (Exp. 2019)
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District 1

Ron Alves (Exp. 2018)
Oakdale, CA
209-404-6585
torpysnoma@yahoo.com

Blair Summey (Exp. 2020)

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916-408-8738 (h), 805-501-7500 (c)
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Gayle Lucas (exp. 2019)

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406-859-3890 (h), 406-381-3191 (c)
sheep@blackfoot.net

District 2

Tom Burke (exp. 2020)

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816-532-0811 (o), 816-853-2697 (c)

Bill Gergen (exp. 2019)

Geneva, NE 68361
402-540-7884
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District 3

Jeremy Geske (exp. 2020)
New Prague, MN
612-756-1200
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Radcliffe, IA
515-450-1302
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Joe Emenheiser, (Exp. 2018)
Benson, VT
540-577-9303

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Bret Henderson (Exp. 2020)

Windfall, IN
574-933-4422
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Randy Hodges, (Exp. 2019)

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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"



Welcome!

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

Tray & Kristina Black, Florida
Chris Case, Idaho
Lewis Hilbert, Pennsylvania
Jonathan & Kathie Hilsher, New York
M & M Livestock, Georgia



Expect the next issue of the Suffolk Newsletter...

March 2018

Deadline to submit information, ads, events is March 10th.

USSA President's Message

Hello Suffolk enthusiasts, I hope you all had a productive and profitable year in the Suffolk business. I am excited, yet truly humbled to be this Association's President for the upcoming year. I am excited because of what this breed has to offer, and how it fits into so many different types of operations. I truly believe that collectively, real good days are ahead for us. I am humbled because of how important this breed of sheep is to so many people. The history of all those who have come before, and shaped this breed, makes me realize how insignificant I really am in the grand scheme of things. I hope one day in the future someone thinks I made a difference. Thanks to all of you who have called or dropped a note to wish me well.

I would thank past President Paul Skartvedt for leading us so well for the past two years. Also a big thanks goes out to retiring board members Rob Zelinsky, Kip Kuntz and Dale Doppertuhl. I have gotten to know these guys well over the past two plus years. I consider them friends and the association is better off for having them as directors.

In 2018, look for your association to make bold moves, positioning our breed at the forefront of the evolving sheep industry. Look for an updated logo and a more informative and user-friendly website this year. Also please express your thoughts, questions and concerns to your director or to me. I truly look forward to hearing from you. Call my cell phone (402) 200-0444, I almost always answer, and if I don't I'll get back to you in a timely fashion.

In closing have a joyous holiday season, cherish every moment relaxing with family and friends. Lambing season starts soon and relaxing becomes a fast-fading memory.

Matt Beals
USSA President
District 2 Director - Alexandria, Nebraska



USSA Committee Updates

Breed Improvement: The USSA is honored to be chosen as one of the 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 through the USSA. Please contact the USSA Office for more information.

Bylaws— All bylaws sent in September with director election materials passed by membership vote. Bylaws posted on the association's website are up-to-date.

Hall of Fame - Please contact the USSA Office with any Hall of Fame Inductee suggestions.

LET'S GROW GRANT UPDATE

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 through the USSA.

To-date data has been submitted for nearly 500 Suffolks from 6 flocks!

If you are interested in participating or learning more about this opportunity, please contact the USSA Office!



USSA FUTURITY PROGRAM— FINAL STANDINGS

Ewe Lambs Futurity

DISTRICT 1

25pts - Theodore Jackson, ID - MacCauley 3831

21pts - Theodore Jackson, ID - MacCauley 3980

DISTRICT 2

46pts - Raesa Zelinsky, SD - Kimm 17205

23pts - Rhett Zelinsky, SD - Russell Sheep Co. 7001

8pts - Riggen Zelinsky, SD - Ulrich 33-17

DISTRICT 3

38pts - Madison Binder, IL—Arndt Acres 16-054

29pts - Miranda Dobberpuhl, WI—Kimm 17422

27pts - Christian Tift, IA—Dombek 3095

20pts - Lillian Ruddat, WI—Kimm 11091-17227

13pts - Christian Tift, WI—Annuschat Y802

DISTRICT 4

40pts - Madelynn Pimm, PA—MacCauley 3784

38pts - Allee Hoover, PA—MacCauley 3766

35pts - Madelynn Pimm, PA - MacCauley 3839

Yearling Ewe Futurity

53pts - Bauer Burch, TN — O'Neill Suffolks 1163

48pts - Madison Binder, IL— Arndt Acres 15-0544

41pts - Sandra Binder, IL— Arndt Acres 15-0545

25pts - Kasse Getter, OH - Kimm 16219

19pts - Ashley Gouge, DE—MacCauley 3513

14pts - Madelynn Pimm, PA—MacCauley 3591

**Photos of winners will be included
in the next newsletter!**



JR. SHOW FUNDRAISING CONTEST - GRAND PRIZE *SHOWBOX*

Attention Juniors! Help us raise money for the 2018 National Junior Suffolk Show!

- ⇒ All money raised must be submitted as one sum. Money and a detailed list of donors (including mailing address) should be mailed to the USSA Office—PO Box 121 , Holland, IA 50642! Don't forget to include your name, too!
- ⇒ **Money raised must be mailed, postmarked on or before May 1.** Anything mailed after May 1 will not be included in the contest.
- ⇒ Money raised prior to the announced start date will not count toward the contest. **Start date: November 1st!**
- ⇒ Checks should be made payable to UJSSA.
- ⇒ Open to any junior member. UJSSA Board of Directors are not eligible.
- ⇒ **The winner of the contest will receive this showbox!**



UJSSA FUNDRAISER

The UJSSA board is selling t-shirts and sweatshirts as a fundraiser for the 2017 National Junior Suffolk Show. T-shirts are \$20 and sweatshirts are \$30; prices include shipping. Contact the USSA Office to order!



Notes from the UJSSA

2018 National Junior Suffolk Sheep Show Sponsorship Would you like to help sponsor the 2018 National Junior Suffolk Show? If you are interested in sponsoring a specific class or would like to just be a general sponsor please contact a UJSSA Director.

2017 NATIONAL JUNIOR SUFFOLK SHOW



Now posted on the [UJSSA Website](http://www.ujssa.org)
Photos • Complete Results • 2017 UJSSA Directors

UJSSA Board of Directors



www.ujssa.org
The UJSSA is on Facebook!

Officers

President

Andrew Slack, Lake Geneva, WI
262-903-1326, slackandrew1053@gmail.com

Vice President

Jaclynn Knutson, Centerville, SD
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Secretary

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Treasurer

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Directors

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Riggen Zelinsky, Brookings, SD
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Coordinators

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

Taylor Peck, Pittstown, NJ
(908) 328-4053, peck676@yahoo.com

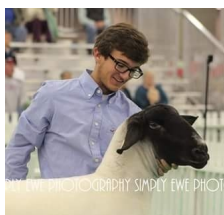
UJSSA Ambassador Application
Due: June 1, 2018

Visit the USSA or UJSSA website to view application.

2017 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations to the 2017 Scholarship recipients. Juniors are encouraged to apply for the 2018 USSA Scholarship and Let's Grow Suffolk Scholarship (deadline is Oct. 1, 2018).

USSA Scholarship -There were two \$1000 USSA Scholarships awarded:



Andrew Slack of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin is currently attending University of Wisconsin – Platteville. Andrew is majoring in Animal Science with a minor in Agri-Business. His future plans include entering into the reproduction and AI field, working with all species, especially cattle and sheep. Additionally, he notes that he would like to grow his own flock up to 100 Suffolk frame ewes and 50 Suffolk based wether ewes. Andrew has shown Suffolk sheep since he was young at the local and national level, including the NAILE and the National Junior Suffolk Show and fits many sheep around the US. He currently is serving a second year as the UJSSA President.



Cody Kinsman of Spring Creek, Nevada is currently attending Great Basin College in Elko, Nevada, majoring in secondary education with a special education endorsement. Outside of college, Cody keeps busy fitting sheep (across the US) and helping local 4-Hers with their sheep projects. Upon graduation, Cody envisions a Masters Degree in education administration in the future. He plans to continue helping local youth with sheep projects, hosting livestock judging teams, coaching public speaking teams and assisting with his high school Ag teacher and their chapter's events.

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



Nicole Dittbrenner of Cumberland, Wisconsin is currently attending University of Wisconsin – River Falls, majoring in Animal Science. Upon graduation she plans pursue a career in management or a technical field. Additionally, she plans to continue to grow and improve her own flock, using tools such as ultrasounding, NSIP production records and artificial insemination. She also plans to continue her involvement with helping youth – such as donating lambs through the “Pay it Forward” program, hosting a Disability Hunt on her family's farm and reaching out to help special needs youth with agriculture-related projects. Nicole has shown Suffolk sheep since she was young at the local and national level, including several National Junior Suffolk Shows.

USSA FEE CHANGES

USSA Amnesty Program is back! USSA and UJSSA members can register Suffolks over 1 year of age for \$8/head. Program runs **August 1, 2017 to March 1, 2018**. Take advantage of this program – late registrations will increase to \$15/head after March 1st.

Fee schedule changes. During the June USSA Board of Directors meeting there was a lengthy discussion on how to balance the proposed 2017/2018 budget. Through this discussion the USSA BOD approved the following changes to the association's fee structure. Please note the effective dates below.

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NSIP UPDATE

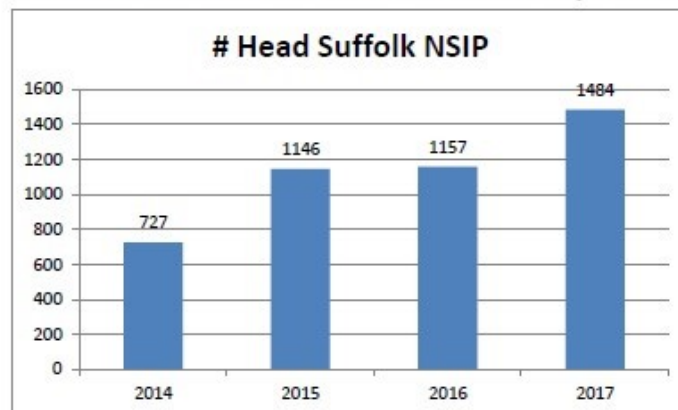
Submitted By Brenda Reau

Number of Suffolk Sheep Enrolled in NSIP is Soaring

The number of Suffolk sheep enrolled in the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) has more than doubled in the past three years. Suffolk breeders from across the country are enrolling in NSIP to make improvements in the productivity of their flocks using quantitative genetic data. Breeders are recognizing the importance of utilizing breeding values like other species have used for many years.

Improving productivity was a goal outlined in the Lamb Industry Roadmap and Suffolk sheep can play an important role in improving productivity and profitability of the American sheep industry. Let's Grow funds have been allocated to increase Suffolk participation in NSIP. A program is in place for Suffolk breeders needing assistance with data submission. In 2018, there will also be some additional educational events targeted to educate Suffolk breeders about NSIP. Watch for future communications on a webinar to be held this winter. Ideas are also being explored for a hands-on workshop this summer in the eastern part of the country.

Let's Grow Doubles Suffolk NSIP Participation!



2017 EWE LAMB GIVEAWAY WINNERS

Congratulations to the 2017 USSA Ewe Lamb Giveaway winners! Winning videos can be viewed by clicking on the links next to the winner's name! Please consider entering the 2018 contest!

- District 1 - Danielle Berry, CA - <https://youtu.be/IR13dBwWhyc>
- District 2 - Taylor Ruckert, KS - https://youtu.be/KzUbMwT_O2o
- District 3 - Cody Sievert, MN - <https://youtu.be/rXCKLM8I-0>
- District 4 - Katie Miller, PA - https://youtu.be/b_qDR2KXhro

2018 Annual Dues & USSA Breeders Directory

Annual dues letters will be arriving in January. As a reminder, membership dues have increased to \$40 per year if paid prior to March 1st. After March 1st, dues are \$60. In addition to the information regarding your membership dues and account balances, there are a few items 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:

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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.

Again this year, the USSA is partnering with Greg Deakin and Banner Publications to create the 2018 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 2018 Breeders Directory. Membership dues paid before March 1st are \$40.00. Membership dues submitted after March 1st are \$60.00, so members are encouraged to send their payments early and be included in the directory.

NEW THIS YEAR!

In addition to the directory being printed, the USSA Breeders Directory will be available electronically! This will be a wonderful way to advertise Suffolk Breeders from coast to coast! Please make sure you've included or updated your websites and Facebook pages on your membership listing!

ATTENTION SUFFOLK BREEDERS

Plan to be part of the 2018 Breeders Membership Directory

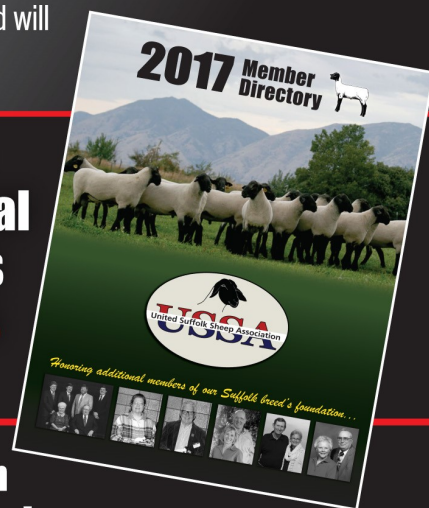
The Directory will be published by THE BANNER in glossy magazine format. All members of the United Suffolk Sheep Association will be mailed a directory. Directories will be distributed at every major show and sale in 2018, and will be available for viewing on the USSA website!

**BE PART
OF IT!**

**Breeders
& Commercial
Advertisers
Deadline is
March 1**

**Jump on the Bandwagon
& Contact THE BANNER Now!**

Phone: 309/785-5058 • Fax: 309/785-5050 • Email: ads.banner@sybertech.net



A Winter Wonderland



Josh Arritola, OR



April Miskimon, IN



Races in the Snow!
South Beckman Suffolks, OR



Melissa Reimers, AK



MacCauley Suffolks, PA



Heupel Farms, CO



Scott Rasnick, VA



Shelly & Scott Satterthwaite, NV



Sara Hendzel, IN



Heupel Farms, CO



Beth Schultz, IL



Prairie Rose Suffolks, MT

*Thank you Suffolk Enthusiasts for sharing your Winter Wonderland photos on the USSA and UJSSA Facebook pages!
It's wonderful seeing photos of Suffolks from Coast to Coast!!!*

Mark your calendars for....

2018 National Junior Suffolk Sheep Show

July 5-8 • Boone Co. Fairgrounds • Lebanon, IN

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR 2018 MEMBERSHIP DUES BY MARCH 1ST!

⇒ receive the reduced membership rate (\$40)

⇒ be listed in the 2018 breeders directory



2017 NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION ~JUNIOR SHOW~



WHS 7-12 RRNN Buckin' Thunder
Overall Champion Suffolk Ram
Champion Fitted Ram
Exhibited by: Jacob Brinkman, MN



MacCauley 3982 RR
Res. Overall Champion Suffolk Ram
Champion Slick Shorn Ram
Exhibited by: Kyle MacCauley, PA



4 J's & a T 1677
Overall Champion Suffolk Ewe
Champion Fitted Ewe
Exhibited by: Cayden Jacoby, OH



MacCauley 3535 RR
Res. Overall Champion Suffolk Ewe
Champion Slick Shorn Ewe
Exhibited by: Kyle MacCauley, PA

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

USSA AMNESTY PROGRAM RETURNS!

Members can register Suffolks over 1 year of age for \$8/head.

Program runs August 1, 2017 to March 1, 2018.

Please spread the word to fellow Suffolk Breeders who may have some catching up to do!

Take advantage of this program – late registrations will increase to \$15/head after March 1st.

Registration of Ewes (Being Registered for the First Time)				United Suffolk Sheep Association P.O. Box 121, Holland, IA 50642 Phone (641) 684-5281 Fax (734) 335-7 Email: info@u-s-s-a.org			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date Needed: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (check copies are \$1 per copy)							
Address: _____							
Address: _____							
In certificates, transfers, re-registrations, or to correct a previous application. The fees must accompany this application.							
Lamb Information	Optional: Permanent ID and/or DNA info	Birth Date mm/dd/yy	Birth Type	Flock Name & Number	Registration No.	Flock Number	Size
USSA Amnesty Program RETURNS AUGUST 1!							
<i>Register Suffolks over 1 year old for \$8/head</i>							
<small>*Program available to USSA Members 8/1/17 to 3/1/18</small>							



2017 NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION ~OPEN SHOW~



Silver Dollar 16-35
Overall Champion Suffolk Ram
Champion Slick Shorn Ram
Exhibited by: Silver Dollar Farms, Tad &



KJ Lansing 7757 RRNN
Res. Overall Champion Suffolk Ram
Champion Fitted Ram
Exhibited by: Twin Peaks Suffolks, MO



"O WOW" Ruby Mtn Sheep 1603
Overall Champion Suffolk Ewe
Champion Fitted Ewe
Exhibited by: Ruby Mountain Sheep Co., NV



MacCauley 3476 RR
Overall Champion Suffolk Ewe
Champion Slick Shorn Ewe
Exhibited by: Kyle MacCauley, PA



"Hunger Games" Mil-Sid 1604
Best Headed Ram
Exhibited by: Mil-Sid Farm, Josh Miller, NY



Renn-Vue ZZ 5647
Best Headed Ewe
Exhibited by: Renn-Vue Farms, MI

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

When selling Suffolks, ask your buyer for their email address and if you can share it with the association. We'd like to add Suffolk buyers to our email distribution lists! Let's get buyers excited about Suffolks AND the association! Also, anytime you sell Suffolks and would like the office to send them some information and FREEBIES, email Amanda—info@u-s-s-a.org or include note with the transfers to the office.



USSA News



DuWayne Swenson of Dawson, died on Sunday, November 26, 2017 at the Johnson Memorial Care Center at the age of 92.

DuWayne Verdon Swenson was born on July 25, 1925 in Maxwell Township to Walter and Emma (Anderson) Swenson. He was baptized at the Presbyterian Church in Dawson, and was confirmed at the Riverside Lutheran Church in Dawson. He grew up on the family farm south of Dawson in Maxwell Township. DuWayne attended country school in District # 26, and graduated from Dawson High School. During World War II, he spent two years in the Merchant Marines traveling to destinations in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. He started farming in Maxwell Township in 1948. On November 18, 1950, he married Victoria Mae Hanson of Clarkfield. They lived and farmed in Maxwell Township for eight years, and in 1958 purchased a farm in Riverside Township near Dawson. Corn and soybeans were the principal crops raised.

DuWayne had a big interest in livestock and fed 500 head of cattle for many years. Hogs were also a part of his enterprise. In 1960, he took an interest in Suffolk sheep. This business grew to a point of having one or two production sales of his pure-bred Suffolk sheep with the majority of the sales being held in Sioux Falls, SD. With his interest in sheep, he became involved in many sheep organizations including: MN Suffolk sheep Asso., MN Wool Growers Asso., North Central Wool Marketing Corp., of which he was vice chairman, MN Sheep Council President, and Director of the National Suffolk Sheep Asso. He had the opportunity of traveling to many points of interest in the U.S., and he and Victoria spent many winters in Arizona. DuWayne was an active member of Grace Lutheran Church where he had served on the council and was congregational president. He was also an active member of the Dawson VFW, and chairman of the Riverside Township board for 20 years.

DuWayne is survived by three children: Dean (Paula) Swenson of Walcott, ND, Bradley (Janet) Swenson of Colman, SD, and Joyce Jorgenson (Alan Oppegaard) of Maple Grove, MN; one sister, Gwen Robertson; seven grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Victoria; and two sisters: Verlyce Borlaug and Phyllis Jean Fredlund.

[Click here to view online obituary.](#) DuWayne was inducted into the USSA Hall of Fame in 2013, [click here](#) to view Hall of Fame information.

Lawrence Edward "Larry" Mrozinski, 61 of San Pierre passed away Tuesday, November 14, 2017. He was born March 16, 1956 in LaPorte to Edward Mrozinski & Geraldine DePoy, graduated from New Prairie High School in 1974, received a B.S. from Purdue University in Animal Science and a Master's degree from North Dakota State University in Ruminant Nutrition. Larry had owned and operated Heinold Feeds for many years and was currently a dairy nutritionist with Papillon Agricultural Services.

Larry was a nationally renowned judge and breeder of sheep, also enjoyed raising ducks on the family farm and loved spending time RV'ing with family and friends. His abundant love of life will continue in the hearts and minds of the universe of friends he cultivated wherever he went.

On July 15, 1978 Larry married Deb Barker, who survives, along with their children: Amy Mrozinski of Grand Rapids, MI, Andrea (Tanner) Schwartz and their children, Logan & Layla of Cutler, IN, John Mrozinski of Kansas, his mother, Geraldine DePoy of Rolling Prairie, brothers: Tom (Rita) & John (Lori) Mrozinski of Rolling Prairie. He was preceded in death by his father, Edward and brother, Mark Mrozinski.

[Click here to view online obituary.](#)

Empty Space?

Next issue: share a story, association update, etc., here, for FREE!

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. 6 - Northwest Iowa Sheep Producers Annual Meeting & Banquet- Sioux Center, IA northwestiowasheepproducers.com

Jan. 12-14 - Utah State University Shearing School- Logan, UT- Anthony Steinfeldt apsteinfeldt@gmail.com or 435-813-2587

Jan. 13 - Wool & Mohair 101 hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Ext. Center- agrilife.org/sheepandgoat/woolmohair

Jan. 13-15 - AgriLife Extension Shearing School - San Angelo, Texas - <http://agrilife.org/sheepandgoat/registration>

Week of Jan. 15 - California Wool Growers Association workshops on Improving Lamb Marketing, Quality and Profitability: Options for California Sheep Producers – several workshops planned during the week in Bakersfield, Rio Vista, Chico, Auburn & Hopland Field Station – <http://www.woolgrowers.org>

Jan. 17 - Livestock-Wildlife Conflict Prevention Workshop - Carbon County Fairgrounds in Red Lodge, MT - https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/downloads/states/Flyer_Jan17_2018_Design2.pdf

Jan. 17 - Shepherding a New Generation: Succeed During Lambing 2018- Tappen, ND Community Hall- ag.ndsu.edu/extension

Jan. 20 - 2018 Lambing School hosted by the Oregon Sheep Growers Association and the Oregon State University Extension Service - Mont Alto Ranch in Glide, Ore. - johnandpeggyfine@charter.net or 541-673-0369

Jan. 25 - Colorado Farm Show Sheep Day - Island Grove Park in Greeley, Colo. - <http://www.coloradofarmshow.com>

Jan. 27 - Nebraska Sheep and Goat Producers Lambing and Kidding School - North Platte, Neb. - <https://goo.gl/GrwSgx>

Jan. 31-Feb. 1 - Grassworks Grazing Conference - Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells, Wis. - <http://www.grassworks.org>

Jan. 31-Feb. 3 - ASI Annual Convention - From the Hill Country to Capitol Hill in San Antonio - www.sheepusa.org

Feb. 1 - All American Sheep Day- Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo- Rapid City, SD-blackhillsstockshow.com or david.ollila@sdsu.edu

Feb. 2-3 - Florida Sheep, Wool & Herding Dog Festival - Ocala, FL - 352-528-4843 or <https://meatsheepallianceofflorida.com>

Feb. 9-10 - Pipestone Lamb & Wool Program Lambing Time Short Course & Bus Tour - Pipestone, MN - pipestonesheep.com

Feb. 9-11 - 2018 Montana Wool Harvesting School hosted by the Montana State University Extension Sheep Program, Montana Wool Growers Association and Montana Agricultural Experiment Station - MSU Red Bluff Research Station near Norris, Mont. - Sharon.henderson@montana.edu or 406-994-3415

Feb. 23-25 - Colorado Shearing School - Brush, Colo. - Marlin Eisenach at marlin.eisenach@colostate.edu or 970-542-3543

Feb. 24 - Washington State Sheep Producers Lambing School - Mabton, Wash. - <https://www.wssp.org>

March 5-6 - Missouri Shearing School - Lincoln University's George Washington Carver Farm near Jefferson City, Mo. - Erin Brindisi at 573-681-5859 or <mailto:BrindisiE@lincolnu.edu>

March 17 - Washington State Sheep Producers Lambing School - Ellensburg, Wash. - <https://www.wssp.org>

March 21-22 - Kentucky Beginner's Shearing School - Versailles, Ky. - Don Ely at dely@uky.edu or 859-257-2717

April 2-6 - Washington State Beginner's Shearing School- Moses Lake, WA- Sarah Smith smithsm@wsu.edu or 509-760-6946

April 7 - Washington State Advanced Shearing School- Moses Lake, WA- Sarah Smith at smithsm@wsu.edu or 509-760-6946

April 7-8 - Ohio Shearing School - Hebron, Ohio - Roger High at 614-246-8299 or www.ohiosheep.org

April 12-14 - Shepherd's Cross Shearing School - Claremore, Okla. - Diane Dickinson at 918-342-5911

April 14-15 - Maryland Shearing School - Uniontown, Md. - Aaron Geiman at adgeiman75@gmail.com

May 8-12 - University of California Cooperative Extension Shearing School - Ukiah, Calif. - John Harper at jmharper@ucanr.edu or 707-463-4495

Book Your Hotel Now for the ASI Convention

Start planning now for the ASI Annual Convention. From the Hill Country to Capitol Hill will take place Jan. 31-Feb. 3, 2018, at the Marriott San Antonio Rivercenter. Details on registration, schedules and speakers are still to come, but attendees can book hotel rooms now by visiting:

<https://aws.passkey.com/gt/215642451?gtid=1c9f7e5483e1011581b8de0e15d43c2c>.

Additional information on the convention can be accessed at http://sheepusa.org/Events_2018Convention as

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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: John Corson, Macomb, IL Phone: 309-255-4606 Email: corsonre@yahoo.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: kslackuffs@yaho.com

Have Ewe Checked Out the New Lamb Industry Resource Center?

The new lamb industry resource center was developed to provide the industry with a clearinghouse of information about lamb, from production resources and marketing tools to events and funding opportunities. The site is meant to help industry members learn where to find information, and to promote programs and resources provided by national lamb industry organizations.

Visit www.lambresourcecenter.com



The American Lamb Industry Roadmap Project

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

Lamb Jerky

Do you have a lamb recipe that is absolutely delicious you want to share? Do you attend farmers market and have a recipe and advice you'd like 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!



Ingredients

2-3 lbs boneless leg of lamb, trimmed of all fat
1/3 cup low sodium soy sauce
3 tablespoons worcestershire sauce
1 1/2 teaspoons onion powder
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 tablespoon oregano
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper



Directions

Place the trimmed American lamb in the freezer for about 1 hour to make it easier to slice. Combine the remaining ingredients in a small bowl and whisk together.

Remove the lamb from the freezer and thinly slice so the grain is running lengthwise.

Place a layer of slices in a 9x13 dish. Brush the seasoning over the lamb slices.

Continue layering the meat and brushing the seasoning on. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight to marinate.

For dehydrator option

Place the marinated lamb slices on racks of a dehydrator and dehydrate at 145 degrees for 6 hours until dried and crispy.

For oven option

Heat oven to 175 degrees. Use convection option if you have it.

Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil and place a wire rack on top.

Place the lamb slices on the rack in a single layer, do not overlap.

Bake for 4 hours until dried and crispy.

Source: americanlamb.org

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

Jan. 31-Feb. 3 ASI Annual Convention, San Antonio, TX www.sheepusa.org

SHARE YOUR EVENTS!!!!



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.

Suffolks: A History

By: Ron Alves

Coming to America...

Two events that were part of the foundation for the sheep industry in the United States, before we were the United States, occurred in Europe. First, Christopher Columbus' trip to the new world was probably financed in large part by wool. Obviously North America would have been discovered but sheep devotees can be proud that sheep industry played a part in our formative history. Secondly, Henry VIII's seizure of flocks belonging to the monasteries and redistributing them created economic chaos amongst shepherds. The discontent of the unfairness of this situation caused a surge of immigration to the American colonies. The immigrants established a foundation for the launching and growth of the sheep industry in the United States¹.

The history of the Suffolk breed in the United States is a three chapter anthology: first there is the genetic heritage that emanated from the British Isles. Further discussion on Britain's influence on United States Suffolks will be presented as the saga of Suffolk history continues. The Second chapter is the selection process that has been applied to Suffolks by U.S. breeders from sea to shining sea. The last chapter is being written by us U.S. Americans on a breeding season by breeding season basis.

The first three importations of Suffolk sheep into North America came from the same seed stock source. M. B. Streeter of Brooklyn, New York, who had owned Southdowns from boyhood, imported a Suffolk ram and three ewes in 1888. When Streeter was visiting England the previous year, he was greatly impressed by the mass and meatiness of the Suffolks he saw. One of Streeter's yearling ewes weighed 200 pounds as she came off the ship. A nine month old ram lamb weighed in at 195 pounds. Streeter wrote for the pamphlet cited in the bibliography the following: "To be candid with you, I think these sheep have just one fault – they are not heavy shearers. Of all the heavy mutton breeds they are perhaps the most natural or the least manipulated by a long course of selection to produce show points. If I understand rightly, this breed has been developed on conditions that called for much rustling for food, and they are somewhat leggy and bare of wool underneath. I like them as well as I ever did, and am willing that they shear light because of other undoubted advantages."²

Also in 1889, B. D. Sewell of Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada imported 20 Suffolk ewes. In 1892 The Iowa Suffolk Sheep Society (interesting that they had an association before they had sheep) imported three rams and 20 ewes and placed them on the farm of G. W. Franklin in Atlantic, Iowa. Franklin was the secretary of the Iowa Suffolk Society. These first Suffolks all came from the Joseph Smith flock of Haskton, Suffolk, England. Incidentally Smith's flock is where the landmark English Suffolk stud Bismark was bred. These Suffolk sheep were phenotypically impressive and had phenomenal growth numbers. This was an era where the focus on meat producing livestock was pounds of meat produced in an efficient manner. Suffolk sheep fit this emphasis and thus was laid the foundation for what was to eventually become the dominant purebred sheep breed in the United States.

At the turn of the century few livestock breeders even knew about Suffolk sheep. They were not being exhibited at fairs. There was only a handful in the United States. The American Flock Registry Association was formed in 1892 with headquarters in Des Moines, Iowa, yet by 1905 they had not published a flock book. What would it take to get this breed mainstreamed into the United States sheep industry? In the early 1900's Shropshires was the dominant black faced breed with Hampshires gaining in popularity.



The Suffolk ram pictured to the left came from the 1892 U.S.D.A. pamphlet cited in the bibliography. It was originally published in a monthly magazine similar to the *Farmer's Almanac* called the *American Agriculturalist*. The picture is from the May 1890 issue. One can only assume that the ram had to be a rendition of one of the Streeter sheep since his were reputedly the only Suffolk sheep in the United States at that time.

1. American Sheep Producers Council educational pamphlet, *Wool through the Ages*, cited in *Sheep Breeder and Sheepman*, Vol. 102, No.6, June 1982, pages 8-9, 14.

2. Salmon, D.E., Special Report on the History and Present Condition of the Sheep Industry of the United States, U.S.D.A., 1892.

CLASSIFIED ADS

USSA Members only. Ads are free. Must be sheep related: animals, vehicles, trailers, equipment, transportation, working dogs, etc. Include your contact information. The newsletter may not contain all of the classified ads or include photos that are posted with the classified ad. Full listing can be found on our website: www.u-s-s-a.org.

Member Testimonial -

Thank you USSA for putting out a great newsletter and to Amanda for all the help she has given me. I put an ad in the classified section to sell my ewes and some ewe lambs. I am happy to say they are all sold. Thank you to Chris of Missouri for buying all of my ewes and Bill of North Carolina for buying all of my ewe lambs. I asked the people who called where they found out about my sheep for sale - they said they didn't receive any sheep magazines - but checked out the USSA's website - classified ads. So it pays to advertise in the USSA. Thank you for providing great service to the Suffolk members. Thank you so much & Merry Christmas, Cheryl Bierle, Bierle Suffolks, Creston, Iowa

For Sale: Sheep Magazines from the year 1998-2017. They are The Banner, Sheep Breeder, Sheep, Pipestone Newsletter & Stud Ram Sale Catalogs. I have sale orders and some results. Plus whatever else happened these years. Must take all - will not sell out of order. I would like \$20 per year plus shipping. Will try to work the shipping out. Please contact me for any questions. Cheryl Bierle - 641-344-2462

For Sale- Mil-Sid 1604 yearling ram: sired by Mil-Sid 1003 "Trip-Bute" 2012 National Champion Ram, 1604 was 2nd Yearling Ram & Best Headed Suffolk ram at Louisville in 2017. His breed type is spot on, he's as straight down his top as you can make one, super square hipped, big ribbed, plenty of bone, He's a Stud Buck! I'll be more than willing to winter him over and deliver him to Ohio Sale in May. Mil-Sid Farm, Josh Miller: 518-231-8113 millers@midtel.net

Suffolk Ewe Lambs For Sale: We are offering 5 high quality Feb. ewe lambs for sale. These females are very correct with a lot of meat down their tops and in their legs. They are easy fleshing with a lot of spring of rib and nice bone. They have nice frame but are not extreme. These are the kind of sheep that know how to work and milk. All of them are RR but one. Most of them are sired by our own rams and by a Kimm ram. 2 of them are triplets, 5 are twins and 1 single. You can pick for \$750. [Find us on Facebook at Ulrich Sheep](#). Look at the group pictures and give us a call. Steve Ulrich Eureka, IL 309-467-4707



"Just how many sheep did you ask Santa for?"

Newborn Lamb Management

By: Scott P. Greiner, Professor, and Mark L. Wahlberg, associate professor, Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, Virginia Tech
A publication of the Virginia Extension Cooperative. Reprinted with permission.

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 pneumonia 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 inch-

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es) 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.

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 miner-

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al 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.

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

(Continued on page 21)

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 pounds x 16 ounces per pound x .20 = 38 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 Emasculator

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.

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

(Continued on page 22)

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	

The Master Stockman

The Stockman's Creed

*With glad acclaim and bearing garlands bright and wreaths of hay
We sing the glories of the fecund fields where herdsmen-shepherds hold their gentle sway!
In pastures green, by running brooks:
in bosky dells, in grassy nooks;
The distant mellow jangling of sweet bells proclaims the peaceful paths
Of lowing herds and fleecy flocks, the gifts supreme of husbandry.
Blessed be the lands on which they graze!
And blessed those who guide them on their ways!
Wielders of power that verges on the infinite itself!
Dreamers of dreams who live to see their dreams come true!
Workers of miracles in a world that's all their own!
Keepers of keys to life's most hidden mysteries!
Let kings and lords of lesser human realms make way!
While all the nations from the depths of grateful hearts
Unite to crown the master stockman master of the art of arts!*

-Alvin H. Sanders

Dean of livestock journalism and editor of the Breeders Gazette.

California Wool Growers Association Hosting Four Sheep Producer Workshops in January 2018

Workshops to focus on options available for improving lamb marketing, quality, and producer profitability.

Sacramento, CA. – California Wool Growers Association (CWGA) is hosting four interactive workshops focusing on improving lamb marketing and quality as well as producer profitability by applying innovative management practices and technologies.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Genetic Selection to Improve Lamb Quality and Ewe Productivity
- Increasing Lamb Production Efficiency with Accelerated Lambing
- Effective Nutrition Management Practices – Proper Forage Analysis & Mineral Supplementation
- Management Tools for Herd Optimization and Production Efficiency
- Best Management Practices for Sheep Operations
- Lamb Feeding and Management Practices

Interactive demonstrations will focus on utilizing ultrasound technology to identify unproductive ewes, utilizing “teaser” rams, ewe culling practices, electronic animal identification, record-keeping, body condition scoring, pasture lambing, FAMACHA scoring, predator management, and much more.

Workshop Dates & Locations:

- Monday, January 15 ~ Etchamendy Sheep Company, Bakersfield (24394 Highway 46, Wasco, 93280)
- Tuesday, January 16 ~ Emigh Livestock, Rio Vista (2838 Goose Haven Road, Suisun City, 94585)
- Wednesday, January 17 ~ Chico State University Sheep Unit, Chico (311 Nicholas C Shouten Lane, Chico, 95528)
- Thursday, January 18 ~ UC Hopland Research & Extension Center, Hopland (4070 University Road, Hopland, 95449)
- Saturday, January 20 ~ Small Flock Focus, Flying Mule Farm, Auburn (11515 Joeger Road, Auburn, 95602) * Abbreviated version focusing on small flocks, contact dmacon@ucanr.edu for details.

Registration Information:

- Workshop Cost ~ \$25.00 for CWGA members, \$35.00 non-members
- **Registration Deadline January 8th.**

To register contact the CWGA office at info@woolgrowers.org or (916) 444-8122.

These workshops are partially funded by the American Sheep Industry Let's Grow Program. Since 1860, the California Wool Growers Association (CWGA) has been the voice of the California sheep industry, delivering lasting value to support and grow all segments of the California sheep industry. For information or questions about CWGA, please contact the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122 or erica@woolgrowers.org.



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, 2018. The winner will be announced during the Suffolk Open Show at NAILE.

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

~One ewe lamb for each of the 4 USSA districts!~

United Suffolk Sheep Association

PO Box 121

Phone: 641.684.5291

Fax: 734-335-7646

E-mail: info@u-s-s-a.org



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Suffolk Print \$80



T-shirts \$20

Sweatshirts \$30

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©

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