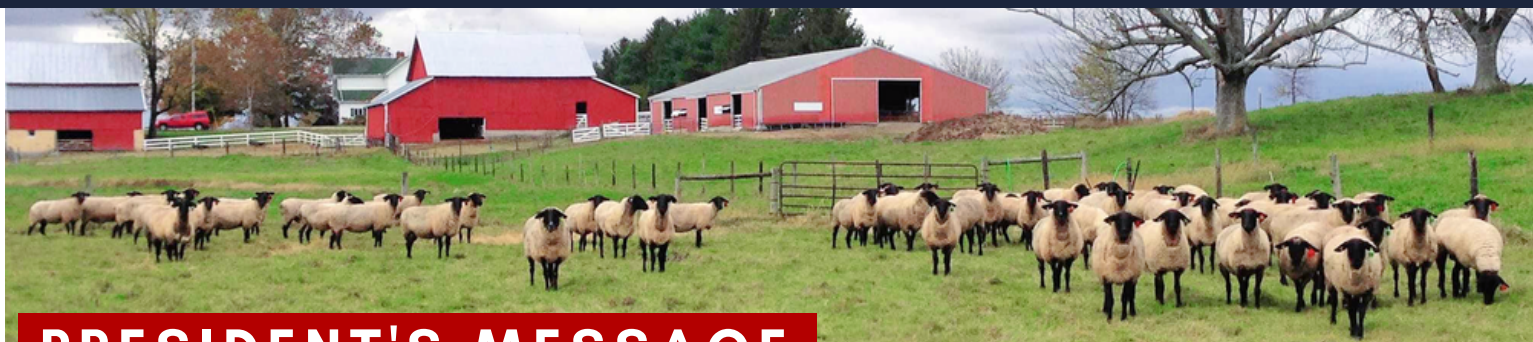




the Rambler

ISSUE 1 • WINTER 2023



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am honored to serve as your USSA President and share my thoughts with you.

The two most important sheep in the entire US sheep industry are a white faced ewe and a Suffolk ram. That ewe needs to be efficiently sized, highly maternal, good fleeced, and long living. That Suffolk ram needs to be fast growing, large framed, heavily muscled, and structurally sound. Our role as a breed in the American lamb industry should be without question. We are known as the terminal sire breed for a reason. No other breed can do it as well as we do for the bulk of the US sheep industry. Yes, I can also advocate for the advantages of a Suffolk ewe. In both my Suffolk females and my crossbreds, I appreciate the beautiful udders and highly maternal instincts that the more Suffolk influenced females display, but the terminal genetics are the bread and butter of the commercial industry. While our breed excels in many areas, we must continuously strive for breed improvement and make better sheep as the entire industry is dependent upon us to do that.

As an association, we are making investments to provide better service to our members and refocus on our commitment to the industry. The recent launch of Digital Suffolk, the most technologically advanced means to track data (as well as register sheep) in the sheep industry, is a powerful tool that mirrors what is used in the cattle industry. This is a FREE tool for you, our members, to use as part of your membership. You are encouraged to take full advantage of it, using it as your record-keeping program for all your sheep. If there are sheep you decide to register; the registration process is very streamlined. This is the first issue of a new newsletter we will be using to communicate what we are doing as an organization and remind us all that we are more than just a sheep registry. We heard as producers you were interested in more education and promotion of our breed, and you will see new items rolled out in those areas in 2023. Watch for details to be released in a nationwide event

-Continued on page 2-



GREG AHART, CA

A PUBLICATION OF THE
UNITED SUFFOLK SHEEP
ASSOCIATION

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f@unitedsuffolk

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR MARCH 1

- Membership dues are \$50 if paid by March 1 (\$65 after March 1)
- 2023 members will be listed in the Suffolk Directory
- Review your membership contact info and send updates to the Suffolk Office
- Digital Suffolk account becomes disabled for members who have not paid by March 1
- Please make payment on balance due - contact Suffolk Office on account questions



Share your Suffolk photos! Send to info@suffolks.org
Cover photo credit: Bunker Hill Farm, OH

President's Message, continued from page 1

on a nationwide event where we will all have a chance to come together as the United Suffolk family. There will be education, youth activities, a sale opportunity, food, fun, and friendship focused around the Suffolk breed. The USSA is committed to offering valuable services to all members, but we also recognize that the costs of our services is shared equally across the entire membership.

I intentionally used the word service multiple times in the previous paragraph. We serve the members of the organization. We were elected to our roles on the Board of Directors to act in the best interests of the entire organization as determined by the membership – not just the most vocal members, nor the most highly active members in a specific facet of the sheep industry, but the entire membership. The breed has a very important role in the industry, and you, as a member, have a very important role in this organization. So, as a member, we are asking your opinion on how you want the sheep presented at the national events, and we have pledged to listen to what you have to say. Your vote on this subject determines our direction going forward. All the data we as an organization have compiled through surveying is being sent to you so you can make an informed decision with your vote.

There is a segment of the membership who appears to be splintering off and forming their own organization based on a belief that the entire membership should NOT get to decide the direction of the USSA. Their opinion, which they are fully entitled to, is that because all members aren't participating in certain events, they don't have "skin in the game", so their opinion should be irrelevant. My alternate opinion, which I'm also entitled to, is that as a country, we get highly offended when we feel special interest groups control the outcome that affects everyone. I think of families that raise the terminal rams that are used in this country as their living (either fully or in part), and how much their ability to pay their bills and put a roof over their head is impacted by the perception of the Suffolk breed – and I know they have skin in the game. In my day job working for the largest lamb packer/processor in the United States, I know my own paycheck (as well as for the other 460+ employee-owners) comes from the 600,000 plus lambs a year that we harvest that are primarily sired by a Suffolk ram – so I think we have skin in the game. It is also my belief that as a dues-paying member, either as a hobbyist or as a breeder whose income is derived from the Suffolk breed, we all have skin in the game. I'm not advocating for an outcome, I'm advocating for a process. I fully believe that all eligible members should have a say and I was taught that is how a democracy works.

As we go forward, my charge to the entire membership is this: don't just ask how the association will continue to service and fund your interests in the breed, but also think about what YOU can do on the giving side of the equation. Join a committee, run for the Board, volunteer your time at an event, register a few extra sheep, or consider a financial donation to the Foundation. At a minimum, if you are enjoying the services that USSA provides, let us know! More importantly, let others who may benefit or have a role to play know as well. Our strength is in our membership, and we are as committed to you as you are to the USSA.



NEW

INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP

CURRENT MEMBERS CAN NOW PURCHASE AN INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP FOR THEIR CUSTOMERS FOR **\$20**

ELIGIBILITY

MEMBER MUST TRANSFER AT LEAST ONE REGISTERED SHEEP TO NEW OWNER

Finally, as we are in the Christmas season and gaze hopefully into the new year, I wish the very best for each of you as well as your loved ones. As we look around and take stock of our families, friends, communities, and our passions I encourage everyone to remember that what we have in common is far greater than that which divides any of us.

Happy New Year!



LEADING THE WAY

The DigitalSuffolk software program is a first of its kind in the sheep industry. This program provides real-time access and offers additional value-added benefits for our members such as recording and tracking performance data, a virtual marketplace, a real-time searchable database with the ability to upload photos, tracking system for semen sales and breeding certificates, data submission to NSIP for those who want it, and a true on-line data entry system that can dramatically reduce the turn-around time for registry work. Electronic registration papers are available as soon as payment is submitted.

No other sheep breed association offers a state-of-the-art registry software program with these advanced capabilities. Suffolks continue to be the breed in the lead!

Through DigitalSuffolk members are able to register, transfer and manage their Suffolk flock - registrations are available immediately AND electronically to print or download. In addition to registry features this program provides progeny reports, a marketplace, pedigree research. the ability to record performance data and submit and receive NSIP data (coming soon!).

Mailed, emailed or electronic applications are also accepted for members who prefer to not use Digital Suffolk.

Current USSA and UJSSA members can obtain a login by contact the Suffolk Office. Non-members are able to search sheep within the program through the program's homepage.

DIGITAL SUFFOLK DISCUSSION GROUP

In addition to the tutorials on the USSA website and within Digital Suffolk - join the **Digital Suffolk Discussion** group to explore all the programs offerings and connect with other program users!



JUNIOR NEWS



f @juniorsuffolk



Greetings,

I am very grateful to have the opportunity to serve as your Junior President this year. Our board has some awesome projects in the works, so stay tuned for more information coming soon. We have been working hard, preparing for the upcoming National Junior Suffolk Show, that will be held in Madison, WI. It's going to be a great time and an event you won't want to miss! On behalf of the junior board of directors, we hope to see you all there! Stay safe out there & have a happy lambing!

Wesley Linke

Calling all juniors! 2023 is going to be an amazing year! The Junior Suffolk Board has a TON of things planned for this year.

I would like to introduce our Jr Board. Our President is Wesley Linke (SD), Vice-President Creed Harker (IA), Secretary/Treasurer is Savannah Bailey (WI), Director Katie Ford (IN), Director Raesa Zelinsky (SD), and Director Allee Hoover(PA). I am the Jr Coordinator, Nancy Burton from Wisconsin.

We are having three great contests this year. We will again be starting off the year with the Photo Contest. I hope to see a ton of photos in our inbox. We are bringing back our Promotional Video contest. So start putting your thinking cap on and think about what you will want to do for it. We will be ending the year with a new twist added to our Virtual Skill-a-thon.

This year our Jr National Show will be in Madison, Wisconsin and it will be fabulous. There will be so much to do and Wisconsin can't wait for us to come.

I want to also invite all Juniors to apply to the board as an Intern or Board Director. If you have any questions about either position, please reach out to any of our Jr Board Members. They will be more than happy to talk to you about it. Applications will be posted on the Jr page of the Suffolk Website.

Nancy Burton, Junior Coordinator

Open to anyone!

FREE WEBINAR

JANUARY 10 - 7PM CENTRAL

HITTING THE TARGET

for Lamb Yield, Quality & Value



Travis Hoffman, Ph.D.
Sheep Extension Specialist
North Dakota State University
University of Minnesota



>>> Pre-register with Zoom Link!

Link on UJSSA website

>>> Watch LIVE on the UJSSA Facebook page!

View past Suffolk webinars at www.suffolks.org/

USSA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

IN COOPERATION WITH OUR PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS



UNITED JUNIOR SUFFOLK SHEEP ASSOCIATION



UNITED SUFFOLK SHEEP FOUNDATION



MEMBER SUPPORT



Print & Electronic
Communications



Free Webinars



Shows & Sales



Young Producer
Travel Grant

BREED PROMOTION



Advertising



Website



Directory



Sales



Social Media



Branded Items

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES



Scholarships



National Junior Show



Start-up Programs



Virtual Contests



Futurity

INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT



ASI



EXPLORE MORE

Learn how Suffolks put more profit in your pocket

WWW.SUFFOLKS.ORG • f@UNITEDSUFFOLK
INFO@SUFFOLKS.ORG • 641-684-5291

REGISTRY PROGRAMS

Purebred
Genetic Recovery (GAP)
Percentage

As lambing season approaches, what is one thing you are sure to have on-hand?

"5 oz stomach tube, frozen and powder colostrum".

-Carol Heupel, Colorado

"Antibiotic"

-Steve Ulrich, Illinois

"E Coli Antibody paste 'Tri-Shield defense' made by Immuncell corp"

-Ron Alves, California

"Triodine for navels"

-Diane Russell, Indiana

"Rubber gloves, ear tags, tube feeding syringe, coffee...."

-Radell Schrock, Virginia

"Lamb Tuber"

-Tom Slack, Indiana

"Frozen colostrum! Lambs can possibly get by without many things, but colostrum isn't one of them! We keep it frozen in 8oz zip-locs ready to that for those first few mommas, just in case. Once lambing is underway, we'll milk fresh colostrum, write the date on the bag and freeze that so we always have colostrum in rotation that is no older than one year."

-John Peck, New Jersey

"Frozen colostrum. Last year my freezer went out and I lost all my frozen colostrum and had to start the season with the powdered stuff when I got in a pinch. Also, a digital thermometer"

-Brenda Reau, Michigan

"Stomach Tuber. For average sized lambs 10-14 lbs feed up to 5 ounces per feeding and re-feeding should be done every 4 hours. Use Colostrum Replacer with 150 IGG Minimum if you don't have access to ewe colostrum."

-Rob Zelinsky, South Dakota

Once a lamb is born, what boxes do you mentally "check off" in the first 24 hours to insure lamb survivability or success once families are on their own?

"Making sure the lambs are nursing well and filling up is key to success. Checking ewes udders is part of the lambing process and monitoring it daily is fairly quick to do, both by checking lambs bellies and a quick visual or touching the udder to check for fullness. Baby lambs that get up and give a slight stretch are usually full and comfortable. The ewe should be eating good and drinking plenty of water. We clean the jails daily, provide a heat lamp if needed, worm the ewe, iodine the navels, take birth weights and give nutridrench to the lambs within 24 hours. We gradually move the ewe and lambs out to a bigger jail, then small group pens, and then bigger groups as they grow."

-Carol Heupel, Colorado

"Full belly, some greasy yellow poop, and a big stretch when they get up. If they don't stretch, they aren't feeling content."

-Greg Ahart, California

"Clip dip and strip. Assists in preventing naval infections and allows producer to evaluate the ewe's udder for milk flow and volume. Monitor lamb health as 50-75% of all death losses in lambs occur in the first 48 hours. Did the lamb get enough colostrum -, 1 ounce per lb of birth weight in the first 12 hours of life. What the lambs consumes from 12-24 hours of life is a benefit. Recent research indicates health benefits for mammals being fed colostrum past 24 hours is still beneficial to the lamb. Is the lamb in a warm, dry, and draft free environment? Is the ewe bonding with the lamb/s? Lambing Jug 5'x5' to 6'x6' size so ewe and lambs can bond for 36-48 hours. "

-Rob Zelinsky, South Dakota

"My 1st concern is the lamb nursing. Sometimes it is hard to tell between a content lamb vs one that is "checking out". A lamb that will stretch after getting up and a warm mouth are 2 things I look for."

-Marlin Subra, Wisconsin

"When I check the barn and find a new set of lambs... A quick mental checklist helps me determine if the ewe and her lambs need any extra attention. If the lambs are standing with full bellies near the ewe and have no trouble finding more milk when they search for it, and if the ewe has passed the placenta, and has been nursed on both sides and is fussing over the lambs and maybe nibbling on hay when she gets a chance... then probably no extra attention is needed. Otherwise they might need more time or intervention..."

Weighing, ear tagging and putting iodine on the navels at some point in the first 24 hours "

-Radell Schrock, Virginia

"Is the lamb nursing? Have I actually seen it connected to the ewe's udder (nursing). Do I have the lamb and ewe in a safe place, where the lamb will not get separated from its mother."

-Bill Royer, Illinois

"That the lamb has nursed and is content. That there is no bleeding from the navel. That the ewe has clean fresh water and is cleaning up all her feed."

-Steve Ulrich, Illinois

HISTORICAL RAMBLINGS

The following is an excerpt provided from the records of Joe Warrick. Submitted by Ron Alves.



"It was early morning, August 11, 1949, in the Rock Island freight yards, Des Moines, Iowa. A bright sun had begun to streak the eastern horizon. This would be more than just another day for Iowa corn.

The morning stillness was broken by the whistle on the diesel engines of Rock Island fast freight No. 991 bound for Houston, Texas, from St. Paul Minnesota. As the big engines rounded the curve into the freight yards, several C. P. R. (Canadian Pacific Railroad) stock cars came into view. As the cars rolled by it could be seen that all were filled with Suffolk rams. Philip Rock climbed down from the lead car, to be greeted by Dewey Jontz, Bennie Doane, and Roy and Joe Warrick. Philip was on his way to San Angelo, Texas to deliver these registered rams.

After a short visit and a hurried breakfast at a nearby railroad café, the rams were checked. The object was to find a ram lamb among all those big yearling rams. Soon the lamb was located and lifted over the gate closing off the open door of the car. Rockville 118D had arrived in Iowa. The long freight train had begun to move south headed for Texas. Rockville 118D headed for Oskaloosa, Iowa and Beau Geste Farms. The fall of 1950 found 118D in the breeding pasture. He was the last Suffolk stud ram to come to Beau Geste Farms."

From 1951 into the 1970's progeny of Rockville 118D, primarily through a son, Warrick 44F dominated shows, sales, and carcass contests throughout the Midwest, west coast, and even at major show in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Beau Geste

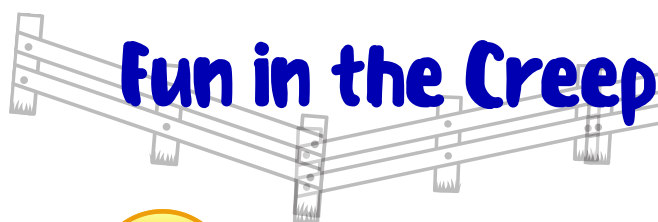


Standing L-R, Roy Warrick, Bennie Doane; Sitting L-R, Ben Huff, Ronald Hogg, Amy Wilson, and Chauncy Hubbard Sr.

Farms started their own production sale on Memorial Day weekend in conjunction with a series of other sheep events. In 1955 Beau Geste Farms advertised that they were the only flock in America to breed and sell three Suffolk studs for \$1,000 or more.

Roy was a breeder's breeder who practiced what he preached. For example, Roy states, "He who hesitates is lost. Therefore, buy the right stud ram when he is available." It was always the policy at Beau Geste Farms to breed big, rugged, long bodied, meat type sheep, with liveability. Even back in the early 1940's the policy was the same. "Big, fast growing, meat-type sheep, 'BEFORE' quality carcass cuts were and still are a planned accomplishment."

Pictured at left, a Sunday evening supper prior to Beau Geste's 1969 production sale. The six people around that table were true icons of the U.S. sheep industry.



Sheep hEWEmEr

Answers on page 8

Q1.

Why did the lambs not listen to what the shepherd was saying to them?

Q2.

Why do all the sheep go to the bank?

Lambing Time!

A M X A I C O T S Y D T C Y Z Q P M D A
A Y B Y R I Y D M H E H A S S D D J M E
H B F U Z X I S U H U W M J F I P F K I
I Y N P X F R U R I Y W E I G H N M L Q
S A V A O Y I F M I G L R A W Q X G E T
X T X X C W C F G J S V A U L C N O L S
M V C U H N L O G O P L I B G K A K N E
F S P F I M I L L B I R T H O V S Y Q C
R O M W R A P K G O Z E N U C R T Z D R
Q Q T H X R V O M K S H U Q T Z K Y S A
S A G E Q X A I I V B T H Y B I B L T T
L H P L N F N J H F E P R K U N R H R A
R J D A T I U D P U R E C U L U Q D A G
T F Y M E G D W K Y I Y B U M A A R W Q
Z I U B L S A O V M Y O M J K T V I C T
G G R I P N S N I I K E K D P V C A J B
U Q M N I G R I C S M S T P P R T N N C
N H X G R S D O Y F S X A X A R A O F B
B V B S T W F K H E C U M G R J H F E C
A L V N I S C G N I D E E R B B T Y T U

SUFFOLK
RAM
EWE
BREEDING
LAMBING
JUG
COLOSTRUM
IODINE
NAVAL
STRAW
TWIN
TRIPLET
SINGLE
BIRTH
LABOR
DYSTOCIA
TAG
WEIGH
CAMERA

Shepherd Math + % ✖

A farmer and his dog are counting sheep in a field

'I count 37', claims the farmer.

'I count 40', replies the dog.

'How did you get 40?!'

'I rounded them up!'



DYSTOCIA

Difficulty in giving birth



Lambtastic!

SHEPHERD'S PIE

- 1 pound ground lamb
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- ½ cup diced celery
- ½ cup diced carrots
- 1 cup finely chopped mushrooms
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- ½ teaspoon dried rosemary, crushed
- ½ cup chopped flat-leaf parsley
- 1-2 cloves garlic, finely minced
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1 cup beef broth
- 3 cups mashed potatoes, warm but not hot
- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons melted butter



- Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
- Place oil in a large skillet and sauté onion, celery, carrots, and mushrooms over medium heat about 10 minutes until softened. Remove from skillet and place in a large mixing bowl.
- Place the ground lamb in skillet and cook until almost brown. Add garlic and rosemary, and cook until lamb is brown. Add the flour to browned lamb and cook for about 2 minutes then stir in the beef broth and cook until it thickens. Salt to taste and then stir in cayenne pepper and 6 tablespoons of the parsley. Reserve remaining parsley for garnish.
- Pour lamb mixture into the bowl with sautéed vegetables and stir to combine. Pour the mixture into a greased casserole dish.
- If you are using leftover or refrigerated mashed potatoes, warm slightly in the microwave to make the potatoes pliable. Beat egg into mashed potatoes.
- Spread mashed potatoes over lamb and vegetable mixture and swirl with a spoon. Take the tines of a fork and lightly go over the swirls you made with the spoon to make a decorative pattern that will also help the potatoes brown. Drizzle with melted butter.
- Bake at 375 degrees for about 40 minutes until mashed potatoes begin to brown.
- If you are baking a refrigerated dish that was made in advance increase baking time by 15 minutes.
- Sprinkle with remaining parsley to garnish. Makes 4-6 servings.



The Clever Cleaver

For optimal ground lamb, request 80-85% lean when working with your processor.

Do you have a LAMBTASTIC recipe to share?

Submit to recipe and photo to info@suffolks.org to be featured in the next issue!

2023 SUFFOLK DIRECTORY

The USSA is partnering again in 2023 with The Showtimes on the Directory. This is a high quality, information packed publication the USSA mails out to over 1000 mailboxes in April and distributes at sheep events throughout the country. Don't miss your chance to be listed as a Suffolk breeder in this publication - be sure to get your membership dues paid by March 1st to be included!



ADVERTISING THROUGH USSA PLATFORMS ALLOW YOU TO SHOWCASE YOUR SUFFOLKS TO A TARGETED AUDIENCE OF SUFFOLK ENTHUSIASTS AND CONSUMERS!

NEW ADVERTISING PACKAGES

Take advantage of deeper advertising discounts, in addition to the already reduced ad rates for members - consider purchasing an advertising package this year!

	Full Page	Half Page	Quarter Page
Directory Ad Price	700	450	350
Website Banner Ad (1yr)	350	350	350
Single Email Blast	100	100	100
USSA Facebook Page Post	100	N/A	N/A
Total Advertising Value	\$1250	\$900	\$800
Package Price	\$1000	\$750	\$650
Savings	\$250	\$150	\$150

FOUNDATION NEWS

f@suffolksuffolkfoundation

We had some exciting things happening this past year through the work of the Suffolk Foundation. 2022 will complete our third full year since the United Suffolk Sheep Foundation was formed as a non-profit organization. The Foundation's major outreach objectives are youth development, research, and educational programs to support the Suffolk breed and the US sheep industry.

2022 Foundation Impact:

- Suffolk Scholarship (\$1000): Hanna Warnecke, Columbus Grove, Ohio
- Let's Grow Scholarship (\$1000): Dannielle Berry, Willits, California
- Royer Farm Scholarship (\$2000): Olivia Stodghill, Oskaloosa, Iowa
- NEW - Young Producers Travel Grant covered expenses to attend the American Lamb Summit: Ashley Larson, Tenino, Washington
- NEW - Awarded \$400 to Suffolk youth who declared Suffolk their main breed at the All-American Junior Show/National Junior Suffolk Show, promoted Suffolks in their entry, and placed in the top three in each of the leadership and promotional contests.
- The Ewe Lamb Giveaway program placed several Suffolk ewes in the hands of new Suffolk youth. We thank Suffolk breeders for their continued support of this program.
- Suffolk semen sale was outstanding success and will be repeated in 2023. Please reach out to the Suffolk Foundation if you have Suffolk semen you would like to donate. This is an excellent way to contribute to the Foundation and share genetics across our great breed.
- We thank the Al Harwood family for naming the Suffolk Foundation as the recipient of memorial funds at the time of Al's passing. He was an important member of the Suffolk sheep organization.

The Suffolk Foundation has some exciting new programs to rollout in 2023...stay tuned!



A 501 (c)(3) charitable non-profit organization supporting the Suffolk breed through:

- Youth Development
- Education
- Research

Foundation Fundraiser Items

Keychain - Bottle Opener - Charm - Pin/Tie Tack



All items \$20/each

Contact the Suffolk Office to order!

Ways you can contribute and support the United Suffolk Sheep Foundation:

Online: Go to www.suffolks.org/foundation to make a secure credit card donation

By Mail: Send a check: USSF, Box 121, Holland, IA 50642

AmazonSmile: Connect your Amazon account to our SMILE Program. donates a small portion of the profit from your purchase. It doesn't cost you a thing and is an easy way to contribute.



Just use this link when searching for products and making purchases:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-3250579>

Sheep hEWEmer: Q1 A. They herd it all before.
Q2: To check their baalance.

REFLECTION

THE SUFFOLK RAM
BIG, GROWTHY, MUSCULAR, 3-DIMENSIONAL, POWERFUL TERMINAL SIRE

THE SUFFOLK EWE
ENCOMPASSES MATERNAL MOTHERING AND MILKING ABILITY TO GET GROWTHY SUFFOLK LAMBS OFF TO GREAT START

Suffolks are found in the western range, farm flocks, purebred operations, commercial operations, feedlots, a part of youth projects and in the showring. Reflect on the fact that Suffolks are the essential terminal sire and demanded in the US Sheep Industry. Nearly 60% of American lamb is genetically influenced by black faced rams; progress of the Suffolk breed is not only impactful in your flock but essential to the US Sheep Industry.



Photo credit: Mike Olsen, UT