

Andy Asberry is the fourth generation to raise sheep on the farm his great-grandfather bought in 1892. His grandfather and great-grandfather both died before Andy was born. So, any sheep wisdom they had was passed through his dad.

They lambed a thousand Rambouillet and Delaine ewes on the farm bred to Suffolk and Shropshire rams. They also ran 7000 wethers on leased brush country. Andy had a love/hate relationship with sheep. When things were going right, it was a great life. There were plenty of things to make it not so swell; screwworms, fences, coyotes, and lions on the leased ranch.

After his father dad died, Andy decided to concentrate on registered Suffolks. Andy might as well have been raising parrots. Andy's knowledge of commercial sheep didn't seem to have much value here. Andy bought some ewes from Tom Duke, who had gotten himself elected to the board of the American Suffolk Sheep Society. Andy went with him to the annual meeting in San Francisco. Boy, was this a shock. A dress code in a sheep show!

A year or so later, Tom resigned his position on the Board. Apparently the Board took advantage of Andy's inexperience and selected him to fill his unexpired term. Andy was re-elected each time until 1997; he lost by one vote.

1998 was the year of the great merge discussions of the American and National. The National had nine directors and the American had eight. To even things out, the American Board asked him to again serve on the Board.

After the merger, Andy served as Secretary/Treasurer for some of the hard years. Hardest of those was closing the Columbia, MO office. Randy Wilt won the seat in 2003.

Having never been to a Junior show, he now had time. Beginning in 2004, Andy was a groupie for five years; driving all over America to Junior shows. At the show in Sedalia, Missouri, Director Donna Mays asked Andy to be the Junior Coordinator. Andy didn't feel qualified and declined but offered to be her assistant. She offered to be his assistant. That is when the co-coordinator system was established in 2008.

That was the last show that was in the red. They decided the Juniors would plan, staff and run the show. They would have a budget and live within the boundaries of that budget. They were also responsible for fund raising.

Andy believes the knowledge of knowing how hard it was to raise money, made them more frugal. A couple of times, they underestimated how hungry exhibitors can be. They continued to provide snacks, drinks and meals to help reduce family expenses. They asked for assistance from Universities. They passed up the top tier facilities with their attached top prices. They purchased bedding and shavings by the truckload to get good pricing. They scrounged and improvised.

Carol Harder once stated we were building character. Andy believes that. The kids he had the pleasure of being associated with have grown into responsible adults raising families of their own. Andy follows them on social media. He couldn't be more proud. They have been the highlight of his life. He thanks the members and the parents for their confidence in allowing him to lead this great bunch of kids.