

Bill & Betsy MacCauley

Pennsylvania

Bill MacCauley was born into the Suffolk breed. His mother, Joan Lawrence, raised Suffolks as a 4-H project, and the flock grew from there. Betsy purchased her first Suffolk ewe lamb as a 4-H project from Bill's parents. Their children, Chris and Kyle, grew up raising and showing Suffolks, and both are still involved with the family flock. Today, the MacCauley flock, located in Atglen, Pennsylvania consists of 350 registered ewes and 100 crossbred ewes used as recipis for the embryo transfer program. Evan Snyder is the farm manager who works with their breeding program, and he also judges many shows across the country.

The Suffolk breed has changed dramatically over the years, and their flock has also evolved. They have always wanted their Suffolks to have good breed character, longevity, fertility, and excellent maternal abilities while being structurally sound and easy-keeping. Their perception of these characteristics has changed over time, and as the flock has expanded, they have become even more stringent in their criteria. What they accepted years ago would land in their butcher pen today.

Several sires changed the direction of their breeding program. "Goldstreak" Donner Trail DTR 04-1503, and "Granite" MacCauley 1757 were highly impactful in their frame breeding program. Since redirecting their breeding program toward more moderate-framed, practical Suffolks, four rams have contributed significant genetics that propelled their breeding program to where it is today. These rams are MacCauley 2510, "Hammer" Slack 1226, "Red" MacCauley 3356, and MacCauley 4350.

MacCauley's advertise in multiple sheep markets and sell at many sales, including their own online production sales. They also utilize social media.

The MacCauley's sell Suffolks to breeders across the US and have exported rams to Canada. They target many of their efforts to enthusiastic young breeders who will stay in the Suffolk business. Additionally, they direct market lamb products to local restaurants. No matter how their Suffolks are marketed, they find it gratifying every time they have a repeat customer or a customer who extols the virtues of their breeding stock.

Bill and Betsy are strong supporters of Suffolk organizations. They lead the US in the number of Suffolks registered and transferred. Bill served several years on the USSA Board and now serves on the Suffolk Foundation Board.

They donate high-quality ewe lambs to the Ewe Lamb Give-a-way program, which has been very popular with young people introducing them to registered Suffolks. They are outstanding supporters of the Suffolk Foundation and support many junior shows. In 2013 Bill and Betsy were the recipients of the Junior Advocate Award, an award selected and given by the United Junior Suffolk Sheep Association board of directors. Outside of the Suffolk Organizations, Bill and Betsy have been heavily involved with 4-H in their local area. Recently inducted to the Pennsylvania Livestock Hall of Fame, Bill and Betsy are advocates for youth, the livestock industry, and the Suffolk breed.

The MacCauley's are working to see the Suffolk breed regain the strength and popularity it once held in the sheep industry. They feel that by focusing on the strengths Suffolks provide as terminal sires and as a fast-growing meat breed, the breed's resurgence is inevitable.