

# United Suffolk Sheep Association

## *Hall of Fame*



*2023 Inductees*

# *Suffolk Hall of Fame*

## **2023 Inductees**

---

*Martin & Chris Auville*

*Stan & Sharon Heitz*



# United Suffolk Sheep Association Hall of Fame

Year	Inductee
2023	Martin & Chris Auville
2023	Stan & Sharon Heitz
2022	Bill & Betsy MacCauley
2022	Bill Royer
2020/2021	Marlin Berg & Family
2020/2021	Alan Culham
2020/2021	Jim Peifer / Kurt Birky
2020/2021	William & Susan Shultz, Bunker Hill Farm
2019	John Ascuaga
2019	Spelman B. Collins
2019	Rob Frost
2019	Ken McMillan
2018	Greg Deakin, The Banner Sheep Magazine
2018	Richard & Cindy Jones Family, Five Star 'J' Farms
2018	Larry & Linda Pauly, Double L Livestock
2018	Sam & Pat Wiford, Wiford Suffolks
2018	Bob & Mary Wilson
2017	Johnson Club Lambs, Weldon & Brian Johnson
2017	Alan & Mary Kjedaard
2017	Ansel Luxford
2017	Buckeye Acres, Ron & Carla Young
2016	Clyde & Justina George & George Brothers
2016	Millers Livestock, Brentford & Brenda Miller
2016	Chuck Ream, Windswept Ranch
2016	Duane & Marcia Sickels
2016	John & Pam Sponaugle
2016	Dwight Stone, Stonemark Suffolks
2015	B.B. Burroughs
2015	Bob & Mark Chapman
2015	John Eagle
2015	Dr. Ben Huff
2015	George Hunter
2015	Sherwood Jackson
2015	Donna Mays
2015	Pearce McKinney
2014	Andrus Suffolks, Ken & Jim Andrus
2014	Andy Asberry
2014	Tom Burke
2014	Jim & Jacky Caras
2014	Hawkins Farm Suffolks, Glen "Sadie" Hawkins & Joy Hawkins
2014	Marvin & Sandy Heupel
2014	Joe Holbrook

(Continued on next page)

2014	Bob Kimm
2014	Norman Olsen Family
2014	Tom Slack, Slack Club Lambs
2013	Wes Azeltine
2013	Betty Biellier & Family
2013	George and Fred Buckham
2013	Fred A. & Marian Coble
2013	Robert Hall
2013	Heggemeier Sheep Farms, Bill & Alice Heggemeier & James & Jody Heggemeier
2013	Dr. Harold A. Henneman
2013	Bill & Helen Hurst
2013	Jarvis Sheep Co.
2013	Allan & VeNeal Jenkins & Annette Benson
2013	Warren Kuhl
2013	Jack Larsen
2013	Pearson Linn
2013	Larry Mead
2013	Roger Nichols
2013	Olsen Brothers, Alden & Snell
2013	Bob & Margie Paasch & Family, Donner Trail Ranch
2013	Richard Roe
2013	Roland (Rollie) & Ruth Rosenboom
2013	Wayne & Mary Skartvedt
2013	DuWayne Swenson
2013	Craig Van Arkel, Van Arkel Suffolks
2013	Harlan & Edwina Wagner
2013	Farrell Wankier
2013	Roy & Joe Warrick
2013	Bud & Julia Westlake & Family

More information on Suffolk Hall of Fame inductees can be found at:  
[suffolks.org/hof.html](http://suffolks.org/hof.html)

# *Martin & Chris Auville*

## Virginia

Martin & Chris both grew up with livestock. Martin's family had cattle, hogs and later commercial sheep. He grew up in an agricultural community. Chris, on the other hand, grew up on a horse farm in a more urban area of the state. Martin taught agriculture, was a state supervisor for agricultural education but the majority of his career was as the director of career and technical programs for the county schools. Chris worked in healthcare and managed a multispecialty clinic for over 30 years.

Suffolks became a part of their lives while raising their two daughters Jessica and Stephanie and their "adopted" daughter Kristin (a neighbor who joined herself to the family). They enjoyed their experiences in showing at local, state, and national shows but feel the real performance takes place in the lambing barn. Once they started breeding, they only showed sheep they raised. In the early days, they had large fitted sheep but started transitioning to more moderate, slick sheared sheep after the girls aged out of showing. Chris still says there is nothing more beautiful than a fitted Suffolk yearling ewe.

The single most influential ram to the flock was Slack 11681 "Megabyte". He was the changer ram in transitioning the flock. His legacy lived in the flock until the purchase of MacCauley 4910 CSO (Chief Suffolk Officer) the high selling Suffolk in 2021 at the Midwest Ram sale. They feel this ram exemplifies what the Suffolk breed is about and is passing it onto his progeny.

Through the years, Martin & Chris have been strong supporters of 4-H, FFA, the Virginia Sheep Producers, the Virginia Junior Sheep Breeders and the West Virginia Purebred Sheep Breeders Association. They have hosted many free lamb showmanship camps at the farm (which included a lamb barbeque lunch for youth and parents), taken in kids to "live at the farm" and experience showing and lambing, hosted state judging teams and local extension workshops. Additionally Martin and Chris traveled throughout the east coast speaking at various lamb camps at no charge and often providing lambs for attendees to ensure all kids had a sheep to work during the camp. They have donated ewe lambs for their state "Ewe for Ewe" program and most recently donated the Champion Suffolk Ewe lamb at the WV Purebred sale to set up a youth scholarship to honor John Sponaugle's legacy. Chris is currently a member of the Digital Suffolk Committee for the United Suffolk Association.

When Martin and Chris got into Suffolks – Suffolks were the "cool" breed. Now, in their area, the growing segment of the sheep industry is with hair sheep and club lambs. They feel it is just a matter of time before the shininess wears off. Suffolks are a meat breed

and the lamb market wants clean meat that is brought to market at a young age with a lot of muscling. They feel Suffolks are the most profitable of the breeds to accomplish this, everything is cyclical, and in the future there will be renewed interest in the breed.

# *Stan & Sharon Heitz*

## Illinois

Stan had a very meager beginning with Suffolk sheep. Two bred ewes of lower than average quality produced a single ewe lamb for his first 4-H show in 1951. With the help of his father, Stan sought out people with experience in breeding and raising purebred sheep. Everett and Libby Glasgow became longtime friends and mentors. W.J. "Jack" Hampton shepherd at the U of I shared his many years of knowledge. Stan's interest in Suffolk sheep grew exponentially as did his ability to raise and show Suffolk sheep. In 1958 one of Stan's yearling ewes was champion in the Illinois State Fair Junior show.

By the time Stan graduated from high school the 4-H and FFA project had become a business. Stan's home farm was 20 miles from the U of I campus. He lived at home all four years and commuted. This gave him the opportunity to work on his business plan of being a seedstock producer and expanding his flock to help other breeders get started raising Suffolk Sheep.

Stan's business plan was coming together and in 1969 he had his first Suffolk production sale which was held at the farm with Rollie Rosenboom as the auctioneer. It was a fast paced sale and Rollie sold 17 yearling rams, 12 ram lambs, 37 yearling ewes, and 9 ewe lambs in one hour and 15 minutes.

Karen Johnson of Gotebo, OK exhibited the first Suffolk wether to be named Grand Champion at the Oklahoma Spring Show. Karen's winning lamb was sired by a Heitz Suffolk ram purchased at the Midwest Stud Ram Sale. The 1970s had a tremendous demand for Heitz show lambs. Stan also showed a few wether lambs in the 1970s and had the Grand Champion sale lamb at the 1974 and 1976 Illinois State Fair and the 1975 Grand Champion sale lamb at the International Livestock Expo.

Stan and Sharon were married in 1979 and continued to build on the success of previous years. Sharon accepted the job of managing the promotional booth for the Illinois Lamb and Wool Producers Assn. She enjoyed the interaction with people interested in the sheep industry. Providing educational resources as well as selling products were her greatest areas of expertise. Sharon was elected president of the Illinois Lamb and Wool Producers and worked with all things promoting the industry. Following her term as president the directors hired Sharon as their Executive Secretary. Sharon continued in that position well into the 90s. Sharon managed the business of the Illinois Lamb and Wool Producers and was their liaison with ASI. During this time Sharon was on the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Humane Care for Animals committee. The committee wrote a new Human Care for Animals Act that was written into Illinois Law.



Stan and Sharon helped with the National Suffolk Junior Show that was held in Springfield, IL in 1996. Following the junior show, they made the trip with their Suffolks to Edmonton, Alberta Canada to participate in the First Sheep and Wool Congress. There were Suffolks competing in the show from the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania Stan and Sharon had the first place fall ram which was named Grand Champion Suffolk Ram, the Reserve Grand Champion Suffolk Ewe, the first place flock and The Good Shepherd Award. The international exhibitors and visitors at the congress open the door for the export market. Stan and Sharon continued to exhibit their Suffolks with great success until their dispersal sale in 1991.

Stan started working full time exporting livestock working as a representative for international customers. Sharon continued to work for the Illinois Lamb and Wool Producers. One of Stan's first international trips was to the National Suffolk Show in Brazil. There was a warm welcome from breeders, some of whom had visited their farm. It was a great learning experience with an open exchange of information. The Brazilians asked if Stan could sponsor a US judge for their national show the following year. He had the ideal person in mind for the job and the following year he took Jaime Farao to judge the show. The national language in Brazil is Portuguese and he knew Jaime could speak Portuguese. Jaime gave reasons on the classes without a translator and could speak directly to the judging committee.

As a partner in their export company, Sharon soon became the travel agent, concierge, and hostess for international customers and veterinarians. Some people stayed with Stan and Sharon in their home. One of their guests even referred to having stayed in the Heitz Hilton.

Stan exported Suffolks to "Suffolk Land Shibetsu" located on the north island of Hokkaido, Japan. As well as a group of Suffolks to the UAE. The ewes came from multiple flocks with small numbers so he needed to find a good set of rams with strong pedigrees. Given their destination, the first breeder he called was Bob Kimm. He told Bob what he was looking for. Bob said he had just had his annual sale and the only rams he had left were those that were too big to be wether sires. He told Bob that was exactly what was looking for. All of the Suffolk rams sent the UAE were Kimm Suffolks. A popular ram was TG Eclipse, that was exported to Brazil. The Brazilian buyers came to the Heitz farm to select him and he was well received in Brazil.

Stan and Sharon feel exporting livestock is much like domestic sales. It is a people- to-people business. There is a worldwide need for high quality US livestock genetics. Animal health issues and geopolitical issues have been the biggest obstacles when working with international sales.

# Thank You to our Event Sponsors



**JMG Suffolks, MN**