Suffolk Breed Standards

**Introduction:** Suffolk sheep are efficient converters of forage and feed to body dimension and mass. All Suffolk sheep should be structurally and reproductively sound. They should have distinctly black heads, ears, and legs, and produce a white fleece. Rams should appear masculine, muscular, of good size and well proportioned. Ewes should exhibit strong maternal traits, carry and deliver lambs with ease, and have ample milking ability.

**General Body Shape and Capacity:** .......................... 20 points
Chest; wide and deep, with these dimensions carrying back into the lower rib
Side Profile; depth of body that carries through middle rib and rear flank
Muscularity; roundness of shape in muscle patterns throughout the body

**Rump and Twist:** ......... 20 points
Rump; long and wide, level from hooks to pins, with width at tail head carrying down through a wide stifle,
Twist; should be full, broad and deep

**Legs, Feet, & Gait:** ............ 20 points
Legs; black with smooth heavy bones, front and rear legs set wide enough to exhibit body width
Feet; short pasterns with toes pointing straight forward.
Gait; long and smooth strides, tracking as wide in rear as in front

**Back, Rack, & Loin:** ....... 20 points
Back; level from base of neck to tail head.
Rack; blends smoothly from the apex of the shoulder and flairs to express muscling.
Loin; three dimensional and blends smoothly to the hip

**Head, Mouth, & Ears:** ....... 15 points
Head; black from poll forward with wide skull, long muzzle, and deep jaw
Mouth; sound, with incisor teeth meeting the pad
Ears; long, black, bell-shaped, pointing down

**Neck & Shoulders:** ....... 5 points
Neck; moderate length, set smoothly into the shoulders
Shoulder; smooth with adequate width to enhance functionality and longevity

**Disqualifications:**
*over-shot or under-shot jaw
*Hermaphrodite (animals having both male and female organs)
*Inguinal hernia
*(rams) very small testicles or single testicle

**Discriminate Against:**
*post or straight legged, or sickle hocked, or crooked, bowed, or bent legs
*flat or weak pasterns
*unsound movement or gait
*excessive black fiber in wooled areas
*white speckling or splotching on bellies, inner legs, neck or jaw
*asymmetrical or split testes
*inadequate scrotal circumference (yearling ram< 35 cm.)
*pendulous udders, low capacity udders, balloon teats
*upturned vulva
*wild or uncontrollable dispositions
*Inverted eyelids
*prolapsed uterus or rectum