

United Suffolk Sheep Association

Call of Fame



2014 Inductees

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Hall of Fame

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Andrus Suffolks, Ken & Jim Andrus
Andy Asberry
Tom Burke
Jim & Jacky Caras
Hawkins Farm Suffolks, Glen "Sadie" Hawkins and Joy Hawkins
Marvin & Sandy Heupel
Joe Holbrook
Bob Kimm
Norman Olsen Family
Tom Slack, Slack Club Lambs

The 2014 USSA Hall of Fame inductees were honored on Monday, November 17, 2014 at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky during the USSA Annual Meeting and Dinner.

United Suffolk Sheep Association Hall of Fame

Year	Inductee
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

Andrus Suffolks

Ken & Jim Andrus

Andrus Suffolks is a partnership of brothers, Ken and Jim Andrus of Lava Hot Springs, Idaho. They were raised in Kamas Valley, Utah where their father ran 400 commercial sheep.

Ken went to work for Brigham Young University in 1967 as the first livestock herdsman for the Animal Science Department. He was in charge of the beef cattle and swineherds as well as the sheep flock which consisted of approximately 40 Suffolk ewes that had been purchased from Olsen Bros. of Spanish Fork. Twenty of these ewes were closely related to and may have been half-sisters to the great stud ram "Thousand Peaks", who was a foundation ram and type changer for the whole Suffolk breed. This was the beginning of change in type from small, squatty sheep to Suffolks that had more frame, yet maintained bone and body capacity.

In the winter of 1970, Dr. David Ames of Kansas State University visited Utah and after having evaluated the sheep in Utah County, encouraged some breeders to consign sheep to the Midwest Stud Ram Show and Sale in Missouri. Olsen Brothers, Jack Larsen, and BYU entered Suffolks and Mark Bradford of Spanish Fork entered Columbias. The event was held at the new livestock center at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Sales after were held in Sedalia at the state fairgrounds. This was the beginning of several breeders from the west consigning to the Midwest Stud Ram Sale.

Ken bought some Suffolks of his own in 1970 and had his brother – partner, Jim run them in Idaho where Jim lived. In 1975 Ken left BYU and moved with his wife, Colleen and new baby to Idaho to raise Suffolks full time. At first a farm was leased, then in 1980 they purchased the family ranch where they still live and run 225 commercial Angus cows in a cow-calf operation. When Ken and Colleen's children grew up and moved away and Ken in the State Legislature and not able to be home during lambing season, a decision was made in 2013 to sell the sheep.

In the 70's and early 80's Andrus Suffolks exhibited and sold sheep at most of the major sales in the Midwest and West. These included the International Livestock show at Louisville, Kentucky, Midwest Stud Ram Show and Sale, Top of the Rockies in Colorado, the Golden Nugget in Reno Nevada, the National Ram Sale, the Spanish Fork Ram Sale, the Idaho Ram Sale, the Idaho Falls Ram Sale, Rocky Mountain Ram Sale in Salt Lake City, and Craig Colorado Ram Sale.

In 1975 they exhibited the supreme champion ewe in Sedalia selling to Ben Huff of Oregon for \$8,000, which was a world record price for a ewe selling at public auction. The record was of course broken the next year and the great interest in Suffolks was in full swing. In 1980 they sold a ram a Sedalia for \$14,000, another at 13,500 and one privately for \$15,000.

The economic recession of '79 and '80 caused the Suffolk bubble to burst and prices and general interest in Suffolks declined from there.

Ken and Jim have always sold quite a number of commercial rams and after the recession, that became the main focus of the operation. They had commercial (range) ram customers in Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, South Dakota, Washington, California and Arizona.

Raising Suffolk sheep has been good to their family. Ken and Colleen have eight children and Tonia the oldest is now serving as the Executive Secretary of the Utah Wool Growers.

Coyotes have been a problem, but good guard dogs helped mitigate the loss. Their biggest challenge was to find outside bloodlines that would improve or maintain our breeding program. They sold 150 commercial rams per year and usually had demand for many more. Their customers wanted rams that live, have body mass, ruggedness and transmit gainability and a thick-bodied lamb that will grade.

Their journey in the Suffolk business was a great one. They have traveled to many places and states we would not have otherwise seen. One year sheep were to Costa Rica and delivered them to Florida.

They have met many quality people who have become lifelong friends.

They started with nothing. Suffolks enabled them to raise a family, pay off a ranch and have a good life along the way. Their children learned to work. Suffolk sheep have greatly enriched their lives.

Andy Asberry

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.

Tom Burke

Tom Burke purchased his first Suffolk in 1979 and has been a continuous Suffolk breeder for 35 years on his farm near Platte City, Missouri.

Besides being a Suffolk breeder Tom Burke has been a registered Angus breeder his entire life and has managed registered Aberdeen Angus cattle sales for the past 50 years. During these 50 years he has conducted 8,500 Angus auctions in 47 States, 7 Provinces of Canada, and the Caribbean. He has given addresses at Angus Field Days in over 35 States and 7 Provinces of Canada.

During his Tour of Duty Tom Burke annually is away from home 340 nights a year, this means he recently celebrated spending his 17,000 night in a motel room. He annually travels 400,000 miles by plane, car and train, this would equate to 20 million miles which would be 800 times around the world. During the past 50 years Tom has rented 10,000 rent-a-cars. In 1994 the nationally syndicated newspaper, U.S.A. Today, recognized Tom as the most traveled person in America. Tom has been an Angus sale manager for 50 years, longer than anyone in the history of the breed.

Tom was recognized as 'Marketer of the Year' in Denver, Colorado during the National Western Stock Show in 2004. He was inducted into the American Angus Associations prestigious Angus Hall of Fame in 2004. In 2006, Tom received The American Angus Association's "Historic Angus Herd Award", honoring Angus breeders who have consistently been in business for fifty years or more.

On August 6, 2013 Tom was honored by the Livestock Publication Council in Buffalo, New York as their lifetime LAMPLIGHTER Award Winner.

On November 18, 2013 at the 130th Annual meeting of the American Angus Association in Louisville, Kentucky Tom Burke was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Angus Association.

Tom has co-authored eight of the breed's bestselling books that have been keepsakes for all that have been fortunate enough to acquire them.

In 1988, he was elected to the National Board of the National Suffolk Association and re-elected in 1990 and 1993. He was elected President of the National Suffolk Sheep Association and served in that capacity from 1994 through 1996 and was elected Vice President of the Missouri Suffolk Breeders Association in 2001 and 2002. In 2003 – 2007 he served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Missouri Suffolk Association. In 2002, he was selected to judge the 29th Annual North American

International Suffolk Show in Louisville, Kentucky and has judged the National Suffolk Shows at the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh, Scotland and the Palermo Show in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In 2005, Tom was elected to the Board of Directors of the United Suffolk Sheep Association and re-elected again in 2008 and served as President of the United Suffolk Sheep Association in 2009. Tom has served as the announcer for the United Junior Suffolk Show for the past twenty years. In November of 1992 President elect Bill Clinton and Vice President elect Albert Gore nominated Tom Burke as their first choice to become United States Secretary of Agriculture. Only after a short consideration he declined the invitation to continue his life's work. Tom has exhibited Suffolk sheep aggressively on the National scene for the past thirty years and has exhibited numerous Louisville Champions and First Prize Winners. He has been the Premier Exhibitor at the North American International Livestock Show in Louisville, Kentucky at the National Suffolk Show for four consecutive years.

In 1981, Kentucky Governor John Y. Brown named Tom Burke a Kentucky Colonel. He has served as Chairman of the All-American Angus Breeder's Futurity which is one of the most prestigious Angus shows in the breed since 1972, currently in his 44th term.

In 1974, Tom was appointed to the Board of Directors of the International Livestock Show in Chicago, Illinois. Annually Tom guest lectures at fifteen Colleges and Universities across the United States on livestock activities.

Tom resides on his farm in Platte County, Missouri with his daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren as well as oversees his family's 400 acre farm in Dodge County, Minnesota.

Today, Tom's sale management firm, The American Angus Hall of Fame, manages purebred Angus cattle auctions. In the 140-year history of the Angus breed in the United States the American Angus Hall of Fame has managed more "million dollar plus" Angus sales than all competitors combined. The American Angus Hall of Fame has continued to grow and expand in total dedication to the welfare of the Angus breed worldwide and is celebrating its 75th year anniversary.

Tom Burke is proud to be a registered Suffolk Sheep breeder.

Jim & Jacky Caras

In approximately 1935 a young Greek immigrant, Angel Caras, from Spanish Fork, Utah imported three bred Suffolk ewes from Canada. His oldest son, Earnest, wanted to begin a flock of sheep as a Future Farmers of America project.

Those three ewes were the beginning of a lifetime success for the Caras family. At one time the business consisted of father, Angel, sons, Earnest, Andrew, Franklin and Jim. They called it Angel Caras and Sons. In the early sixties the business became Caras Brother's with Earnest and Jim as partners. After the death of Earnest, Jim and his wife Jacky and their family became owners and now call the business Caras Ranch.

From those three ewes became one of the most successful Suffolk Sheep family businesses in the state of Utah. We are so proud to say that our sheep have been bought by many satisfied buyers throughout the United States and Canada.

Jim has served and served again, always with the thought of honoring his profession. He has been both President and board member for the Suffolk Association several times. Jim is well known for his expertise and sound quality sheep. He has judged livestock shows all over the USA and Canada.

Jim has been manager of the Utah Ram Sale for more than 40 years. Just having finished the 2014 sale of more than 600 rams, the saw was deemed by all successful again, in terms of averages and the quality of animals. It is a huge family project with all Caras' family members involved. A Dutch Oven Utah lamb dinner is served the night prior to the sale, a program and auction prizes enjoyed. On the day of the sale a saddle is given away by drawing tickets out of a spinner. One ticket is put in for every \$500 a buck buyer has spent. Buying just one more pen may be the key to having the winning ticket for the saddle assigned to it.

Jim has served his country in the military, his community as a 4-H leader for unnumbered years, and he enjoys the FFA organization, both of which he was a member of as a young man. He is an honored lifetime Future Farmer and has mentored countless young men and women in the livestock profession. He was named Utah Sheepman of the year. He served two Utah governors as an appointed board member of the Utah State Fair Corporation. He also serves his community and honors his Savior by having held many volunteer positions in his faith.

We as his family think an award such as this is long overdue and join with the industry in honoring and being proud of our sheep man husband, dad and Grandpa for this recognition.

Hawkins Farm Suffolks

Glen "Sadie" Hawkins & Joy Hawkins

In 1955, Glen "Sadie" Hawkins and his son, Tom, began raising Suffolk sheep with the purchase of 20 head of ewes from Floyd Edwards. After Tom left for college in 1964, his sister, Joy, sold her Hampshires and began to invest in the Suffolks with her father; that brought on the flock name change from Glen Hawkins & Son Suffolks to Hawkins Farm Suffolks.

Some of the rams remembered by the Hawkins family include "Franchise", a Weimer bred buck, a ram purchased from Ben Huff and "D.A.", a ram purchased by Glen and Bud Forster from Kansas State in the early 1960s for \$1000. Many of the Hawkins Farm Suffolks ewes date back to Glen's breeding. Even after Joy took over the flock's management after her father was gone, she purchased very few ewes to bring into her flock. One ewe family of significant importance were decedents of "Spot", one of the last remaining ewes from her father. Joy rarely sold any ewes from that family.

Glen raised and exhibited a Reserve Champion Ram at the Grand National at the Cow Palace. This ram was also a part of the Suffolk flock exhibited by Glen when he was named Bell Winner at the Oregon State Fair. Glen also exhibited at the Pacific International.

Joy routinely consigned to the Midwest Stud Ram Sale, exhibited at the Oregon State Fair and frequently traveled to Louisville, Kentucky to attend the North American International Livestock Exposition. Joy raised several division champions and class winners at the Nugget All-American Sale and the Midwest Stud Ram Sale. In 2013 Joy was name the Gold Bell Winner at the Oregon State Fair. In addition to Joy's love for her sheep, she was also known as an avid sports fan.

Glen and Joy were both 4-H volunteers and each of them served as the leader of one of the oldest 4-H clubs in Oregon, the Greenback 4-H club; Sadie a leader for 30 years and Joy a leader for over 20 years. In addition to Glen's involvement with 4-H, he was a former past president of the Linn County Veterans Council, a member of the Oregon State University Extension Advisory Council and Oregon Sheep Commission, as well as past president and director of the Oregon Purebred Sheep Breeders. Glen was honored by the Oregon State Extension Service in 1979 for his outstanding support of that organization. Many individuals who knew Glen agreed that he contributed more to his community than he took out.

Joy taught high school English for 30 years and was very passionate about her students. In addition to her contributions to 4-H, Joy's love for the youth and Suffolks could be seen through her years of dedication to running Oregon's junior Suffolk program and her support of the National Junior Suffolk Association.

Glen passed away in 1986 of a heart attack while hauling sheep. Joy passed away in the spring of 2014 after an 8 year battle with cancer.

Hawkins Farm Suffolks genetics can be found throughout the United States; from coast to coast.

Marvin & Sandy Heupel

Dedicated to Improving Suffolks for 57 Years...Before Heupel Suffolks began in 1957, it was known as Heupel Farms going back to the 1940's with registered Hampshire and Duroc swine. A great deal about livestock genetics and animal breeding was learned and applied to the sheep while Marv was in the hog business. While attending college at Fresno State University, Marv was responsible for Live Evaluation of the college hogs. This type of real meat evaluation could be directly applied to lamb carcasses. In the 50's, the swine industry was far ahead of the beef or sheep industry in performance testing, feed conversion, daily gain and carcass evaluation.

In 1957 Marv and his young family; wife, Elinor, children, Kendra, Kurt and (Annette yet to come) moved to Corvallis Oregon where Marv was hired by Oregon State University to manage the swine herd. He also enrolled in graduate work and started his Suffolk flock with 13 original Walter Hubbard ewes. While at Oregon State, the Agricultural Education Department launched a "first of a kind" program called Intern Teaching. Marv received the distinction of being the First Intern Teacher in the US. He went on to teach High School Agriculture and Mechanics for 10 years at Newberg High School.

His teaching career brought him back to California in 1969 where he accepted the position of Department Head and Instructor at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria. Marv's teaching consisted primarily of Mechanized Ag and Diesel Equipment Technology. Marv did not accept being addressed by his students as "MR" or "Professor" just plain and simple "Marv". With this approach, instructor and students were on an equal basis and communication was easy. Students went from this program well skilled in Equipment Operation, Class A Truck Driving, Equipment Repair and Maintenance, Hydraulics and Engines. This was rewarding for Marv to see his students go into the work force with dignity and good financial rewards. In 1994 Marv retired from teaching and continued with the passion of Line Breeding his Suffolks.

Back in 1968 Heupel Suffolks began consigning range rams to the prestigious California Ram Sale where the sale rules allowed a pen of three rams for the first year. If a consignor was in the top third average on their sale price they were allowed to double their consignment. For the consignor who was progressing upward in average sale prices they could keep doubling their allotment to 10% of the sale until they reached the maximum of 125 rams. Heupel Suffolks reached the maximum number of rams and held it through the 1970's and 1980's. It was

great to watch the excitement of those pens of 15 rams as they sold. The Heupels always sold their best pen first which got the buyers attention and they would bid strong on the Heupel rams until they were all sold.

Throughout the years Heupel Suffolks took their sheep to numerous shows and sales. They took out some of their best to get the attention needed to make private treaty sales at the ranch. On numerous occasions that one desirable individual would open the door to sell as many as 50 head to one customer. During the 80's there was a strong demand for those big classy rams as weather sires. In 1989 Heupel's exhibited a weather sire that became Supreme Champion at the Midwest Sale, one of the larger sales of weather sires. This ram went to Hill Country Suffolks of Texas and helped to sell another 35 yearling weather sires.

The Heupel brood ewes are like a special woven fabric. They carry the influence of their cornerstone rams a good number of times in their pedigrees. They have used many rams in the 57 years of breeding, but the main cornerstones are 1957 "The Eldon Riddle ram", 1962 "The Hubbard ram", 1978 "Banyan", 1981 "Keepers Kopy", 1984 "New Genes", 1985 "Keen Genes", 2003 "Giant", 2007 "Angus Kopy", 2011 "Bismark", and in 2013 "Marv's Next Step" Heupel Suffolks legacy will continue on in partnership with Marv's son and daughter in law, Kurt and Carol Heupel and their breeding program in Colorado.

The Heupel's were pioneers in:

1959: The first sheep tilt table was designed built by Marv. It was called The OSU Table.

The first sow milking machine was built by Marv and used to get colostrum milk from sows to bottle feed newborn piglets on Atrophic Rhinitis Eradication it was called The Octopus.

The first winner at the Pacific International Lamb Carcass Contest. 32 lambs competing Heupel's placed 1st, 2nd and 4th.

1974: First sheep producer in US to own and process corn silage with a German made Eberhardt Silo Press

1980: First winning Progeny Performance Cal Poly Ram Test

1984: First large scale operation to perform Artificial Insemination of sheep via Laparoscope. Dr. Haymen of New Zealand and Tracy Haslem of California.

Worked in conjunction with UC Davis to test rams to rule out the Spider Gene.

Joe Holbrook

Joe Holbrook was born and raised in the small farming village of Chesterfield, Idaho. He married Beth Hansen in the spring of 1947 and they purchased their Chesterfield farm in January of 1948. Joe and his brother, Lafe Jr., worked together farming their own places along with the land owned by their mother, Annalease. Their father had been killed in an automobile accident in the fall of 1942.

Joe's father had a small herd of sheep when he was a young man and Joe enjoyed working with them. In 1953 he watched a neighbor purchase Suffolks at the Golden Spike Stock Show and Sale in Ogden, Utah. "When I saw these sheep, they really appealed to me." said Holbrook, "I hadn't seen any before that were purebred registered Suffolk sheep. They were striking! They were outstanding. I decided before very long that I was going to have some of these sheep."

The first Suffolks purchased by Holbrook were highly bred and imported rams from England. His friend and mentor, Jesse Humphrey, of Soda Springs, Idaho, gave him a solid foundation in breeding, fitting and showing the Suffolk breed. Through the years, Joe focused on his blood lines and ultimately developed a quality purebred flock of 100 Suffolk ewes. His main two rams came from Kalseanes and Swenson bloodlines. Joe marketed his rams through The Idaho State Ram Sale, the Idaho Falls Purebred Sheep Breeders Sale, and the Colorado Ram Sale. His rams had a reputation for being strong, sturdy and dependable breeding stock producing quality results. He enjoyed a great reputation among the sheepmen and his peers.

When his son, Joe Jr., was in 4-H and FFA, the Holbrook Flock always made a "clean sweep" of the Caribou County Fair! Later, Holbrook continued providing fat lambs to the youth of the County - many typically finished with top honors. Joe helped many breeders get a start in the purebred business. One, Gail Rathbun and daughter, Christine, developed a quality flock that won honors at the Los Angeles County Fair.

One of Joe's finest stud rams, "Shorty", was judged the Grand Champion Ram of the Eastern Idaho State Fair. It is thought that Joe named him "Shorty", because the ram just did not quite "reach up" to his friend, Rollie Rosenboom's "Walk'n Tall".

Holbrook was a member of the Idaho Wool Growers throughout his life. He chaired the Caribou County Wool Pool. He enjoyed serving on and chairing the two Idaho Ram Sale committees. He was a member of the American Suffolk Sheep Society Board of Directors for nearly twenty years, representing the states of Idaho and Washington. He served as chairman of the finance committee and as president. Joe

supported the national merger which led to the formation of the United Suffolk Sheep Association.

In 1965 Holbrook joined his good friend Jesse Humphery working for the J.R. Simplot Company near Soda Springs. He drove a 170 ton electric truck hauling phosphate ore. Joe and Jesse prepared pit barbeque whole lamb for the Company Picnic each year. The CEO, J.R. Simplot was always in attendance. Joe's wife, Beth, also worked as an assistant to the mine superintendent. In 1971, they moved to Soda Springs to eliminate the long commute to work. Joe kept the farm in Chesterfield, and bought a few acres in the "cedars" near Soda Springs for his flock. Somehow, Joe's dedication to the purebred sheep business enabled him to maintain his flock and stay active in the ram sales. He and his friend, Jesse, continued working side by side fitting out the rams every year.

Holbrook retired from Simplot in May of 1985. Following the ram sales of 1988, he liquidated his flock and traded his sheep sheers for a fishing pole. In retirement, Joe enjoyed fishing with his brothers in Alaska, on the Snake and Clearwater near Lewiston, Idaho, and of course on his favorite Chesterfield Reservoir. Joe lost his wife, Beth, on December 19, 1995. He lived the last few years of his life with his son and daughter-in-law in California and Utah. Joe passed away of natural causes on December 30, 2011. He was 91 years old.

Bob Kimm

Kimm Suffloks was established in 1972. In 1975 Bob purchased seventeen bred registered Suffolks from a pair of Idaho breeders (Burton/Howland) who were having a dispersal sale in Des Moines, IA during a January blizzard. This acquisition would serve to be the main foundation for Bob's flock. The most influential sire ever used was a Bob Lewis bred ram from the Iowa Ram Test purchased by Richard Roe and later sold to Kimm Suffloks. This ram would go on to sire seven lamb crops for Bob, capturing numerous National Lamb Show champions.

Bob initiated his first annual production sale in 1988. This sale is held the first Saturday evening in May where over one hundred females and seventy rams are sold with an additional thirty rams being sold private treaty during the summer. Bob's breeding program is based on selection criteria that incorporate production records, NSIP epds and carcass scan data. Then he ties these performance traits into an attractive package with impeccable soundness. The goal is to merchandise Suffolks which look the best when slick shorn and free standing. Bob takes great pride in offering Suffolks that work for the commercial sheep industry. It is his passion to assist youth who want to engage in the Suffolk breed by offering a Jr. Sale Credit Program.

Bob's philosophy on the type of Suffolk he has strived to offer for the past forty plus years is heavily influenced by his educational involvement in the beef industry. Moderation has been the key to allow the beef producers to generate an efficient end product and it is the theme for Kimm Suffolks, the HOME OF BALANCED GENETICS. Bob has chosen not to show his Suffolks except for the National Lamb Show (a performance/carcass event) where he captured six progeny pens of five championships plus numerous individual champions during the seventies and eighties. Bob has exported Suffolks to Canada, Brazil, Mexico and the United Arab Emirates in the Middle East.

Bob retired from Hawkeye Community College, Waterloo, IA in 2000, where he served as beef and sheep specialist since 1969. Bob also managed the college's sheep flock which consisted of 50 registered Suffolk ewes. He received both his BS and MS degrees from Iowa State University where he also was a member of the livestock, meat animal evaluation and wool judging teams. Prior to his career in education, Bob spent three years with Ralston Purina as a district sales rep along with serving in the US Army Reserves. While at Hawkeye he strived to develop extra curricular activities, which allowed students the opportunity to develop leadership skills first hand. Aside from teaching in the Animal Science Dept., he

coached the livestock judging team, coordinated an adult lamb and wool program, worked with students in organizing annual livestock shows, sales, judging contests, breed exhibits and supervised tests for the Iowa Ram Test Association, the Iowa 4-H Lamb Performance Classic and the National Lamb Show Central Test. Bob has judged all the major market lamb shows in the US and served as a speaker for numerous state sheep symposiums. His international work with sheep includes serving as a speaker, consultant and judge in Mexico and Brazil.

Bob lost his wife Barb of forty-seven years in 2013. Their family consists of son Ted, daughter Flo and three grandchildren. The home flock is located on an acreage near Dysart, IA. Bob has three satellite flocks: Brookings, SD – Tipton, IA – Iowa City, IA. Genetically drawing from a flock of over 220 females.

Bob has served on numerous boards and committees; United Suffolk Sheep Association, past president of the Iowa Suffolk Sheep Association, past president of the Iowa Sheep Industry Association, Iowa State Univ. Animal Science Adv. Committee, Iowa Sheep and Wool Promotion Board, Iowa Farm Bureau Sheep Commodity Committee, National Lamb Show Committee, and past president of the American Sheep Industry – Seedstock Committee. Bob initiated the Iowa Jr. Suffolk Sheep Association in the early eighties along with establishing a Jr. Breeding Sheep Show for the youth of Iowa.

Norman Olsen Family

Norman Olsen, or “Charlie” as most knew him by, started in the sheep business in 1952 in Spanish Fork, Utah. He married Barbara Fielding who supported him through his years in the sheep business. He gathered up a few ewes from Clifford Olsen (no relation), Ed Winn, S.P. Nelson and Grover Orton to get started.

Before he bought any sheep he started purchasing the farm when he was in the military. He sent money home to his parents during his service in World War II and the Korean War and they made the payments for him. He also earned a little extra by loaning money to other soldiers right before payday for a handsome interest rate. Norman’s career is noteworthy in view of the fact that he inherited no land and no sheep. He truly started from scratch.

The main part of his sheep business was raising range rams for the western range men. In his prime, he had around 500 mother ewes. Dad sold a lot of sheep to the Midwest breeders in the 70’s and 80’s. Dad said he felt the “like a Rhinestone Cowboy. Getting cards and letters from people I don’t even know, and offers coming over the phone.”

He summered his ewes in Strawberry Valley in the mountains east of home. It was a community range that we shared with several other sheep flocks in the Spanish Fork area. In August, we gathered the sheep to remove the buck lambs. If we didn’t, they’d start breeding the ewes. We always seemed to miss a few and we’d end up with a few early lambs that we called “strawberry catch lambs.” We often used them as market lambs for our Jr. Market Lamb show that was held in May of each year. We gathered the herd again in October to bring them all home. Time spent at Strawberry was one of Dad’s favorite parts of his sheep business.

The sheep have been good to Norman and his family. He used the income from the sheep to pay for the farm and the mortgage on his home and to generate enough income to raise his 12 children. Mom was also pretty instrumental in the raising of the 12 children. Mom took care of things at home and taught us religion by her words and actions. Dad often made the comment that Mom saved our souls and he saved our hides.

Mom was a patient woman. Sometimes Dad would be so caught up in what he was doing that he’d forget to mention to her that he was leaving town for a few days to buy or sell sheep out of state somewhere. When he wouldn’t show up at home that night, she’d ask one of the boys where Dad was. They’d just kind of look at her and say “uhhh, he’s gone to California for a few days...” She took it all in stride and didn’t let it bother her... too much.

He was one of the few sheep operators in our area who relied entirely on sheep and agriculture for his livelihood. He taught us how to work, to be honest, to respect other people and their property, to respect our elders, and many other things that have helped us in life. He prided himself in raising his family and helping them be successful in life. Once, when asked what he did for a living, he said "I am in the business of raising kids and I figured a sheep farm would be a good place to do that."

Early in his sheep raising years, his brothers Snell and Alden caught wind that he was going to sell all of his ewe lambs. They noticed that their little brother had started making some strides of his own. They wanted to pick from his ewe lambs for replacement ewes for their own herd. He penned all of his ewe lambs together and told his brothers to take their pick and put them in a separate pen. After they had done so with the preset number of ewe lambs, Dad looked things over and said, "If those are good enough to go into your herd, they will work well in my herd. Those are the ewe's I'll keep. Now you can pick from those you left in here." Dad was clever and he showed us that every once in a while, the little brother wins.

Over the years, he sold range rams at various ram sales in the western states. In the late 70's and 80's, Dad had a production sale along with the Caras Brothers in Des Moines, Iowa. Those were the good years. One highlight of his career was in 1974 when he had a Suffolk ram that sold for \$3,500 to Caras Brothers. He was the grandson of Long Ears and the sire of Revolution.

Dad had a lot of quotes that he would rattle off at, what seemed to be, the exact moment it would have the most impact. He would have a quote que'd up in his mind for years waiting for the right moment to use it. When the moment came, he would let it out without skipping a beat. This often left those within earshot wondering how on earth he had come up with it.

Some of the more meaningful quotes are as follows:

- 1-"The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence, but the grass is only as green as you make it."
- 2-"When you have a hard time sleeping, don't count sheep, talk to the Shepherd"
- 3-"Best crops, best sheep, a lot of blue ribbons don't mean anything if you haven't raised your family right."
- 4-From a church leader: "No other success can compensate for failure in the home."

Norman retired in 2007. He sold his ewes to his sons and leases the farmland and the facilities to them. Today 6 of his 7 sons still own sheep and operate a flock on some level. Many of his grandkids and great grandkids show market lambs and some of them have even started small flocks of their own.

Tom Slack, Slack Club Lambs

Tom Slack started his purebred and wether sheep flock when he was just seven years old. He turned his sheep hobby into a livelihood after completing his 10 years in 4-H and becoming a State and National 4-H Achievement winner. He was a member of the 1975 Purdue Livestock Judging Team which placed first at the North American International Livestock Exposition. Slack finished 2nd in the nation in Sheep and had the high oral reasons score in sheep at the national contest, as well as second overall at the Chicago International.

He began with 15 ewes after graduating from Purdue, and taught high school woodworking for three years before making his passion for breeding quality sheep his business. In 1979 he started raising sheep full time. Now he, and his wife Val with son Brett, operate the largest Suffolk flock in the state of Indiana, lambing 450 ewes last year.

Tom's program embraces modernization and change. He is an early adopter and innovator of technologies to improve the production and quality of his sheep. He utilizes artificial insemination and embryo transfer to advance his breeding program and social media to attract, educate and assist his customers.

The Formula for Champions Club Lamb sale started by the Slacks in 1979 is in its 36th year and is the largest single producer club lamb sale east of the Mississippi River. Slack's attention to detail and understanding of genetics has allowed him to breed and merchandize champion sheep in a multitude of state and national shows. Thirty-eight states in America have Slack bloodlines improving their flocks. Tom's flock was the leading flock in Suffolk registrations for several years prior to the consolidation of associations.

In 2014 Slack Club Lambs was named the Premier Exhibitor at the largest sheep sale in the United States- the Mid-West Stud Ram Sale held in Sedalia, Missouri. This is the third time Slack has been premier exhibitor at Sedalia after winning six champions, two reserve champions and twenty-two class winners with seven breeds. Tom had the largest consignment at Sedalia with seventy head. Forty-five of the 70 stood 5th place or higher in class. Slack showed the Champion Suffolk Wether Sire, Champion Suffolk Wether Dam and Reserve Champion Suffolk Wether Dam. In addition, Slack won 10 Suffolk Wether Sire/Dam Classes and had the highest selling ewe at the Mid-West Stud Ram Sale for \$20,000 which was also the Champion Suffolk Wether Ewe.

Tom's enthusiasm for sheep is contagious. He is always willing to take time to help the new breeder and the experienced sheep person. Tom, Val and Brett, have

worked tirelessly to improve sheep projects at the local, state and national levels through sponsorships and volunteering on local and state committees, as well as serving as breed managers at the Indiana State Fair. The Slack family maintains a web site available at www.slackclublambs.com which tells more about their multi-generational operation.