

## *Duane & Marcia Sickels*

Duane and Marcia Sickels are from Winchester, Indiana. Duane started his Suffolk sheep flock as a 4-H project. He bought nine ewes and a ram in partnership with his Dad. He expanded his flock through his own replacements and purchases from other breeders. In 1970 he purchased half the Stonemark flock from Dwight Stone (Kansas). He also purchased Larry Clendenin's flock (Indiana) and Sam Winfree's flock (Tennessee), adding good foundation ewes. Sickels Suffolks were at one time a flock of 250 Suffolk purebred and Suffolk cross ewes. The flock, now Sickels Club Lambs & Meat Goats, has about 100 ewes and 25 Boer cross does. Duane and Marcia continue to keep accurate records of genetics and pedigrees with Duane keeping his own replacement ewes and reaching out with new rams. This January will mark his 61<sup>st</sup> lamb crop.

Duane showed sheep at the Indiana State Fair for many years, as well as such shows and sales as the Chicago International, The Pennsylvania Farm Show, The Big E in Mass., the Eastern Stud Ram Sale, VA, the Mid-West Sale, the Ohio Suffolk Sale and several state fairs and jackpot shows. He held three Production Sales and a spring Club Lamb sale for several years.

Duane served on the Board of Directors of the National Suffolk Association from 1975 through 1984 and is a past Vice-President. The National Junior Suffolk Association was formed during his tenure on the board with Duane being a strong supporter of its foundation. He has served in several capacities in sheep and livestock organizations at both the state and local levels. Duane was inducted into the Indiana Livestock Hall of Fame in 2005 and has been named an Indiana Master Shepherd.

Teaching youth through livestock is one of Duane's passions. He has supported 4-H and FFA and has officiated several 4-H and FFA judging contests, has judged numerous jackpot and county fair shows. He judged the 2010 Market Lamb Showmanship at the North American Livestock Show. Some of Duane's favorite classes include showmanship classes. It is not uncommon to see him along the sidelines at a sheep show talking with a young showman. Duane and Marcia held several one day showmanship lamb camps at their farm--Sickels Lamb Camp.

Duane and Marcia have a Christmas Tree Farm in addition to the livestock. Greg is now farming the row crops. Marcia and Duane have two sons and daughters-in-law, Dex and Molly, and Greg and Janette, and six grandchildren. The grandchildren are all aged five and under so the Sickels are looking forward to many fun sheep days ahead.