

## *Alan & Mary Kjeldgaard*

Alan started the Suffolk business the summer of 1963 with the purchase of the only 2 yearling ewes at the Nebraska State Sale. One of these ewes proved to be a program builder. The following year he bought 6 yearling ewes from Boys Town, their shepherd was also the herdsman for their dairy. He gave some advice to Alan that he never forgot; he said if you make your Suffolk ewes look like a Holstein cow you will always have production. He never forgot that and that created a vision in his mind of what he wanted them to look like.

A couple years later Alan met Wes Azeltine, he was always there to help young people in the sheep business. In 1969, Wes, his wife and Alan went to the Spanish Fork Valley and they got the pick of BYU rams as well as the top ram lamb and yearling ram from Olson Bros.. This yearling proved to be the game changer. They also picked up top yearling ewes from Jack Larson, Shepherd's, Olsen's and two other top breeders in the valley.

In the 70's thru late 80's they had a good commercial trade for their ram lambs, selling around 50 head a year. Over time they have lost all of our sheep producers in the area and have no demand for commercial rams. Since that time, Alan and Mary have stayed around 20 head of brood ewes and their focus now is to produce good quality show sheep. Alan states that his biggest reward isn't winning a show or selling one for a good price but going to the lambing barn and knowing he put the genetics together that please him. Alan and Mary now have 4 grandkids showing sheep at shows and they think that is pretty awesome.