

# *Richard & Cindy Jones Family*

## *Five Star 'J' Farms*

Five Star J Farms- Richard and Cindy Jones and Family plus their extended family- Becky Lunghuhn, Diane Snyder, Craig & Tucker Beckmeir, and Toby Bender. They we are more like a “village”, everyone doing their own special part.

Rich and Cindy decided they wanted their kids to grow up in the livestock industry. No better teaching tool about life than the responsibility and care of an animal. Their choice was Suffolk sheep. There is not a more beautiful animal to Cindy, than a fitted Suffolk Ewe in the show ring.

They bought their first Suffolk ewes 42 years ago at the Midwest Sale, 5 yearling ewes from Eugene Batie and the journey began. They attended every Junior show across the country, meeting at Barry Bruce’s house and double loading 2 trailers so everyone could go. Cindy cannot express enough how this Jr. show experience has influenced their children and grandchildren’s lives. They have great friends all across the country. But the story Cindy must share is about after one Junior show banquet, Mitchell didn’t make it back to the hotel room. They got a knock on our hotel door and Ralph Taylor was looking for his beautiful daughter Andrea--- “oops”.

Throughout the years Cindy was able to purchase some of the best breeding stock from dear friends Steve George and Ron Young. Rich supported Cindy in her business. Rich calls himself Cindy’s NUMBER 1 POOPER SCOOPER and FINANCIER. All Cindy ever wanted for a birthday gift was a new Suffolk ewe. Cindy wanted this ewe from Steve named “Dew”. They bought it and Rich looked at Cindy and said “Merry Christmas, Happy Birthday, and Happy Anniversary...for several years.”

Cindy’s goal was always to breed a consistent group of ewes. She always said anybody can raise one good one but if you can consistently raise many good ewes over several years then that is what will continually help the Suffolk breed.

Cindy shares a story of Rachel and her first trip to Sedalia. Junior show days were over and Cindy wanted to start selling some top breeding stock. So they loaded 20 head of sheep and one new baby in the back seat. The only problem was they couldn’t back the trailer. Every gas station and every stop had to be where they could pull straight through. When they got to the Fairgrounds in Sedalia they had to stop in the parking lot to unload. This is where they saw some of the great goodness of the Suffolk people. Everybody was helping them. The baby in the backseat is now 25 and they can back anywhere ---- Like a Pro.

Cindy has won many ribbons and awards over the years but nothing can compare to how this Suffolk industry has influenced their family—it is their family of close friends.

Cindy gives a special tribute to Tod Weaver. He was huge part of their family and one of the best sheep fitters this industry has ever seen.

Cindy thanks everyone for this award and to her dear friend Chuck for nominating her.

P.S. Ask Steve George about the Bob Evans round up on I-70.