

# United Suffolk Sheep Association

## *Call of Fame*



*2018 Inductees*



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*Greg Deakin, The Banner Sheep Magazine*

*Richard & Cindy Jones Family, Five Star 'J' Farms*

*Larry & Linda Pauly, Double L Livestock*

*Sam & Pat Wiford, Wiford Suffolks*

*Mary & Bob Wilson*

The 2018 USSA Hall of Fame inductees were honored on Sunday, November 11, 2018 at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky during the USSA Annual Meeting and Dinner.



# United Suffolk Sheep Association Hall of Fame

<b>Year</b>	<b>Inductee</b>
2018	Greg Deakin, The Banner Sheep Magazine
2018	Richard & Cindy Jones Family, Five Star 'J' Farms
2018	Larry & Linda Pauly, Double L Livestock
2018	Sam & Pat Wiford, Wiford Suffolks
2018	Bob & Mary Wilson
2017	Johnson Club Lambs, Weldon & Brian Johnson
2017	Alan & Mary Kjedgeard
2017	Ansel Luxford
2017	Buckeye Acres, Ron & Carla Young
2016	Clyde & Justina George & George Brothers
2016	Millers Livestock, Brentford & Brenda Miller
2016	Chuck Ream, Windswept Ranch
2016	Duane & Marcia Sickels
2016	John & Pam Sponaule
2016	Dwight Stone, Stonemark Suffolks
2015	B.B. Burroughs
2015	Bob & Mark Chapman
2015	John Eagle
2015	Dr. Ben Huff
2015	George Hunter
2015	Sherwood Jackson
2015	Donna Mays
2015	Pearce McKinney
2014	Andrus Suffolks, Ken & Jim Andrus
2014	Andy Asberry
2014	Tom Burke
2014	Jim & Jacky Caras
2014	Hawkins Farm Suffolks, Glen "Sadie" Hawkins & Joy Hawkins
2014	Marvin & Sandy Heupel
2014	Joe Holbrook
2014	Bob Kimm
2014	Norman Olsen Family
2014	Tom Slack, Slack Club Lambs
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

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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

# Greg Deakin, *The Banner Sheep Magazine*

Greg Deakin began his career with sheep as a 4-H project in 1958 with five Hampshire ewes purchased from Deep Valley Farms in Fiatt, Illinois. They had a noted Hampshire flock, winning Chicago Championships with "Coal Dust" and "Coal Dust Laddie." Their Angus and Hereford herds were equally competitive in Chicago.

Sheep were always in the Deakin genetics, as the local FFA award records show a great uncle placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in a fat lamb class in the 1930s in Chicago.

As a teenager and through his college years, Greg showed sheep on the Western Illinois County Fair Circuit, carrying strings of Hampshires, Suffolks, Corriedales, and Oxfords. An Oxford ewe he showed for Jim Hanson of Wisconsin won back-to-back Grand Champion Ewe honors at both the 1971 and 1972 Chicago International.

Greg attended the University of Illinois from 1971-1973. At the end of his junior year in 1973, he had the opportunity to go to work for Larry Mead at the *Sheep Breeder Magazine* as Assistant Manager while taking classes at the University of Missouri. After a year and a half at the *Sheep Breeder*, the orange and blue in his blood took him back to Illinois where he completed his degree in Agricultural Sciences.

Greg next went to work for Production Credit Service in Watseka, Illinois after graduation from 1974-1978. Watseka is the county seat in Iroquois County, and the same county as Rollie Rosenboom and a host of other noted sheep breeders were from.

As the Suffolk breed was heading toward its pinnacle, demand was growing in the industry for the Suffolk breed to produce its own magazine. With the encouragement of Rollie Rosenboom and his experience learned from Larry Mead, Greg decided to pursue his dream of starting his own magazine. Knowing it would be a bigger project than one alone could handle, Greg started out with the help of childhood best friend Curt Overcash, a new ag teacher in Princeville, Illinois.

The *Suffolk Banner* was born in Watseka, Illinois on Sunday, January 15, 1978 while the Dallas Cowboys were beating the Denver Broncos 27-10. The two began their 3-year partnership by preparing a call list, knowing everyone would be around a phone before the game, at half time and after the game. Greg's call list was highly successful, relying on all the old contacts he made while working for *Sheep Breeder Magazine*. Many of the original advertisers are still working with *The Banner* today, and several in their second and third generations.

The first issue of *The Suffolk Banner* came out in March of 1978, and was an overwhelming success, causing Greg to leave PCA in October and move back to Cuba to the family farm to go full time in the magazine business. This move also allowed him to help his recently retired coal-mining father.

*The Suffolk Banner* grew and added Banner Sale Management Service, specializing primarily in Suffolk sales. Banner Sale Management Service built the most efficient sale clerking and management system in the sheep industry today. To this date, Banner Sale Management has managed sales in 37 different states.

As a result of his extensive sale experience, Greg has served as an expert witness in the courts, testifying on the value of Suffolk sheep in Oregon, Nevada, and California and has used sale records numerous times to verify the value of purebred sheep to insurance agents, attorneys and breeders.

Working with both the National Suffolk Sheep Association and American Suffolk Sheep Society was a real joy with all the sharp sheep-minds setting on both boards. To this day Greg feels it is the many friendships made with the Suffolk and other purebred breeders that has made his career so rewarding.

As the Suffolk breed registrations and transfers decreased, and with the success of the *The Suffolk Banner* riding on the back of Suffolk sheep, the decision was made in the fall of 1993 to expand the magazine to an all-breed format beginning in 1994. That move enabled Greg, wife Deb and *The Banner* staff to fully serve everyone in the purebred and registered sheep industry.

Greg has served as judge at a number of shows, but conscious of a conflict of interest between exhibitors and advertising, he has declined most. However, some of his judging highlights span from the Alaska State Fair in 2003 to the Fryeburg, Maine fair the past three years.

Another role he plays is that of a sheep photographer, serving as the official photographer for the North American International Livestock Exposition, Eastern States Exposition, and Keystone International Livestock Exposition, to name a few. Annually, he takes over 15,000 pictures, and has taken over 700,000 pictures the last 40 years. Also in *The Banner* office are the files of *The Sheep Breeder Magazine*, which include over 1 million photos of various breeds back to the 1950s. As a result, *The Banner* office contains the most comprehensive and accessible history of the purebred sheep industry in the United States. Doors are always open to those wanting to learn more about their breed, the industry, or even just a family members' involvement in the past.

Greg served four years as President of the American Border Leicester Association and currently is on the Board of Directors. He was also on the ASI Road Map Committee, whose purpose was to promote the sheep industry. Most recently, in 2017, Greg was appointed to the 13-member American Lamb Board by United States Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue to represent Seedstock producers.

The Deakin family still runs a flock of 75 sheep consisting of both Hampshires and Border Leicesters, and farms 400 acres, parts of which have been in the family for 150 years. Greg and Deb have two children, Tiffany and Colin, who both show sheep competitively across the country. Deb's strength has always been keeping the business, the kids and Greg in order, and she orchestrated much of the clerking system and operations for Banner Sale Management. She now spends much of her time between her new Subway restaurants. As she's stepped back, Greg and Deb have welcomed daughter Tiffany into the *Banner* and sale management operation, where she now handles a big share of the sale management responsibilities and is very involved with the magazine as well. Colin is very involved with the farming operation, taking care of the flock, plus a small herd of commercial cattle. He has a gift for mechanics which was certainly not inherited. The Deakin family all reside in Cuba, Illinois.



# *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.

# *Larry & Linda Pauly, Double L Livestock*

Larry Pauly started his first sheep project when he was 8 years old. It was a Targhee ewe with a white lamb that had a black ear. He had his first champion market lamb, a crossbred, when he was a sophomore in high school. He won the sheep award from the state of Montana and was able to pick out a Hampshire ewe lamb from Mt. Hagen Ranch in Deer Lodge, Montana. He also won three Hampshire ewe lambs for winning showmanship three years in a row. Then received a scholarship award from the state of Montana – thus affording him to purchase three old bred Hampshire ewes and three aged bred Suffolk ewes. This was the start of his flock.

Larry married in 1969 and divorced later in 1982. He had 3 sons – Larry Jr., Lance and Layne. He then married Linda Gage in 1983, she had three children from a former marriage – Tami, Marty and Stacy. Larry and Linda purchased 20 head of bred ewes from Jim Thomas of Tekoa, Washington who was Ray Craig's son-in-law. These became the start of their flock. The now have around 250 registered Suffolk, Hampshire and Dorset ewes.

In 1995 while selecting rams for the range pens there was one that just didn't fit. So it was decided he would go to the All-American in Reno. The ram was selected as Champion Ram and sold for \$10,500 – named "Zion". When asked how many of these rams they had, Larry's answer was "It takes a good ram to fit in a range pen."

Larry and Linda have sold sheep from Washington to New York – most of the purebreds sold in Reno and Sedalia.

In 2010 Larry was named Sheepman of the Year by the Utah Registered Sheep Breeders Association. The Pauly's sheep have had much success at Reno, winning Best Consignment ('13, '16, '17 & '18), Supreme Ewe ('14, '15, '17 & '18), Supreme Ram ('15, '16 & '17) and the Townsend Best Flock (2013 thru 2018).

Although their flock is registered, their main sales involve range rams, selling around 300 head per year. Larry currently manages the Bakersfield Ram Sale. He consigns to several range ram sales throughout the year including the California Ram Sale, Bakersfield Ram Sale, Utah Ram Sale, Wyoming State Ram Sale and the Craig Ram Sale where he has had much success – including the consignment of the Top Suffolk Pen at the California Ram Sale in 2016.

Larry served two terms on the United Suffolk Sheep association board of directors from 2010 to 2016, holding the office of Vice President in 2016. He also served as a board member for the Oregon Suffolk Sheep Breeders Association.

The sheep have been very good to the Pauly's through the years, however, the best part is the friends and people they have met.

# *Sam & Pat Wiford, Wiford Suffolks*

Sam and Pat Wiford, of Ohio, raise moderate frame Suffolk sheep. They have been raising sheep since 1972. During those 46 years they raised Suffolk feeder lambs, large frame fitted and now the moderate frame slick shorn Suffolks.

They organized the Ohio Suffolk Yearling Ewe Futurity at the Ohio State Fair. They competed in the futurity from it's first year until last year.

Sam and Pat have both been officers in the Ohio Suffolk Sheep Association. Pat is presently a director. Sam has served a number of years as chairman of the Ohio Suffolk Sale.

Youth from Ohio and all across the United States have always pulled at their heart strings. They served as advisors of the Ohio Junior Suffolk Sheep Association for 12 years and continue to help.

Their two children, Tammy and Brett both showed in the National Jr. Suffolk Show until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. They have a lot of good memories and friends from the shows. Brett was the youngest NJSSA president to preside. Sam and Pat were the co-coordinators of the National Jr. Show when it was in Ohio in 1990.

When their children were too old for the National Jr. Suffolk Show, Sam and Pat started to attend the All American. They have organized and lead the sheep Skillathon at the All American for 24 years, educating the youth on the sheep and wool industry. Their unique sheep Skillathon includes an actual sheep skeleton, actual jaws, a Preg-Tone machine, and a ruminant stomach just to mention a few of the 50 different stations. Their Skillathon is "User Friendly". Sam and Pat want the kids to learn practices they can use in the barn. This year at the All American there were close to 400 youth go through the Wiford's Skillathon.

In addition to the All American, they traveled to the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival for the past 14 years to hold their Skillathon. The Wisconsin Sheep Breeders presented the Dr. Art Pope Award to Sam and Pat. This award is given to someone in recognition of Outstanding Service and Dedication to the American Sheep Industry. Sam and Pat were the first recipients outside of Wisconsin to receive this award.

Sam and Pat have also received the Charles Boyles Ohio Master Shepherd Award for their excellence in sheep production and recognition of their contribution to the Ohio Sheep Industry.

Sam was on the committee of three, along with Donna Mays and Bill Zwyers that were instrumental in getting the slick show at the North American International Livestock Exposition.

The Wifords are still very active. Sam judges sheep show across the United States. And Pat is on the committee of three in charge of the Guys and Gals Lead show at the North American International Livestock Exposition and the Ohio State Fair.

Sam and Pat co-coordinate the three state junior breeding sheep shows each year in Ohio. They have been doing that since 1996 – 22 years.

They also coordinate the Mid-West Regional Jr. Suffolk Show at the Ohio State Fair. This was the 7<sup>th</sup> year for that show.

They coordinate an “All Breeds Picnic” where producers and breeders come together and raise money for their junior breeding sheep shows.

Their grand-children Will, 8 years old and Brynn, 6 years old are continuing the sheep legacy into the future. They have a small flock of Registered Suffolks of their own named Wiford Sheep Company. When they sell sheep it goes into their college fund. Will and Brynn have been showing for several years at the Mid-West Regional Jr. Suffolk Show, open class at the Ohio State Fair and here at the North American.

The sheep industry, especially Suffolks and youth will always be important to the Wiford Family.

# *Bob & Mary Wilson*

Robert and Mary met in college at Iowa State University. Bob was on the ISU wrestling team and was Big Eight Champion his sophomore year and won outstanding athlete award his freshman year. He had very few loses in his career. Robert got an agricultural degree and Mary a home economics degree focused on clothing and design.

After getting back from military service they purchased a small 80 acre farm and a few crossbred sheep. In 1958 they bought their first two Suffolk ewe lambs. They purchased their first Suffolk ram from Wes Azeltine. The farm was kind of a hobby farm and family affair with everyone chipping in. Their two sons, Mark and Scott, found the farm and work with the sheep an exciting adventure. The flock grew to be about 80-100 purebred ewes and several Suffolk rams as an average for most of the years that Mark and Scott were at home. They rented an extra 80 acres to provide for more hay ground and grain as the sheep project grew. Mary had a great deal of responsibilities with the sheep during the day as Robert had to go and teach school. Bob taught science for several years at Clear Lake School and 25 years at Monroe Junior High School in Mason City. Night checks and earlier morning checks were mostly done by Robert and Mary.

Robert and Mary were involved in many facets of the sheep industry. They were secretary of the Iowa Suffolk Sheep Association for 22 years. Mary was involved with the Make It Wool contests and promotional activities. They were involved in many of the Taste of Lamb promotions in county and state activities. They were heavily involved in showing sheep at the county fairs and a couple of the state fairs. Bob was involved in judging for about 25 years for state and county shows. He really enjoyed helping with 4-H training and working with sheep projects around the state. Mary and Bob were involved in the Iowa Ram Test with ISU extension agents and with their many friends of the Iowa Suffolk Sheep Association.

One of the family's highlights each year was showing at the Iowa State Fair. They still have strong connections with several families and friends that they met at the State Fair, even though they are 87 years old. Fun memories of cooking food at one of the pens in the sheep barn or in the sheep trailer after it was all cleaned up and made for a good place to sleep. Scott and Mark slept on the upper deck of the trailer.

Both Bob and Mary focused on body type, performance and amount of muscling in their sheep. They sold many purebred rams and ewes. They had some fun successes with Champion ewes at the Iowa State Fair, but the biggest thrill was champion ram and ewe together for the first time in 1968. The ram was named by Mary when it was born, Dynamo and was champion at every show that he was entered in 1968. Scott also took sheep to the Wisconsin State Fair and won both champion ewe and ram. The family did well at contests like the National Lamb Show where they had Champion lamb in 1971 and 1969

Champion at the Iowa State Fair Open Carcass Lamb show. Robert sold many lambs that won shows at county fairs and allowed young 4H contests to qualify lambs for the State Fair.

Robert and Mary placed a lot of value on the educational process of raising sheep, building character such as integrity, being humble and to always strive to do ones best. It was important to Bob and Mary that people recognized their belief in God and that they always strived to help any who was in need. Bob and Mark particularly want to thank Wayne and Mary Skartvedt for their nomination and assistance for this great honor. Many blessing to all those we have meet in our time in the Suffolk Sheep Association.





