

Alan Batt

Idaho

Alan Batt was raised on a small farm near Idaho Falls, Idaho. He began his Suffolk Sheep breeding journey at age 14 through a 4-H project. He started his flock by purchasing three bred ewes for \$35 each from a neighbor of his aunt. All three ewes had twins their first year, laying a strong foundation for growth. With support from local breeders, his flock steadily expanded.

After spending two years in Brazil serving a mission for his church, Alan returned home, married, and re-entered the sheep business with a determination to breed the very best animals he could. He soon discovered that Utah was a hotspot for quality Suffolk sheep and purchased a pickup load of older ewes from a prominent breeder. When he went to pay, the breeder handed him a stack of registration papers and said, "Match them up the best you can." Alan spent days cross-referencing tag numbers on the sheep with registration numbers, then sent the papers in for transfer. A few days later, the American Suffolk Sheep Society secretary called to inform him that some of those ewes were 15 or 16 years old. Alan, somewhat naive at the time, said, "I know, I can't believe how well they've held up." This experience cemented his commitment to honest pedigrees and knowing exactly what each registered animal truly was. His motto became, "I'm not going to hell for a stupid sheep."

Alan developed relationships with key breeders like Warren Kuhl at BYU and the Andrus brothers, buying all the old ewes and ewe lambs they would sell. He worked with them to acquire top rams and to blend superior bloodlines into his flock. At one point, his flock numbered over 300 brood ewes, and he sold range rams and breeding stock directly from his farm.

Warren Kuhl, after visiting England, told Alan about a remarkable ram he had seen influence many impressive sheep—Stockton 95. Unfortunately, the ram had died and no semen was believed to be available. Alan did some digging online and discovered that some Stockton 95 semen had been imported years earlier and was still available. He quickly purchased it and called Warren to ask if he wanted to use the ram. Warren responded that the semen wasn't available, to which Alan replied, "Yes, it is—I found it." They incorporated this British bloodline into their breeding programs. While neither Alan nor Warren intended to breed the smaller-framed British sheep, the introduction of Stockton 95 genetics brought valuable traits—ruggedness, bone, and overall quality—that complemented and elevated their existing lines.

Though Alan spent most of his professional life in real estate and custom home and apartment construction, he continuously reinvested in farms and ranch properties whenever he had the chance. Now living just three miles from his childhood home in Grant, Idaho, Alan looks back on his time in the sheep business as more than just a quest to breed better animals—it's the people, relationships, and memories that have made it truly meaningful. Alan and his wife Millie have four children and four grandchildren who all live close by where they enjoy being together often.