

David Bogue

South Dakota

For nearly eight decades, David Bogue raised, fed and supported the sheep industry in South Dakota, nationally and internationally. The Bogue Family Farm, near Beresford, South Dakota, was established in 1899. David remembers helping his Dad and Grandfather with their lamb feeding operation. His first paycheck was at the age of 9 for 20 lambs sold at the Sioux Falls Stock Yards.

By 1959, David, had finished his military obligations and came back home to the family farm. In the fall of 1960 David and Bonnie were married, and the couple took over the family farm in 1972. It included a farrow to finish hog operation and a sheep and grain operation. At that time, the sheep were a Targhee/Suffolk cross – or a commercial focused flock.

With three young boys who all had an interest in 4-H, David decided to start a purebred Suffolk Flock. In addition to providing 4-H lambs, the Suffolk breed's rate of gain and vigor complemented his commercial flock. Eventually, the right focus for David was raising dual-purpose Suffolk Rams and for the next 40 years, he was a reliable source for Suffolk rams. Some of the early genetics he used were from Gary TeStroete and then later Bob Kimm.

Eventually, DuWayne Swenson encouraged David to get on the National Suffolk Sheep Association board. DuWayne's advice was that if you have an interest – get involved. This was a mindset that resonated with David. He served on the NSSA board for about 6 years and served as President during 1997-1998. Looking back, he states that the most important moments are the times when he was able to build relationships and friendships that helped propel his operation and others forward. His tenure on the NSSA encompassed a time when the formation of the United Suffolk Sheep Association was being considered. He served as the last President of the National Suffolk Sheep Association during the merger between the American Suffolk Sheep Association and the National Suffolk Sheep Association. Bogue is a man of high integrity. When he gives his word or takes on a commitment, you can count on him to get the job done.

For example, David, representing the U.S. Suffolk industry, was part of a delegation sent to Brazil to work with Brazil sheep industry leaders. In addition, the Bogue Farm has been a stop for local and international sheep producers to learn and see an example U.S. sheep production. He has served as Chairman of

the American Sheep Industry – Seedstock Committee, held leadership roles in the South Dakota Sheep Association, was honored as Master Lamb Producer in 1984 and Friend of 4-H in 1984. He has served as President of the South Dakota Soybean Association, chairman of the SD Southeast Research Farm, and was part of the nucleus committee that organized the South Dakota Pork Producers Council. In 1995, he followed his grandfather and father by becoming an Eminent Farmer.

Most recently, he started the family's 5th generation in sheep production. In 2023, David sent the Suffolk flock from the Southeast corner of South Dakota to the Northeast corner of the State. Here his granddaughter and family are now actively involved with the Suffolk flock. He is humbled and honored to be recognized and will always cherish the friendships and memories built on the Suffolk breed.