

United Suffolk Sheep Association
July Board of Directors Call
Monday, July 12, 2021

Attendance: President Jeremy Geske, Vice President Randy Hodges, Treasurer Carol Heupel, Secretary Amanda Everts and the following Directors: Greg Ahart, Matt Wolf, Jeff Baumann, Jim Van Dyke, Dennis Sorensen, Randy Dombek, Brenda Reau and Bill Zwyers. Others in attendance: Nancy Burton, Junior Coordinator and UJSSA Directors Creed Harker, Lilly Ostlie and Wesley Linke. Not present: Cynthia Huckins.

President Geske called the meeting to order.

Additions/Approval of the Agenda

Jim Van Dyke asked to add Junior show market lamb classification to new business. Randy Hodges moved to adopt the agenda as amended, motion was seconded by Bill Zwyers. All were in favor, motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported that registry is up compared to last year. There is a webinar scheduled for July 27 discussing Superior's new camera grading system and Flock 54. Brenda Reau made motion to accept the Secretary's report, the motion was seconded by Matt Wolf. All were in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Carol Heupel reported the investment account balance was \$305,941 and \$6823 in cash. Year to date return is \$26,730, a 9.7% return. Randy Hodges moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Jim Van Dyke. All in favor, motion carried.

Junior Report

Nancy Burton reported that the 2021 junior show was successful and was streamed live on the UJSSA Facebook page. There was a good turnout at the banquet. There are 4 new interns- Allee Hoover (PA), Katelyn Ford (IN), Raesa Zelinsky (SD), Lilly Ostlie (MN) and one new director, Wesley Linke (SD). The next UJSSA conference call will be in August. Jeremy Geske thanked Creed Harker for his fundraising efforts this past year and welcomed new junior interns/directors and asked those on the board to introduce themselves.

Ambassador Report

Wesley Linke of South Dakota, newly selected Suffolk Ambassador, introduced himself on the call.

Foundation Report

No new activity.

Committee Reports

By-Laws

Randy Hodges, committee chair, reported the committee will draft language for transition to new districts for states with standing directors and send to the board for review and vote on via email.

Youth Promotion

Jeff Baumann reported that Wesley Linke was selected as the Suffolk Ambassador and no Queen applications submitted.

Budget

No report.

Hospitality

No report.

Hall of Fame

No report.

Breed Improvement

Brenda Reau, committee chair, reported that the committee will meet again before the next meeting.

Online Sales

No report.

Registry Programs

No new flock applications, the committee will follow up with flocks that have shown interest.

Strategic Planning

Greg Ahart reported that the committee meet and will continue to meet every two weeks.

Old Business

Registry Program/Digital Beef

Jeremy Geske reported that there have been several meetings held with Digital Beef and contract will be available to review soon. Work on a member communication piece to update the membership on the transition to Digital Beef. The tentative build start date is September 1. Jeremy asked a few individuals to serve on a registry program subcommittee that will discuss rules/changes regarding the new registry program and send recommendations to the full board for approval.

New Business

Supporting Live Sale

Matt Wolf discussed that the board should explore ways to increase participation at Sedalia and other live sales – some ideas include moving the Hall of Fame to Sedalia or add a junior show. Jeremy Geske added that there were similar concerns and discussion by Suffolk Breeders at Reno such as a social event. Jeremy Geske reported he reached out to James Klamfoth with the Ohio Sale. Jeremy asked directors to think about what can be done to help support those sales.

There was a brief discussion relating to USSA online sales taking from the live sales. Several breeders consign to both sales or are breeders who would not normally consign to the live sales. The USSA online sales are there for all members to sell sheep and the needs assessment responses suggested that the USSA needs to host more online sales.

Shortage of Commercial Rams

Brenda Reau reported that there was an ASI Genetic Stakeholders call that had discussion on concerns among commercial producers that they are seeing a shrinking supply of rams available for the commercial market. There was some discussion on that call that those rams being sold need to be sold at a profitable price. The USSA has a webinar scheduled for the end of the year regarding Suffolk rams for the commercial market. The Suffolk breed is the one breed that has the capabilities of fulling those needs. The use of data in the future will help bridge some of these challenges with value of commercial rams, raising commercial rams, etc.

Junior Show Market Lamb Classification

There was a lengthy discussion on the champion Suffolk market lamb at the Junior Suffolk Show and the lack of breed character. Amanda reported that she was not aware of the process as to classifying the market lambs and how the association could weigh-in on what lambs are “suffolks”. Amanda reached out to the All-American after the show to learn what the process was and what the association could do to petition this in the future. The consensus of the board is that the lamb should be disqualified. There was a brief discussion on requiring registration papers on market lamb classes. A letter has been drafted and reviewed that will sent to sheep superintendents of major livestock shows.

Randy Hodges moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dennis Sorensen. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Minutes approved 9.7.21