

November 27, 2018



Dear National Junior Suffolk Show Exhibitor,

Many of you are aware that the USSA Board of Directors made a major decision, at our Louisville meeting; which has an impact on our Junior Association. This decision was to unite our National Jr. Suffolk Show with the All American Jr. Show on a permanent basis. I and the Board feel it is very important to address this action with you. The action your Board has taken is a move to strengthen the National Junior show.

I first want to assure you that our Juniors are recognized as one of the strengths of the Suffolk organization. For more than 30 years, the Junior Board has had a major impact in organizing the summer Junior Show. This Jr. Show, with a variety of competitions, and has been an annual family event for many Suffolk breeders. The Jr. Board has developed many leaders in our association.

For many years, we have worked with the All American Show committee to blend our show and location with the All American Show or in some cases, to make the decision to hold our Suffolk Show in a different location. In all cases, both the Suffolk and the All American organization, have done their best to support each other. The more sheep people work together, the better we all are.

Without question, both the UJSSA and the All American Sheep have a great National Jr. Show. Both have good participation and a large variety of events. Both have found that it takes a lot of money and a lot of work to put on this National Jr. Show. In future years, raising the money and having the "man power" to organize and run the show has the potential to become a challenge. We have had many good Junior Boards and that continues today. However, young people of today have many, many activities and opportunities. It will become increasingly difficult to find young people to fill the Jr. Board openings.

Aligning our efforts within the structure of the All-American, is a positive for our breed. Sometimes change is not welcome, simply because it is different, but we are committed to keeping and enhancing much of the uniqueness and tradition that is the Suffolk Junior Nationals. The primary objective of any breed association, is to increase the sphere of influence of the breed, creating opportunities for breeders (senior and junior). This strategic move, will increase opportunities for the Suffolk Juniors, grow the ranks of the Juniors, and better showcase the "awesomeness" of the UJSSA to junior exhibitors of other breeds.

Merging the National Junior Suffolk Show with the All American will not diminish the need, value, resourcefulness or opportunities for our Junior Suffolk Association Board or its' membership. In fact, we expect quite a contrary outcome; our Junior Board can use its' fundraising and organizational talents to help support and develop regional junior shows which would elevate Suffolk awareness and enhance membership. Additionally, there could be a heightened role at our National Sales and NAILE for Junior Association activities, contests, scholarships as well as new initiatives- all aimed at focusing the spotlight on, and attracting, youth interested in raising Suffolk sheep.

Members of the Suffolk Board (both Senior and Junior) met with the All American representative at Louisville. We had a very good exchange regarding how to make this move successful for the Suffolk breed and for the All American.

We recognize the importance of having Tom Burke as spokesperson for our Jr. show. Our plan is to keep his involvement.

Let me reiterate; we want to assure all of you that we definitely recognize the importance of the Junior organization. There will be many opportunities for these young people to get involved and work to improve the Suffolk organization. Our decision was not easy, nor made hastily. I am confident time will prove it to be the right one. We will work to guarantee a great Junior show in Hutchinson, Kansas and improved Suffolk participation in the regional shows.

If have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly - [drysandysheep@gmail.com](mailto:drysandysheep@gmail.com) or 785-737-3238.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Beals". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Matt Beals  
President  
United Suffolk Sheep Association