

United Suffolk Sheep Association

2020 DIRECTOR ELECTION - DISTRICT 3



Jeremy Geske, New Prague, Minnesota

I have been raising registered Suffolk sheep since 1979. I currently own a flock of about 40 brood ewes. I sell breeding stock to other purebred flocks as well as to commercial producers across the country. Anything that doesn't meet my quality standards is either sold as a feeder lamb or direct marketed as a locker lamb. My flock is enrolled in NSIP and is 100% RR. I do participate in local, state and national shows and sales. I have 2 children that show Suffolks in 4-H and have competed at several UJSSA shows. I also judge numerous youth and open sheep shows in MN and surrounding states. Our farm is just South of New Prague, MN.

In addition to being the USSA President, I am the President of the Minnesota Suffolk Sheep Association and have served on that board for the past 12 years. I am also the Secretary and Past-President on the MN Lamb & Wool Producers Association, Vice-chair of the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center board, I serve on the legislative action council for the American Sheep Industry Association, board member for the Pipestone Sheep Program; and have held many other leadership positions.

Like many farm organizations, the USSA faces some challenges in terms of declining number of breeders and registrations. I believe that the board needs to find ways to add value to membership and to registered Suffolks in general. We need to focus more on what we all have in common, no matter which segments of our industry we are most connected to. We can all make improvements to our flocks in terms of structural soundness, productivity and longevity – things that our customers are demanding. I humbly ask for your vote this fall.



Teresa Harker, Oxford, Iowa

My name is Teresa Harker and I am declaring my intent to run for a position on the board for District 3 and I am asking for your support by voting for me.

I am the third generation Suffolk breeder in my family and mother of 2 Junior members. Wife to Randy Harker, Pastor of two small country churches and I've been an Awana leader for 9 years. From the age of 10-18, I selected my own Suffolk ewes and breeding rams. In 2012 our family purchased the beginnings of our current flock and haven't looked back. I have been serving as the Iowa Suffolk Association Secretary and Treasurer since 2017.

I am the Junior coordinator for the North Central Regional Junior Suffolk Show at the Iowa State Fair. This is my 2nd year serving on the USSA youth promotion committee. I serve on the Youth Development Committee for our county 4-H program. I started a lamb ministry group here at our home in 2017/2018. We had 7 children participate. We raise and purchase lambs for all the kids to show. We have taught the group everything we have learned to date on caring for, selection of, training, grooming, showing and feeding, etc.. 2019/2020 we have 9 children participating. We have been active in the UJSSA since 2016. We have gone to every Junior show they've had since. We have been successful in the show ring, private sales and at the sale barn. I believe in leaving everything in a better place/way than you find it.

I believe that investing in our children, who are our future, will also ensure a future for our breed. I believe there's a place for all types of animals in our association. We all need to find the common ground, that being our beautiful Suffolks, and bring everyone back to the table. Together we grow our breed back to the first choice in what people want to own, make a living with, breed, show and eat. I want to be a part of preserving the Suffolk breed for generations to come. I am well rounded for a position on the committee, what I don't know I am not afraid to find out and I work very well as a liaison with both youth & adults.

Please cast your vote for me. Teresa@rek-rah.com 319.430.4748 3933 Eagle Ave., SW, Oxford, IA 5232