

United Suffolk Sheep Association

2022 DIRECTOR ELECTION – DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATES



Tom Begg, Findlay, Ohio

Like many of you, our Suffolk enterprise started as a 4-H project. Over the years, we have enjoyed showing sheep, and in the last six years we showed at NAILE we had a Suffolk in the top two in at least one class.

Since retiring from Dow Chemical, our flock has grown to over 30 brood ewes. Although you may occasionally see a Begg Suffolk in the show ring, our focus has shifted to performance-type Suffolks. We are breeding complete sheep with high quality carcass traits for Eagle Creek Suffolks LLC, our own brand of certified Suffolk lamb. Our primary customers are young adults who desire an easy-to-prepare lamb product with a mild flavor. Our biggest challenge is demand has exceeded supply.

We have an excellent story to tell with Suffolks. We excel in growth and muscle, and the Suffolk story needs to be promoted at all levels, from producers to packers to consumers.

One of the core principles for a director is to put the best interest of the Suffolk breed ahead of any personal aspirations. If elected, and with your help, I will do my best to move the Suffolk breed in a positive direction.



C. McCheyne "Mac" Swortzel, Greenville, Virginia

My wife Karen and I live on the family's Virginia Century Farm originally purchased by my Great Grandfather in 1904. The farm, now an LLC and run with the assistance of our 3 children and their families, has grown to over 400 acres. I've raised Suffolk sheep for over 50 years, with flock size ranging from 25-125. We market rams and have utilized NSIP to build data to improve the flock.

I earned a BS and MS in Agricultural Economics from Virginia Tech and spent my career in lending and finance. My agricultural service includes: involvement in FFA, ultimately serving as Virginia Secretary in 1973-74; in the local Young Farmers chapter; as President of the Virginia Sheep Producers Association board; Augusta County Farm Bureau board member; as well as being appointed by the Governor to two tours on the Virginia Sheep Industry board. . In my church, I have served as a deacon and an elder and have been church treasurer for 42+ years. I have also served as a board member, President and VP of the local Weekday Religious Education Association.

I believe Suffolk sheep possess traits that are extremely important to the continued success of the sheep industry in this country. We need to keep the breed and organization strong while encouraging new producers to be involved. The Association needs to concentrate on adding value to producers of Suffolk sheep.

C. McCheyne "Mac" Swortzel

Suffangus Farm LLC

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