

Proposed Changes to the United Suffolk Sheep Association Bylaws

The following proposed bylaw changes will be is to be voted on by the membership this fall, enclosed with the election mailing. Verbiage in red is the proposed language change.

Current Language

Article III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership Eligibility. Any owner and registrant of Suffolk or percentage Suffolk in the United Suffolk Sheep Association shall become a member; provided that each owner and registrant shall be represented by but one membership whether such owner and registrant are an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other entity. To be a member in good standing for purposes of voting in Association matters, a member must: (1) have paid dues for the current year, (2) have no outstanding financial obligation to the Association more than sixty (60) days past due, (3) currently own Suffolk sheep and (4) have registered sheep in the United Suffolk Sheep Association within the past 12 months.

Proposed Language

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Note from the Board: For several years, the Bylaws committee and the board have had discussions on voting member eligibility. Under the current bylaws, approximately 20-40% of our paid members are not eligible to vote in a given year. We have had members express disappointment that they are ineligible to vote despite being a paid member in good standing, and request the board consider making a bylaw change. We do not currently have separate voting and non-voting member categories. One of our current requirements (must own Suffolk sheep) is nearly impossible for us to verify. The board is recommending the proposed bylaw changes as a way to encourage greater participation from a larger percentage of our membership.