

USSA Committee Application

A few years ago, the USSA invited non-board members to participate in our various committees. This has been extremely valuable in terms of getting broader input on association activities as well as surfacing potential new future board members. Committees meet via Zoom, the frequency dependent on how active each committee wants or needs to be. One challenge that we have encountered is that some committees became so large it was difficult for the chair to manage, and to ensure all committee members were able to share their opinions and ideas, and for the committee to reach consensus. To keep all of our committees at a manageable size, we have created this short application. An application is not an automatic appointment. The president will appoint committee members with a goal is to be inclusive of all types of Suffolks and a diversity of opinions. Applicants will be notified of committee appointments by December 15.

Committees open to non-board members

Digital Suffolk Committee, Diane Russell, Chair

With the transition to the new registry program and associated data management capabilities, there is an immediate focus on what can be done to train and educate Suffolk breeders on the additional features and how to use them, an understanding of what cost and benefits could look like if we were to pursue outside opportunities and finalizing the automatic uploading of performance and genetic measurements and testing.

A Suffolk Event, Tom Begg, Chair

For the last few years there has been an identified need and desire to organize an all-encompassing destination breed event that incorporates the diversity of the breed and all aspects of the membership (both junior and senior). The intent is to boldly and proudly showcase the breed and convey our excitement about the future. It will be an event for all Suffolk breeders to come together to network, learn, and have fun celebrating our breed.

Marketing & Outreach, Brenda Reau, Chair

We need to do more to reconnect at a grass roots level with state sheep organizations, for both the breed and the larger sheep community. We can do a better job onboarding of new members as well as communicating and engaging with our existing members. Our online and industry presence will receive the attention that it needs to promote our great breed.

Breed Improvement, Lloyd McCabe, Chair

Tremendous strides have been made via the breed improvement committee over the last few years, and with the committee chair change to Lloyd, we expect this to only continue. We have identified and can all agree that the breed should be fast growing, structurally sound, heavy muscled, and look like a Suffolk. The one significant item that came out of the meeting is that as a breed, we see no place for the "D" or dwarf gene, and believe that is counter to the breed's larger role in the industry. As such, there will be no tolerance for sheep carrying the D gene at association sanctioned shows or sales.

Education, Bill Zwyers and Dennis Sorensen, Co-Chairs

Lots has been done, and lots more needs to be done as we look at how we can better serve our membership and the sheep industry at large. We have heard from you that education is an important role for USSA. There will be significant overlaps between this committee and The Digital Suffolk, Marketing and Outreach, Events, and Breed Improvement committees to provide the best educational efforts to meet our member's needs.

Applicant Name _____ **E-Mail:** _____ **Cell:** _____

First Committee Choice: _____

If appointed to this committee, my goal(s) would be:

(Optional) Second Committee choice: _____

If appointed to this committee, my goal(s) would be:

Please submit the completed application to Amanda (amanda@suffolks.org) by December 10.