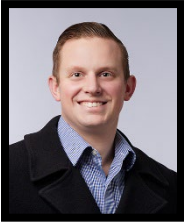


DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

Director Seats Open: one 3-year term, one 2-year term



John Baglien, Oregon

Greetings Members of the USSA,

I am humbled to have the opportunity to submit myself for consideration for a position as a Director representing District 1. I have been raising sheep since 1999 and started with my first Suffolks from Brenda Miller as a 4-H'er in Oregon. Since then, I've built a program of 25 registered Suffolk ewes drawn from the genetics of Miller Livestock, Kimm, Bar-Zel, and Slack Suffolks, among others. Currently, my operation is primary focused on selling seedstock, range rams, FFA/4H project lambs and locker lambs with a focus on muscling, growth, and convenience traits. I am active in the Oregon Purebred Sheep Breeders' Association, currently serving as a director and as the liaison to the Willamette Valley Ram & Ewe Sale which just completed its 83rd sale.

I am passionate about young development and have been serving as a 4-H and FFA volunteer, supporting a county sheep club since 2008, serving on the Oregon State 4-H livestock advisory committee since 2012, and tabulating the state FFA and 4-H livestock evaluation contests as well as various other youth livestock judging contests throughout the state of Oregon since 2017. I was a county livestock judging coach from 2009 to 2015 including taking Oregon's representative team to Nationals in Louisville, KY in 2015.

Professionally, I work as an assurance senior manager of a national CPA firm as a financial statement auditor and CPA serving on the financial statement audits for primarily publicly traded companies. Previously, I worked as a controller of a regional health system and assistant controller of a publicly traded technology company.

I had the opportunity to attend, participate in, and consign sheep to the 2024 Suffolk Event. I was impressed by the draw of the event and the opportunity to interact with many knowledgeable folks within our breed and growth exhibited in the educational events, consignment sale, and junior show.

I am interested in this role to be able to help support the continued development of our junior members and the Suffolk event and the ongoing success of the Suffolk breed as well as leverage my financial experience as I can to support the board in fulfilling its fiduciary responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Baglien
John S. Baglien



Jack Blattner, Idaho

Blattner Suffolks began in 1989 in Kuna, Idaho, focusing on raising premier purebred registered rams for the western rangelands. Jack and Lori and their three children live on the family farm which has been in the family since 1917. Jack Blattner began by purchasing rams and ewes from Lost River Suffolks, Andrus Suffolks, Batt Suffolks, Ruby Mountain Sheep Co., Syringa Suffolks, Orwick Suffolks and Wilder Suffolks. We have always had registered Suffolk sheep and we understand the importance of the United Suffolk Sheep Association and membership.

Blattner Suffolks emphasizes breeding for substantial bone mass, exceptional structural correctness, and sheep that encompass proportional height to muscle thickness. Blattner Suffolks realizes that growth performance relies on the animal's genetics, and for large sheep operation producers, it is critical for offspring to grow efficiently and in uniformity with one another.

I taught high school agriculture for 34 years beginning in a two-person program. This ag program saw tremendous growth through the years, and currently has 16 ag teachers in 6 local high schools. My wife and I raised our kids on the farm teaching them the basics of sheep production, showing sheep and going to sheep sales. My son Ross farms our family farm incorporating the sheep into the operation.

Blattner Suffolks rams have been consistently purchased by many of the major Idaho range producers for many years. These thick, structurally correct rams are proven to work well in tough western range conditions. Making the United Suffolk Sheep Association more relevant to the commercial side of the industry in addition to showing or exhibiting, is one of my main goals for serving on this board. I am excited to be considered to continue serving on the USSA Board. Being a part of directing the future of Suffolk sheep in America is an honor. -Jack Blattner