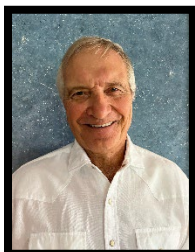


# DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

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



## **Michael Jensen, Iowa**

My name is Michael Jensen. My wife, Debbie, and I live in the beautiful Loess Hills of western Iowa. This is where we have lived, worked, farmed and raised a family since 1977. We started with sale barn sheep in 1982 and soon thereafter we purchased our first Suffolk. A bred ewe. Since that time, we have pursued the “perfect” Suffolk sheep and we are still trying. Our flock now concentrates on selling commercial breeding stock to commercial flocks using some of the best genetics we can afford. They are attractive and fast growing. Our daughters showed our Suffolks at the county fair, Iowa State Fair and national Suffolk shows. Recently, we have formed a joint venture with a young man, Chris Beedle, who we hope can take our farm and flock, which we call Moonshadow Farm to better place.

I have been fortunate to serve as a District 3 Director for the past year. I have been impressed with the knowledge, skill and dedication of fellow Directors. The direction we are headed as an organization is exciting. This progress is not an accident. Hard work of the Association’s secretary and Board of Directors has generated momentum with young people starting their Suffolk journey. I hope I can contribute as your Director in District 3. I have served as our county fair 4-H sheep superintendent for several years, instituting a “performance class” at the fair to emphasize carcass attributes of lambs shown. I have served on the Budget, Bylaws, Breed Improvement committees of the USSA. We are members of the Iowa Suffolk Sheep Association and the Iowa Sheep Industry Association. Prior to retirement, I was a lawyer and a farmer for 40 years and now just farm.

As a Director, I would like to see the present positive momentum continue. I would like to have more interaction with Suffolk breeders in my district and the country. Maybe more Suffolk gatherings in person should occur. I hope to meet more Suffolk people. Thank you.



## **Kathy Krafka Harkema, Iowa**

Suffolks continue to excel in proven performance, and we’re attracting more young families into our breed, along with the industry veterans. Those are positive signs. I am committed to serving USSA members and our UJSSA junior members as a director to help provide solutions to challenges and to capitalize on opportunities for our breed’s future. As a lifelong Suffolk breeder, I look forward to sharing my experience in advertising, digital marketing, managing shows, sales and events, conducting research, implementing industry advocacy and influencing government regulations, using technology and leveraging genetic improvement tools to support our association.

My husband, Ed, and I manage Krafka Harkema Suffolks, marketing registered Suffolks as stud rams and replacement ewes nationwide from our central Iowa farm. We also serve commercial customers who depend on Suffolks to add growth and profitability to their flocks. As a former junior member who grew up raising and showing Suffolks in 4-H and FFA, and as a lifelong sheep judge, I understand the importance of staying connected with our roots, programs and services as a breed association, as well as promoting Suffolks as a terminal sire breed

USSA is forward-thinking, efficient, and provides real value to its members through educational and networking experiences like The Suffolk Event, helpful webinars, shows, sales and ongoing communications. Digital Suffolk helps breeders save time and gain information to manage their own flock and connect with others. Plus, we’re developing our next generation of young leaders through the strong United Junior Suffolk Sheep Association.

Together, with dedicated leadership and a strategic, positive focus on the many tremendous attributes of Suffolks and in meeting the needs of those who raise them, we can achieve an even brighter future for USSA and UJSSA.

I believe in leadership by example, and promise to serve together with other directors, members, and Amanda Everts who skillfully guides our office to continue to grow our association and our breed into the future. I appreciate your support and your vote.