

# United Suffolk Sheep Association

## 2017 Director Election Bio - District 1



### **Candidate: Kip Kuntz, Valley Springs, California**

My name is Kip Kuntz and I reside in Valley Springs California. My family has been in the Suffolk business for over 30 years. The business A&K Suffolks was started as an FFA project by my mom and I. I have served two terms as a Director for the California Suffolk & Hampshire Sheep Association and am currently finishing my first term as a board member of the USSA. It has been a pleasure working with the fine people currently and past board members. I also have enjoyed having the opportunity to talk and listen to the membership these past years. This has been a very active board that has been faced with some challenges. Whether you agree or do not agree with the direction of where the current board has taken the Association, what you should be proud of (In which I am very proud of) is in all the discussions on issues and direction between board members whether we agree or not is they bring their views and opinions on what they believe is best for the breed and its members. It was established very early by all that we would not “dictate” to our members on how to raise or what type of sheep to raise but to recognize that all members raise their sheep for different reasons and the Association and breed is strengthened by this diversity. We have tried to provide information to the membership in hopes that it will help them in their operations and promote the breed as a whole. I still believe the main challenge we face is bringing in more youth into the breed. I think the Junior program has done well but the challenge is when they leave the junior ranks that they come back as adult breeders. The youth of the breeders is the future of the breed. We have a great breed, but to keep it strong we must have people to raise and promote it. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve this past term and am asking you once more that I may be given the chance to serve you in the coming years.

Kindest Regards,  
Kip Kuntz



### **Candidate: Blair Summey, Lincoln, California**

My name is Blair Summey and I am asking for your support and vote for the position of Director of District 1 for the United Suffolk Sheep Association. I registered my first Suffolk sheep in 1980 when I purchased a starter flock from my good friend Richard Jacobsen. In 1984 I took a position as a public servant in Simi Valley California and was forced to set aside my Suffolk sheep ambitions in order to raise five children and serve the community of Simi Valley. I retired from public service in 2013 and my beautiful wife Gina and I moved to 13 acres in Lincoln California where we began “Summey Family Farm”.

My good friend Cynthia Huckins answered my call and once again Gina and I owned and registered beautiful Suffolk sheep. Donna Mays also helped to start us off on the right foot with a package of Suffolk ewe lambs. Today Ruby Mountain Sheep Company and Lost River Livestock make up the foundation of our ewe flock, which currently is at approximately 25 brood ewes.

As Gina and I continued our journey back into the Suffolk Sheep family, we are so very grateful to all our new friends we have met along the way. In particular, Gina and I would like to thank John and Anita Phillips, Larry Pauly, Ed Sabey, and Chuck Ream, for providing outstanding Suffolk mentorship which allowed us to enjoy some early success with our sheep. As a result, we have successfully marketed our sheep to several western states and we recently were blessed with the good fortune to have bred and shown the Champion Suffolk Ram and Champion Suffolk Ewe at the 2017 California State Fair.

I am asking for your vote because it is my belief that by working together we can unite our membership back to a common goal of raising Suffolk sheep bold enough to once again lead the sheep industry. If elected to the board, I will work hard to build the Suffolk Breed Standards in such a manner they will unite and not divide our membership

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while keeping breeders on track to achieve our shared goal of producing beautiful Suffolk sheep that meet the future needs of both the commercial sheep industry and purebred seed stock industry equally, no matter how they are presented for sale. I think it is important to remind ourselves that before we can expect juniors to be energized, we need to energize the sheep market once again about the benefits of owning and breeding Suffolk sheep. Junior members are and should remain our focus for the future of our breed. I pledge to continue the efforts of our Association to support Junior membership and their participation whenever possible.

In addition to being an active member of the United Suffolk Sheep Association, I am also a member of the American Hampshire Sheep Association, the California Suffolk and Hampshire Sheep Breeders Association, and the California Wool Growers Association where I currently serve as a member of the Ram Sale Committee.

If elected I will work tirelessly at representing the members of District 1 and all Suffolk Breeders and enthusiasts in our Association. Thank you once again for your support.

Respectively,  
Blair Summey