

Randy Hodges
Director, District 4

I am currently a director in District 4 and vice president. I have raised registered Suffolk sheep for nearly 50 years, getting my first sheep as a 4-H project as a boy in southeastern Nebraska. R&R Suffolks has produced quality Suffolks for nearly 30 years in Michigan, selling breeding stock and market lambs all over the country.

When I was first elected to the board my goal was to implement a more transparent budget process in order to better understand our expenditures and income. In this tight economy the USSA was losing money because of steadily declining registrations and transfers – approximately 50% in the last 10 years!. Over the past 3 years the board has implemented a budget committee charged with balancing the budget so expenditures don't exceed income yet at the same time directing more money toward promotion. During my tenure as director the board also moved to implement a new web-based registration program aimed at making the registration process easier for members to register sheep and access pedigree information, and allow the association to direct more resources toward promotion. We also now have a new USSA web site that allows all members to promote their own flock. It can be updated quickly with show and sale results including pictures.

While serving on the board of the USSA, I have voted to support the Junior association with their numerous activities designed to encourage more young people to raise Suffolks. These young producers are the future of the breed. I have also voted to support the slick sheared and production classes that have been added to major shows including NAILE in Louisville and the Midwest Stud Ram Sale. This year we will have a new Suffolk wether show at the NAILE and a Suffolk "lotto" in the open breeding show. I believe that as a board we need to promote more aggressively the production type sheep that sell in the NSIP sale. Production data combined with the beautiful breed characteristics of the Suffolk will go a long way in convincing commercial breeders of the economic value of the breed.

I am seeking a second term as director because I would like to follow through with the plans the current board is developing to promote the productive qualities of the Suffolk breed. Suffolks are the ultimate terminal sire because their lambs efficiently and quickly turn feed into a lean, desirable carcass. If you have any questions about current USSA activities don't hesitate to contact me at 810.441.6218 or hodgesrk@yahoo.com.

