

In the next several years, the United Suffolk Sheep Association will be needing a very crucial commitment from its Board of Directors to keep the association operating successfully along with the interest of ALL Suffolk breeders at hand. During this past year, several board members have the United Suffolk Sheep Association unraveling into a very DIVIDED association because they have put personal agendas before the members they were suppose to have represented. The lack of integrity of some has headlined the Suffolk Association in a very negative fashion. The negative agendas and destruction need to stop in order to resurrect the reputation of "The Breed in the Lead."

One of the biggest issues this association was going to face in the future was the retirement in 2012 of our Executive Secretary, Annette Benson. What has become even a bigger issue, is Annette had stated in a meeting that she was being forced into retirement this year by several individuals on the board. Was this a sound legal or financial decision for the association? Annette has given the Suffolk Association many years of dedication and we have been greatly blessed to have her. The task to find a person to replace her and move the office to a new location, will be one of the biggest tasks the Board of Directors will have to accomplish. As a board member, I intend to help facilitate this transition so association members will be provided with uninterrupted service.

As a past director, I have been around to see the two offices merge and assisted with the move and transition into one association. The knowledge and awareness of issues and situations that have challenged the Suffolk breed and what the Board of Directors have worked through in the past, is a big asset I can provide. Not only have I represented my district in the past, but the Suffolk breed as a whole. I have been a Suffolk breeder for 46 years along with operating Ketcham's Sheep Equipment successfully for 34 years so, yes, the future of the USSA and the sheep industry are two aspects I am passionate about. The by-laws of this association were created for a purpose and I intend to continue to uphold the association's by-laws as such and not support the convenience or the desire of people to deviate from them.

The junior members of this association are so crucial to the future of this breed and I want to see this portion of our association thrive. Junior members are going to be the next board members, the future. They need to be supported and we need to lead by example with integrity, ethics, honesty, and true leadership.

The United Suffolk Sheep Association needs a team of directors with good intentions who stand on principles, EXPERIENCED directors making intelligent decisions, and committed directors who are representing YOU and who make you feel proud to be a Suffolk breeder. I have shown my commitment to the success of this association in the past and being an EXPERIENCED director of 8 years, I want to rejoin United Suffolk Sheep Association Board of Directors for District #3.

Kim Ketcham
Edwardsville, IL
618-581-3554