

THE CONNECTICUT DAIRY GOAT ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. Name.

The name of this organization is the Connecticut Dairy Goat Association.

ARTICLE II. Objectives.

The objectives of the association shall be:

- (a) To promote and improve dairy goats and their products in Connecticut and elsewhere, when possible;
- (b) To advance and protect the interest of dairy goat breeders;
- (c) To encourage ethical and sportsmanlike conduct by dairy goat owners; and
- (d) To cooperate with other organizations towards the same ends.

ARTICLE III. Membership.

Any person interest in goats is eligible for membership.

ARTICLE IV. Meetings.

Meetings of the Association shall be held throughout the year at such times and places as may seem practical or necessary. The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held before the end of the fiscal year.

ARTICLE V. Officers.

Officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These Officers shall constitute the Executive Committee. Additionally, there shall be five (5) Directors. The Officers and Directors together shall constitute the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI. Non-Profit Status.

The Association shall not be conducted or operated for profit. Any monies accruing to the Association from dues, donations, or as a result of the Association's activities shall be used for general Association purposes. No such monies shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, Section 501.

ARTICLE VII. By-Laws.

This Association shall enact such By-Laws as may from time to time become necessary.

ARTICLE VIII. Amendments.

Amendments to this Constitution and its By-Laws may be made at any open meeting of the Association by a 2/3 vote of those present, provided that thirty (30) or more days

prior notice has been given to the membership at large of the intent to do so, OR by simple majority vote of those ballots returned if polled by mail.

ARTICLE IX. Dissolution.

The Association may be dissolved at any time by a vote of not less than 2/3 of the existing membership. In the event of the dissolution of the Association, none of the property of the Association nor any proceeds therefrom, nor any assets of the Association shall be distributed to any member of the Association. After payment of debts, the remaining property and assets of the Association shall be donated to a reputable dairy goat research organization in conformity with Internal Revenue Code, Section 401, as determined by the Board of Directors.

The revised Constitution of the Connecticut Dairy Goat Association supersedes all other constitutions heretofore adopted by this Association.

Revised: December 2018

CONNECTICUT DAIRY GOAT ASSOCIATION

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Classes of Membership.

There shall be three classes of membership: Single Membership, Farm/Family Membership, and Honorary Life Membership.

- a) Single Membership shall entitle one (1) person, and that one person only, to all rights and privileges of membership including (1) vote in any ballot held by the Association.
- b) Farm/Family Membership shall mean the membership of two (2) or more members of the same farm/family OR two (2) or more unrelated persons owning a share in the same goat herd or goat related business. Each party of a farm/family Membership shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of membership, except that farm/family Memberships shall be allowed two (2) and no more than two votes in any ballot.
- c) Honorary Life Memberships may be bestowed by a majority vote of the membership on those persons who have evidence of great devotion and service to the Association. Honorary Life Members shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of membership, including one (1) vote in any ballot held by the Association, but shall not be required to pay dues.

SECTION 2. Dues.

The dues of the Association shall be established each year at the Annual Meeting. All memberships shall expire annually on December 31st. A membership will be considered lapsed if such member's dues remain unpaid for 90 days from the beginning of the fiscal year. Dues paid for membership after October 1st will be applied to the following fiscal year, at which time all voting rights and membership privileges will begin.

SECTION 3. Fiscal Year.

The fiscal year shall begin on January 1st, and shall terminate on December 31st.

ARTICLE II. Officers.

SECTION 1. Duties of the Officers.

The duties of the officers of the Association shall be:

- a) President
 - i.) To maintain a general knowledge and supervision of the affairs of the Association;
 - ii.) To preside at meetings of the Association, its Executive Committee, and Board of Directors;

- iii.) To appoint such special committees as required; and
- iv.) To act as an ex officio member of all committees

b) Vice President

- i.) To perform all duties of the President in the absence of the President

c) Secretary

- i.) To keep records of all meetings of the Association;
- ii.) To handle all official correspondence; and
- iii.) To notify the membership of the time and place of all meetings

d) Treasurer

- i.) To receive all dues payments;
- ii.) To receive and hold all funds;
- iii.) To make legitimate payments as required;
- iv.) To record all transactions and give reports at all meetings; and
- v.) To keep the roll of membership

SECTION 2. Assistant Secretary.

The secretary, on approval of the Executive Committee, may appoint an assistant secretary to aid in carrying out the duties of the office.

SECTION 3. Board of Directors

The Directors of the Association shall act as members of the Board of Directors and shall oversee the officers, committees, and operations of the Association in the interest of the members at large. No Director shall serve as an Officer of the Association in the same fiscal year.

SECTION 4. Board of Directors

a) Duties: The duties of the Board of Directors shall be:

- i.) To guide the affairs of the Association;
- ii.) To hold meetings as necessary or at the request of the membership; and
- iii.) To address all matters referred to them

b) Quorum

Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum of the Board of Directors.

c) Powers: The powers of the Board of Directors shall be:

- i.) To fill any vacancies of Officers or Directors during unfinished terms;
- ii.) To represent and speak for the Association in the event an official response is needed before the next meeting of the Association;
- iii.) To bestow the position of Director Emeritus to any exceptionally dedicated past officer or director by majority vote of the Board;

- iv.) To perform such duties and exercise such powers as are outlined elsewhere in this Constitution and By-Laws; and
- v.) To appoint all special committee heads and roles as required.

ARTICLE III. Elections.

SECTION 1. Nominating Committee.

The President shall appoint the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of candidates willing to run for the positions of officers and directors to the membership of the Association within a reasonable length of time prior to elections. In order to be nominated as an Officer or a Board of Director, said nominee must be a member in good standing with the Association for at least one year.

SECTION 2. Balloting.

Officers and Directors of the Association shall be elected by secret ballot at the time of the Annual Meeting, in open meeting and/or by mail in ballot. The member, nominated, that receives the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. No proxy voting will be allowed under any circumstances. All members eligible to vote must be present at the annual meeting in order to cast their ballot.

SECTION 3. Terms of Office.

- a) Officers: All officers shall be elected for the term of one (1) year.
- b) Directors: All Directors shall be elected for the term of two (2) years. Two (2) and three (3) directors shall be elected in alternate years.

ARTICLE IV. Meetings.

SECTION 1. Rules of Order.

All meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, in all cases where they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution or By-Laws of the Association.

SECTION 2. Meeting Locations.

The President shall determine the time and place of each meeting.

SECTION 3. Reports of Offices and Committees.

At the Annual Meeting, or once a year, officers and committees shall submit reports to the membership.

SECTION 4. Number of Meetings

There shall be at least four (4) meetings each year.

SECTION 5: Attendance.

Board of Directors and Officers shall not miss more than two (2) meetings in a year. If two (2) or more meetings are missed, the Director or Officer will be removed from the Association Board. If said member would like to rejoin, they may submit an appeal to the Board and the Executive Committee will decide to reestablish the position for extenuating circumstances.

ARTICLE V. Communications

SECTION 1. Notices of Association Meetings and Activities.

The secretary shall inform the membership of impending meetings, elections, and other activities of the Association.

SECTION 2. Newsletter.

- a) Publication: The Association shall publish a Newsletter to be sent or made available on the Association website to the membership.
- b) Newsletter Editor: The Newsletter Editor shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.
- c) Frequency of Publication: The number of issues of the Newsletter published per year shall be contingent on the following:
 - i.) The need to disseminate information to members; and
 - ii.) Association resources and printing and mailing costs

SECTION 4. Telephone Communications.

The Association may arrange for a telephone network whereby members may be contacted concerning Association business in addition to, or as an alternative to, the Newsletter.

ARTICLE VI. Ethics.

SECTION 1. Policing

It shall not be the business of the Association to sit as a court or to settle disputes between members or other goat owners. The Board of Directors may, however, offer an opinion if so requested.

SECTION 2. Association Property.

All outgoing Officers and lapsing or expelled members shall return any and all Association property in their possession.

SECTION 3. Expulsion from Office and/or Membership.

In the event that the actions and motives of any officer, director, or member shall be judged by a petition of twenty five percent (25%) of the membership to be contrary to the best interests and objectives of this Association as stated in the Constitution of the Association, said member may be removed from office and/or be deprived of the rights

and privileges of membership after the three following provisions for expulsion have been met:

- a) Having been warned in writing by the Board of Directors;
- b) Having been given an opportunity to explain his/her actions at a meeting of either the Board of Directors or the Association; and
- c) Having been voted out of office and/or deprived of membership by a 2/3 vote by secret ballot of those members present at the next regular meeting of the Association, reasonable notice having been given to the membership at large; and
- d) Any member convicted of animal abuse by an appropriate civil authority shall be ineligible for membership

SECTION 4. Code of Ethics.

All members of the Connecticut Dairy Goat Association are expected to adhere to the Code of Ethics of the American Dairy Goat Association, as set forth in the American Dairy Goat Association Guidebook, and as may be amended or modified from time to time.

The revised By-Laws of the Connecticut Dairy Goat Association supersedes all other by-laws heretofore adopted by this Association.

Revised: December 2018