

Constitution for Calvert County Farm Bureau

Revised 3/06

Article I **Name**

The name of this organization shall be the "Calvert County Farm Bureau".

Article II **Mission Statement**

Calvert County Farm Bureau's mission is to be an advocate for agriculture and rural life in Calvert County by working cooperatively with various agencies and organizations to promote the image, political influence, quality of life and profitability of our farm families and rural residents.

Article III **Objectives**

1. To promote and encourage a viable agriculture in Calvert County
2. To foster and assist the agencies already established for the benefit of the farmers and to develop any new agencies that will assist agriculture.
3. To cooperate with the Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc. and the American Farm Bureau Federation

Article IV **Membership**

Section 1. The membership of the Calvert County Farm Bureau shall be composed of regular and associate members. A regular member shall own or operate a farm and shall agree to adhere to the constitution, by-laws and rules of the organizations. Each regular member shall be entitled to one vote only, and that shall include husband and wife and minor children.

Section 2. An associate member shall agree to adhere to the constitution, by-laws and rules of the organization. Each associate member shall be entitled to the services and benefits of Calvert County Farm Bureau but shall not be entitled to vote or hold office.

Section 3. All memberships shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Corporation and partnerships engaged in farming, joining as such, shall be entitled to one vote only.

Article V **Dues**

Section 1. The membership dues shall be payable to "Maryland Farm Bureau" annually as set by the Board of Directors.

Article VI
Board of Directors

Section 1. The government of the Calvert County Farm Bureau shall be vested in a Board of twelve directors elected annually and shall hold office for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified. ~~Three of these directors shall be elected from each of the three election districts of Calvert and three of the directors will serve at large.~~

Section 2. The ~~Women's Committee and~~ Young Farmers shall be represented on the Board of Directors by their president or representative with the privilege to vote.

Section 3. The Board of Directors may adopt rules and regulation for the government and proper business conduct of the organization, which rules and regulation shall be in harmony with the constitution of the American Farm Bureau Federation and Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Section 4. The Board of Directors may remove by a two-thirds vote, any officer or director who fails or refuses to perform his/~~her~~ duties, including attendance at a minimum of 50% of the regular board meetings.

Section 5. The Board of Directors shall have charge of all business of the organization and employ necessary assistance in the execution of all Farm Bureau work.

Section 6. The Board of Directors shall make all contracts and supervise the collection of all dues and disbursements of all funds and transact any and all business for the good of the Farm Bureau.

Section 7. The Board of Directors shall receive and verify reports of officers and employees; it shall receive and approve reports of all project committees and aid in the execution of all county projects.

Section 8. The Board of Directors may from time to time elect an Honorary Director(s) to the Board. At any regular or special ~~meeting~~meeting, the Chairman may substitute an Honorary Director(s) in place of an absent Director(s) in order to fulfill the quorum requirements of Article VI, Section 1. Said Honorary Director, once seated, shall be granted the rights and privileges given to all Directors for that meeting including the right to vote.

Article VII
Quorum

Section 1. Twenty-five regular members shall constitute a quorum for meetings of the members of the organization. Fifty percent of the Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall have the power to fill all vacancies caused by death, resignation, removal or otherwise.

Article VIII
Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Calvert County Farm Bureau shall be a president, a vice-president, elected by and from the Directors; a Secretary and-Treasurer shall be elected by but not necessarily from the Board of Directors at the annual meeting of the Calvert County Farm Bureau.

Section 2. The president shall perform such duties as usually pertain to this office; shall preside at all annual and special county meetings of members and meetings of the Board of Directors; shall approve all checks written by the Treasurer; may call special meetings of the members of the organization, or, of any committee whenever he deems it advisable. On the application in writing of not less than ten percent of the regular members of the organization in good standing, or upon the request of a majority of the Board of Directors, he/she shall call, when requested and at the usual meeting place, a special meeting of the members of the organization, or the Board of Directors.

Section 3. The Vice-President shall act in the absence of the President.

Section 4. The duties of the Secretary shall be those which usually pertain to such office, and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors; he/she shall keep a record of all meetings and transactions of the organization and shall, when so instructed by the President, give notice of all meetings of the organization, Board of Directors and special committees. He/She shall issue ~~all orders deliver any items to~~ the Treasurer for the disbursements of funds, once approved by the Board and/or President. In case the offices of Secretary and Treasurer are vested in one person, all checks issued by such person shall be approved by the President and Vice President.

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Section 5. The duties of the Treasurer shall be those which usually pertain to such office. He/She shall have charge of all the funds of this organization, shall deposit them in such bank or banks as the Board of Directors shall direct, shall remit monthly to the Farm Bureau Federation such funds as are due it, shall give bond of such amount as may be requested by the Board of Directors, the cost of such bond to be paid by the organization, shall disburse all funds on order of ~~President that were delivered by the Secretary~~ Secretary, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. All checks shall be approved by the President and Vice President. The Treasurer shall keep a record of all membership dues and shall make at least one detailed report a year showing the true financial condition of the organization and shall submit the books and a report for audit by a competent auditing committee or public accountant.

Section 6. Holder of Political Office Disqualified for Office, Director or Member of Executive Committee.

Any officer or director who shall be elected to or appointed to a political office with pay shall be automatically dropped from his official position in the organization.

Article IX
Meetings

Section 1. The annual meeting of the members of the organization shall be held at such time and place as may be set by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Special meetings of the members of this organization shall be called by the President when requested in writing by ten percent of the members or by a majority of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Calls for all meetings of the county organization shall be issued in writing or electronic transmission to each member by the secretary at least one week previous to date of meeting.

Section 4. Members of the board of directors or a committee of the board may participate in a meeting by means of a conference telephone or other communications equipment if all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time. Participation in a meeting by these means constitutes presence in person at the meeting.

Section 5. A majority of the duly elected Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6. Each officer and director shall have an electronic mail address or text message capability at which he or she can receive notices and communications

Section ~~4~~7. Regular meetings by the Board of Directors shall be held monthly and special meetings may be held on call of the President or a majority of the Board.

Section ~~8~~5. The order of business at regular and special meetings shall be as follows:

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| 1. Call to order and roll call | 7 6. Unfinished Business |
| 2 . Reading of minutes | 8. New Business |
| 2,3 . <u>Review Treasurer's Reports</u> | 9 . Election |
| 3,4 . <u>Communications</u> | 7 . <u>New Business</u> |
| 4,5 . <u>Reports of officers</u> | 10. <u>Adjournment</u> |
| 5,6 . <u>Reports of committees</u> | 8 . <u>Election</u> |
| a. Standing | 9 . <u>Adjournment</u> |
| b. Special | |

Article X
Committees

Section 1. The President shall fill all vacancies on committees, appoint all committees not otherwise provide for, and may from time to time appoint such special committees as may be deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Should any committee fail to discharge the duties assigned to it, said committee may be discharged by the President, who shall report the same to the Board of Directors and appoint a new committee for confirmation.

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Article XI
Compensation

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Section 1. The compensation of any officer, and all other help as may be needed in conducting the work of this organization shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

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Article XII
Delegates

Section 1. Delegate or delegates and alternates to the annual meeting of the Maryland Farm Bureau Federation shall be chosen at the annual meeting of the Calvert County Farm Bureau.

Section 2. Delegate or delegates and alternates to any special state meeting or convention shall be chosen by the County Board of Directors.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall have the power to determine the portion of the delegate expenses to the State Convention, which shall be paid by the Calvert County Farm Bureau.

Article XIII
Amendments

Section 1. The constitution may be amended by a majority vote at any annual or special meeting of the Calvert County Farm Bureau membership called for that purpose.

Section 2. Amendments to the Constitution shall be in force when approved unless otherwise provided for.