

# Constitution

## **PREAMBLE**

All segments of our National economy must be healthy and prosperous if a vigorous forward thrust in economy is to be maintained. If our farm economy is permitted to lag for any extended period, the entire National economy will suffer. History proves that economic depressions are farm led and farm fed.

## **ARTICLE I – Name and Location of Offices**

This association shall be known as the National Association of Farmer Elected Committees. The offices of the Association shall be located at the Secretary-Treasurer's address or other address as approved by the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE II – Purposes and Objectives**

The purpose and objectives of the Association shall be to promote, strengthen, and improve the farmer-elected committee system for local administration of programs. It shall further be the purpose of the Association, through the coordinated strength of its membership, to seek, promote and maintain effective farm programs which will (1) increase and improve farm income until it reaches parity with non-farm income, (2) promote and preserve the family type farm, (3) eradicate rural poverty, (4) build and conserve the soil, water and forestry resources of the Nation, (5) promote new uses of agricultural products, and (6) expand foreign markets for agricultural products.

Fully appreciating the tremendous contributions made by the dedicated hard-working employees of the FSA County Committees throughout the Nation, it shall be further purpose of the Association to support and cooperate with actions and programs which will serve the best interest of our County employees.

## **ARTICLE III – Membership**

### Section 1

Any person who is a present or past member of a farmer elected county or community AAA, PMA, ASC, ASCS, Minority Advisor, or FSA committee is eligible for membership. Associate members are encouraged, but are under each state's control.

### Section 2

No officer or member of this Association shall use his office or membership for the purpose of engaging in activities other than the stated purposes and objectives of this organization.

## **ARTICLE IV – Government**

### Section 1

The governing body of the Association shall be bested in a Board of Directors composed of the President or his alternate from each State. These directors shall be responsible for the general management of the organization as stated in the By-Laws. In the absence of a state organization, a director shall be appointed by the Executive Committee

### Section 2

The Executive arm of the Association shall be an Executive committee composed of one duly elected member from each of the areas as described below in Exhibit 1 to NAFEC's Constitution and By-Laws, plus five Constitutional offices of the Association.

*Exhibit 1 – NAFEC Constitution and By-Laws*

## **AREAS OF NAFEC**

### AREA STATES

Midwest Illinois Indiana Iowa  
Michigan Missouri Wisconsin

Minnesota Ohio

Northeast Connecticut Delaware/Maryland Maine

New Hampshire New Jersey Massachusetts/Rhode Island New York Pennsylvania Vermont

West Virginia

Northwest Idaho Nebraska Montana

North Dakota Washington/Alaska Oregon

South Dakota Wyoming

Southeast Alabama Arkansas Florida/Georgia

Kentucky Louisiana Mississippi

North Carolina South Carolina Tennessee

Virginia

Southwest Arizona California/Hawaii Colorado

Kansas Nevada New Mexico

Oklahoma Texas Utah

### Section 3

The offices of this Association shall be a President, Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Vice President of Membership, and a Secretary-Treasurer to be elected and serve as provided by the By-Laws.

### Section 4

The Executive Committee shall see that actions of the Board of Directions are carried out. The Executive Committee shall have power to act for the Board of Directors when such Board is not in session. Such actions taken by the Executive Committee shall be fully and completely reported to the Board of Directors at their next meeting.

### Section 5

This Constitution may be amended only by a two-thirds favorable vote of the total membership present and voting at either a special or regular meeting of the Association. Any amendment in order to be brought up for consideration before a meeting of the membership shall first originate in the Board of Directors and shall be recommended for adoption by a two thirds majority of the Board of Directors.

Any such amendment proposed by the Board of Directors shall be reduced to writing and delivered and/or communicated to each State Board Members at least 60 days prior to a membership meeting where such amendment is due to be considered for action.

## **By-Laws**

### **ARTICLE I – Dues**

#### Section 1

The annual membership dues for this Association shall be set by the Board of Directors.

#### Section 2

The fiscal year shall be January 1 to December 31

#### Section 3

Any State collecting dues that are in arrears in payment of its dues for a period of six months or more shall no longer be a member. It may be reinstated upon payment of the dues for the current year.

## **ARTICLE II – Election of Officers and Directors**

### **Section 1**

Directors shall be the affiliated State President for a term of one year, taking office on January 1 and serving through December 31.

(a) The President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Vice President of Membership, and Secretary-Treasurer shall be members Ex-Officio of the Board of Directors with full voting rights.

### **Section 2**

The elected areas members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the Board of Directors from any member in good standing in a meeting of such Board to be held immediately upon adjournment of the annual meeting. All vacancies occurring on the Executive Committee shall be filled by a majority of the remaining Executive Committee members and shall hold office until the next annual meeting of the membership.

### **Section 3**

The President, Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Vice President of Membership and Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by the Delegates present and voting at the annual membership meeting of the Association. Nominations and seconds shall be made by any delegate in good standing from the floor. The President, Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Vice President of Membership and Secretary-Treasurer will take office following their election at the national convention of the year for which elected and shall serve until the next convention.

## **ARTICLE III – OFFICERS**

### **Section 1**

The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Association and shall preside at all meetings, both regular and special of the Association and at all meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. He shall also perform all duties as may be necessary as Executive Office of the Association and as assigned by the Board of Directors or Executive Committee.

### **Section 2**

The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President during his absence and at such times as the President may deem necessary and shall succeed to the Office of the President should it become vacant.

### **Section 3**

The 2nd Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the event both President and Vice President are absent and shall succeed to the Office of 1st Vice President should such become vacant. A special duty of the 2nd Vice President shall be that of Public Relations Officer.

### **Section 4**

The Vice President of Membership shall be responsible for the coordination of membership solicitation and recruitment at the national level. This officer will assist in membership solicitation and recruitment at the individual state, district and county level, as time permits.

### **Section 5**

The Secretary-Treasurer shall in effect serve as business manager of the Association. He shall (1) conduct the official correspondence of the Association, (2) keep accurate records of the regular and special business meetings, (3) prepare and have custody of the minutes of all meetings, (4) preside at meetings in the absence of the President and both Vice Presidents, (5) collect dues from all Members States, (6) collect and distribute all monies subject to prior approval of the Executive Committee, (7) deposit all funds in a depository in the city of his residence or as otherwise designated by the Executive Committee, (8) be bonded by an accredited bonding firm, and perform such additional duties as may be assigned by the Board, Executive Committee or President.

### **Section 6**

The President shall give an annual report to the Association.

## Section 7

All disbursements of the Association shall be by check signed by the Treasurer. All disbursements shall have prior approval of the Executive Committee item by item. The rate of reimbursement of expenses only of members of the Executive Committee and Officers incurred in the discharge of their official duties will be determined by the Board of Directors. The rate of reimbursement of expenses of the Board of Directors incurred in the discharge of their official duties will be determined by the delegates of at the annual convention.

## **ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS**

### Section 1

There shall be at least one meeting of the membership of the Association during each calendar year, the time and place to be set by the Board of Directors. Each state is entitled to one delegate vote.

### Section 2

Special meetings of the membership may be called by written request of a majority of the Board of Directors. Written notices shall be given at least 10 days prior to such meeting to each delegate at his address as listed in the records of the Association. The presence in person of not less than 10 percent of the delegates shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special membership meeting.

### Section 3

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least annually. A quorum shall consist of not less than one-half of the membership of the Board of Directors.

### Section 4

Meeting of the Executive Committee may be called by the President or by petition of a majority of the Executive Committee. Notice of such meetings shall be given to each member at least ten days prior to the date of such meeting. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

## **Article V – Committees**

### Section 1

Standing committees shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors as follows:

- (a) Membership Committee
- (c) Nominating Committee
- (b) Resolutions Committee
- (d) Audit Committee

Other committees may be appointed as deemed necessary by the President with approval of the Board of Directors. The President shall name one member of each committee as chairman. The President shall serve as a member ex-officio of each committee

## **ARTICLE VI – Procedures**

### Section 1

Robert's Rule of Order shall govern the proceedings of all general, regular and special meetings of the Association except as provided by these By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE VII – Building Membership**

It shall be the responsibility of each officer, director and members of this Association to see that all eligible persons are fully informed as to the purpose, objectives, and need for the Association and to assist in building the membership to maximum strength at the earliest possible date.

## **ARTICLE VIII – Amendments**

These By-Laws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the membership by a majority vote. Amendments must be initiated by the Board of Directors and must be delivered and/or communicated to the membership at least 10 days prior to said meeting.

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FARMER ELECTED COMMITTEES  
AN ILLINOIS CORPORATION**