

BYLAWS

WHATCOM COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Article I - MEMBERS

SECTION 1. QUALIFICATIONS

Only persons, families and partnerships, unincorporated associations and corporations organized for agricultural purposes, actively engaged in the production of agricultural products, including lessees and tenants of land used for the production of such products: lessors and landlords who receive as rent, \$2,500 either in kind or cash, all or part of the crop raised on the leased or rented premises are eligible for a voting membership in this organization.

Other persons, partnerships, unincorporated associations or corporations interested in agriculture may make application to become either a non-voting associate or business member in this organization.

Section 2. RELATIONS WITH STATE FARM BUREAU

The Farm Bureau shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the State Farm Bureau for the purpose of coordinating the activities of their respective officers and personnel within their respective fields of endeavor to the end that sound and effective national, state, and county legislation may be adopted and administered: that proper and satisfactory public relations and services may be developed and sustained, that nonprofit cooperative marketing and distribution may be organized and fostered and that proper publicity in respect to all of such activities may be made available to members and others.

This Farm Bureau unites with the State Farm Bureau in a joint membership arrangement for its members, wherein each member of this Farm Bureau shall become a member in the State Farm Bureau with the obligations attached thereto and the rights and privileges of membership therein. During the existence of any such joint membership arrangement, this Farm Bureau shall not admit to membership any person who is not or does not concurrently become a member of the State Farm Bureau.

Section 3. DUES

The annual voting membership dues in this Farm Bureau shall be *\$20.00 above the total combined cost of The American Farm Bureau Federation and Washington State Farm Bureau; payable in advance. The annual non-voting associate and business membership dues in this Farm Bureau shall be *\$20.00 payable in advance. If this Farm Bureau unites with the State Farm Bureau in any joint membership arrangement, the annual dues due the State Farm Bureau shall also be payable in advance to this Farm Bureau, acting in the capacity of judiciary agent of the State Farm Bureau, or to any person agreed upon by the State Farm Bureau and this Farm Bureau. *Updated & Approved on Oct. 27, 2016

SECTION 4. MEMBERSHIP IN GOOD STANDING

The definition of membership in good standing is one whose dues are paid as reflected in the membership list from WA State Farm Bureau.

Section 5. MEETINGS

The Annual Meeting of members shall be held during the month of October or November of each year, the date to be selected by the Board of Directors.

Section 6. NOTICE

Notice of annual or special membership meetings shall be given at least ten days previous, using one or more of the following: newspaper publishing, postal mail, electronic mail, the Whatcom County

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Farm Bureau website, and/or other internet publications.

Section 7. VOTING

Voting members of this Farm Bureau in good standing shall be entitled to vote at any Annual or Special meeting of the membership of this Farm Bureau. Each voting membership shall be entitled to one vote which can only be cast in person.

Section 8. PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Voting members of this Farm Bureau shall be entitled to the privileges of the floor, subject to the rules governing the meeting.

Section 9. QUORUM

20 voting members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any and all business at any annual or special meeting.

Section 10. PRESIDING OFFICERS

Parliamentary Procedure shall govern and determine the duties of officer in presiding at meetings. For the purpose of these bylaws the order of officers shall be as follows: President, First Vice-president, Second Vice-President.

Article II - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

All voting members are eligible to be nominated for the position of director at the annual meeting and then elected by the voting members present. There shall be nine director positions.

Section 2. TERMS

Length of terms shall be three years with three directors coming up for election every year. Term limits for directors are three terms of three years each with a year off before becoming eligible again. Terms begin and end on the date of the Whatcom County Annual Meeting. (Updated and approve 10/27/15)

Section 3. QUORUM

Five or more board members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Farm Bureau. A majority of the Board members in attendance shall in the presence of a quorum, decide its action.

Section 4. VACANCY

In case of any vacancies in the Board of Directors or officers through death, resignation, disqualification, or otherwise, the remaining members of the Board of Directors may elect a successor, having the qualifications herein prescribed for directors, to hold office for the unexpired portion of the term of office of director or officer whose place shall be vacant.

Section 5. MEETINGS

The Board of Directors shall normally hold regular monthly meetings. The president may call Special Meetings. Special meetings may be held via email, conference call, or other forms of communication in order to address time sensitive decisions. (Updated and approved 10/27/15)

Section 6. FAILURE TO ATTEND MEETINGS

In the event of continued failure on the part of the member of the Board of Directors to attend regular or special meetings of the Board, the member shall be notified by the president of the automatic suspension from the Board after missing three consecutive meetings without just cause.

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Article III - OFFICERS

Section 1. OFFICERS

The officers of this organization shall be President, First Vice-president, Second Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary and Treasurer and such other officers as may be deemed necessary, such other officers to be created by resolution of the Board of Directors. The President and First and Second Vice-President must be members of this organization in good standing whose principal occupation and interest is farming.

Section 2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The President, First and Second-Vice-President, and Secretary shall be elected yearly by the board of directors at the first regular board meeting following the annual meeting of the County Farm Bureau and shall hold office for a term of one year or until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified.

Section 3. COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS

The board of directors may authorize compensation for any officer.

Section 4. PRESIDENT

The president shall be the chief executive officer of the organization. The president shall preside at all meetings of its members, and at all meetings of the Board of Directors and executive committees. Subject to the control of the Board of Directors the president shall have general charge of the business of the organization.

Section 5. VICE-PRESIDENTS

The Vice-Presidents shall, in the absence of the President, exercise the powers and perform the duties of the President; otherwise they shall have such powers and perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the President, or by the Board of Directors.

Section 6. SECRETARY

The Secretary shall keep minutes of the meetings of members, of the meeting of the Board of Directors and of the meetings of the Executive Committee, and shall record all actions of the Farm Bureau, the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee in a book or books to be kept for this purpose. The Secretary shall attend to the giving of all notices required to be given and shall be responsible to maintain the current membership roster. He or she shall perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary subject to the control of the Board of Directors.

Section 7. REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

Any officer of the County Farm Bureau may be removed from office at any regular meeting or special meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the duly elected Board of Directors.

Article IV TREASURER

Section 1. TERM

The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Board of directors for a one year term.

Section 2. JOB DESCRIPTION

Shall prepare a monthly financial statement before each regularly scheduled board meeting and whenever requested by the Board of Directors or Executive Committee.

Section 3. REMOVAL OF TREASURER

Bylaws Approved Nov. 1 2014 & when noted

The treasurer of the County Farm Bureau may be removed from office at any regular meeting or special meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the duly elected Board of Directors.

Article V - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. COMPLEMENT

The Executive Committee of the County Farm Bureau shall consist of the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Any appointed Treasurer who is not a Board Member shall not serve on the Executive Committee. Any appointed Treasurer shall provide the Executive Committee all financial information upon request.

Section 2. AUTHORITY

The Executive committee shall exercise such powers as may be delegated to it by the Board of Directors in the intervals between meetings of the Board of Directors, and shall report their actions at each meeting of the Board. Full minutes of all meetings of the Executive Committee shall be kept and submitted to the Board of Directors.

Section 3. QUORUM AND PROCEDURE

Subject to any regulation prescribed by the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee shall fix its own rules of procedure, the presence of a majority of the members of the Executive committee shall be necessary to constitute a quorum.

Article VI - REPRESENTATION ON STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STATE COMMITTEES, AND AT MEETINGS

Section 1. STATE BOARD OF DIRECTOR

A. Representation on the State Farm Bureau Board of Directors shall be in compliance with those provisions of the bylaws of the WA State Farm Bureau.

B. As specifically stated in the bylaws of the Washington State Farm Bureau in Article I, Section 9, representation shall be from counties or districts. Counties or districts shall caucus at their annual meeting or meetings previous to the Annual Meeting of the Washington State Farm Bureau for the purpose of naming their nominee and placing the name of such nominee in the nomination for the position before the delegates of the Annual Meeting of the Washington State Farm Bureau

C. The state board of director shall be required to submit a report to the Whatcom County Farm Bureau president within two weeks following each state board meeting.

Section 2. STATE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

A. Representation on Washington State Farm Bureau Committees shall be in accordance with those provisions of the bylaws of the Washington State Farm Bureau.

B. As specifically states in the bylaws of the Washington State Farm Bureau in Article XII, Section 3, representation shall be from counties or districts. Each county or district desiring representation on the respective committees shall nominate one regular and one alternate member from their county or district; nominations so made to be certified at the time of the Annual Meeting of the Washington State Farm Bureau and subject to the approval of the Washington State Farm Bureau Board of Directors at their first meeting following the Annual Meeting.

Bylaws Approved Nov. 1 2014 & when noted

C. The state committee representative shall be required to submit a report to the Whatcom County Farm Bureau president within two weeks following each state committee meeting.

Section 3. VOTING DELEGATES

Representation of voting delegates at meetings of the membership of the Washington State Farm Bureau shall be in accordance with those provisions of the bylaws of the Washington State Farm Bureau.

Article VII - SUNDRY PROVISIONS

Section 1. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Farm Bureau shall begin on the first day of October and terminate on the last day of September in each year.

Section 2. BUDGET

The budget committee will prepare a budget for the coming fiscal year and present it to the board at the final meeting of the current fiscal year.

Section 3. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business at all meetings, as appropriate, shall be as follows:

Call of order

Roll Call

Reading of Minutes

Report of Secretary

Report of Treasurer

Correspondence

Report of Committees

Other Reports

Unfinished Business

New Business

Elections and appointments

Adjournment

Section 4. DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution of the Whatcom County Farm Bureau, the board of directors shall, after paying and making provisions for the payment of all liabilities, distribute all the assets of the corporation to a like organization dedicated to advocacy and educational purposes and which has been recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization by the Internal Revenue Service.

Article VIII - BYLAW CHANGES

Section 1. BYLAW CHANGES

Changes to the bylaws shall be published at least 10 days prior to approval using one or more of the following: newspaper publishing, postal mail, electronic mail, the Whatcom County Farm Bureau website, and/or other internet publications. At the annual meeting (at least 20 voting members must be present), bylaw changes shall be voted on by a quorum of voting members and passed by simple majority.