

# **Louisiana Meat Goat Association**

## BY LAWS

These By-laws are made pursuant to the Articles of Incorporation of this organization signed March 29, 1995 and recorded with the Louisiana Secretary of State. They set forth general policies under which the organization is operated, except that any policy shall be considered void if it violates the Articles of Incorporation of the laws of Louisiana.

### By-Law 1 Name

The name of the association shall be the Louisiana Meat Goat Association.

### By-Law 2 Purpose

The association shall exist for the mutual benefits of its members, and shall have as its primary purpose to promote and develop the meat goat industry in the State of Louisiana. Furthermore, the association will provide opportunities for its members to network and communicate to identify and address local industry development needs.

The association shall have the following specific purposes:

- a) To promote genetic improvement of meat goats
- b) Offer opportunities for the purchase of high quality breeding stock through association sanctioned sales and shows
- c) To encourage the development of production standards of quality for the association and encourage similar standards of quality for the industry
- d) To promote the Agri-forestry concept and other grazing techniques that are environmentally responsible
- e) To establish association marketing strategies for live animals, carcass and specialty products which will benefit the producer and consumer
- f) Identify and develop long-term meat goat markets at home and abroad including established ethnic consumer groups
- g) Develop and implement domestic consumer marketing plan which appeals to the health conscious group
- h) To promote professionalism in the marketing of meat goat
- i) To develop an information/education program that will keep members and potential members informed and educated regarding production and marketing issues.
- j) To promote meat goat farming as a viable source of long-term and stable Agri-forestry income to land users
- k) Support youth programs and establish meat goats as a recognized class in 4-H and FFA livestock shows

- l) Develop an information education program that will inform and educate consumers of the benefits of goat products, to help improve consumer demand and change negative perceptions of goats
- m) Identify and recommend research and development needs that will improve production and growth challenges common to Louisiana
- n) To Cooperate with the Louisiana Department of Ag & Forestry, LSU Agricultural Center, Southern University College of Agriculture and Home Economics and Southern University Cooperation Extension Program, Heifer Project International, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, LSU Cooperative Extension Service (Amended 1998), American Meat Goat Association, USDA, Forest Service, Agriculture Marketing Service, Rural Business and Cooperative Development Service, and other USDA agencies as needed, private landowners, and other groups in conducting production, marketing, information and education, and research programs to enhance the meat goat industry.

### By-Law 3 Membership

#### Section 1 – Membership Request:

Persons desiring membership must fill out an application and file it with the Secretary (Amended December 2002) for approval by the Board of Directors.

#### Section 2 – Active Members:

Any person who is a producer, buyer or consumer of meat goats or any other person desiring active membership may apply for membership. Active members shall have one vote each and be required to pay dues. Active members will receive copies of all association generated notices, minutes and newsletters when such items are printed.

#### Section 3 – Associate Members:

Persons who have rendered distinctive service or who have a civic interest in the associations, may on recommendation of the Board of Directors, be elected associate members. They shall not be required to pay dues, nor be allowed to vote, but shall enjoy all other privileges of active members.

#### Section 4 – Cancellation or Refusal of Membership:

The Board of Directors may, by majority vote, cancel the membership of any member or refuse membership to any person when the welfare of the association justifies such action. A person whose membership is cancelled or refused may register a written appeal to the President for vote by the membership. To be considered by the membership, such appeals must be registered at least 30 days prior to a meeting of the members and a copy of the appeal will be forwarded by the President to each member 15 days prior to said meeting. The appeal can be approved only by a majority vote of the active members present at the membership meeting. Membership will be automatically voided by any criminal conviction which constitutes an illegal practice associated with meat goat processing, production or marketing. However, if the conviction is a misdemeanor, membership will not automatically be cancelled unless the offense is one demonstrating more turpitude.

