

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.

Section 5 – Dues:

Annual dues shall be set by the Board of Directors and shall be payable after the Fall Meeting (Amended May 2003) of each year for the next year's dues. Failure to pay dues within 90 days after the above date will result in a \$5.00 Administrative Fee (Amended May 2003). Dues for new members are payable upon application and will pay only through the end of December in the year in which they are paid.

By-Law 4 (Revised June 16, 1998) Meetings

Section 1 – Frequency:

An annual meeting shall be held each fall as provided in the Articles of Incorporation and another general meeting of the membership will be held in the spring of each year. Other meetings may be held at the discretion of the Board of Directors or the general membership at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors. Special meetings shall be called by the President upon written petition of not less than 20 (twenty) percent of the active membership, or whenever, in the opinion of the President, there is business which should be brought before the membership for action prior to the next regular meeting.

Section 2 – Notice:

The Secretary/Treasurer shall notify the membership in writing at least 15 days prior to a general membership meeting of 30 days prior to any special meeting. The notification shall state the date, time and location of the meeting. The place and time of each meeting shall be coordinated by the President.

Section 3 – Meeting Content:

Any business which may properly come before the association membership may be discussed and acted upon at the Fall or Spring (Amended June 1998) meetings, only the business which has been announced by the agenda may be discussed or acted upon.

Section 4 – Order of Business:

The order of business and all parliamentary procedure at any meeting shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

By-Law 5 (Revised Fall 2001) Board of Directors

Section 1 – General:

The association shall be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of 9 Directors. The term of duty shall be no less than two years and eligible for re-election. The terms of the Directors will be staggered with 5 (five) Directors selected in even numbered years and 4 (four) Directors elected in odd numbered years.

Section 2 – Election:

At least 120 days before the annual meeting the President, with the advice of the other officers, shall appoint a three-person Nominating Committee. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to nominate 9 (nine) active association members in good standing for membership on the Board of Directors and to report such nominations to the President at least 90 days before the annual membership.

Additional nominations may be submitted to the entire membership at the annual meeting. If there is more than one nomination for any Director, election shall be by secret ballot conducted by the Secretary/Treasurer and delivered to the current Board of Directors for counting. The candidate receiving a simple majority of the votes cast for any office shall be declared elected. The elected board shall assume office on January 1 after the Annual Meeting.

Any vacancy on the Board of Directors due to death, resignation, disability or disqualification as a member shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term.

Section 3 – Duties and Authority:

The Board of Directors shall have the authority to administer and manage the affairs in the association (subject to the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws), conduct investigations, serve as consultants, advisors or reviewers to the President for the administration of the association's business and communications.

Section 4 – Board of Directors Meetings:

There shall be quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors at a time and place determined by the Board itself. Two-thirds of the Board must normally be present for a quorum to exist, however, if the Board decides to do so, it may conduct business by a telephone poll of its members.

The Board of Directors shall be, whenever possible, notified by telephone or in writing at least 5 (five) days prior to a Board of Director's meeting.

By-Law 6 Officers

Section 1 – Selection:

The Board of Directors shall select a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer (Amended November 2001). These officers may come from within the ranks of the Board.

Selection 2 – Duties:

It shall be the duty of the President to preside at the meetings of the organization and the Board of Directors and to perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to this office.

It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to preside at meetings of the organization and the Board of Directors in the absence of the President and to perform such duties as ordinarily pertain to this office.

The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings and membership rolls; maintain a file of all correspondence, committee reports and any records of historical value and sent out notices of meetings.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to have custody of all funds, keep records of all receipts and disbursements, account for expenditures and income to the membership, and in general perform those duties customarily associated with the position of Treasurer. All checks issued shall require the signature of the President or the Treasurer. When replaced, the Treasurer shall turn over all funds, books of accounts and all association papers and property in his or her possession, either to the new Treasurer or the President. The incoming President of the Association may have the treasurer's books audited by a committee composed of three members appointed by the President.

Section 3 – Term:

Officers will ordinarily serve for 2 (two) years (amended November 2002)

Section 4 – Technical Advisors:

In addition to the officers, the Board of Directors may appoint technical advisors to assist the association. They will serve until replaced by the Board of Directors or the membership.

By-Law 7 Committees

Ad-hoc committee shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Board of Directors to address specific problems or investigate specific situations or events. The membership will be made aware of the work of any such committee. The President (with the advice of the Board of Directors) shall appoint one of the committee members as chair, and define the purpose, parameters, reporting frequency and lifespan of the committee.

By-Law 8

The By-laws may be amended, repealed or changed at any meeting by a simple majority of the active members present and voting. However, any amendments to the Articles of Incorporation may only be made with the notice provided in the Articles of Incorporation. All amendments to the Articles or By-laws will become effective immediately upon meeting the requirements of passage unless specified otherwise.

These By-laws were adopted by the membership at its initial meeting held on August 19, 1995 at LSU-A.