

SAMPLE COUNTY FARMERS MARKET BYLAWS

(Revised March 2000)

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the _____ County Farmers Market.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE AND POWERS

Section 1. The purpose of this organization is to bring agricultural products and baked goods made in health department approved kitchens directly from the farm to the consumer.

Section 2. The power of the organization shall be to regulate and enforce the policies of the market.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Voting membership shall be season stall holders and dailies who paid the full market fee the previous season.

Section 2. County Extension representatives shall act in an advisory capacity without a vote.

Section 3. The Secretary-Treasurer (unless a stall owner) shall be an honorary member with full voting privileges.

Section 4. Membership shall extend from April 1 to March 31 of the following year.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS, DUTIES AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. The officers of this organization shall be President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Market Manager and Assistant Market Manager. The term of office shall be one year. Elections shall be held at the annual spring meeting and officers will be elected by a majority vote by members present.

Section 2. The President shall preside at all meetings and carry out all the duties assigned by the bylaws or action of the organization. He shall have the power to call executive committee meetings.

Section 3. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining the records of the organization. He shall keep a record of all meetings and an account of all the finances of the organization. He shall pay all bills pertaining to the market.

Section 4. The Market Manager shall collect daily stall fees at the market, announce the opening each market day, and oversee the operation of the market.

Section 5. The Assistant Market Manager shall assist the Manager in any way possible and assume responsibility in his absence.

ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES

Section 1. This organization shall have an Executive Committee composed of all the elected officers and one at-large member.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall have the power to enforce the market regulations, and rule on interim questions arising from the operation of the market.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

- Section 1. This organization shall hold an annual meeting in the spring with two weeks advance notice to the membership.
- Section 2. A majority of the members present shall constitute a quorum.
- Section 3. Special meetings may be called by the President upon his own initiative or upon the written request of 25 percent of the members. Before a special meeting can be held, each member must receive a written notice, which includes the time, date, and location of the meeting and the exact items of business to be considered.
- Section 4. The parliamentary code for this organization shall be *Robert Rules of Order*.

ARTICLE VII. FINANCES

- Section 1. The membership dues of this organization shall be a season stall fee or a daily stall fee, the amount to be established at each annual spring meeting.
- Section 2. The money thus appointed will be managed by the Secretary-Treasurer, with the approval of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII. RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Section 1. The rules and regulations governing the Farmers Market shall be formulated by the Executive Committee and voted upon by the membership at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDING AND SUSPENDING

- Section 1. The Bylaws of this organization may be amended or suspended by a two-thirds vote of the members present. All members must be given notice of the meeting and the proposed amendments at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE X. STALL SELECTION

- Section 1. Owners of stalls at the market have the right to retain that stall the next year, provided they notify the Secretary-Treasurer by the annual spring meeting.
- Section 2. Annual stall fees are to be paid no later than two weeks after the spring meeting. Two or more vendors may share one stall, so long as they jointly pay the full fee for that stall and observe the deadlines for stall assignments.
- Section 3. If a stall becomes vacant or new ones are available, preference in selection will be given to current stall owners.
- Section 4. Further selection of the season stalls will be done by the Executive Committee, by seniority from the list of dailies.
- Section 5. Members must participate in the market at least twelve times during the year or forfeit their right to that stall the next year.
- Section 6. Daily stalls shall be assigned by the Manager on a first-come basis on the remaining available sites.