

Southern Virginia Small Ruminant Association Constitution / Bylaws

Article I

The name of this association shall be the Southern Virginia Small Ruminant Association, hereinafter referred to in the document as the “Association.”

Article II

The association shall exist to improve the economic viability of the meat goat and sheep industry in southern Virginia through the development of cooperative marketing strategies, consumer and producer education, and overall herd improvement.

Article III

Section 1: Membership

Membership shall be open to any producer of small ruminants with interest in the furtherance of the mission and goals of the Association. Upon payment of annual dues, each paid farm membership shall be entitled to one vote at official Association meetings.

Section 2: Annual Dues

The Board of Directors shall set annual dues of the Association. Annual dues are payable on January 1 of the given year. Initial membership dues are payable at the time of enrollment. Nonpayment of membership dues within three months of an annual meeting automatically cancels membership and voting privileges.

Section 3: Annual Meeting

An annual meeting of the Association shall be held each year for the purpose of electing officers and for the transaction of other business as may be necessary. Additional meetings may be called by the president or executive committee as may be necessary for the furtherance of the Association’s mission, goals or objectives. Any annual or specially called meeting may be held at such time and place as the president or executive committee may deem appropriate. Reasonable notice shall be given to any voting member regarding the time and place of any such annual or special meeting.

Article IV

Section 1: Officers

The officers of the Association shall be elected at the annual membership meeting and shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary/Website Coordinator and Treasurer. The Association's nominating committee will be appointed by the president and shall present a slate of officers at the annual meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

Section 2: Executive Committee/Board of Directors

The President and Vice President shall be elected from commercial meat goat and sheep producers and shall not serve more than two consecutive one-year terms. Officers shall serve as the executive committee or Board of Directors of the Association. An ex-officio member may be the Halifax County Agriculture Marketing representative.

Article V

Section 1: President

It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings, to appoint such committees as deemed necessary and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. The office shall be elected annually.

Section 2: Vice President

The Vice President shall preside at a meeting in the absence of the President, and at that time shall have the authority of perform the duties of the president. The Vice President shall assume all duties of the President in the event of a vacancy in the office of the president.

Section 3: Secretary/Website Coordinator

The Secretary of the Association shall give due and proper notice of all meetings, keep accurate records of proceedings, present minutes at meetings, and coordinate website. The secretary shall send copies of minutes to the Board of Directors and committee members upon request.

Section 4: Treasurer

The Treasurer shall keep and maintain financial records, submitting a Treasurer's report at each meeting. The Treasurer shall collect dues, pay bills, and manage the funds in a responsible manner. Finances shall be audited annually by the Board of Directors or subcommittee thereof. The treasurer shall have a discretionary fund limit, to be determined by the sanctioning body. And shall maintain and update the membership roster monthly.

Article VI

Section 1: Date/Purpose of Meeting

The annual meeting of the Association shall be held in the month of January of each year to elect officers/board of directors, to consider changes in the Association's by-laws, and establish policy consistent with the Mission of the Association.

Section 2: Majority of Vote

A quorum shall exist with one-fourth of the voting members whether in person or by proxy. At any meeting of members, a member entitled to vote may vote by proxy executed in writing and presented to the Secretary.

Section 3: Parliamentary Procedures

Meetings shall be conducted using "Roberts Rules of Order." Members are expected to display orderly conduct and cooperative behavior at all times.

Article VII

The By-Laws may be altered, amended or repealed and new articles of by-laws adapted with the affirmative vote of two-thirds of a quorum. Changes, as proposed by a by-laws committee appointed by the President, must be presented during a meeting and distributed to the membership.