

HURON COUNTY FEDERATION of AGRICULTURE "Constitution"
....revised October 2011

Article 1.... NAME:

This organization shall be known as the Huron County Federation of Agriculture.

Article 2... OBJECTIVES:

- a) to act as the Huron County affiliate of the OFA furthering the interests and welfare of the county farmers and the farming industry. To act ethically in the conduct of its affairs and to fulfill the requirements of the registration and funding legislation (Farm Registration and Farm Organizations Funding Act)
- b) to bring the viewpoints and concerns of its members and affiliated groups to the OFA for appropriate action and in turn to interpret OFA policy to its members and disseminate information of concern to farmers and the farming industry in the county.
- c) To maintain a strict independence from any political party and to conduct its affairs in an objective and non-political manner.

Article 3... MEMBERSHIP

All Registered Farming Business Members, Individual Farm Members, and Additional Voting Members of the OFA residing in the county shall be ordinary members of the Huron County Federation of Agriculture. They shall have the right to vote at all general meetings and to hold office but not the right to vote at meetings of the Board of Directors.

Article 4... BOARD of DIRECTORS:

- a) i) The ordinary members, during the annual general meeting of the new year shall elect, from their number, a Board of Directors consisting of the following: President, Vice –President(s), one representative from each former township, and 6 directors- at-large. The Past President, the Huron County OFA Policy Advisory Council Representatives are ex-officio, and are full voting members of the Board. The President and Vice-President(s) shall be elected to their positions specifically by the members.
- ii) Where more than one member vie for the position of County director from their former township a vote shall be conducted, by the members present from that former township, to select one director.

- iii) The Board of Directors, on an annual motion, may invite each properly organized agricultural/commodity group to send one representative, who is an OFA member, to sit as a Director on the Board of Directors.
- b) The Board of Directors shall be responsible for:
- the management of all business and financial affairs of the County Federation between the general meetings of the members
 - the development of all policies and procedures of the County Federation and the implementation of OFA organizational policy;
 - the retaining of agents or employees of the County Federation
 - the making of a full report of the activities of the County Federation including the presentation of an independently prepared financial statement to each annual county federation general meeting.

Article 5.... EXECUTIVE:

The Officers of the County Federation of Agriculture shall be the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice –President and four other members elected by the Board of Directors from among its members at the first Directors meeting following the Annual meeting. The Officers shall constitute the Executive of the County Federation. In the event of a failure to fill one of the Vice-Presidents positions, then five members will be elected by the Board of Directors from among its members, to still maintain an Executive committee of seven individuals.

Article 6....ELECTION:

Elections shall be by secret ballot and each person elected to a position by the members of the County Federation shall normally hold office until his/her successor has been elected. However, if a position becomes vacant because of resignation or other reason, the Directors shall name a person to fill the position for the balance of the term.

Article 7... MEETINGS:

- a) The annual general meeting of the Huron County Federation of Agriculture shall be held within ninety days following the end of the Federation's fiscal year. Notice of such meeting shall be by mail, insertions in the local press or both no less than 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting. The

quorum for an annual general meeting shall be 25 ordinary members who are entitled to vote.

- b) Special general meetings may be called by the Board of Directors by petition in writing to the Board by 5 percent of the members entitled to vote. The notice of any such meeting shall be as for an annual general meeting.
- c) There shall be at least 8 regular meetings of the Board of Directors in each year for which no less than three days notice to each Directors shall be given. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or by three members of the Executive.
- d) Minutes of all meetings of the Huron County Federation of Agriculture and of the Board of Directors shall be kept. All meetings of the Board shall be conducted in accordance with the ordinary rules of parliamentary procedure.
- e) The "Quorum" for meetings of the Board of Directors shall be 8 and of the Executive meetings shall be 4.

Article 8....FINANCE:

- a) the fiscal year of the Huron County Federation of Agriculture shall be the twelve months beginning the first day of September and ending the last day of August.
- b) The financial records of the Huron County Federation of Agriculture shall be examined as of the end of each fiscal year by a qualified person recommended by the Board and approved at the Annual general meeting and the report of the examiner shall be presented at the annual meeting in respect of that year.

Article 9.... POLICIES and PROCEDURES:

The Huron County Federation of Agriculture shall adopt such policies and procedures for the direction of its business as shall seem best to suit its needs provided these are in keeping with the terms of this constitution.

Article 10.... EXPULSION and SUSPENSION:

- a) The expulsion of an officer and director may be pronounced for sufficient cause, after unbiased investigation, by a three-fourths vote of the Directors present at the meeting called to consider the question. A temporary suspension may be pronounced in lieu of expulsion in the same manner.
- b) An Officer shall take a leave of absence upon nomination as a candidate for election to the Parliament of Canada or to the Legislature of Ontario, and shall resign as an officer of the Huron County Federation of Agriculture upon election, as a member of the Parliament of Canada or the Legislature of Ontario.

Article 11... AMENDMENTS:

This Constitution may be amended at any members general meeting by a two-thirds vote of members present provided that the notice of the meeting has stated the intention to propose a Constitutional Amendment.