

BY-LAWS OF
NORTH DAKOTA AG COALITION

as amended - December 2003

as amended – July 2009

as amended – January 2017

ARTICLE I

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be the North Dakota AG COALITION. The principle operations of the organization shall be within the state of North Dakota. The headquarters of the organization shall be in Bismarck, North Dakota.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The North Dakota AG COALITION shall be a federation of organizations representing specific commodities or with a direct interest in agriculture, for the specific purpose of addressing issues which affect North Dakota agriculture.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

To be eligible for General Membership, an organization must:

- A. be statewide in nature and offer membership to agricultural producers in all North Dakota counties, or, in the case of regional organizations, offer membership in all counties which are directly active in the business of that organization (e.g. Red River Valley Potato Growers Association);
- B. have written by-laws, or in the case of a state chartered organization, the record in state law demonstrating a charter;
- C. have membership dues or an annual budget in excess of \$1,000; and
- D. not be an organization which is already represented on the AG COALITION by membership in a larger statewide or regional organization which is a member of the AG COALITION.

CLASSIFIED MEMBERSHIP

Upon acceptance for general membership, organizations may apply for membership in one of three commodity classifications: Small Grains, Livestock, or Row/Specialty Crops. Acceptance into one of the classifications requires an affirmative vote by 75% of the general members of the AG COALITION. The vote to classify an organization may be conducted at the same meeting as the vote for acceptance to general membership, at a subsequent meeting, or by proxy.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

The AG COALITION recognizes that there may be North Dakota organizations or individuals who do not qualify for general membership, but wish to take part in -- and support the COALITION.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

- A. Candidate member organizations shall be sponsored for consideration by at least three current AG COALITION members, at least one of which is a Classified Member.
- B. The membership application shall include: 1) a letter of interest from the organization's Chief Executive; 2) a copy of the By-Laws or Charter of a prospective member organization (or proof that such exists); and 3) the names of the three sponsoring organizations as required in Section A. Applications shall be submitted to the AG COALITION office at least 14 days prior to the next scheduled meeting. EXCEPTION Item (2) is not required for organizations seeking Associate Member status.

ACCEPTANCE OF MEMBERS

- A. The Executive Board is responsible for reviewing membership applications and reporting to the membership either by letter or at the next scheduled meeting any pertinent information about the proposed new member, and make a recommendation regarding membership.
- B. Acceptance of a prospective member requires a 75% affirmative vote of the members present, or represented by written proxy.
- C. Members that have allowed their membership to lapse for two consecutive years, either by non-attendance or non-payment of dues, may re-apply for membership.

DUES

The Executive Board shall establish the annual dues for membership approval by a majority of members. Dues will be payable January 1 and be considered delinquent on April 1, as part of the annual budgeting process.

ARTICLE IV **LEADERSHIP**

OFFICERS

- A. Officers of the AG COALITION shall consist of a Chair, a Vice Chair, and a Secretary-Treasurer.
- B. The Chair and Vice Chair shall be from the general membership and alternately represent Livestock and Crops interests.
- C. Terms of officers shall be two years, and two consecutive terms are allowed. After serving the maximum of four years, individuals may serve again after a one term absence.
- D. Election of officers shall be conducted at the first AG COALITION meeting after July 1, of odd numbered years.
- E. The Chair and Vice Chair may be reimbursed for expenses incurred on behalf of the AG COALITION, at the current state rate.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

- A. The Executive Board shall include the Chair and Vice Chair, and one member each from the three member classifications (Small Grains, Livestock, and Row Crops). The immediate Past Chair may serve on the Executive Board in an ex-officio capacity. To the extent possible, the Board should reflect geographic balance.
- B. Each member classification shall elect one representative to the Executive Board. Representatives shall serve three year terms, and two consecutive terms are allowed.

- C. The Executive Board shall elect one of its members as Secretary/Treasurer.
- D. No member of the Executive Board shall hold or seek partisan political office.
- E. The Executive Board is authorized to procure support services (secretarial or clerical) necessary to achieve the purposes of the AG COALITION.

ARTICLE V **OPERATIONS**

MEETINGS

- A. The AG COALITION must meet biennially, between July 1 and September 30 of odd numbered years for the purpose of electing officers, considering By-Law changes, and considering membership applications.
- B. Additionally, the AG COALITION shall meet at the call of the Chair.
- C. Notice of meetings shall be sent to each AG COALITION member, at least seven (7) days in advance.
- D. Roberts' Rules of Order shall be adopted as the method of conducting business meetings provided they are not contrary to AG COALITION By-Laws.
- E. One-third (1/3) of the general membership of the AG COALITION shall constitute a quorum.
- F. For motions relating to the normal business of the AG COALITION, a majority of the votes cast shall determine action.
- G. The By-Laws of the AG COALITION may be changed by providing all General Members a Resolution (in writing) at least 30 days prior to a regular or special meeting to consider the resolution. Two thirds of the General Members must vote in the affirmative to adopt a By-Law change. Members may vote on By-Law changes by letter signed by the organization's Chief Executive.

ACTION ON ISSUES

- A. Any member may introduce issues for consideration by the AG COALITION at a regularly scheduled, or special meeting, or in writing, at least seven (7) days in advance.
- B. An issue is placed on the policy action agenda upon receiving a majority of the votes cast by General Members at a regularly called, or special meeting.
- C. From the policy action agenda, an issue becomes AG COALITION policy upon receiving an affirmative vote by 75% of the General Members in attendance at that regularly called or special meeting.

North Dakota Ag Coalition

PROCEDURES of the NORTH DAKOTA AG COALITION, complementary and in addition to the bylaws:

SUBMISSION OF ACTION ITEMS

A. Submitting Proposals:

- a. Proposals on issues must be sponsored and introduced or presented by an AG COALITION member.
- b. Proposals should be submitted in writing, in resolution or motion form, to the Chief Executive at least seven (7) days prior to a regularly scheduled or special meeting.
- c. The proposal will be distributed to the AG COALITION membership prior to the meeting to allow for additional information gathering on the issue.
- d. The proposed issues will be placed on the next AG COALITION meeting agenda as a Proposed Action Item.

B. Process for Setting Policy:

- a. Upon receiving a majority of the votes by general members at the initial meeting, the Proposed Action Item will be placed on the agenda of the next scheduled AG COALITION meeting as a Policy Action Item.
- b. Policy Action Items will be voted on by ballots with columns labeled “yes,” “no” and “abstain.” An abstain vote counts as a no vote due to the required 75 percent affirmative vote. If a member is uncomfortable with this policy on an issue, it is suggested that a motion be made to table the proposal until further information can be gathered on the issue.
- c. If a proposal fails by at least 75 percent negative vote, a motion may be made and voted upon for the Coalition to take an opposing position on the issue.
- d. The Policy Action Item becomes AG COALITION policy upon receiving an affirmative vote by 75 percent of the general members in attendance at that regularly called or special meeting.

SBARE NOMINATIONS

A. Requirements for nominees:

- a. The individual must be nominated by a member organization of the AG COALITION.
- b. The nominee does not have to be a member of the AG COALITION or an active participant within a member organization.
- c. The nominee can be a producer or a non-producer.

B. Written Nomination requirements:

- a. Nominations are limited to one page and should provide the following information:
 - i. Details of the individual’s farming and/or ranching involvement
 - ii. Involvement with agriculture organizations and boards
 - iii. Description of why the nominee would be best suited to represent the producers of North Dakota on SBARE
- b. The nominee is strongly encouraged to attend the meeting and present his/her nomination.

C. Voting Procedure:

- a. The written nominations will be sent to each member organization for review prior to the meeting where voting will take place.
- b. Each general member receives one vote.
- c. Nominees will be chosen by majority vote of those AG COALITION members who are in attendance at the meeting.