

# CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I

### TITLE

SECTION 1. The society shall be known as the Fairfield County Agricultural Society

## ARTICLE II

### OBJECT

SECTION 1. The object of this Society shall be to promote and encourage agriculture, industry, science, art, and educational opportunities for the youth and adults of Fairfield County and to support other activities and interests of Fairfield County, which the board deems proper and in the best interest of the community. It is also the purpose of the Fairfield County Agricultural Society to serve and benefit the citizens of Fairfield County, the surrounding counties, and the State of Ohio, by planning, organizing, and operating the Fairfield County Fair, as well as carrying out the other purposes stated herein, all of which serve the vital industry of agriculture in Ohio.

## ARTICLE III

### MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Any resident of Fairfield County aged 19 years or older, may become a member of this Society by paying annually the membership fee fixed by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. No person shall pay for or secure more than one such membership and that membership shall be for himself. No membership shall be issued to corporations, organizations, partnerships, or firms.

SECTION 3. Annual memberships dated January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. Membership tickets will be on sale at the Administration Building on the Fairgrounds from the 1<sup>st</sup> of December of the previous year until 7:00 p.m. Sunday of the annual fair.

## ARTICLE IV

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors of the Fairfield County Agricultural Society shall consist of sixteen members; one director elected from each township in Fairfield County, (the city of Lancaster to have the same representation as a Township), two directors from the County at large. All candidates for members of the Board must be members of the Fairfield County Agricultural Society.

SECTION 2. The Directors shall be elected for a term of three years and so arranged that one-third of the members be elected each year.

## ARTICLE V

### ELECTION

SECTION 1. Members of Fairfield County Agriculture Society must declare candidacy for the office of director by filing with the Secretary of the society a petition signed by 10 or more members of the society at least 7 days before the annual election of Directors is to be held.

SECTION 2. The annual election of the Board of Directors shall be held in the place designated by the Secretary on the fairgrounds on the first Saturday in November of each year. The election will be a minimum of four hours at a time to be determined.

SECTION 3. The said election shall be by ballot.

SECTION 4. Only members of Fairfield County Agriculture Society whose memberships are valid may vote at the annual election.

SECTION 5. The term of office of the retiring Director shall expire and that of the Director-Elect shall begin when the Director-Elect is elected and sworn in at the annual meeting on the first Saturday in November.

#### **ARTICLE VI**

##### **ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION 1. The annual meeting of the members of the Society shall be held on the first Saturday of November each year at 10 a.m. in a site determined by the Secretary of the Society.

#### **ARTICLE VII**

##### **ORGANIZATION AND MEETINGS**

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors shall meet in regular session following the annual meeting on the first Saturday in November of each year and elect a President, Vice-President, second Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer who shall serve one year, as the Board may determine, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

SECTION 2. The President and Vice-Presidents shall be Directors. The Secretary and Treasurer may or may not be Directors.

SECTION 3. Before election of officers, the newly-elected Directors shall qualify by taking the oath or affirmation before a competent authority (designated by law).

“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of Ohio, laws of Ohio, and rules and regulations of the Department of Agriculture of Ohio pertaining to agricultural societies and, to the best of my ability, perform the duties of Director of the Fairfield County Agricultural Society.”

SECTION 4. The Executive Committee shall appoint the department heads and committees for the following year and announce them at the regular December Board meeting.

#### **ARTICLE VIII**

##### **AMENDMENTS**

SECTION 1. Amendment to the constitution and by-laws may be proposed by:

A. A majority of the Board of Directors at a scheduled meeting voting in favor of placing an amendment on the ballot, or

B. Filing a petition with the Secretary of Society at least 30 days to the annual meeting of the membership of the society. Said petition must set forth the proposed amendment and be signed by not less than 25 members.

SECTION 2. If an amendment is proposed, it shall be submitted to the membership of the Society at the annual meeting of the Society. Said amendment(s) shall be published in at least one newspaper of general circulation in Fairfield County, and or mailed to the membership, no less than 5 but not more than 10 Days before it is to be voted on.

SECTION 3. When more than one amendment shall be submitted at the same time, they shall be submitted as to enable the members to vote on each amendment separately.

SECTION 4. If the majority of the membership voting on the proposed amendment shall adopt such an amendment, it shall become part of the constitution or by-laws as intended.

**ARTICLE IX**  
COMPENSATION

SECTION 1. The Board, in accordance with the rules of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, shall fix the compensation of Board members.

**ARTICLE X**  
FAIR DATES AND DUTIES OF BOARD

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors shall fix the dates of the annual exposition of the Society, subject to the approval of the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

**ARTICLE XI**  
SEVERABILITY

SECTION 1. If any provision of this Constitution is found to be in violation of the laws of the State of Ohio or the rules of the Ohio State Department of Agriculture pertaining to the operation of county agricultural societies, then such provisions shall not be deemed valid, but all other provisions shall continue in full force and effect.