

# **By-Laws of the Hillsdale County Farmers Market Association**

## **I) Hillsdale County Farmers Market**

A) The name of the market is Hillsdale County Farmers Market Association.

## **II) Purpose of the Hillsdale County Farmers Market Association**

A) To provide area farmers with alternative marketing opportunities through a retail marketplace as well as to encourage agriculture entrepreneurship in the region.

B) To provide consumers with fresh, locally grown or locally produced products in a convenient location.

## **III) Meetings**

A) The general membership shall meet from January through April.

B) The date, time, and place for meetings shall be set by the market officers as issues warrant.

C) The required annual meeting for the election of officers will take place at the February meeting. Officer nominations will be taken at the January meeting.

D) Special meetings, if necessary. Can be requested through an officer and held on Saturdays through the Market season, after the market closes for the day if needed. and in accordance with Section VII C of the by-laws.

## **IV) Membership**

A) Membership is open to those actively engaged in the production of accepted products, whether on a full-time or part-time basis; is a resident of Hillsdale County or a Michigan county immediately adjacent to Hillsdale County and is in good standing.

B) A member in good standing is a member who has shown commitment to the Association by having participated in a minimum of three (3) market days or three (3) Association meetings within the last 12 months, and have had their attendance recorded. Attendance requirements will carry over from the previous season.

C) A member in good standing is one who follows the Hillsdale Farmers Market Association Vendor Rules and Regulations.

D) Membership entitles the vendor to be eligible for a position as an officer of the association as well as the ability to cast one vote.

E) A member who does not comply with these by-laws and/or the market rules, after being given warning, will be denied vending privileges.

F) Non-profit organizations shall not be accepted as members or guests of the Hillsdale County Farmers Market Association.

## **V) Voting**

A) Each farm or business is entitled to one vote

B) A vote may be taken at any Farmers Market meeting or Market Day.

C) A fourteen (14) day notice of the final vote will be given to members via e-mail, phone, or US mail.

D) The term "quorum" shall be defined as 25% of the eligible members.

E) Votes must have a 2/3rds majority of voting members present to pass.

F) Members may vote in person or via e-mail. E-mail votes must be submitted to the President 48 hours prior to the meeting where the votes will be counted.

## **VI) Officers of the Association**

A) The officers of the association will consist of a President, Vice-President, and Secretary, nominated/elected by the Hillsdale County Farmers Market Association members.

B) The officers of the association will be elected at the February membership meeting with a one (1) year term beginning after the election. Fourteen (14) days advance notice of the election of officers will be made to the Hillsdale County Farmers Market Association through e-mail, phone, or US mail.

C) The duties of the officers of the Association shall be:

1. President: Schedules and Chairs the meetings; serves as a contact for outside groups; appoints committees as or when required; and conducts votes.

2. Vice-President: Serves in the President's absence; assists the President in his/her duties as directed by the President.

3. Secretary: Maintains correspondence, updated by-laws and Rules & Regulations, lists of members, member attendance records, applications, and minutes of meetings.

D) Only one individual from a farm/business may serve as an officer.

E) In the event an officer cannot serve their term, the President will appoint a member to temporarily fill the position until the general membership can elect a new officer to fill the position. In the case of the President not being able to complete his/her term, the Vice-President will assume the position for the remainder of the term and appoint a temporary Vice-President until an election can be held.

## **VII) Records**

A. The Hillsdale County Farmers Market vendor mailing (both e-mail and postal service addresses) list will be used for the sole purpose of communication between vendors and leadership.

B. The mailing list will not be given or sold to any other individual, group, organization, or company.

C. Addresses may be used for Hillsdale County Farmers Market marketing purposes, ONLY with the express permission of the individual vendors.

## **VIII) Voting Issues**

A) Nominations for the officers of the association will be taken from the membership during the January meeting.

B) Voting for the officers of the association shall take place at the February meeting.

C) Fourteen (14) days advance notice of the officer elections and general/special meetings shall be made to members through e-mail, phone, or US mail.

## **IX) Amendment Policy**

A) These by-laws shall be reviewed every two years or when deemed necessary by the membership. Requests for change/addition by a member will be submitted to the Association via the Association Officers who will call a By-Laws Committee meeting for discussion and submission for membership vote. A fourteen (14) day notice of the final vote will be

given to members via e-mail, phone, or US mail.

B) By-laws may be amended by a 2/3rds vote of voting members present at the next Market Meeting following such notification.

**X) Termination of the Hillsdale County Farmers Market Association**

A) The Hillsdale Farmers Market Association will be intact as long as three (3) producer members remain active and in good standing.