

Missouri State Rabbit Producers Association, Inc.

Constitution

Article I

Name

This Association shall be known as the Missouri State Rabbit Producers Association, Incorporated, a duly chartered State Association of the American Rabbit Breeders Association.

Article II

Object

Section 1: The purpose of this Association shall be, to promote, encourage, and develop the rabbit industry. To promote public acceptance of domestic rabbit meat, to promote interest of breeders and to establish a well-organized central body with duty on this object.

Section 2: To provide a center of information and advice on all matters pertaining to the above industry and to help create a market for rabbit meat, laboratory, fur, wool and pure bred stock.

Section 3: To promote the welfare of each other and to advance and protect the industry of this organization. To further develop of the rabbit industry within the state. To endeavor to get legislative and financial assistance from the state in holding shows and exhibitions, also to lead, guide, and instruct the youth membership of this Association.

Article III

Membership

Section 1. Composition. There shall be one type of membership in the State Association: Corporate, these being comprised of both youth and adult.

Section 2. A designation. Corporate member is one that joins a state approved local club and all dues to be paid directly to the local club secretary.

Section 3. Any Club interested in the rabbit industry, chartered in the state and being affiliated with the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. may upon payments of dues for one year, become a member of this Association, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Any Club in doubt shall be voted upon by secret ballot. Any club receiving two or more negative ballots shall be rejected.

Section 5. Any club or person accepting and holding membership in the State Association shall assume all obligation of membership in the State Association as well as being entitled to all benefits of the same.

Section 6. Membership-at-large: There will not be a membership-at-large. Any new member will be asked to join a local club or specialty club affiliated with the Missouri State Rabbit Producers Association, Inc.

Section 7. Membership shall be acknowledged by the issuance of a Club membership card. Cards may be mailed to the secretary of each affiliated club for distribution.

Article IV
Discipline

Section 1. The Interpretations of the Board of Directors of the Constitution and By-laws, rules, regulations, notices, resolution and all documents and orders shall be binding on all members and all those enjoying the privileges of this Association.

Section 2. The Board of Directors may suspend or expel any member of this association for conduct, which in its judgment warrants such action. Suspension of any member however will not warrant refund of any dues for membership.

Section 3. Any member must file complaints and grievance in writing with the secretary. There upon the President shall instruct the Board of Directors to consider and pass upon each complaint or grievance: where upon the decision of the Board of Directors shall be binding, except and until appeal has been made to the entire membership and the decision of Board of Directors may be reversed only by two-thirds (2/3) of all members.

Article V
Members

Section 1. This Association shall hold meetings at such times and places as may be designated in the By-Laws by notifying all officers and directors thirty days before meeting date.

Article VI
Business Office

Section 1. The business office of the Incorporated Charter held by the Missouri State Rabbit Producers Association, Inc. to be located at the address of the Secretary.

Article VII
Officers

Section 1. The elective offices of this Association shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected by paid adult members of MSRPA.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall consist of one Director from each local association. The members of the local association of which he is a member will elect these Directors.

Section 4. The elected officers of the association shall serve two (2) years or until their successors are elected and qualified. President and Treasurer elected on odd years, and Vice President and Secretary on even years. They shall enter upon discharge of their duties following their election at the annual meeting upon the completion of old business

Article VIII
Election

Section 1. Any member in good standing of the Missouri State Rabbit Producers Association, Inc. wishing to become a candidate for any office of the Missouri State Rabbit Producers Association, Inc. Shall write the secretary for a nominating petition, which the secretary shall supply him. The request shall reach the secretary no later than April 1st of each year. The nominating petition would carry the

signatures of twelve (12) members affiliated with and in good standing of this Association. When this petition is filed before May 1st, the Secretary shall place the candidates name on ballot. These ballots shall contain a watermark and be mailed out by June 1st with a returned and postmarked date of no later than June 30th to the election committee. After the final count is in, the election committee shall notify the Secretary of the results, and the highest for each office shall be considered elected.

Section 2. Self-addressed envelopes shall accompany each ballot. These shall be addressed to the chairman of the election committee. The committee shall count the votes, and send certified copy of results to the Secretary and President. After ballots are counted they shall be sealed and forward to the Secretary and be retained for one (1) year in case there is a demand for recount.

Section 3. Any candidate defeated for any office in this association requesting a recount of ballots shall make application with the Secretary within sixty (60) days after the election. The Secretary shall require a deposit of sufficient funds to defray the cost of the recount. The amount of funds shall be fixed and approved by Board of Directors. The contestee shall pick one member, the Board of Director, shall pick a second and the third shall be chosen by the first two members of this committee. Youth members are ineligible. All three members of this committee must be in good standing of the Missouri State Rabbit Producers Association, Inc. The committee shall be final. In case the contestee is declared elected by this committee, his or her deposit shall be returned to him.

Section 4. Whenever a vacancy occurs from any cause whatsoever, before the end of term of office or any office, other than an officer specifically elected to the Board of Directors, that office will be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors for the balance of the term remaining. Vacancies occurring of officers specifically elected as director shall be filled by appointment by majority vote of the local association which elected the vacated directorship.

Section 5. No member shall be allowed to hold office in the Missouri State Rabbit Producers Association, Inc. who is not a member of the Missouri State Rabbit Producers Association, Inc. and the American Rabbit Breeders Association or resides outside the boundaries of the State of Missouri.

Article IX

Voting Procedures

Section 1. The voting procedure for affiliated clubs or associations for a candidate seeking the office of President, Vice-President, Secretary Treasurer, shall be elected by each paid adult members of MSRPA. Youth clubs are not included.

Section 2. All affiliated clubs or associations in good standing with the Missouri State Rabbit Producers Association, Inc. may send one delegate to represent them at meetings. He shall be allowed one (1) vote.

Article X

Duties of Officers

Section 1. The president shall preside over all meetings of this Association, act as Chairman of the Board of Directors with full power and prerogatives, appoint all committees and call special meetings of the Association or of the Board of Directors, in accordance with the Constitution and By Laws and perform any such duties usually pertaining to this office. He shall have such other powers as may be conferred upon him by the Board of Directors at any meeting of the Board. He shall be a member of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Vice-President The duties of the Vice-President shall be the same as those of the President in case of his absence or disability. He also shall be a member of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. The secretary shall devote sufficient time and attention to his duties of his office and such other duties as the President and Board of Directors may direct. He shall conduct general correspondence; send out all notices of meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors. Keep on file all letters received, together with a copy of all letters sent out. He shall collect and keep account of all money due the Association. He shall render reports to the Treasurer at the end of each month and turn all money due the Association from the month's receipts. He shall be custodian of all properties of the Association. He shall keep proper record of all memberships, issue membership cards, order and print all forms needed in the work of the same and secure all printed matter for the conduct of his office with the approval of the Board of Directors and also an annual report at the end of the year. He shall be a member of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Treasurer: Keep account of all money turned over to him by the Secretary, and keep proper records of all payouts for the Association. Make prompt report at each State Meeting on money taken in and money taken out and total balance on hand to date. He is also a member of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Board of Directors: The Board of Directors shall have charge of various business transactions and authorize the expenditures of money by and for the Association, pass on all legislation matters found desirable and not conflicting with or provided for with this instrument. They shall have the power to make contract in the name of the Association, when such is need of for the promotion of special departments as hereafter be provided for. It shall appoint an auditing committee and see that the Secretary and Treasures books are audited for the fiscal year or upon retirement of said office, or at any time as may be required.

Article XI Alterations, Amendments, Resolutions

Section 1. Any alteration of, or amendment to the Constitution shall be made by a resolution, in writing, signed by twenty five (25) or more members in good standing of this Association and delivered to the Secretary, who will then forward it to the Chairman of the Constitution & By-Laws Committee and the Board of Directors for review. The Chairman and the Board may make recommendations, but the resolutions will be accepted or rejected by the vote of the membership. All resolutions must be confined to one subject. In case where a resolution or resolutions are adopted such resolutions shall take effect January 1st of the following year.

Section 2. All resolutions shall be printed in the Missouri State Rabbit Producers at least one issue prior to being voted upon with the pros and cons listed.

Section 3. A ballot that contains a watermark returnable to the Election Committee Chair, with the name and address of the Chair shall be mailed within fourteen (14) days of the mailing of the newsletter in which the proposed changes are in. The ballot shall include a return postmark date not more than twenty one (21) days from the mailing of the ballots. The Constitution may be amended by an affirmative two-thirds (2/3) vote of all adult members casting ballots.

By-Laws
Article I
Membership

Section 1: Local clubs or Associations in the State of Missouri may secure affiliations with the Missouri State Rabbit Producers Associations, Inc. upon payment of \$5.00 per member, said fee to accompany application. Youth are included. Amended 02/12/1995

Section 2: All club membership dues and a new list of officers and members are due January first of each year. List should include member's correct address and phone number, breeds of rabbits and their ARBA numbers and renew all dues for one year.

Section 3: If membership and dues are not in by January first the State Secretary shall make notice to said clubs that their membership expiration date is elapsed, and if not rejoined by February First the club will be dropped from the State Association. Failure to pay the dues within sixty (60) of Jan 1 of each year shall result in the club being dropped from the Missouri State Rabbit Producers Association.

Section 4: Once a club is dropped, the said club to rejoin the State will have to apply as directed by Constitution.

Section 5. Any new members joining at any time will pay state dues of \$5.00, if he wants to be a state member. There will be no prorating.

Article II
Special Committees

Section 1: The President shall appoint the following committees with the approval of the Board of Directors.

- A. Youth Division which will oversee and guide the Youth Membership of the Missouri State Rabbit Producers Association, Inc. The youth committee shall be made up of a chairman and four (4) members of the committee.
- B. Ways and Means Committee will consist of not less than three (3) members
- C. The Show Committee will consist of not less than five (5) members
- D. Commercial Breeders Committee will consist of not less than three (3) members
- E. Constitution Committee will consist of not less than four (4) members
- F. Resolutions Committee will consist of not less than three (3) members
- G. Youth and Ag Committee will consist of not less than (6) members
- H. Audit Committee will consist of not less than (3) members

Section 2: Any member in good standing is eligible to be appointed on the Committee.

Article III
Meetings

Section 1: The Annual Meeting of this organization shall be each year at the Missouri State Rabbit Producers Association, Inc. Convention Show. All other state meetings to be held after giving all officers a thirty day notice of date and place of meeting.

Section 2. At all meetings two-thirds (2/3) of total number of officers shall constitute a quorum. If no quorum is present, the presiding officer shall adjourn the meeting to a day and hour recommended by the majority of members present.

Section 3: Voting by proxy for others not in attendance shall not be allowed.

Section 4: At all meeting the President shall preside and the Secretary shall act as secretary. In absence of the President, the Vice-president shall reside. In absence of both, the members present shall elect by majority vote a presiding officer. In absence of the Secretary the presiding officer shall appoint a secretary for the meeting.

Section 5: At all meetings of this Association, except when otherwise determined by a majority vote of those present the order of business shall be as follows:

1. Meeting called to order
2. Roll Call
3. Recognition of Visitors
4. Reading and Correction of the minutes of the last meeting
5. Report of Committees
6. Officer reports
7. Reading of communication and bills
8. New Members
9. Old business
10. New business
11. Discussions
12. Adjournment

Article IV

State approved Shows

Section 1: Any Local Rabbit or Specialty club chartered with the Missouri State Rabbit Producers Association, Inc. may be given a Missouri Sanction upon application to the State Secretary and by consent of the State Secretary, however a denial by said secretary may be appealed to the Board of Directors and their majority decision shall be final.

- A. Fair Associations held within the State of Missouri are not chartered by Missouri State Rabbit Producers Association, Inc., however may apply for a sanction. 02/13/2000
- B. A Missouri State Rabbit Producers Association, Inc. entitles the Chartered Club to Liability Insurance paid for by the State Association. Amended 02/08/1998
- C. There shall not be two sanctions issued for the same day unless in the same location. Amended 03/10/1996

Section 2: Clubs holding official State approved shows (open and youth) agree to the following conditions.

- A. The show shall be governed strictly in accordance with the official show rules of the American Rabbit Breeders Association.
- B. The application must be made thirty (30) days prior to the show
- C. Any club holding a sanctioned show in conjunctions with another Missouri State sanctioned show must be sanctioned with the Missouri State Rabbit Producers Association, Inc. in order to have liability coverage. Amended 02/08/1998
- D. The Local Club agrees to print the following in their show catalog.

- Missouri State approved Show: The MSRPA (Secretary Name) Secretary address: Display points to count toward annual State of Missouri Best Display Trophy. Amended March 1996
- E. The Sanction Fee of \$10.00 will be paid for each open and youth. Said fee to be used for the purchase of the Annual Best Display Trophies as provided for in this instrument.

Amended February 1995

- F. A copy of the catalog or tear sheet to be mailed to the State Secretary.
- G. Each local club and specialty club shall submit \$.10 per entry, Youth and open excluding fur. If this is not paid no sanction will be issued the next year.
- H. The following three shows shall be exempt from paying the sanction fee and \$.10 a head. Missouri Youth Ag, Missouri State Picnic, Missouri State Fair, and Missouri State Convention.

February 2012

- I. One trophy will be provided for the Open and Youth division for "Grand Champion Rabbit of Missouri" award. The one rabbit accumulating the most points at the end of the show season is the Grand Champion of Missouri. Grand Champion points to be awarded as follows BIS 25 and BOB 10 points, provided there are 5 or more in the breed, effective Sweepstakes year 2009.

Amended 02/08/2009

- J. The above mentioned Sweepstakes and Grand Champion Rabbit of Missouri trophies apply to the Youth division also. Out of State members showing in Missouri sanctioned shows are included in the Grand Champion of Missouri.
- K. It is suggested all rabbits shown in shows held in conjunction with the Missouri State Convention show should be shown in the State Convention Show.

June 1993

Section 3: The Youth and Ag committee of Missouri State Rabbit Producers will hold an annual show with all proceeds of the show being given to the Sale of Champions at the Missouri State Fair. Missouri State Rabbit Producers will provide the Missouri State sanction; all other sanctions will be donated by exhibitors.

05/2008

Article V

Annual State Show

Section 1: The annual State Show and Convention of the MSRPA shall be held following the ARBA Convention and before January 1st of the following year. It shall be held within the boundaries of the state of Missouri and the MSRPA shall sponsor it.

Article VI

Best Display Trophy

Section 1: The annual display trophies shall be awarded to the top ten (10) overall for open and youth. These will be awarded to the persons having the highest accumulation of display points at the state approved shows. Said points shall be accumulated from November 1st thru October 31st. The ARBA points system will be used to calculate sweepstakes points. There will be a first place Meat Pen awarded in both Open and Youth division.

October 08, 1997 (sweepstakes placing amended February 14, 1993)

Section 2: It shall be the duty of the Secretary to produce these trophies for the presentation at the Annual State Show.

Section 3: A royalty contest will be held annually for all Missouri State Rabbit Producers youth members residing within the state of Missouri. The categories for the royalty are King, Queen, Duke, Duchess, Prince, Princess, Lord and Lady. The ARBA age guidelines will be used for Missouri Youth Royalty. The

Chairman of the youth committee will announce the time and place of royalty testing. Only youth members residing in the boundaries of the State of Missouri are eligible. February 14, 1993

Section 4: All youth may participate in all youth contests with the exception of the State Royalty Contest. Amended February 14, 1999

Article VII Newsletter

Section 1: The newsletter will be published four (4) times per year

Section 2: All members of the State Club will receive a newsletter with the exception of families with more than one member.

Section 3: Ad rates will be determined by the Board of Directors.

Article IX Insufficient funds

Section 1: Missouri State Rabbit Producers Association, Inc. will charge a \$20.00 fee for a check returned for nonsufficient funds Amended 10/25/1982

Article X Duties of the Board and Committees

Section 1: Each Committee Chairman shall be responsible for submitting a General Operating procedure to the Board for approval. These shall be approved at the June meeting in 2012 and at the Spring State meeting forward to be included in the Yearbook. 02/14/2012

Section: Compensation: Yearly compensation for the Secretary shall be set by the board yearly. 02/11/2001, Added News editor and Treasurer 02/11/2004

MSRPA Youth and Ag Committee Guidelines (not a part of the C&BL)

MSRPA Youth and Ag Committee will determine the amount of money to be given to the “Missouri State Fair Youth and Ag Committee” and MSRPA Home Town support.

Section 5: To qualify for the Missouri State Rabbit Producers Association, Inc. Meat Pen award money, the exhibitors must meet all three of the following guidelines. 02/14/2012

- A. The exhibitor must enter and show rabbits in 5 MSRPA sanctioned all breed shows between September 1, of the year before the Missouri State Fair thru July 31st of the year of the Missouri State Fair. The youth should provide copies of their show reports to the MSRPA Youth and Ag committee to verify this requirement.
- B. If the exhibitor exhibits in double shows which consists of Open A and Open B, Youth A and Youth B, the exhibitor will be allowed credit for 2 show if they enter both Show A and Show B. They cannot get credit for 3 or 4 Shows by entering both open and youth. To get credit they must enter open or youth for Show A and open or youth for Show B.
- C. The exhibitors can enter MSRPA all breed shows as a group such as John, Bill and Cindy Jones, (provided this is how they regularly enter MSRPA sanctioned shows). This will qualify them so show individual meat pens at the Missouri State Fair 4-H/FFA Meat Pen show. The exhibitor cannot enter MSRPA sanctioned show the same day as a group and individual and receive credit for more than one show as outlined in section 5B.
- D. The MSRPA Youth and Ag committee shall be responsible for the interpretation of these guidelines and their determination shall be final.
- E. MSRPA Youth and Ag Committee will award money to the top 4 exhibitors in the Missouri State Fair 4-H/FFA Meat pen show that have met all 3 of the MSRPA qualifications.
 - a. 40% of the total Home Town Support to the top placing MSRPA member meeting the “MSRPA Guidelines.”
 - b. 30% of the total Home Town Support to the top placing MSRPA member meeting the “MSRPA Guidelines.”
 - c. 20% of the total Home Town Support to the top placing MSRPA member meeting the “MSRPA Guidelines.”
 - d. 10% of the total Home Town Support to the top placing MSRPA member meeting the “MSRPA Guidelines.”
 - e. If the top placing MSRPA member that meets the “MSRPA Guidelines” is in the Missouri State Fair of Champions, the amount awarded by the MSRPA Youth and Ag Committee will be given as Home Town Support for the sale. If the Second highest placing MSRPA member that meets the “MSRPA Guidelines” is in the Sale of Champions, the amount awarded by the MSRPA Youth and Ag committee will be as given as Home Town Support for the sale.