Minnesota Dairy Goat Association Constitution and Bylaws

The Constitution of the Minnesota Dairy Goat Association, Inc. as approved and amended September 1974, May 1976, July 1981, August 1983, March 1984, November 1994, January 1995, January 1997, April 2000, November 2003, June 2006, May 2010, May 2016, June 2019, June 2024, May 2025, and May 2026.

ARTICLE I. Name and Location

Section 1: This Corporation shall be the Minnesota Dairy Goat Association, Inc., a non-profit Corporation incorporated in the State of Minnesota, hereafter known as the Corporation.

Section 2: The office of this Corporation shall be located at the home of the current Secretary on the official website.

ARTICLE II. Purpose and Objectives

Section 1: The purpose of this Corporation shall be to promote and develop every phase of the dairy goat industry, including but not limited to breeding programs, the proper public recognition of products related to dairy goats, aiding goat showing at fairs, and aiding 4-H programs relating to dairy goats. In addition, we foster relationships with industry, governmental agencies, and higher education.

ARTICLE III. Membership

Section 1: Definition of member: “Member” means an entity, either Corporation or natural, or family within the same household under the age of 21, having membership rights in this Corporation in accordance with its articles, Bylaws, or both.

Section 2: Qualification for membership: Membership in this Corporation shall be open to all persons interested in and supportive of the aims and purposes of the Corporation and who shall pay the annual dues as hereinafter provided. There shall be no limit on the number of members.

Section 3: One class of membership: There shall be only one class of membership in the Corporation, and each holder of a membership certificate shall be a member of this class.

Section 4: Rights and privileges of membership:

A. Property rights: No member shall have the right to acquire, own, or hold in their name any of the property, real or personal, held or acquired by the Corporation.

B. Voting rights: Each member in good standing shall have the right to vote on any action that requires voting by the member of the Corporation under the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, or statutes. Each membership certificate shall be entitled to one vote.

C. Use of facilities: Each member in good standing shall have the right and privilege of using, in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Board of Directors, the facilities and services offered by the Corporation to its members.

Section 5: Membership year; dues; non-payment of dues; membership cancellation.

A. Each member of the Corporation shall pay the Corporation’s annual dues. The amount of which shall be established by the Board of Directors.

B. Membership shall be in effect from January 1 to December 31.

1. Dues paid on or after November 1 shall be effective for the following membership year commencing on January 1 following the payment date.

2. If dues are not paid by January 31 for the year dues are payable, membership in this Corporation shall be canceled.

3. Upon payment of dues by any member whose membership has been canceled, according to Article III, Section 6, Sub-division B (3), said membership shall be reinstated for the current year.

4. When any member shall be in default in the payment of dues, said member, for voting, will be considered a member not in good standing and shall not be entitled to vote on any matter required to be voted on by the members of the Corporation. In addition, such members shall be dropped from effective membership and placed on the inactive list. Such membership shall only be reinstated once they have paid said dues in full. Until such membership is reinstated, they shall have no rights arising from a membership in the Corporation.

Section 7: Termination of membership: Other than provided in Sections 2 and 6 above, membership in the Corporation may be voluntarily terminated at any time by any member upon surrender of the membership upon surrender of the membership certificate, accompanied by written notice of such intent to terminate.

ARTICLE IV: Officers and Directors

Section 1: A Board of nine (9) Directors, which shall elect three (3) officers of the Corporation from among themselves by a majority vote, together with an officer representative of each chapter to be a non-voting member of the Board, shall manage the business of the Corporation.

Section 2: A quorum for all meetings of the Board of Directors shall be five (5) members of the Board.

Section 3: The officers shall be the President, Vice-President, and Secretary.

ARTICLE V: Election and Terms of Office

Section 1: All officers shall serve for one (1) year until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Officers shall take office at the start of the next Board of Directors meeting following their election.

Section 2: Term of office of the directors shall be for three (3) years, provided that three (3) directors shall be elected annually.

Section 3: The Board of Directors shall appoint a nominating committee to submit a slate of candidates for all open offices at the next succeeding election. The nominating committee shall submit its slate of candidates to the Board of Directors at the annual State Fair meeting. In addition, nominations may be accepted from the floor or as write-ins when voting. If lacking candidates, the nominating may seek additional candidates until November 1. The nomination committee shall consist of three (3) non-officer members of the Board of Directors and two (2) members at large. No members of the nominating committee shall be nominated.

Section 4: The general membership shall elect three (3) directors annually, as Article V, Section 2 provides. Each member may cast three (3) votes but not use more than one (1) vote for any one

candidate. The three (3) candidates receiving the most votes shall be elected directors. The board will cast lots for all tie votes for directors.

Section 5: Voting may be by mail (U.S. postal service and electronically).

Section 6: If any officer or director misses three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board, such member may be dropped from the Board by a majority vote of the remaining Board members. If the office of any officer or director becomes vacant because of the dropping of such officer or director for absenteeism or any other reason, the remaining directors shall, by majority vote, elect a successor who holds office for the unexpired term in respect of which vacancy occurred.

Section 7: There shall be only one (1) officer or directorship held per family, partnership, or corporation at any one time, subject to the requirements stated in Article IV, Section 1.

Section 8: Directors of the Corporation may serve only two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms.

Section 9: All candidates for the Board must be members in good-standing prior to being included on the ballot.

ARTICLE VI. Meetings

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall hold meetings at the time and place as may be determined by the Board. Board meetings may include conference calls, group emails, and electronic messaging.

Section 2: The general membership shall hold an annual meeting for the transaction Corporation business. The Board of Directors will determine the time and location and give at least four (4) weeks' published notice of such meeting.

ARTICLE VII. Duties of Officers, Directors, and Treasurer

Section 1: The officers, directors, Treasurer, and editor shall manage the Corporation's business and affairs. In addition, the officers shall have such authority and perform such duties as hereinafter set forth.

A. President: The President shall be the Corporation’s chief executive officer. The President shall preside at all meetings of the members and directors. The President shall have general active management of the business of the Corporation and carry into effect orders and resolutions of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall assist the President in this respect.

B. Vice-President: The Vice-President, in the absence or disability of the President, shall perform the duties and exercise the powers of the President and shall perform such other duties as the Board of Directors shall prescribe.

C. Secretary: The Secretary shall attend all sessions of the Board of Directors and all meetings of the members and shall record all votes and minutes of all proceedings. The President shall appoint a temporary Secretary in the absence or disability of the Secretary.

D. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board (the Treasurer may be a Board member). The Treasurer shall have custody of the funds and securities and shall keep a complete and accurate record of the receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Corporation and shall deposit all monies and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Corporation in such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the Corporation as may be ordered by the Board, taking the proper vouchers for such disbursements and shall render to the

President and Board of Directors at the regular meetings of the Board, or whenever they may require, an account of all of the transactions and Treasurer and the financial condition of the Corporation. If the Board of Directors shall require it, the Treasurer shall give the Corporation a bond in such amount as the Board may determine and with one or more sureties satisfactory to the Board, for the faithful performance of the duties of the office and the restoration or retirement or removal from office, of all books, papers, vouchers, money, and control, belonging to the Corporation. The Corporation shall pay any bonding required. The Board of Directors shall name a three (3) person committee or an independent third party for an annual audit and report at the second Board meeting after the end of the fiscal year.

ARTICLE VIII. Committees

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall form ad hoc committees as necessary.

ARTICLE IX. Compensation of Officers and Directors.

Section 1: All officers and directors of this Corporation shall serve without compensation. Nothing herein shall be construed to preclude an officer or director from serving the Corporation in any other capacity and receiving compensation.

ARTICLE X. Amendments.

Section 1: The Board may amend or add to the constitution following a two-thirds majority vote of members at any general membership or special membership meeting)

Section 2: The MDGA website will post the most current Bylaws.

ARTICLE XI. Previous Obligations.

Section 1: This Corporation will not be responsible for the obligation of the previous organization of the same name.

ARTICLE XII. Effective Date.

Section 1: The preceding Articles shall be effective upon their adoption by a two-thirds majority of the Minnesota Dairy Goat Association members.

ARTICLE XIII. Newsletter.

Section 1: The Corporation may choose to publish the Gopher Goat Gossip newsletter or temporarily suspend publication in the absence of an editor.

Section 2: If published, the Board will appoint an editor responsible for publishing the Gopher Goat Gossip.

Section 3: The editor will serve as long as the Board of Directors shall deem.

BYLAWS OF THE MINNESOTA DAIRY GOAT ASSOCIATION (MDGA)

A simple majority vote of the Board of Directors determines these policies and guidelines. The Board solicits suggested changes or additions to these guidelines from the general membership of the MDGA, recommendations to be in writing.

I. MEMBERSHIP

II. GENERAL POLICIES

A. The MDGA Board may appoint volunteer positions, such as Historian, Show Coordinator, National Show Chairperson, Futurity Chairperson, 4-H liaison, Artificial Insemination (AI) Committee Chair, Veterinarian Consultant, Product Promotion Chair, Membership Chairperson, Dairy Herd Information Association (DHIA) Coordinator, Policy/Guidelines Coordinator, GGG Editor, Dairy Goat Conference Coordinator, Youth Coordinator/Advisor, Milk Standards Chairperson, Advisor University of Minnesota Veterinary.

B. The MDGA Board may appoint the following committees: ethics (ad hoc appointed by MDGA President), nominating.

C. The MDGA may offer various products, publications, or other items for sale through the appropriate chairperson.

D. The MDGA guidelines for trade practices, arbitration, DHIR testing, show rules, registration/recordation practices, breed standards, and other matters should be the same as those published in the latest American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA) Guidebook. Exempt would be its Bylaws.

III. GOPHER GOAT GOSSIP

A. If published, a GGG subscription is included with membership dues paid as implied by MDGA Bylaws as a privilege of membership.

B. Advertising is accepted for registered bucks only.

C. Advertising shall not use a 305-day Mature Equivalent.

D. Ads in the GGG shall be limited to goats, goat products, and homesteading. GGG editor will have discretionary power, with the MDGA Board having the final power to accept or reject an ad.

E. The MDGA Board of Directors shall create an advisory committee to evaluate and develop improvement recommendations. The editor shall serve as chairperson.

F. The GGG Editor shall be responsible for the supervising of payments for advertising and its corresponding ads.

IV. CHAPTERS

A. MDGA members group in chapters, clubs, producer associations, groups with geographic interests, and other contingencies. These groups maintain, support, and have loyalty to the MDGA, as does the MDGA to the chapters.

V. SHOWS

A. The MDGA encourages others in Minnesota to hold shows, preferably ADGA-sanctioned.

B. The Show Committee will coordinate shows in Minnesota, date conflicts, essential show planning, encourage county fair shows, and answer sanction questions.

VI. BUCK DIRECTORY

A. Buck directory listing is limited to members only.

VII. DAIRY HERD IMPROVEMENT REGISTRY (DHIR) TESTING

A. DHIR records of MDGA herds may be published periodically. The owner will select the animals.

VIII. 4-H

A. The MDGA supports the University of Minnesota Extension Service 4-H Dairy Goat Project. Suggested policies include:

1. Assist in reviewing and updating the project manual.

2. Provide resource people in each county.

3. Maintain a 4-H Advisory Committee.

4. Encourage members to provide beginning 4-H dairy goat youth with quality animals at reduced prices or other arrangements.

IX. HISTORIAN

A. The Historian shall solicit and preserve news articles and items of historical interest of preservation from members and friends of the Corporation.

X. PRODUCT PROMOTION

A. The Coordinator shall assess the status of marketing in Minnesota and adjacent states.

B. The Coordinator shall Act as a central contact for persons with recommendations and expectations concerning the marketing and sale of MDGA items.

C. The Coordinator may periodically report findings.

XI. FUTURITY CHAIRPERSON

A. The directors of MDGA shall appoint a Futurity Chairperson.

B. The Futurity Chairperson shall serve for as long as the directors or the chairperson desire.

C. The Futurity Chairperson shall run and promote the futurity and collect the futurity fees.

D. Futurity monies are specifically accounted for within the MDGA account.

E. The Futurity Chairperson shall provide an annual financial statement to the Board.

XII. YOUTH ADVISOR

A. The President or Directors of the MDGA shall appoint a Youth Advisor.

B. This is an adult position that oversees Outstanding Youth activities.

C. The Youth Advisor:

1. Reports directly to the Board of Directors all activities concerning youth and helps present youth viewpoints concerning projects.

2. Oversees the Outstanding Youth selection by updating forms and sending forms to the webmaster for publication and selects a committee to review applications and interview applicants. Reviews applicants and presents information to the MDGA Board for action.

3. Works with Outstanding Youth to promote goats through the promotional booth at the State Fair.

4. Coordinates with the MDGA Dairy Goat conference committee concerning youth programs and events and helps during the conference.

XIII. MDGA OUTSTANDING YOUTH

A. A dairy goat club, farm, business organization, or family must sponsor the contestant.

B. A sponsorship fee of $10.00 shall accompany the application. Applications are due to the Youth Advisor as designated on the application form.

C. The contestant must reside in the State of Minnesota. The only exception will be those applicants who live outside the state for the sole purpose of being a full-time student.

D. The contestant must be from 16-21 years of age as of January 1 of the year they will serve.

E. The contestant or contestant's parent must be a Minnesota Dairy Goat Association member.

F. The contestant must be knowledgeable about dairy goats and be able to milk a goat.

G. A written application is required and sent to the Youth Advisor, and a selection committee will conduct an oral interview to determine a winner.

H. The MDGA Board agrees to underwrite the mileage one-way from home to any association-sponsored function the Outstanding Youth must attend. This will be paid at the national volunteer rate.

I. The Board will announce the winner at the state fair awards ceremony.

J. The selected Outstanding Youth will receive one white show shirt and one colored shirt for other events.

K. The Board will award a $500 scholarship toward attendance at that year’s ADGA Annual Convention, ADGA National show youth participation or for immediate post-secondary schooling with submission of documentation of completion of their first year. The recipient shall use the award within two years of high school graduation or it will be forfeited. The Board will consider extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

L. Should the Outstanding Youth fail to complete the required duties of the role, including but not limited to attendance at the state show, state fair awards ceremony, and any MDGA-hosted or sponsored educational conferences, the award will be forfeited by the youth winner. If extenuating circumstances prevent attendance

at one of these events, the Outstanding Youth may submit a written request of excusal, including reason, to the board for special consideration.

M. Outstanding youth are required to submit their expense report after the fall conference. Once approved by the board the stipend check will be mailed to the recipient including the $500 award plus mileage and other expenses related to MDGA business.

IV. MDGA Production Awards, Futurity, and other special programs or awards

A. The Production Awards and Futurity Programs are for MDGA members only. To participate members must be in good standing and meet all other specific program guidelines.

B. The Board may at any time vote to approve a new program or award which benefits its members.