

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE WESTERN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION**

## **ARTICLE 1. NAME**

The name of this organization, hereinafter referred to as the Association, shall be the Western Agricultural Economics Association (the name was formerly the Western Farm Economics Association).

## **ARTICLE II. PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES**

The purposes and objectives of the Western Agricultural Economics Association shall be to foster the study and understanding of agricultural economics and its application to problems in the western United States and Canada; to promote unity and effectiveness of effort among all concerned with those problems; to promote improvement in the professional competence and standards of all members; to cooperate with other organizations and institutions engaged in similar or related activities; and to increase the contribution of agricultural economics to human welfare.

## **ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the Association is available to individuals having a professional interest in agricultural economics.

## **ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS**

Section 1. Elected. The elected officers of the Association shall consist of a President, President-Elect, Vice-President, immediate Past-President, and four Directors. They shall be elected by a vote of the members of the Association by mail ballot.

- a. The President-Elect shall serve from the close of the annual meeting of the Association in the year in which elected through the close of the next annual meeting and then will assume the office of President.
- b. The President shall serve from the close of the annual meeting when he/she assumes office through the close of the next annual meeting.
- c. The President shall assume the office of Past-President immediately upon the termination of her/his term as President and serve through the close of the next annual meeting.
- d. The Vice-President shall serve from the close of the annual meeting in the year in which elected through the close of the next annual meeting.
- e. The Directors shall serve a two-year term beginning with the close of the

annual meeting in the year in which they are elected through the close of the annual meeting two years after their election.

Section 2. Appointed. The appointed officers of the Association shall consist of a Secretary-Treasurer and the Editor(s) of the Association's journal.

- a. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and hold office for a term of three years beginning with the calendar year following the annual meeting in the year in which appointed.
- b. The Editor(s) shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and hold office for a term of three years.

Section 3. Vacancies. If a vacancy occurs in any of these officer positions, the Executive Committee shall appoint a member of the Association in good standing to serve until the next regularly scheduled election at which time the unexpired term, if any, shall be filled by election of the members of the Association.

## **ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES**

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President-Elect, President, Vice-President, Past-President, Directors, Secretary-Treasurer, and Editor(s) with the Secretary-Treasurer and Editor(s) serving as nonvoting ex officio members. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to appoint the Secretary-Treasurer and Editor(s). The Executive Committee shall conduct the business of the Association between annual meetings.

Section 2. The standing committees of the Association shall include the Officer Nominating Committee, Director Nominating Committee, and Finance Committee.

Section 3. The President may provide for the creation of special committees in accordance with the needs of the Association.

## **ARTICLE VI. COUNCIL ORGANIZATION**

Section 1. The Council shall consist of the Executive Committee and, in addition, at least one member from each of the nineteen western states of the United States (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming) and four western provinces of Canada (Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan). Additional membership on the Council for states or provinces with multiple institutions shall be limited to one each for Ph.D. granting institutions and one other council member representing all other institutions in the state or province. Members representing their entire state or province shall be selected by all members of the state or province. Members representing Ph.D. granting

institutions in states or provinces which have more than one Ph.D. granting institution shall be selected by members affiliated with each respective institution. Members representing all other institutions in states or provinces which have multiple institutions shall be selected by all members not affiliated with Ph.D. granting institutions.

Section 2. The duties of the Council shall include functioning as a policy making group regarding affairs of the Association at the annual meeting. All business deliberations and determinations by the Council in its annual meeting will be reported to the membership via the business meeting in the annual Association conference. At each regular annual meeting, the Council shall decide upon the place for the annual meeting to be held three years in the future or delegate to the Executive Committee the power to make such decisions.

Section 3. The duties of the individual members of the Council shall include representing their respective constituencies, maintaining membership, obtaining new members, and encouraging attendance at the annual conference.

Section 4. Council members shall be elected for two-year terms to begin at the close of the annual meeting with the possibility of succeeding themselves for only one additional two-year term.

Section 5. The Council members in the last year of their term of office shall be responsible for polling the Association members within their constituencies for the selection of new Council members and report to the Secretary-Treasurer the results of such poll not later than thirty (30) days before the last annual meeting of their terms.

## **ARTICLE VII. NOMINATING PROCEDURES**

Section 1. The Officer Nominating Committee shall nominate two persons for President-Elect and two persons for Vice-President. Due consideration shall be given to recommendations received from the membership of the Association and to the willingness of the nominees to serve if elected.

Section 2. The Director Nominating Committee shall nominate four current members of the Association for election to the two Director positions that will be vacated at the conclusion of the next annual meeting.

## **ARTICLE VIII. FINANCE AND DUES**

Section 1. The Association collects dues from its members to effect the purposes and objectives of the Association. Other income from sales of publications or other services to non-members is devoted to the same purposes and objectives as are membership dues.

Section 2. Changes in amounts of membership dues shall be initiated by or through the Finance Committee. Changes in dues shall be submitted to the general membership for

approval at the annual meeting.

## **ARTICLE IX. ANNUAL MEETING**

Section 1. The Association shall hold an annual conference and business meeting at such time and place as shall be decided upon by the Council, or by the Executive Committee if the Council delegates such decisions to the Executive Committee. Notice of each meeting shall be mailed to each member at least eight weeks in advance of said meeting as directed by the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The members of the Association present at any duly called and convened meeting of the Association shall constitute a quorum. Each member of the Association having voting power shall have one vote. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. A majority of the votes cast at any meeting of the Association shall determine the outcome of the issue or resolution except as otherwise specifically provided herein.

## **ARTICLE X. PUBLICATIONS AND AWARDS**

The Association shall publish a journal, facilitate dissemination of original work, and grant awards for excellence.

## **ARTICLE XI. DISPOSITION OF FUNDS**

Section 1. Upon the winding up and dissolution of the Association, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the Association, remaining assets shall be distributed to some other nonprofit fund, foundation or corporation (such as the American Agricultural Economics Association), which is organized and operated exclusively for educational and/or scientific purposes and has established its tax-exempt status under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. If the Association holds any assets in trust, such assets shall be disposed of in such manner as may be directed by decree of the court of general jurisdiction of the county in which the Association's principal office (the office of the Secretary-Treasurer) is located, upon petition therefore by the Attorney General or by any person concerned in the liquidation.

Section 2. The Association does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit to the members thereof and it is organized solely for nonprofit purposes. No part of the net earnings of the Association shall ever inure to the benefit of any private individual. No officer, member, trustee, agent, or employee of the Association shall ever receive any compensation or any pecuniary profit whatsoever from the operations of the Association or shall ever receive any part of its property or assets upon its dissolution or termination of its existence or otherwise.

## **ARTICLE XII. BYLAWS**

Bylaws may be adopted, amended, and rescinded by a majority vote of the paid-up

members present at any regular business meeting or by a majority of ballots returned by mail.

### **ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION**

This Constitution may be amended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the paid-up members returning ballots by mail. Amendments to be voted upon by mail ballot must first be approved by the Executive Committee and Council after which they shall be mailed by the Secretary-Treasurer to all members.

#### **Constitution Amended:**

September 30, 1944	June 24, 1948	June 29, 1950
August 27, 1956	July 27, 1957	July 17, 1959
July 17, 1964	July 21, 1967	July 22, 1969
July 22, 1970	July 27, 1971	July 26, 1974
July 22, 1975	July 20, 1976	August 2, 1982
July 10, 1989	August 7, 1990	July 8, 1991
July 13, 1992	July 13, 1997	