

# CONSTITUTION STARK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

As Revised and Adopted November 1, 2024

## Article I – Title

This society shall be known as the Stark County Agricultural Society.

## Article II MISSION STATEMENT

To improve, promote and preserve the public welfare through the understanding of agriculture, horticulture, domestic art and science, general community betterment together with all other industrial, commercial and educational interests of the County of Stark and the State of Ohio.

It is also, the purpose of the Stark County Agricultural Society to serve and benefit the citizens of Stark County, the surrounding counties and the State of Ohio, by planning, organizing and operating the Stark County Fair, as well as carrying out the other purposes stated herein, all of which promote and serve the vital industry of agriculture in Ohio.

## Article III – Membership

SEC. 1. Any person, 18 years of age or older and a resident of Stark County may become a Member of this Society by paying annually the sum fixed by the Board of Directors, two weeks before old one expires and otherwise, not later than first day of Fair.

SEC. 2. No membership certificate shall be issued to corporations, organizations, partnerships, or firms. All membership certificates shall be issued in the name of an individual who has paid the required membership fee and only those persons whose names appear upon the membership certificate shall have a right to vote at the annual meeting of the Society or hold office. No person shall be allowed to purchase memberships for anyone other than themselves and members of their immediate family, except it be to make entries for some other person. Memberships may be purchased in the Society office on the Fairgrounds, Canton, Monday through Friday.

SEC. 3. Any former Board Member having served three or more terms on the Board of Directors shall be considered an honorary member of the Board without voting power and shall receive a free pass to the annual fair.

SEC. 4. The Fair Board Member has no authority except when sitting as a member of the board. They should refrain from discussing confidential matters with anyone not in a responsible position. They will be equally in error if they compromise the board of fair officials by conversation about matters best kept as matter of board record.

## Article IV – Board of Directors

SEC. 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of 22 members; one from each Township, also Canton, Massillon, and At-Large Members.

SEC. 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

SEC. 1. The annual election of Directors of the Society shall be by ballot, held in Society's office on Fairgrounds on the first Friday of November of each year from 1:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Ballots must be marked with an "X" or "✓" opposite the name of each candidate voted for, otherwise the name will not be counted, unless the intent is very clear. Date, location, time of election must be in Fairbook, on back of membership and posted in Fair office.

SEC. 2. Ballots cannot be taken out of the room for distribution or marking. The voter shall procure the ballots from the Election Board and remain in the room for marking and voting. Any information needed, shall be given by the judges. No soliciting of votes will be allowed in the voting room.

SEC. 3. Only members of the Society 18 years of age or older & residents of Stark County, can vote or hold office.

SEC. 4. The annual election of the Society shall be held by three judges and two clerks appointed by the President.

SEC. 5. Candidates for Directors of the Society must be members of the Society, and must declare their candidacy for the office of a Director of the Fair Board of Directors by filing with the Secretary of the Stark County Agricultural Society at least (30) days before the annual election of directors is held. In order for a person to run for the position of Director for the Stark County Agricultural Society, that member must have been a member in good standing of the Society for at least 2 of the 3 years prior to the election, including the calendar year of the election. To become a candidate for election to the Board of Directors, the potential candidate must have a minimum of twenty-five (25) member signatures on the nomination petition. Only regularly nominated candidates who have met the filing requirements will be eligible for election as director. The Secretary shall give three week notice of said election in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

SEC. 6. Any vacancy, caused by death, resignation, refusal to qualify, open seat, removal from township or city or causes, or absence from three meetings, unless due to absence from the County, illness of the

Director or member of his or her family, may be deemed grounds for declaring his or her place on the Board vacant. Directors shall notify the Secretary of reason for absence not later than the date of the third absence. Position can be appointed with a member at large until the next annual election, when a director shall be elected according to Article IV Sec 1 for the un-expired term. If position remains vacant, after 3 years, it becomes an "At Large" position.

• **Director at large is any current member of the Stark County Agricultural Society.**

SEC. 7. The terms of office of the retiring Directors shall expire and that of the Directors, elect shall begin on the first Saturday, following the first Friday of November of each year, or until their successors are qualified.

## Article VI – Organization and Meetings

SEC. 1. The Board of Directors shall meet annually on the first Saturday following the first Friday of November of each year, and elect a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Superintendent of police, Superintendent of Gates and Superintendent of Parking, and such other officers as it may deem proper to serve one year or until their successors are elected and qualified. The Secretary shall be a hired position with contract to be reviewed each year.

SEC. 2. All officers shall be elected from the membership of the Board, except the Secretary, Treasurer and Chief of Police, who may or may not be.

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

**" I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the rules and regulations of the Ohio State Board of Agriculture pertaining to County Fairs, and to the best of my ability perform the duties of Director of the Stark County Agricultural Society, so help me God."**

SEC. 4. Any Officer or Member of the Board may be temporarily removed from such office or Membership on this Board by a majority vote of the Board at any regular meeting. Notice shall be served on such officer or member by mail or person within ten days of such action, He shall be given an opportunity to defend himself at the next regular or special meeting of the Board, when if by a three-fourths (3/4) vote such removal shall become permanent.

SEC. 5. The annual exhibition of the Fair Association shall be held on such dates as the Board may choose at the approval of the State Board of Agriculture, for the best interests of the Society and County.

SEC.6. The annual meeting of the membership of Stark County Agricultural Society shall be held at least two weeks before the Annual Election of the Board of Directors. This meeting may be held before a regular scheduled Board meeting. Date, location and time of Annual meeting must be in Fairbook, on back of membership and posted in Fair office. Members will be notified of both Annual meeting and upcoming annual election three weeks before Annual meeting.

## Article VII – Miscellaneous

SEC. 1. The compensation of Board members shall be fixed by the Board in accord with the rules of the State board of Agriculture for payment of 12 of the 14 meetings. (Excludes daily fair meetings)

SEC. 2. The Board shall fix the salary of the Secretary and Treasurer, an amount in accord with the rules of the State Board of Agriculture.

SEC. 3. The Board shall regulate the distribution of passes.

SEC. 4. Each Board member who attends the Winter Convention, Summer Convention or Home Talent Colt Stakes meeting shall be paid as determined by the board on a yearly basis.

## Article VIII

RULE 9. The constitution or by-laws of a society shall not be amended except by a majority vote of the membership voting at the annual election of the Board of Directors or at the annual meeting of the membership of the society.

Amendments to the Constitution or 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 the society at least 14 days prior to the annual election of the board of directors or 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 of the society. If an amendment is proposed as set forth in (A) or (B) above, it shall be submitted to the membership of the society at either the annual election or the annual meeting of the membership of the society. Said amendment shall be published in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the county or district concerned, no less than three but not more than ten days before it is to be voted on. When more than one amendment shall be submitted at the same time, they shall be so

submitted as to enable the members to vote on each amendment separately.

## **STARK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY BY-LAWS**

### **Article 1**

For the transaction of business, a majority of members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

### **Article II – Meetings**

The Board shall meet the second Wednesday of each month to transact official business of the Society and each day of the Fair. Special meeting of the Board may be held when necessary, at the call of the President and Secretary or at written request of not less than five members of the Board.

### **Article III – Committees and Superintendents**

SEC. 1. The following Standing Committees shall be appointed by the President and Vice President as soon as possible following the re-organizational election. These Committees shall consist of a chairman and a minimum of 2 members and a maximum of 10 members. Auditing, Budget, Building & Grounds, Constitution & By-Laws, Junior Fair, Public Relations & Advertising, Privilege, Entertainment & Program, Speed, Ticket and Human Resources. The Human Resources Committee shall be composed of Vice President, Treasurer, Junior Fair Chairman, Building & Grounds Chairman and one at large member. Special Committees may be appointed at any time necessary. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the chairman of each of the Standing Committees. The President and Secretary are members ex-officio of all committees.

SEC. 2. Superintendents of Halls and Departments shall be appointed by the President as soon as possible following the re-organizational election; and such appointments must be board members.

SEC. 3. A standing Committee, existing solely for capital improvement fundraising, named the "Capital Improvement Funds Coordination Committee" shall be made up by the current year's elected Fair Board Treasurer, the current year's elected Building and Grounds Superintendent and a minimum of three (3) at large, non-Fair Board members. This committee shall coordinate fundraising through any channels available to them for the sole purpose of capital improvement expenditures not already budgeted and approved by the Fair Board directors. Ordinary repairs and maintenance of the fairgrounds shall not be under the committee's authority. A prioritized list of capital needs and goals shall be presented to the committee as compiled and approved by the Fair Board directors. The committee does not have the authority to modify this prioritized list, unless approved by the Fair Board of Directors.

### **Article IV – Duties of Officers**

SEC. 1. *It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Board, use such authority as the best interest of the Association may require, and exercise such other duties usually incumbent upon such officer.*

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the Vice President to assume all the duties of the President in the event of his absence or vacancy of office, and assist the President in any manner necessary for the success of the Fair.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a list of all members of the Society: he/she shall collect monies from all sources, except from the sale of tickets; pay over the same to the Treasurer, taking his/her receipt for same., and submit a detailed statement of the Fair at the regular settlement meeting in October, and at such other times as the Board may require. He/she shall make out a report to the State Board, as required by said board; keep a correct account of all receipts and expenditures of money; pay all bills after they have been approved by the parties contracting, or by the proper committee; record the minutes of all Board and Board Committee meetings; and with the Auditing Committee, regulate the use of passes as directed by the Board; pay premiums awarded; give a satisfactory bond, and attend to all business connected with this office.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all monies of the Association and out the same on the order of the Secretary, countersigned by the President; keep an accurate account of all monies received and paid out by him/her as such treasurer, file annually with the Board at its annual meeting the last Friday of November in each year, and at such other times as he/she may be called upon to do so by the Board, a detailed and itemized statement of the receipts and expenditures of the Society. He/she shall receipt the Auditing Finance Committee for all admission and grandstand tickets turned over to him/her previous to the Fair and, after the Fair, take receipt from said committee for all admission and grandstand tickets not sold, he/she shall

give a satisfactory bond for the faithful discharge of his/her duties, in such amount as the Board may require.

### **Article V – Duties of Committees**

SEC. 1. It shall be the duty of the Building and Grounds Committee to see that the grounds are kept in neat and clean condition; that the buildings, fences and other property are kept in proper repair; to oversee the erection of new buildings and improving and repairing old buildings, and other improvements upon the grounds, and recommend a suitable person as custodian of the grounds, according to the direction of the Board.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the Auditing Committee to inspect and audit the accounts and books of the Secretary and Treasurer, and report the result of its findings to the Board of Directors; said report to show an itemized statement of receipts and expenditures for the year, said report shall be made a part of the records and a summary of same shall be published in a newspaper of the county and marked copy of same mailed to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture of Ohio, not later than January 10<sup>th</sup>. All books accounts, reports, etc. shall be open to public inspection at all times during regular office hours.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the Public Relations and Advertising Committee to secure all necessary printing and advertising for the Society, and have a general supervision of the Advertising of the Fair, as the Board may direct.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the Speed Committee to secure race horses and arrange a speed program, and have a general supervision of the races as authorized by the Board.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the Entertainment and Program Committee to secure suitable attractions for the Fair and to arrange all programs and have general supervision of same.

SEC. 6. It shall be the duty of the Human Resources Committee to employ, terminate and review all salaried employees work performance on a regular basis and make recommendations to the budget committee and the board.

SEC. 7. It shall be the duty of the member in charge of privileges on the grounds to grant space and locate all privileges on the grounds, collect rental for privileges so located and have general supervision over same. The member in charge of privileges located on the grounds shall not in any way allow or tolerate immoral shows, lottery devices, games of chance or gambling of any kind including paddle wheels or any other feature objectionable to the member in charge, who shall have the power to stop, remove, and if necessary, cause arrest for any violation of these rules or the rules of the Ohio State board of Agriculture or the laws of Ohio.

SEC. 8. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to act on matters demanding the immediate attention, or when not necessary to call the entire board members.

SEC. 9. The duties of the Special Committees shall be defined in the resolutions authorizing their appointment.

### **Article VI – Duties of Superintendents**

SEC. 1. The Superintendent of Gates shall have a general supervision and management of the gates.

SEC. 2. The Superintendent of Buildings shall grant space, oversee the arrangement of exhibits to the greatest advantage in making them neat and attractive.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent of Police to appoint all police necessary for the day and night service, keep the time and report the same to the secretary; keep his force properly organized in order to protect property and exhibits; he shall have power to arrest or dictate the same, if necessary without further order by the Board.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent of Parking to appoint all help necessary to assist in parking all cars; keep the time and report the same to the Secretary; keep his/her force properly organized in order to, as far as possible, have all cars parked so that exits can be made at any time.

SEC. 5. Superintendents of Departments shall have charge of their respective classes, secure competent judges to place the awards, record the decisions of the judges in proper class book, and have a general oversight of class or classes.

## **Article VII – Order of Business**

### SEC 1.

1. Official Opening
2. Roll Call
3. Reading and approval or adoption of minutes
4. Bills and accounts
5. Unfinished Business
6. New Business
7. Report of Special Committees
8. Report of Standing Committees
9. Report of Officers

### 10. Miscellaneous Business

11. Appointments
12. Adjournment

SEC. 2 These By-Laws may be temporarily suspended at any meeting by a majority vote of the Board.

## **GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**RULE 1.** On the payment of \$30.00, a membership card will be issued. This gives the holder privilege of voting at annual election November 7, 2025 and the right to enter articles and/or livestock for premiums, and also good for one admittance per day at the Fair.

**RULE 2.** Ten percent of the first premiums offered will be charged on all entries of livestock, except Champions. Do not make entries for Champions, as only First Prize animals compete in Champion Classes. No entrance fee required in Champion Classes, including Jr. Fair Show.

**RULE 3.** All entries must be made in the name of the bona-fide owners, except as hereafter provided and must show proof of entry.

**RULE 4.** Entry fee must be made at the time of making entries. All entries close Saturday August 9, 2025 at 5:00 pm. If mailed must be postmarked no later than midnight.

**RULE 5.** Animals entered for premiums must be owned by party making entry, except as otherwise provided for, and evidence of ownership must be furnished if required by the Awarding Committee or member in charge. Animals entered for premiums cannot be used for commercial purposes during the Fair, and all animals entered for premiums must be kept on exhibition at the places assigned them by the member in charge, except when being shown for premium awards, or by consent of member in charge.

**RULE 6.** Stalls shall be assigned by and under the control of the member in charge of the Department. No bedding will be furnished by the Fairboard.

**RULE 7.** All animals and articles must be ready for exhibition until 6:00 p.m. on the last day of the Fair, market animals (only) 4:00 p.m.

**RULE 8.** Exhibitors of livestock must show in a ring if requested to do so by the superintendent in charge.

**RULE 9.** Exhibits in Halls must remain in place until 9:00 pm, Monday, September 1, 2025. Open Class Livestock will not be released before 6:00 pm, the last day of the Fair.

**RULE 10.** Feed and bedding will not be sold on the grounds.

**RULE 11.** No vegetables, preserves, fruit, women's/men's work, or fine art to be awarded a premium unless raised or manufactured and processed by the one who enters them.

**RULE 12.** In order that the safety of all stock and articles be secured as far as possible, no fires or stoves of any kind will be permitted in or within fifty feet of any building used for stabling.

**RULE 13.** The Board of Directors of the Stark County Agricultural Society will, to the best of their ability, safeguard persons, livestock and articles on the grounds, but will not be responsible for injury, damage, disease, thefts or loss of any kind.

**RULE 14.** The Board reserves the right to withdraw or withhold for good cause, any premium awarded.

**RULE 15.** No action, decision, or ruling of any director shall be considered binding on the Board or Society, excepting it be in accordance with the rules governing the Board or Society.

**RULE 16.** All premium animals and articles shall receive cards or ribbons to be attached on decision of the judge.

**RULE 17.** If any disrespect is shown to an award, the Awarding committee, or superintendent in charge by any exhibitor or his agent, he shall forfeit all the awards made to him in all the classes, and any premium obtained through fraud or misrepresentation will be forfeited by such action.

**RULE 18.** All protests of awards for premiums must be in writing (except as otherwise stated) and must be accompanied by a fee of \$50.00. Said sum to be returned if protest is sustained and shall be filed with the Secretary not later than the first Tuesday of October 2025, except livestock, which must be filed before Monday September 1, 2025.

**RULE 19.** Livestock not in the ring when the committee is ready for examination will be passed up.

**RULE 20.** Any violation of foregoing rules or any rules prefacing any of the classes on the part of the exhibitors will forfeit all premiums awarded.

**RULE 21.** It is made the duty of the superintendent in charge of the several classes to organize their committees, show them their respective animals or articles, see that the proper awards are made in the books, and have same signed and returned to the secretary.

**RULE 22.** In case the proceeds of the fair, after paying necessary expenses, shall be insufficient to pay full amount of class premiums the Fairboard reserves the right to pay pro rated among the successful competitors any premiums which may be awarded.

**RULE 23.** Premiums under \$150 must be picked up during the fair. Checks will be written for amounts greater than \$150 and mailed to winner.

### **THIS RULE WILL BE ENFORCED.**

**RULE 23A.** All open class exhibitors, please check with the TREASURER the last two (2) days of the Fair.

**RULE 24.** Counties barring Stark County Exhibitors from showing Horses, Cattle, Sheep and Swine at their Fairs, exhibitors from such counties are prohibited from showing same at the Stark County Fair.

**RULE 25.** No privilege will be sold or permitted, where the business is conducted in any other than a legitimate, trade-like manner, or that may require outcry or commotion in its transaction.

**RULE 26.** All Open Class Livestock must be in place by 10 am, Tuesday August 26, 2025, all other exhibits to be in according to department.

**RULE 27.** No distribution of matches on the fairgrounds; or in the buildings during fair time.

**RULE 28.** No entries will be accepted by anyone after the time stated in this book at which time the entries close.

**RULE 29.** "There will be no parking of Stark County Livestock exhibitor's or Junior Fair exhibitor's livestock trailers or large trucks on the fairgrounds during the Fair in 2025."

\*There will be no ATV use during the week of the Fair. Anyone with a golf cart/utility vehicle must provide proof of insurance to the fairboard office.

Golf cart/utility use is with approval of Stark County Fairboard only. A tag will be provided to put on the unit as proof.

\*No stick-on stickers of any kind are to be passed out during the Fair.

\*All bills pertaining to the 2025 Stark County Fair must be presented by the first of November or they will not be paid within the fiscal year. **All checks, which are not cashed within 60 days after being received, will be voided and payment will be refused.**

\*No person shall be permitted to make solicitations of any nature on the fairground except in contracted concessions or commercial rented spaces.

\*Stark County Fair Paging Rules - Paging will be handled at the Sound Office during the Fair for: (1) Official Fair Business; (2) Medical and Security Emergencies. **NO PAGING TO MEET FAMILY OR FRIENDS!**

\*Feed Gate Closes at 10:00 am.

\*There will be no stock trailers allowed on the grounds except for loading and unloading during the week of the Fair, unless you are an exhibitor from out of Stark County.

\*Jr. Fair and Open Class Exhibitors Camping on Fairgrounds - Check with Fair office for details.

Notice to all Campers regarding parking in Trailer Park Area SE Corner: Trailer, Campers, Trucks or other vehicles must be parked in designated area. All liquid wastes from trailers, campers or other units must be contained in a closed container or in an internal holding tank. All liquid wastes MUST be disposed of in a sanitary sewer. Everyone who plans to park such vehicle must secure a receipt from Secretary prior to parking vehicle. Identification will be issued for posting on vehicle. A fee of \$225.00 will be assessed for Fair Week (Monday - Monday). Additional fee of \$10 daily for each day of parking prior to or after Fair will be assessed. The Stark County Fair Board reserves the right to tow any vehicle from the grounds at owner's expense for failure to comply with above rules.