

CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL CONSULTANT'S ASSOCIATION

(Adopted March 6, 1985)
(Amended April 16, 1991)
(Amended March 10, 1992)
(Amended April 13, 1993)
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(Amended December 14, 2004)
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(Amended April 4, 2006)
(Amended December 3, 2008)
(Amended December 3, 2010)
(Amended March 1, 2012)
(Amended March 3, 2015)
(Amended December 8, 2021)

ARTICLE I - Name. The name of this organization shall be the North Carolina Agricultural Consultants Association (hereafter known as the NCACA).

ARTICLE II - Purposes.

The NCACA exists to:

Provide a state organization through which all members can unify their efforts to promote professional agricultural consulting;
promote the business of agricultural consulting as a profession;
encourage and assist Agricultural Consultants in seeking current information concerning management principles and techniques;
encourage and participate in research on agricultural management techniques;
support agricultural producers in the pursuit of their enterprises by the most effective, economical, environmentally sound means;
emphasize to the public the role of the independent professional consultant in modern agriculture;
assist in the formulation of policies relating to agricultural production and
assist in the formulation of future agricultural management philosophies.

ARTICLE III - Membership.

Section 1 - There shall be five classes of members: (1) Voting (2) Provisional (3) Affiliated (4) Associate and (5) Supporting. Only Voting Members shall have voting privileges.

Section 2 - A Voting Member must be engaged in independent agricultural consulting or contract research in the State of North Carolina and meet the following criteria:

1. Must provide agricultural consulting services for a fee in the state off North Carolina.

2. Must be appropriately licensed for his/her business activities in consulting or research by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.
3. Must have had a minimum of two years of reputable experience in agricultural consulting or four years non consulting experience in agriculture. (One year of which may be substituted for by a Masters or Ph.D. degree)
4. Must not be engaged in the sale of agricultural chemicals, fertilizers, seed, or other agricultural materials or equipment to grower clients for personal or associated business profit. A committee appointed by the President shall investigate complaints concerning conflict of interest and report findings to the NCACA

Section 3 - A Provisional Member is one who possesses all of the qualifications required of Voting Members except the experience and/or NCACA Continuing Education Credits. When he/she has fulfilled the requirements for a Voting Member, he/she shall be reconsidered for Voting Member status by the NCACA.

Section 4 - An Affiliated Member is one who is currently employed by a company owned by a Voting Member or Provisional Member and is not engaged in the sale of agricultural chemicals, fertilizers, seed, or other agricultural materials or equipment to grower clients for personal or associated business profit.

Section 5 - Associate membership is open to individuals that respect the role of independent agricultural consulting and find association with NCACA mutually beneficial. Must not be engaged in the sale or application of agricultural chemicals, fertilizers, seed, other agricultural materials or equipment for personal or associated business profit. Examples of this include farm employees whose major role is providing crop management input, out of state agricultural consultants, academic or government workers and students.

Section 8 - A Supporting Member is any organization with an interest in independent agricultural consulting that wishes to contribute financially to the NCACA. Supporting Membership shall be of three levels, Platinum, Gold and Silver.

Section 9 - Applicants for Voting Membership into the NCACA must complete a NCACA Application Form and provide references from individuals for whom the applicant has personally provided consulting services. Investigation of these references by the Executive Body or an appointed committee should show that these services were provided in a highly competent and professional manner. Applicants for all other categories of membership must be nominated in writing by a Voting Member of the NCACA. All applications and nominations for membership will be subject to approval by a 2/3 majority of Voting Members.

Section 10 - The executive committee shall investigate complaints concerning conflict of interest or any other deficiency in any membership category and report findings to the NCACA. Membership may be withdrawn by 2/3 majority vote of Voting Members.

ARTICLE IV - Meetings.

Section 1 –Two annual meetings shall be held at such time and setting as may be decided upon by the Executive Body. Additional meetings may also be called, as necessary, by the Executive Body.

Section 2 - Notice of all meetings of the NCACA shall be sent to all members at least one month in advance of the meeting.

Section 3 - An official meeting shall be any meeting of the NCACA membership held in accordance with the Constitution and attended by a quorum. A closed business session restricted to Voting Members only may be included in the agenda of any official meeting.

Section 4 – Though official meetings shall be the preferred setting for organizational business, decisions can be made by vote through other communications including but not limited to USPS and email as needed with the approval of Executive Committee.

Section 5 – Quorums (minimum participation required to conduct official business): A quorum of the NCACA shall be 50% of the Voting Membership. In the case of off-site communication, a 50% quorum shall be determined by participation in the vote including yes, no or abstain. Decisions entrusted to the Executive Committee require opportunity for input of all committee members.

ARTICLE V - Officers

Section 1 - The Executive Committee of the NCACA shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and immediate past President. The Vice President shall be elected annually by a majority vote. Upon serving his/her term as Vice president, he/she will preside as President for the next successive term. The Secretary and Treasurer shall serve one-year terms and shall be elected by a majority of the members. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer can be held by the same individual and are open to re-election. Elections shall be during the Spring prior to assuming responsibility for that role in the Fall.

Section 2 - The President shall be the directing head of the NCACA and shall perform the duties of this office. These duties include presiding at all meetings of the membership, directing all business affairs of the organization, appointing committees, and facilitating their work, appointing liaisons to other organizations, and calling any special meetings.

Section 3 - The Vice President shall serve in all capacities as the presiding officer in the absence of the President. The Vice President shall also, at the request of the President, assist in the performance of any functional duties. The Vice President will serve as a member of the Program Committee in preparation of the Fall Meeting that he/she assumes office and chairman of the program committee in preparation for the Fall Meeting that he/she assumes office of President.

Section 4 – The Secretary shall keep a complete record of the meetings and shall prepare a report of all proceedings of the NCACA. Minutes should be distributed to members within 3 weeks after each meeting and again prior to the next meeting. He/she shall maintain a register of all members of the NCACA. He/She shall handle business affairs with the President and be responsible for affixing the corporate seal to any legal or necessary documents.

Section 5 - The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all the funds of the NCACA and shall submit at the annual meeting a written report of all receipts and disbursements. Auditing of the financial records and bonding of the Treasurer shall be implemented at the discretion of the NCACA. He/She shall be authorized to make expenditures of \$100.00 or less at his/her own discretion.

Section 6 - Vacancies in offices occurring between elections shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Committee.

Section 7 - The President and Vice President shall be given the authority to speak on behalf of the organization. Any other member must be given approval by the President.

ARTICLE VI - Committees. The President of the NCACA shall appoint committees to carry out specified work that he/she may deem necessary. Committee Guidelines and Assignments should be drafted and sent to membership prior to Spring business meeting. Unless a specific committee is appointed, the Executive Committee shall investigate and summarize any preliminary matters to be brought before the NCACA for approval.

ARTICLE VII - Amendments. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote. Any amendment to be proposed must be distributed to the membership at least two weeks prior to the vote.

ARTICLE VIII - Bylaws shall accompany this constitution to govern matters that require more flexibility than constitutional amendments yet more formality than floor motions. Amendments to the Bylaws require 2/3 majority vote. No advance notification is required.

ARTICLE IX - Dissolution. Upon dissolution of the NCACA, all assets will be divided equally among all North Carolina agricultural college and university libraries to be used for the purchase of books and journals dealing with agricultural pest management.

ARTICLE X - The Executive Committee has authority to approve expenditures.