

FEDERATED FARMERS DAIRY CONSTITUTION (Reviewed and amended 2009)

1. Formation of industry section groups

1.1 National produce sections shall be formed by National Conference.

1.2 A provincial management body shall establish a dairy section if requested to do so by 20 or more members within the province directly engaged in production of the product concerned unless the management body is satisfied that such product is adequately covered by an existing produce Section, and such other specialist groups as the provincial management group may from time to time appoint.

1.3 Federated Farmers Dairy shall have autonomy within the Constitution of the Federation for matters concerning the product or products in respect of which it has been established as a Produce Section.

1.4 Membership of Federated Farmers Dairy is by nomination of the Federated Farmers' member at the annual payment of Federated Farmers' membership fees.

2. Federated Farmers Dairy Council

2.1 Membership of the council consists of

- Dairy Chair elected by each province
- Plus extra members as per clause 3.3

2.2 The Executive of Federated Farmers Dairy comprises of

- The Federated Farmers Dairy Chairman
- two Vice-Chairmen
- two executive members
- Sharemilkers' Section Chairman
- The National President as an ex-officio member.

3. Council meetings/ conferences

3.1 Federation funding of all meetings shall be limited to that amount specified in the Federation Annual Budget. The Executive Committee shall determine the date of the Annual Conference. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the Chairperson at any time. The Chief Executive shall summon a meeting of an Executive Committee at any time on the requisition of two Executive Committee members.

3.2 Attendance

All financial members of the Federation who are also members of a Provincial Produce Section may attend the National Produce Section Conference to which they are affiliated.

3.3 Delegates

Each province shall be entitled to one delegate, with full voting rights. In addition, provinces with more than 500 are entitled to an additional delegate per each **additional** 500 members or part thereof¹. The Sharemilkers Section and Sharemilker Employer's

¹ E.g. Waikato (with 1,722 FTEs in December 2008) has four reps – one for being a province plus three (one for every extra 500 or part thereof). Other provinces near or over the threshold are, using December 2008 numbers: Bay of Plenty (459); Southland (418); Taranaki (948).

Section are entitled to one delegate each. Each delegate shall have expenses of attendance at the meeting paid by Federated Farmers. Additional observers may attend. Observer's expenses must be covered by the individual or the respective province and will be itemised in an account sent after the meeting.

3.4 Quorum

3.4.1 The quorum for Dairy Council meetings is 20 members.

3.4.2 The quorum for Dairy Executive meetings is 4 members.

4. Elections

4.1 Voting for the executive occurs at each Federated Farmers Dairy AGM.

4.2 Nominations

All nominations must be on an official nomination form signed by the mover, seconder and nominee. Only Federated Farmers Dairy members are eligible to make nominations. Nominations close 10 days prior to the AGM. In the event of insufficient qualifying nominations, the Chairman has the discretion to call for nominations for the Executive from the floor”

4.3 The Chairman's position is held for one year with a right of re-election for up to three years. If one of the candidates for the office of Chairman is seeking election for the fourth successive term as such, the candidate shall not be deemed elected unless the candidate gains two-thirds of the votes cast. If the candidate gains a lesser majority, the election shall be declared void, and shall be reconstructed with the name of such candidate omitted.

4.4 Should any positions become vacant during the year, an election will be held at the next meeting.

4.5 Where a ballot is necessary, the following procedures will apply:

- a. Each candidate will be given the opportunity to make a short address - no longer than 5 minutes in duration.
- b. The Chairperson will ask Conference to appoint scrutineers.
- c. A ballot will be conducted to determine the successful candidate(s).

4.6 Voting rights

Each executive member is entitled to one vote

Each delegate is entitled to one vote

Observers are not entitled to vote.

4.7 Election procedure

Voting shall be through a card voting procedure.

To be successful, a candidate must receive more than half of the eligible votes cast.

Where no candidate is successful on the first ballot, the lowest polling candidate will be eliminated from the next ballot. If there is a tie between candidates receiving the least number of votes, there will be a ballot between them to determine who will be eliminated. The balloting process will continue until one candidate is successful.

In the case of the Executive Committee vacancies, where there are two or more positions, the objective will be to elect one Executive member at a time.

After one Executive Committee member has been elected, all remaining candidates will go back on to the ballot paper for the second vacancy.

After the completion of voting all ballot papers will be destroyed.

5. Expulsion of members of the Dairy Council

Any member whose conduct is inimical² to membership of the Federated Farmers Dairy Council or who ceases to satisfy membership qualifications may be expelled by a majority vote of the National Board. A member subject to expulsion proceedings shall have the right to address the National Board. A right of appeal shall lie to the National Council whose decision shall be final.

6. Federated Farmers Dairy Guidelines

A list of members, executive portfolios and position descriptions are described in the Guidelines booklet. In addition general information pertaining to code of conduct, travel, reimbursements and meeting procedure is outlined. The Dairy Section Guidelines are updated by the Executive after each AGM.

² Inimical: adverse or unfavourable. Not friendly, hostile. *Collins Concise Dictionary, Third edition 1993.*