

SAMPLE FORMAT OF COOPERATIVE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

This outline provides an example of how Cooperative Articles of Incorporation might be set up.*

Articles of Incorporation

(Name of Cooperative)

We, the undersigned, all of whom are residents and citizens of the State of _____, engaged in the production of agricultural products, do hereby voluntarily associate ourselves for the purpose of forming a cooperative association, (with/without) capital stock, under the provisions of the _____ Act of the State of _____.

- Article I— Name
- Article II— Principal Place of Business
- Article III—Purposes
- Article IV— Powers; Limitations
 - Section 1. Powers
 - Section 2. Limitations
- Article V— Period of Duration
- Article VI— Directors
- Article VII— Membership (for nonstock cooperative) or
- Article VII— Capital Stock (for stock cooperative)
 - Section 1. Authorized Amounts; Classes
 - Section 2. Common Stock
 - Section 3. Preferred Stock
- Article VIII—Amendment

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this ____ day of _____, 20__ . State of _____. County of _____.
Before me, a notary public, within and for said county and State, on this ____ day of _____, 20__, personally appeared _____, known to me to be one of the identical persons who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he/she had executed the same as a free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Witness my hand and official seal the day and year set forth.

Notary Public _____
In and for the County of _____, State of _____
My Commission expires _____

*Steering committee should hire legal counsel to help prepare legal documents.

See USDA CIR 40, **Sample Legal Documents for Cooperatives** for more detailed information on what is contained in the Articles of Incorporation for a cooperative.