

Articles of Incorporation

Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, hereby associate ourselves into an incorporated cooperative association under the provisions of Chapter 390–G 1 of the Code of 1935 of the State of Iowa, assuming all of the power, rights, and privileges granted to, and all of the duties and obligations imposed upon, incorporated cooperative associations by said chapter, and for such purposes do adopt the following articles of incorporation:

ARTICLE I

The name of the Cooperative shall be Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

ARTICLE II

The principal office of the Cooperative shall be located at Greenfield, in the County of Adair, State of Iowa.

ARTICLE III

The cooperative is organized under the provisions of Chapter 390–G1 of the Code of 1935 of the State of Iowa.

ARTICLE IV

The purposes for which the Cooperative is formed are:

- a) to generate manufacture, purchase, acquire and accumulate electric energy for its members and to transmit, distribute, furnish, sell and dispose of such electric energy to its members only, and to construct, erect, purchase, lease as lessee and in any manner acquire, own, hold, maintain, operate, sell, dispose of, lease as lessee, exchange and mortgage plants, building, works,

- machinery, supplies, apparatus, equipment and electric transmission and distribution lines or systems necessary, convenient or useful for carrying out and accomplishing any or all of the foregoing purposes;
- b) to acquire, own, hold, use, exercise and, to the extent permitted by law, to sell, mortgage, pledge, hypothecate and in any manner dispose of franchises, rights, privileges, licenses, rights of way and easements necessary, useful or appropriate to accomplish any or all of the purposes of the Cooperative;
- c) to purchase, receive, lease as lessee, or in any other manner acquire, own, hold, maintain, use, convey, sell lease as lessee, exchange, mortgage, pledge or otherwise dispose of any and all real and personal property or any interest therein necessary, useful or appropriate to enable the Cooperative to accomplish any or all of its purposes;
- d) to assist its members to wire their premises and install therein electrical and plumbing appliances, fixtures, machinery, supplies, apparatus and equipment of any and all kinds and character (including without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such as are applicable to water supply and sewage disposal); and, in connection therewith and for such purposes, to purchase, acquire, lease, sell, distribute, install and repair electrical and plumbing appliances, fixtures, machinery, supplies, apparatus and equipment of any and all kinds and character (including, with limiting the generality of the foregoing, such as are applicable to water supply and sewage disposal) and to receive, acquire, endorse, pledge, guarantee, hypothecate, transfer or otherwise dispose of notes and other evidence of indebtedness and all security therefore;
- e) to borrow money, to make and issue bonds, notes and other evidences of indebtedness secured or unsecured for moneys borrowed or in payment for property acquired, or for any of the other objects or purposes of the Cooperative; to secure the payment of such bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness by mortgage or mortgages, or deed or deeds of trust upon, or by the pledge of or other lien upon, any or all of the property, rights, privileges or permits of the cooperative, wherever situated, acquired or to be acquired.

- f) To become a member of any federated cooperative association whose membership is restricted to incorporated cooperative associations; and
- g) To do and perform, either for itself or its members, any and all acts and things, and to have and exercise any and all powers, as may be necessary or convenient to accomplish any or all of the foregoing purposes, or as may be permitted by the provisions of the laws under which the Cooperative is formed: and to exercise any of its powers anywhere.
- h) To construct, erect, purchase, lease as lessee and in any manner, acquire, own, hold, maintain, operate, sell, dispose of, lease as lessee, exchange and mortgage plants, building, works, machinery, supplies, apparatus, equipment and communication, telecommunications, engineering, computer, master billings, centralized printing, land and industrial development, group purchasing, inventory control, telephone, water supply, waste management, television and/or transmission and distribution lines or systems necessary, convenient or useful for carrying out and accomplishing any of the foregoing purposes. The Cooperative may do and perform
- any and all acts and things, and to have and exercise any and all powers, as may be necessary or convenient to accomplish any or all of the foregoing purposes as set forth in this article and in this section, or as may be permitted by the provisions of the laws under which the association is formed; and to exercise any of its power anywhere.

ARTICLE V

The duration of the Cooperative shall be perpetual.

ARTICLE VI

The name, occupation and post office address of each of the incorporators of the Cooperative are:

Name	Occupation	Post Office
Carl Zellweger	Farmer	Orient, IA

Albert Ray	Farmer	Greenfield, IA
R.E. Taylor	Farmer	Menlo, IA
Raymond L. James	Farmer	Orient, IA
Clay Evans	Farmer	Bridgewater, IA
Robert Kading	Farmer	Casey, IA
Frank A. Hawthorne	Farmer	Stuart, IA
A.E. Brown	Farmer	Fontanelle, IA

ARTICLE VII

Section 1. Any individual, firm, association, corporation, partnership, or other organization, may become a member in this Cooperative by a) applying for membership certificate in this association, b) agreeing to purchase from the Cooperative the amount of electric energy

hereinafter in Section 3 of the Article specified, and c) agreeing to comply with and to be bound by these Articles of Incorporation, the By-Laws of the Cooperative, any amendments thereto, and such rules and regulations as may from time to time be adopted by the Board of Directors of the Cooperative provided however, that no person, firm, corporation, or body politic shall become a member unless and until he or it has been accepted for membership by the Board of Directors or the members. The By-Laws of the Cooperative may provide the procedure for such action. The By-Laws of the Cooperative may fix such other terms and conditions upon which persons shall be admitted to and retain membership in the Cooperative not inconsistent with these Articles of Incorporation and the Act under which it is organized. A husband and wife may jointly become a member and their application for a joint membership may be accepted in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this section, provided the husband and wife comply jointly with the provisions of the above subdivision A, B, and C.

Section 2. A membership certificate in this Cooperative shall be issued to each member. No applicant for membership shall hold office until his certificate of membership has been issued.

Section 3. The private property of the members of the Cooperative shall be exempt from execution for the debts of the Cooperative and no member shall be individually liable or responsible for any debts or liabilities of the Cooperative.

Section 4. The board of directors of the Cooperative may, by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members thereof, expel any member who has violated or

refused to comply with any of the provisions of these articles of incorporated or the by-laws of the Cooperative or any rules or regulations adopted from time to time by the board of directors. Any member so expelled may be reinstated as a member by a vote of the members at any annual or special meeting of the members. The action of the members with respect to any such reinstatement shall be final.

Section 5. Any member may withdraw from membership upon payment in full of all debts and liabilities of such member to the Cooperative and upon compliance with such terms and conditions as the board of directors may prescribe.

Section 6.

- a) Membership in the Cooperative and a certificate representing the same shall not be transferable, except as hereinafter otherwise provided, and upon death, cessation of existence, expulsion or withdrawal of a member the membership of such member shall thereupon terminate, and the certificate of membership of such member shall be surrendered forthwith to the Cooperative. In case of termination of membership due to voluntary cessation of utilizing the Cooperative's services, a member shall not be entitled to repayment of his membership fee. In cases of expulsion the Cooperative shall pay him an amount equal to the membership paid by him, within sixty (60) days thereafter. In cases of death or eligibility, it shall pay such value to him or his personal representatives within two years thereafter, without interest. Interest shall not in any case be paid upon the value of membership. Any termination

of membership for any reason shall not release the member from the debts or liabilities of such member to the Cooperative.

- b) A membership may be transferred by a member to himself or herself and his or her spouse, as the case may be, jointly upon the written request of such member and compliance by such husband and wife jointly with the provisions of subdivisions (b) and (c) of Section 1 of this article. Such transfer shall be made and recorded on the books of the Cooperative and such joint membership noted on the original certificate representing the membership so transferred.
- c) When a membership is held jointly by a husband and wife, upon the death of either such membership shall be deemed to be held solely by the survivor with the same effect as though such membership had been originally issued solely to him or her, as the case may be, and the joint membership certificate may be surrendered by the survivor and upon the recording of such death on the books of the Cooperative the certificate may be reissued to and in the name of such survivor; provided, however, that the estate of the deceased shall not be released from any membership debts or liabilities to the Cooperative.

Section 7. Except as otherwise provided by Iowa Law, a director, officer, employee or member of the Cooperative is not liable on the Cooperative's debts or obligations, and a director, officer, member or other volunteer is not personally liable in that capacity for a claim based upon an act or omission of the person performed in the discharge of the person's duties, except for a breach of the duty of loyalty to the Cooperative, for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or knowing violation of the law, or for a transaction from which the person derives an improper personal benefit.

The Cooperative may indemnify any present or former director, officer, employee, member, or volunteer in the manner and in the instances authorized in Section 496A.4A Iowa Code (1976) as amended.

ARTICLE VIII

The first regular meeting of the members of the Cooperative shall be held on the second day of December 1938, at the hour of 8:00 p.m., in the city or town in which the principal office of the Cooperative is located, and thereafter regular annual meetings of the members shall be held at such time and place as shall be fixed in the by-laws.

ARTICLE IX

Section 1. The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a board of directors who must be Members of the Cooperative. The board of directors shall be a variable-range size board of directors consisting of not less than seven (7) and not more than nine (9) directors, as the board of directors shall from time to time establish. The directors shall be divided into three (3) classes or voting districts as more specifically provided in the Cooperative's by-laws. At each annual meeting, a number of directors equal to the number of vacant seats on the board of directors shall be elected to hold office for a term of three (3) years, or until their respective successors shall have been elected and qualified. The election of directors shall be by ballot and each voting Member shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote for each director to be elected. The Board shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative except such as are by law or by these articles of incorporation or by the by-laws conferred upon or reserved to the members.

Section 2. At the first regular meeting to be held on the date specified in Article VII of these articles of incorporation, directors shall be elected by and from the members of the Cooperative to serve until the next succeeding regular annual meeting of the members as fixed in the by-laws of the Cooperative, or until their successors have been elected and have qualified. Thereafter, at each annual meeting of the members, directors shall be elected by ballot by and from the members to serve until the next annual meeting of the members, or until their successors have been elected and have qualified, subject to the provisions of these articles of incorporation and the by-laws with respect to the removal of directors. No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who is not a bonafide resident in the area served by the Cooperative, or who is any way

employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative. The by-laws of the Cooperative may provide additional qualifications not in conflict with law or these articles of incorporation. Nothing in this section contained shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner whatever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of directors.

Section 3. The by-laws may provide for a procedure for nominations. In that case a ballot marked "Ballot for Directors" containing the names of all the nominees for the board of directors, alphabetically arranged and stating the residence or each, shall be mailed with the

notice of the meeting. The Secretary shall also mail with the notice of the meeting a statement of the number of directors to be elected. Such statement of the Secretary shall also inform the members of the manner in which they may vote by mail for directors by marking on the ballot an "X" opposite the names of the number of candidates equal to the number of directors to be elected and enclosing the ballot in a sealed envelope bearing his name addressed to the Secretary. When such ballot so enclosed is received by mail from any absent members at such meeting. If a husband and wife hold a joint membership and are absent from any such meeting they may vote by mail for directors by jointly marking and enclosing the ballot hereinabove provided for. Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors.

Section 4. Subject to the provisions of these articles of incorporation, vacancies occurring in the board of directors between annual meeting of the members of the Cooperative shall be filled by a majority vote of the members or until their successors have been elected and have qualified.

Section 5. Any member may bring charges against an officer or director by filling them in writing with the Secretary, together with a petition signed by ten per centum (10 per cent) of the members, requesting the removal of the officer

or director in question. The removal shall be voted upon at the next regular or special meeting of the members, and any vacancy created by such removal may be filled by the members at such meeting. The director or officer against whom such charges have been

brought shall be informed in writing of the charges previous to the meeting and have an opportunity at the meeting to be heard in person or by counsel and to present evidence; and the person or persons bringing the charges against him shall have the same opportunity.

ARTICLE X

Section 1. No dividends shall be paid upon membership in the Cooperative. Subject to the provisions of any mortgage or deed of trust given or assumed by the Cooperative, the board of directors shall, after the expiration of each fiscal year, apply the unexpended revenues and receipts for such fiscal year as follows:

- a) To provide a reasonable reserve for maintenance, depreciation, obsolescence, bad debts, or contingent losses or expenses;
- b) At least ten per centum (10 per cent) of the remaining earnings must be added to surplus until surplus equals either thirty per centum (30 per cent) of the total of all capital paid in for stock or memberships, plus all unpaid patronage dividends, plus certificates of indebtedness payable upon liquidation, earnings from non-member business, and earnings arising from the earnings of other cooperative organizations of which the association is a member, or one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) whichever is greater. No addition shall be made to surplus whenever it exceeds either fifty per centum (50 per cent) of such total, or one thousand dollars (\$1000.00), whichever is greater;
- c) Not less than one per centum (1 per cent) nor more than five per centum (5 per cent) of such earnings in excess of reserves may be placed in an educational fund to be used as the directors deem suitable for teaching or promoting cooperation; and the effective use of electricity; and

- d) Of all remaining net earnings, the directors shall determine the percentage or amount of said allocation that currently shall be paid in cash. All said remaining allocation not so paid in cash shall be allocated to the revolving fund and credited to the account of each ratably in proportion to the business the member has done with the Cooperative during each year. Said credits are herein referred to as “deferred patronage dividends.”

Section 2. The members may, at any meeting, control the amount to be allocated to surplus or educational fund with the limits specified in Section 1 of this Article X.

Section 3. The directors may use the revolving fund to pay the obligations of or add to the capital of the Cooperative. In such event the deferred patronage dividends credited to members shall constitute a charge upon the revolving fund and future additions thereto, and on the corporate assets subordinate to creditors then or thereafter existing. Deferred patronage dividends for any year shall have priority over those for any subsequent year, except as provided elsewhere in these Articles of Incorporation, and except that the directors may, at their discretion, pay deferred patronage of deceased natural persons who were members, and may pay all other deferred patronage dividends without reference to the order of priority herein prescribed.

Section 4. The Cooperative may issue certificates for deferred patronage refunds, but such a certificate shall be non-transferable except to a party eligible to, and accepted, for membership who becomes the owner or operator of the real property formerly owned or operated by a member and served by the Cooperative.

Section 5. Credits or certificates referred to in Sections 3 and 4 of this Article X shall not mature until the dissolution or liquidation of the Cooperative but shall be callable by the Cooperative at any time in the order of priority specified in Section 3 of this Article X.

ARTICLE XI

The Cooperative may not sell, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any of its property other than;

- a) Property which, in the judgment of the board of directors is or will be neither necessary nor useful in operating and maintaining the Cooperative's system, provided, however, that sales of such property shall not in any one year exceed in value ten per centum (10 per cent) of the value of all the property of the Cooperative.
- b) Services of all kinds, including electric energy;
- c) Personal property acquired for resale; unless such sale, mortgage, lease, or other disposition of encumbrance is authorized at a meeting of the members by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members voting thereon at such meeting in person or by mail, and the notice of such proposed sale, mortgage, lease, or other disposition or encumbrance shall have been contained in the notice of the meeting provided, however, that notwithstanding anything herein contained, the board of directors, without authorization by the members, shall have full power and authority to borrow money from United States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof or a national financing institution, organized on a cooperative plan for the purpose of financing its members; programs, projects and undertakings, in which the cooperative holds membership and in connection with such borrowing to authorize
- the making and issuance of bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness and, to secure the payment thereof, to authorize the execution and delivery of a mortgage or mortgages, or a deed or deeds of trust upon, or the pledging or encumbrancing of any or all of the property, assets, rights, privileges, licenses, franchises and permits of the Cooperative, whether situated, all upon such terms and conditions as the board of directors shall determine.
- d) A sale, lease, exchange or other disposition of all or substantially all of the property and assets of the Cooperative, with or without the good will if not made in the usual and regular course of business, may be made upon terms and conditions and for such consideration which may consist in whole or in part of money or property, real or personal, including

shares of any other cooperative association organized under the statutes of the State of Iowa, as long as such sale, lease, exchange or other disposition is authorized in the following manner: a) the Board of Directors of the Cooperative shall adopt a resolution recommending the sale, lease, exchange or other disposition and directing the submission thereof to a vote at a meeting of the membership, which may be either an annual or special meeting; b) written or printed notice of the proposal shall be given to each member of record entitled to vote at the meeting within the time and in the manner provided by these Articles of Incorporation for the giving of notice of meetings of members and whether the meeting be annual or special meeting, shall state that the purpose, or one of the purposes of the meeting is to consider the proposed sale, lease, exchange or other disposition of substantially all of the property and assets of

- this Cooperative; c) at the meeting the membership may authorize the sale, lease, exchange or other disposition and may fix, or may authorize the Board of Directors to fix, any and all of the terms and conditions thereof and the consideration to be received by this Cooperative. Such authorization shall be approved if two-thirds (2/3) of the members vote affirmatively on a ballot on which a majority of all voting members of the Cooperative participate; d) after the authorization by the vote of members, the Board of Directors of the cooperative may nevertheless in its discretion abandon the sale, lease, exchange, or other disposition of assets, subject to the rights of third parties under any contracts relating thereto without further action or approval by the members.

ARTICLE XII

Upon dissolution or liquidation, the assets of the Cooperative shall be applied to the payment of liquidation expenses and then to the payment of all obligations of the Cooperative other than patronage refunds or certificates issued therefor. The remainder of such assets shall be distributed in the following order of priority: a) payment of any deferred patronage refund or certificate issued therefor, and if the assets are insufficient to pay all such

patronage refunds or certificates issued therefor they shall be prorated to the payment of all such deferred patronage refunds or certificates issued therefor; b) payment to the members of the membership fee paid by them; and c) the remaining assets shall be distributed among the members according to law.

ARTICLE XIII

The directors, by a vote of seventy-five per cent (75%) of the directors, may adopt, alter, amend or repeal By-laws for the Cooperative, and the same shall remain in force until altered, amended or repealed by a vote of seventy-five per cent (75%) of the members present at any annual meeting or special meeting of the members.

ARTICLE XIV

The Cooperative may amend, alter, change or repeal any provision contained in these articles of incorporation in the manner now or hereinafter prescribed by law.

Carl Zellweger.....Orient, IA

Albert Ray.....Greenfield, IA

R.E. Taylor.....Menlo, IA

Raymond L. James.....Orient, IA

Clay Evans.....Bridgewater, IA

Robert Kading.....Casey, IA

Frank A. Hawthorne.....Stuart, IA

A.E. Brown.....Fontanelle, IA

State of Iowa

Adair County

On this 28 th day of November, 1938, before me, M.G. Kellam, a notary public,
in and for Adair County, Iowa, personally appeared:

Carl Zellweger

Albert Ray

R.E. Taylor

Raymond L. James

Clay Evans

Robert Kading

Frank A. Hawthorne

A.E. Brown

To me known to be the identical persons named in and who executed the
foregoing articles of incorporation and whose names are affixed thereto and
acknowledged that they executed the same as their voluntary act and deed.

Made under my hand and seal of office the day and year last above written.

M. G. Kellam

Notary Public, in and

For Adair County, Iowa