

Rules of the County of Stafford Association for Protection Against Loss by the Cattle Plague : established September 1865.

Contributors

Stafford Association for Protection Against Loss by the Cattle Plague.

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RULES
OF THE
COUNTY OF STAFFORD ASSOCIATION
FOR PROTECTION AGAINST LOSS BY THE
CATTLE PLAGUE.

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER, 1865.

I.—This Association shall be open to all persons whose lands are within the boundary of the County of Stafford, or within the boundary of any Poor Law Union belonging to the County of Stafford.

II.—That the Association shall consist of a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen, a Treasurer, a Secretary, three Veterinary Surgeons, and a Committee, and all occupiers of land except Cattle Dealers and Town Cowkeepers, insuring the whole of the cattle in their possession, and of Land-owners contributing to the premiums payable by their Tenants.

III.—That the affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Central Committee, consisting of the gentlemen appointed at the County Meeting held on the 29th of August, and the members elected by the Boards of Guardians, (each of which shall be invited to return at least two,) with power to add to their number.

IV.—That District Committees be appointed—consisting of all members of the Central Committee resident within the District, and such persons as the Boards of Guardians may appoint, or in default of such appointment, the District Committee shall be appointed by the Central Committee.

V.—That Meetings of the Central Committee shall be held on the 23rd of September, the 21st of October, the 18th of November, and the 23rd of December, and whenever convened by the Chairman, or Vice-Chairman, on due notice, and that Meetings of all District Committees shall be held not less than once every week; in each case—that three members of the Committee shall form a quorum empowered to act; in the absence of Chairman or Vice-Chairmen they shall appoint their own.

VI.—The Treasurer shall keep an account of all monies received and paid on account of the Association, which account with a statement of the financial position of the Association, shall be placed before each Monthly Meeting of the Central Committee.

VII.—That any person wishing to insure his cattle shall apply to the Secretary of the Central Committee, or to a Member of the District Committee, for the necessary Form of

Declaration, which such person shall properly fill up and sign, such declaration shall be certified to be correct by two Members of the District Committee, who shall also sign a certificate to the effect that the cattle proposed to be insured are free from the Cattle Plague or any disease resembling it: this declaration, when properly filled up and signed, shall be forwarded to the District Committee to be taken into consideration at their next weekly meeting, and if such application shall be approved by a majority of the members present at any such meeting, the party thus applying shall be admitted a member upon paying the amount of any deposit and call required of him under the Rules of the Association; and every person becoming a member shall be liable to pay all further calls at such times as may be required by the Central Committee, not exceeding in the whole 10 per cent. on the amount for which he shall be insured; notification of the admission of a member shall, in all cases, be forwarded immediately by the District Committee to the Secretary of the Central Committee.

VIII.—Any person joining the Association shall pay up the full amount of all calls made previous to his becoming a member.

IX.—For the purposes of Insurance, cattle will be classified as follows—

- A. Dairy Cows and In-calf Heifers.
- B. Bulls and Feeding Stock.
- C. Store Stock.
- D. Calves over Six Months of age.

And on these the Maximum Rate of Insurance will be limited to

- £18 in Classes A and B.
- £10 in Class C.
- £5 in Class D.

X.—An average value will be put by the insurer on the animals proposed to be insured in each Class—such value to be certified by two Members of the Committee; and in the event of loss, compensation will be paid at the rate of such average value on each animal, which shall be certified to the Committee by some competent person to have died of the Cattle Plague.

XI.—In no case will cattle among which the disease has appeared be insurable.

XII.—Cattle Dealers and Town Cowkeepers may be admitted by special agreement with the Central Committee.

XIII.—That no person shall be admitted a member of the Association unless he shall insure the whole of the Cattle in his possession, and no person shall be admitted a member of the Association who has introduced any strange cattle on to his farm within 14 days, unless he shall have taken such precautions against infection as may be satisfactory to the Committee, and no person shall, after becoming a member, introduce any strange cattle on his farm without authority from the District Committee.

XIV.—That the District Committee shall have the power of inspecting, or ordering to be inspected, the homesteads of members of the Association, to order them to be properly cleansed, and whitewashed where necessary, and stagnant waters removed.

XV.—That any member having any Cattle taken ill with any disease resembling in its symptoms the Cattle Plague, shall immediately give notice to two members of the District Committee as well as to the Inspector of the District appointed under the Order in Council, and any member neglecting to give immediate notice to the Committee on the first appearance of disease, or neglecting to pay proper attention to all orders and directions of the said Committee, shall be liable to forfeit all claims to compensation.

XVI.—Every person becoming a member of the Association shall upon entering pay as a deposit a sum of 2½ per cent. on the amount of his insurance, and shall be liable to

further calls not exceeding in the whole 10 per cent. on such amount inclusive of the deposit, at such times and in such proportions as the Central Committee may deem requisite previous to the winding up of the affairs of the Association, on the 31st day of December, 1865.

XVII.—That where any animal shall have died of the Cattle Plague, or been killed by the order of an Inspector appointed under the order in Council of the 26th day of August, a certificate of such death signed by two members of the Committee and Veterinary Surgeon, or the Inspector of the District, shall be sent to the District Committee, and if approved by them shall be forwarded by them to the Central Committee, and become a registered claim upon the Association, provided the claimant shall have in all respects conformed to the Rules of the Association.

XVIII.—That no Member shall be entitled to claim the amount of compensation awarded to him for loss until the 31st day of December, 1865, and at that date, claims on the part of persons who shall have paid up all calls made by the Association, shall be met in full, and the balance if any divided amongst the contributors in proportion to the premiums paid by each, provided always that in the event of the registered claims exceeding the funds in hand, claimants shall only be entitled to such equal per centage on their losses, as the funds in hand shall be sufficient to pay.

XIX.—That all payments to which any member shall be liable shall be payable forthwith to the Account of the Treasurer of the Association at the Bank of the Poor Law Union to which such member may belong, or to the Treasurer of the Central Committee, and if not paid within ten days after the date of the notice of call, such member shall not be entitled to any claim upon the funds of the Association, and shall be liable to exclusion at any meeting of the Central Committee.

XX.—That all Members of the Committees shall give their attention and services gratuitously.

XXI.—That any member who shall reduce his stock after having joined the Association, shall upon the production of a Certificate to that effect, signed by two Members of the District Committee, be freed from further calls in respect of such stock as may have been disposed of.

XXII.—Veterinary Surgeons when called in shall be allowed such sum as may be agreed upon between them and the Central Committee.

XXIII.—The above Rules shall have no effect unless insurances shall have been effected on not less than 10,000 head of cattle.