

Standards of Conduct

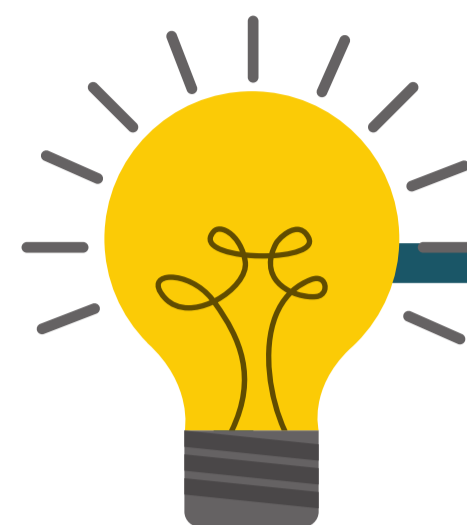


Directors and officers are entrusted with responsibility for the organization's well-being and must follow certain standards of conduct. Directors and officers are subject to four primary obligations: Duty of Care, Duty of Loyalty, Duty of Obedience, and Duty of Transparency. These principles should guide all action taken by a director or officer.



Duty of Care

The duty of care requires that a board member be informed and that he/she perform his/her duties in good faith with the care that an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances. In the course of making corporate decisions, a board member should be fully informed, deliberate carefully, and exercise independent judgment.



Duty of Loyalty

The duty of loyalty requires that board members exercise their powers in good faith and in the best interests of the corporation rather than in their own interests or the interests of another entity or person. Avoid conflicts of interest and, just as importantly, avoid the appearance of conflicts of interest.



Duty of Obedience

The duty of obedience requires board members to strongly support any policy of the federation. As an individual, one might oppose a particular motion, argue against it, or even vote against it. But once the board approves the motion, all directors must support that motion in good faith. The board form of governance requires directors to obey and follow board policies.



Duty of Transparency

The duty of transparency requires board members to exhibit that they are following the law. Nonprofit organizations are granted tax-exempt status based on their declared purpose. Therefore, these organizations have a duty to properly file public records that substantiate to the public that the organization dealings are in line with their defined purpose.

Board Roles & Responsibilities



- Operate within the framework of the county bylaws and established policies
- Determine the yearly goals and objectives of the county Farm Bureau
- Become familiar with the relationship between the county, state and American Farm Bureau
- Manage finances and create an annual budget
- Adjust the annual budget as needed as situations change throughout the year
- Administrative responsibilities may be delegated by the county president or board members
- Ensure and approve adequate minutes of all meetings as they will constitute legal evidence of actions taken by the board
- Develop county committees to carry out county programs and activities
- Committee meetings are not part of the monthly board meetings or comprised entirely of board members
- Provide direction to committees
- Determine, assess and support the activities and programs offered to members
- Ensure that all yearly membership goals are met
- Plan and conduct a county annual meeting