

NOMINATION GUIDE

VEAL FARMERS OF ONTARIO

Board of Directors 2026 Nomination Guide



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For Ontario veal cattle producers

The Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) Board of Directors invites interested veal cattle and dairy calf producers to get involved in our organization.

Directors work on behalf of the Ontario dairy calf and veal cattle sector on projects, issues, and initiatives that benefit the membership of the organization. This Guide is intended to provide you with information you need to know about the call for nominations, the election process, and your commitment as a VFO Director.

Please review this Guide, and if you are interested in being considered for a seat on the VFO Board of Directors or would like more information, please contact:

Jennifer Haley, Executive Director

Email: jhaley@vealfarmers.ca

Tel: 519-824-2942

Call for nominations

The business of VFO is handled by a board of directors comprised of eight veal cattle and/or dairy calf producers from across Ontario. All voting producer members of VFO, with their membership in good standing, are eligible for nomination.

VFO does not have zones, counties, or districts and therefore, board members are considered elected 'at large' representing all veal cattle and dairy calf producers in Ontario. All directors are elected to a rotating three-year term. This ensures continuity on the board. There is a maximum of three three-year terms (or nine years) that a director can serve before being required to step off the board for at least one year. From time to time, VFO may welcome a non-voting observer to participate in board meetings. The board of directors is also responsible for appointing veal cattle and/or dairy calf producers to the board if a director cannot complete their term.

Interested candidates must complete the self-nomination form found at vealfarmers.ca in full and submit it no later than February 13, 2026, for review by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will then put forth a slate of candidates for consideration. Directors are elected by voting members at the VFO Annual General Meeting (AGM). Nominations from the floor will not be accepted.

Nomination deadline: February 13, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. ET

Election results: March 18, 2026; Election results announced at the VFO AGM.

Becoming a VFO Director

VFO is a producer-run organization that represents the interests of Ontario veal cattle and dairy calf producers, providing leadership to promote industry development through collaboration and communications. VFO is open, transparent, and committed to excellence.

Regulatory framework

- *Ontario Farm Products Marketing Act*
- *Regulation 272-14- Veal Cattle Plan*
- *Regulation 58/15- Veal Cattle Marketing*
- *Regulation 400 By-Laws for Local Boards*
- *VFO By-Law 1-2015 and 2-2015*
- *VFO General Regulations*

In 2015, VFO was established as a regulated board under regulations 272/14 and 58/15 of the *Ontario Farm Products Marketing Act*. VFO replaces the dissolved legacy organization, Ontario Veal Association. Between VFO and OVA, there is a long-standing history of a producer-run organization advocating for the needs of the Ontario veal sector within the agri-food industry.

Under regulations 272/14 and 58/15, VFO has the regulatory authority to collect licence fees (also known as check-off) on veal cattle in the amount of \$7.50/head. These funds are then invested into the industry's future through programs and research that benefit the industry and its producers.

Member eligibility criteria

All voting producer members of VFO, with their membership in good standing, are eligible for nomination. Members must be at least 18 years of age and under 70 years of age, and not personally bankrupt.

Your role

The VFO Board of Directors is responsible for planning and establishing strategic direction for our organization. Input from individual directors is vital to maintaining a strong and active voice for our sector. We are actively seeking candidates from a variety of backgrounds; skill sets and size of farm operations.

Directors also collaborate with our industry partners on committees in areas of interest that highlight their skill set on both the provincial and national level, represent VFO at meetings and events, and interact with officials at all levels of government.

Directors must act with integrity and in the best interests of the organization and our stakeholders, while exercising due care and diligence. Directors will abide by the Code of Conduct requirements and agree to maintain confidentiality and impartiality at all times.

Your commitment

Directors work on behalf of Ontario's veal cattle and dairy calf sector on projects, issues, and initiatives that benefit the membership of the organization.

Preparation, attendance, and active participation at regular meetings, strategic planning sessions, and other professional development opportunities is an expectation and responsibility of VFO Directors. From time to time, VFO Directors will also take part in special committee activities, meetings, and events with our industry partners and government.

VFO Board meetings

Full-day board meetings are held five to six times throughout the year in the Guelph-area. Between in-person meetings, the Board also schedules virtual meetings as needed (approximately two hours in length). In the future, board meetings may be a combination of in-person and virtual meetings.

Meeting materials are provided to directors in advance of meetings where possible, and to ensure directors are able to review and prepare for meetings to focus on productive discussions, informed decisions, and quality board governance. Directors are encouraged to share their personal views in a respectful manner, while taking into account the impact on the Ontario veal sector as a whole.

Compensation

VFO Directors are provided a meeting per diem at either full, half or conference call rates as compensation for your time. Reimbursement is also provided for any approved travel expenses as applicable and according to VFO's policies.

Experience considered an asset

- Participating in or leading a business or organization in planning for its future
- Reviewing financial reports, financial statements, and operational budgets
- Working as a team and sharing important information with industry partners as required
- Knowledge of the veal sector
- Serving on a volunteer board or committee

Requirements

- Ability to independently travel to attend daytime meetings
- Reliable and stable internet access to support video conferencing
- Have access to both your own email and cell phone
- A familiarity with email and Zoom platform

VFO strategic outlook

The work and decision-making of VFO is guided by its strategic plan which is reviewed and updated frequently.

Mission:

Veal Farmers of Ontario provides leadership to promote industry development through collaboration and communications.

Vision:

Proactive and engaged leadership for Ontario dairy calf and veal cattle farmers.

Organizational values:

The following are the foundational values for which the organization prioritizes its work:

- Leadership – We proactively provide expertise and leadership on behalf of our members.
- Collaboration – We take a collaborative approach in addressing industry issues.
- Integrity – We are open, transparent, and committed to excellence.
- Animal care – Animal health, welfare, and care are our top priorities.

Key strategic focus areas:



Want to learn more about VFO? Check out the following links:

www.vealfarmers.ca
www.calfcare.ca
www.ontariovealappeal.ca