



**IMPORTANT:**

**VFO MEMBER CONSULTATION**

## **Summary of proposed Veal Farmers of Ontario regulation changes**

The Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) Board of Directors will be proposing the following amendments to *Ontario Regulation 272/14 Veal Cattle Plan*. These proposed amendments are part of the VFO Board's recent review of its regulations and governance to ensure VFO meets the needs of the sector while remaining responsive, reflective, and responsible to dairy calf and veal cattle producers. These proposed amendments will be discussed at our upcoming Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, March 18th, 2026.

### **Board size**

*Ontario Regulation 272/14 Veal Cattle Plan*

5. The local board shall be composed of eight members, all of whom shall be producers.

Currently, the VFO Board is composed of eight members who each serve a three-year term. With the changes to the dairy calf and veal cattle industry structure and capacity, fewer producers are eligible or interested in being considered for nomination to the VFO Board. The VFO Board also does not have zones or districts from which aspiring board member candidates are cultivated from. All Board members are considered 'at large' and therefore, the board is dependent on the willingness of producers to stand for election and serve. When board vacancies arise, this presents challenges for the board structure and quorum. Quorum is five of eight Board members present, which may include the Chair.

### **Proposed change**

5. The local board shall be composed of **six** members, all of whom shall be producers.

The VFO Board believes that the issues and work of the organization can be directed by six engaged Directors, and this amendment is reflective of the size and composition of the larger industry as a whole without changing who VFO represents. Quorum would be four of six Board members present to make decisions which may include the Chair. It is a shared responsibility between the Board, and the members that they represent, to ensure that a full Board is in place at all times.

### **Board terms eligibility**

*Ontario Regulation 272/14 Veal Cattle Plan*

11. A producer who has been elected as a member of the local board for three consecutive three-year terms is not eligible to be elected to the local board until one year after the end of the third term.

### **Proposed change**

11. A producer who has been elected as a member of the local board for **four** consecutive three-year terms is not eligible to be elected to the local board until one year after the end of the **fourth** term.

Extending the possible number of terms a Board member can serve to four three-year terms would provide an additional Board cycle for Board members interested in remaining on the VFO Board. This is especially important in Board succession planning and bringing new members to the Board while also retaining experience and knowledge. This extension also provides additional flexibility to the whole sector to maintain continuity while also being able to nurture new members to serve on the Board to ensure new perspectives, ideas, and voices are considered. In the current and proposed change, a Board member who has reached their term limit would still need to step off the Board for a minimum of one year before seeking to return.

## **Annual General Meeting**

### *Ontario Regulation 272/14 Veal Cattle Plan*

4. (1) Despite subsection 19 (1) of Regulation 400 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario (By-laws for Local Boards) made under the Act, beginning in 2016, the local board shall hold one annual meeting of producers to be held after February 15 and on or before March 15 in each year.

#### **Proposed change**

Remove this section altogether from the regulations. Refer to requirements under the updated Regulation 400.

The requirement for a local board to have an annual meeting of producers is already outlined in *Regulation 400 By-Laws for Local Board Section 19 (1)*. VFO must also comply with this regulation. VFO's fiscal year end is December 31st and the ability to complete year end transactions, the annual audit with our external auditors, and review and approve financial statements to be presented at the annual meeting becomes increasingly difficult to complete by a very prescriptive March 15th deadline. Removing this section from VFO's regulations does not eliminate VFO's responsibility to organize an annual meeting as outlined in Regulation 400. If approved, the VFO Board will develop a policy that requires an annual meeting to be held within four to six months of its fiscal year end.

## **Next steps**

Once consultations with members have wrapped up, VFO will submit the proposed amendments to the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission (the Commission) for their review and consideration. If supported by members of the Commission, they would begin the process of amending VFO regulations and providing additional opportunities for member input during the required posting period. It is VFO's hope that the amendments will be approved and in place by Fall 2026 for implementation ahead of the 2027 Annual General Meeting.

VFO is consulting with its members to gather feedback and support for the proposed amendments and ensure members are aware of proposed regulation amendments and their implications for VFO. There is no voting required.

**Questions or comments? Please reach out to any of your VFO Board of Directors to discuss.**

You can also email [info@vealfarmers.ca](mailto:info@vealfarmers.ca) with your questions, concerns, or support.

## **2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & PRODUCER EDUCATION DAY**

**Wednesday, March 18, 2026**

10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The GrandWay Events Centre  
Elora, Ontario