

### Introduction

The goal of a grain-fed veal farmer is to achieve the desired finish on veal cattle at the right weight and age. Ideally, market-ready grain-fed veal cattle should weigh between 295 to 320 kg (650 to 705 lbs.) at 28 to 32 weeks (seven to eight months) of age. To achieve this goal, it is critical to have the right feed rations and ratios.

Veal is defined as cattle of any dairy breed or dairy crossbreed dressing no more than 190 kg (419 lb.). This converts to a live weight of roughly 349 kg (769 lb.), which is reached at approximately eight months of age. Producers are strongly encouraged to target a dress weight of 180 kg (397 lb.) to maintain some flexibility within the system to manage veal carcass weights.

- Average daily gain (ADG) should be 1.2 kg (2.6 lb.) or better. Targeting daily gains above 1.5 kg (3.3 lb.) may require additional nutrient requirements.

Grain-fed veal cattle are fed a balanced ration based of grain (usually clean, whole-shelled corn) and pellets made of protein, vitamins, and minerals. A small amount of fibre should be offered daily to maintain rumen health. Cattle should also have continuous access to their feed, to encourage slower eating and stimulate chewing. Ensure there is adequate bunk space for each animal.

### Deadstock

Deadstock (dead farm animals) must be managed responsibly to protect public health, the environment, and comply with provincial regulations. This fact sheet outlines approved disposal methods and key requirements under ***Ontario Regulation 106/09: Disposal of Dead Farm Animals***.

**Deadstock disposal isn't just a duty—it is the foundation of a responsible farm.**

### Why proper disposal matters

Proper deadstock disposal is essential to protect the environment and public health, minimize nuisance complaints, and ensure compliance with provincial regulations. Improper disposal poses serious risks, including contamination, safety hazards, and community disturbances. It is also a provincial offence under *Ontario Regulation 106/09: Disposal of Dead Farm Animals*. Enforcement Officers from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) have the authority to investigate violations and issue fines accordingly.

## On-farm disposal options

Dead farm animals must be disposed of within **48 hours** unless an exception applies. Disposal sites must be located away from water sources and aquifers. If immediate disposal is not possible, cold storage at 4°C (39.2°F) or lower is permitted.

Approved disposal methods:

- **Composting** – Must follow regulated composting guidelines
  - Max volume of deadstock: 600 m<sup>3</sup>
  - Not allowed on organic soils, porous sandy soils (hydraulic soil A/AA), or soils with a depth <0.9 m to bedrock
- **Burial** – Must meet specific depth and location requirements
  - Max weight of deadstock: 2,500 kg (5,511.6 lb.)
  - Lowest point of burial pit must be at least >0.9 m above the uppermost identified bedrock layer or aquifer
- **Disposal Vessel**
  - Leakproof, scavenger-proof container
  - Max volume: 10 m<sup>3</sup>
  - It can be installed under, partially, or above ground into which deadstock is placed to decompose
- **Incineration** – Requires an approved incinerator
  - Must have Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) Certificate or Statement
  - Max disposal: 1,000 kg (2,204.6 lb.)/day
- **Collection Services** – Licensed collectors can transport deadstock

## Disposal and transportation requirements

Delivery to a licensed disposal facility (rendering plant) or an approved waste disposal site (landfill) must occur within 48 hours after animal death if off-farm disposal is the preferred option.

Transportation requires a vehicle that is leakproof, easily cleaned and decontaminated after use, and the animals are kept hidden from public view. Farmers may transport their own deadstock, but if not, only licensed haulers are permitted. A permit from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is required for transporting dead cattle, including Specified Risk Material; contact CFIA at 1-800-442-2342 for details.

Visit <https://ontario.ca/page/licensed-deadstock-operators-ontario> to find licensed deadstock operators.

Some municipal landfills may accept non-ruminant deadstock. Call the disposal facility prior to arranging transport to ensure they can accept your deadstock.

Approved renderers		Approved private landfills	
Atwood Resources	519-291-0418 <a href="mailto:Admin.ari@xplor.net">Admin.ari@xplor.net</a>	Waste Management-Twin Creeks Environmental Center, Watford, ON	519-849-5810
Darling Ingredients	800-263-0323	GFL Moose Creek Landfill	613-538-2776
		Ridge Landfill Waste Connections of Canada, Blenheim, ON	519-676-5000

## Emergency disposal authorization

If emergency conditions prevent standard disposal, use the contact numbers below to obtain Emergency Authorization from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Agribusiness (OMAFRA):

- **Business hours:** Call Agricultural Information Contact Centre at **1-877-424-1300**
- **Evenings/weekends:** Call Spills Action Centre at **1-800-268-6060**. OMAFA or MECP staff will respond the next business day

## Record-keeping

For veal producers, record-keeping is a fundamental part of business success. Producers must maintain records of disposal methods used. Maintaining mortality records is not only a best practice, but also a requirement under the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Veal Cattle* and helps assess herd health over time. Copies can be found here: <https://vealfarmers.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/RK-09-Veal-Mortality-Record-FINAL-2021.06.28.pdf>

## For more information:

Visit [Deadstock Management in Ontario](#) for full regulatory details and guidance.

As part of your research into starting a grain-fed veal farm, you are encouraged to talk to experienced veal producers, visit their farms (while following strict biosecurity protocols), and attend industry events and meetings. No two veal farms are the same and a lot of valuable information will be learned from each visit and event.

Find VFO producer resources here: <https://vealfarmers.ca/producer-information/resources/>

Find the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Veal Cattle* here: <https://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/veal-cattle>

Find Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Agribusiness veal resources here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/veal-farming>

*References available upon request.*

### Veal Farmers of Ontario

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### Find us online:

<https://vealfarmers.ca>

<https://calfcare.ca>

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YouTube: [Ontario Veal](#)  
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Disclaimer: This resource is for educational purposes only. Veal Farmers of Ontario is not responsible for any business or management decisions made by consulting this resource.

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