



NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Veal Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- Thursday, February 08, 2007

Ontario Veal Association re-elects Judy Dirksen as President

(Guelph) The Ontario Veal Association (OVA) is pleased to announce that Judy Dirksen has been re-elected to the position of OVA President at the organization's inaugural board meeting held after the 2007 OVA Annual General Meeting on January 27th, 2007.

A board member since 2001 and serving as President since 2005, Judy continues her role of OVA President into 2007. Judy is a very active member of the agricultural industry and her community. Among her many activities, Judy is the Deputy Mayor for the Town of Minto, a graduate of the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program and the Dairy Educator for Wellington County.

"This year will provide many opportunities to get even more involved in Ontario's veal industry. Continuing projects currently on the go, such as the OVA's submission to the Farm Products Marketing Commission, as well as working on new initiatives developed through the year will keep the OVA Board and Staff busy" stated Dirksen. "I look forward to a challenging year ahead."

Judy and Dick Dirksen, along with their three grown children, operate Dircrest Holsteins near Harriston. The Dirksens have raised veal for over 20 years raising approximately 450 grain-fed calves annually. The family also cash crops and operates a custom farming operation.

Also re-elected to the Board of Directors and an executive position is Ian Foster as the 2007 OVA Vice President. Foster has been a member of the OVA Board of Directors since 1993, holding executive positions for several of those years. Foster is a grain-fed veal farmer from the Aylmer area. "Ian has a great understanding of Ontario's veal industry and brings his perspective to the table. I look forward to continuing to work with Ian this year," states Dirksen.

During the OVA Annual General Meeting producer attendees re-elected Andre Roy from Grober Nutrition, Brian Keunen a milk-fed farmer from Drayton and Eric Nonkes a grain-fed farmer from Auburn. Rounding out the eight member board is Nick Terpstra a grain-fed farmer from Atwood, Gord South a grain-fed farmer from Palmerston and Albert Hessels a grain-fed farmer from Wingham.

The OVA is a producer run organization representing Ontario's 450+ grain-fed and milk-fed veal farmers. The OVA is responsible for marketing and promotions, producer education, communication, government and industry partner relations, and research and industry development.

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