



# NEWS RELEASE

## Ontario Veal Association

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### **ONTARIO VEAL RE-ELECTS PRESIDENT JUDY DIRKSEN**

(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 in Guelph recently.

A board member since 2001 and serving as President since 2005, Judy continues her role of OVA President into 2006. Judy is a very active member of the agricultural industry and her community. Among her many activities, Judy is a Councillor for the Town of Minto, a graduate of the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program, and the Dairy Educator for Wellington County.

"I look forward to a challenging year ahead. With a number of projects and challenges that the OVA board will be dealing with, it will be an exciting year," stated Dirksen. "Number one on our priority list this year is to complete our submission to the Farm Products Marketing Commission in order to function as a veal marketing board," she added.

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 700 grain-fed calves annually. The family also cash crops and operates a custom farming operation.

Ian Foster was re-elected to the position of OVA Vice President. Foster has been a member of the OVA Board since 1993, holding several executive positions. Foster is a grain-fed veal producer from Aylmer. "I look forward to continuing to work with Ian this year. He is very knowledgeable about the veal industry and dedicated to its advancement," states Dirksen.

Newly elected to the OVA board this year is Albert Hessels, a grain-fed veal producer from Wingham. Also new to the board this year is Kendra Keels, from the Grober/Delft Blue group of companies. Kendra was appointed to fill retiring director Michael Cooper's term.

Rounding out the eight member board is Brian Keunen from Drayton; Eric Nonkes from Auburn; Nick Terpstra from Atwood; and Gord South from Palmerston. "Each of these individuals are innovative thinkers who bring fresh ideas and approaches to the board," states Dirksen. "It is a great team to be working with."

"We also want to acknowledge our retiring directors Bill Kroesbergen and Michael Cooper. They were assets to the board and we thank them for all of their contributions to Ontario's veal industry," adds Dirksen.

The OVA is a producer run organization representing Ontario's 450+ grain-fed and milk-fed veal producers. 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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