

## **Veal Farmers of Ontario**

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## **Veal Farmers of Ontario Commitment to Animal Care June 2014**

First and foremost, the health and welfare of our animals is of paramount importance to Ontario's veal farmers.

The VFO strongly condemns any farm animal abuse. To demonstrate this commitment we have formalized a partnership with the OSPCA to assist with on-farm animal care issues. The VFO has been an active participant with the Farm and Food Care's Farm Animal Care Helpline since 1992.

The VFO supports the Veal Code of Practice and we continue to lobby for an updated version of the Code, including both a scientific and economic analysis, in order to ensure continuous improvements in animal care in the industry and on our farms.

Ontario's veal farmers have been innovators in the adoption of new technologies including housing systems, feeding programs, animal nutrition and animal care standards. As part of the industry's commitment, the VFO is recommending that individual stalls used for milk-fed veal production be transitioned to group housing methods by December 2018.

The VFO will continue to work with our industry partners to make improvements and we invite our stakeholders and customers to engage and invest in research with us that will address the needs of the sector moving forward.