



# Farmer Insight

Your timely source for farm business information and ideas

## Our goal is to be the best - We're looking for Ontario's passionate, committed farm leaders

As Ontario chicken farmers, we are fortunate to be part of one of the best food systems in the world. Our supply managed system gives us the opportunity to provide Ontario consumers with high quality chicken grown close to home while enabling farmers and the industry to earn fair returns, all of which leads to continued investment and innovation in the industry.

We take this privilege and accountability seriously. As a Board, we are responsible for the future profitability and sustainability of Ontario's chicken industry. And this means investing in the future by identifying and developing future farmer leaders.

It takes a variety of people, experiences and perspectives to move the industry forward and over the years, our industry has been well served by many passionate, committed individuals.

We encourage all farmers to consider more active involvement in the industry's future – whether as a Board Director, District Committee Representative or as a more engaged voice on issues and opportunities we face. We need farmers to participate in our future.

As we approach elections this year for districts 1 through 5, we ask you to consider your involvement.

### **The Election Process – Here's What You Need To Know**

Nominations and elections for Board Director and District Committee Representatives (DCRs) are held every year. Each Board Director and District Committee Representative's terms begin on the day of the CFO Annual General Meeting and expire when the successor takes office.

- Districts 1 through 5 hold nominations and elections in one year and districts 6 through 9 in the following year.
- Alternating every year, this creates a 2-year term for all positions, providing continuity and experience.
- To be eligible to stand as a Board Director or DCR for Chicken Farmers of Ontario you must be a farmer that resides in the district you are standing for.

### **Election Meetings for Districts 1-5**

1. Director Nominations – Nov./Dec. 2010
2. Director Elections – Feb. 2011
3. DCR Nominations & Elections – Feb. 2011

**Board Director Nomination and Election Process**

- In the fall of every year, Nomination Meetings for Board Director for the applicable districts take place.
- The Notice of Agenda will go out to all farmers in the district identifying the meeting location and time.
- Farmers nominated will have an opportunity to declare their willingness to serve or decline the nomination.
- If more than one candidate stands for the position, elections will take place early in the next year prior to CFO's Annual General Meeting.
- If a farmer stands unopposed, they are acclaimed to the Director position.
- Candidates for the Director position are provided with a list of eligible voters in their districts in advance of the Election Meeting.
- Candidates for the Director position will have an opportunity to address the assembly and elections will take place as prescribed in CFO By-Law #24, with an independent Returning Officer and Scrutineer to carry out the election process.

**District Election Meetings**

District election meetings generally take place in February.

Should there be more than one candidate for the position of Board Director, this election will take place as the first order of business. Otherwise, nominations, and elections if necessary, will take place for District Committee Representatives.

**District Committee Representative Nominations and Election**

Following the Board Director election process, DCR nominations and elections take place. The number of DCRs for each district is prescribed in CFO By-Law as follows:

Districts having:

- 0-105 producers = 3 DCRs
- 106-135 producers = 4 DCRs
- 136 + producers = 5 DCRs

The Returning Officer of the election meeting will accept DCR nominations. If a sufficient number of DCRs have agreed to serve, the Returning Officer will declare them elected as nominated, otherwise an election will be conducted.

Any farmer who is unable to attend the Election Meeting may designate a proxy, providing it is done in writing and submitted to the CFO Head Office in advance of the meeting. Forms will be provided to all farmers with the Notice of Agenda for the Election Meeting.

For specific procedures on the nomination, election and voting process, please refer to CFO By-Law #24 found at [www.ontariochicken.ca](http://www.ontariochicken.ca) in the Farmer Resources section or

contact Mary Fearon at 289-288-4201 or [mary.fearon@ontariochicken.ca](mailto:mary.fearon@ontariochicken.ca)

**2010 Nomination Meetings:**

District 1:	Dec. 13, 2010	Orangeville
District 2:	Dec. 7, 2010	Clinton
District 3:	Dec. 6, 2010	London
District 4:	Nov. 29, 2010	Simcoe
District 5:	Dec. 2, 2010	Vineland

**2010 General District Meetings:**

District 6:	Dec. 9, 2010	Copetown
District 7:	Nov. 16, 2010	Fergus
District 8:	Dec. 9, 2010	Milverton
District 9:	Nov. 25, 2010	Trenton

**Committed to Effective Governance**

In 2010, the CFO Board committed to renewal of their governance structure and policies with a goal to improve overall effectiveness of the Board. As a result of this work, we are pleased to share with you the newly developed CFO Board Charter and Board Director Role Description.

Whether or not you're considering formal participation in the Board or as a District Committee Representative, the governance renewal initiative ensures better board processes and accountabilities to serve the industry better in the future.

This and other materials are available at [www.ontariochicken.ca](http://www.ontariochicken.ca) in the Farmer Resources section.

