



December 22nd, 2021

Laura Milani Orlando
Policy Analyst, Food Safety and Environmental Policy Branch, Policy Division
1 Stone Road West, 2nd Floor S.W.,
Guelph, Ontario N1G 4Y2

Dear Laura,

Re: *21-OMAFRA020: Proposed Changes to the College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO)
Accreditation Model in Regulation 1093 under the Veterinarians Act*

Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) appreciates the opportunity to comment on *21-OMAFRA020: Proposed Changes to the College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO) Accreditation Model in Regulation 1093 under the Veterinarians Act*. BFO represents 19,000 beef farmers in Ontario by advocating in the areas of sustainability, animal health and care, environment, food safety, and domestic and export market development.

BFO is supportive of the College of Veterinarians (CVO) and OMAFRA's proposed changes to cut red tape, reduce administrative burden and reduce unnecessary regulatory burden while ensuring the public interest is protected and the quality and safety of veterinary care is maintained. Although the discussion paper lacks detail, BFO supports the proposed changes put forward to move away from a prescriptive, list-based approach to a streamlined and outcome-based accreditation model for veterinary facilities. Providing greater flexibility for veterinarians to offer a broader scope of services/procedures to animal species which do not align perfectly with the requirements in the current accreditation framework and encourage expansion and innovation in the services veterinarians' offer are positive changes.

We also would like to take this opportunity to discuss an issue many beef farmers in northern Ontario and other rural areas of the province face, which is difficulty accessing a food animal veterinarian. This is a longstanding issue in Ontario and has been driven by a variety of factors, including the lack of students choosing to study food animal medicine and the lack of students who choose to practice in northern and rural areas of the province. Many other provinces and territories are also faced with this issue and have implemented different programs to incentivize veterinarians to locate to rural areas and/or offer support to farmers in accessing veterinary care. Access to food animal veterinarians in Ontario is a critically important issue for livestock agriculture and for the welfare of livestock. Solutions to address food animal veterinary shortages in Ontario will require a multitude of short and long-term actions, and the proposed changes being put forward by CVO and OMAFRA are a step in the right direction.

Much more needs to be done to address this issue. We ask the provincial government to continue to work with industry, the Ontario Veterinary College, and other relevant organizations to address large food animal veterinary shortages in northern and other underserved areas of Ontario. BFO would be pleased to further discuss this issue and assist in developing solutions.



On this note, we would like to report that BFO recently provided a gift to the Ontario Veterinary College in the amount of \$45,000 to create new scholarships for DVM students interested in the beef sector and large food animal practice. BFO will continue to look for ways to address large food animal veterinarian shortages in Ontario, and we would strongly encourage the CVO and OMAFRA to do the same in partnership with the livestock sectors.

On behalf of BFO, thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and offer our support for the proposed amendments to *21-OMAFRA020: Proposed Changes to the College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO) Accreditation Model in Regulation 1093 under the Veterinarians Act*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Rob Lipsett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Rob Lipsett
President

Cc: Sarah Kirby, Policy and Project Specialist, College of Veterinarians of Ontario

