

## **Vidalia Onion Committee is Seeking New Member Nominations**

**Vidalia, GA; August 1, 2025** —The Vidalia® Onion Committee (VOC) is seeking nominations from industry producers. The VOC elects eight new nominees annually as part of an annual process. Four members and four alternate seats are currently available on the Committee.

The VOC administers the Federal Marketing Order 955 locally and consists of eight producer members and their alternates, one public member, and an alternate. The VOC oversees the Vidalia onion marketing order and is responsible for conducting research, marketing, and advertising on behalf of the industry. Members are limited to three consecutive two-year terms of office.

The VOC encourages all interested members, including minorities, women, and those with physical challenges, to apply as they work toward building a diverse and representative membership. We are also particularly interested in receiving input from small businesses and organic growers, so that the Committee can represent all interests in the Vidalia onion industry. Newly elected members will be seated in their new positions upon approval by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary of Agriculture.

Potential Committee members must first be nominated. Nominations will be accepted from August 1 to August 29. Please contact the Vidalia Onion Committee to receive a nomination form at [shane@vidaliaonion.org](mailto:shane@vidaliaonion.org) or [cablaxton@vidaliaonion.org](mailto:cablaxton@vidaliaonion.org) or (912) 537-1918. Nomination forms can be submitted via fax at 912-537-2166 or by mail at P.O. Box 1609, Vidalia, GA 30475.

After the nominations are closed, voting will occur on September 9<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the VOC office. No absentee votes will be accepted; walk-in voting only. All voters must be in good standing with the Committee, which is defined as having timely and regular reports, as well as current assessments. Election officials will tally ballots, and all election materials are the property of the USDA.

### **About the Vidalia® Onion Committee**

Because Vidalia® onions are unique, farmers are united in seeking legal protection for their crop and its name. Federal Marketing Order No. 955 was established in 1989 to specify where Vidalia onions can be grown and to facilitate research and promotion of this crop. The Vidalia® Onion Committee administers FMO No. 955 and authorizes production research, marketing research, development, and marketing promotion programs. This federal program, along with Georgia state laws that protect the Vidalia® trademark, has provided a legal framework for the industry. So, you can try to grow a sweet onion elsewhere, but you cannot call it a “Vidalia®” unless it is from Georgia! For more information, visit [VidaliaOnion.org](https://VidaliaOnion.org).