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WESTERN ORGANIC DAIRY PRODUCERS
ALLIANCE

USDA PUBLISHES ORIGIN OF LIVESTOCK FINAL RULE FOR ORGANIC DAIRY

WASHINGTON: Today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture published the highly anticipated Origin of Livestock (OOL) final rule for organic dairy. This change to the USDA organic regulations will promote consistency in markets for all organic dairy producers, by making sure that certified USDA organic dairy products are produced to the same standard.

“This action demonstrates the USDA’s strong commitment to America’s organic dairy farmers,” Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, said. “The Origin of Livestock final rule provides clear and uniform standards about how and when livestock may be transitioned to organic dairy production, and how transitioned animals are managed within the organic dairy system. Now, all organic dairy livestock producers will have the confidence and certainty they are operating in a fair and competitive market.”

“Consumers of dairy that carry the USDA Certified Organic Seal can trust that those products meet their expectations for how organic dairy products are produced,” said Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Jenny Lester Moffitt. “At the same time, the rule announced today also ensures consistent standards for current and new organic producers wishing to enter the market.”

USDA’s National Organic Program (NOP) will oversee the new rule, which in general:

- Allows a dairy livestock operation transitioning to organic, or starting a new organic farm, to transition non-organic animals one time.
- Prohibits organic dairies from **sourcing** any transitioned animals. Once a dairy is certified organic, animals must be managed as organic from the last third of gestation. Variances may be requested by small businesses for specific scenarios.

More information about the Origin of Livestock rule is available at:
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/national-organic-program-origin-livestock>.

Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (WODPA) has fought on behalf of organic producers to get a more meaningful rule for nearly two decades. The mission for WODPA is to preserve, protect, and ensure the sustainability, and integrity of organic dairy farming across the west.



ORIGIN OF LIVESTOCK FINAL RULE

The Origin of Livestock (OOL) final rule revises the USDA organic regulations to clarify the one-time transition of dairy animals to organic production



WHAT DOES THE RULE DO?

- Describes how and when nonorganic dairy animals can be **transitioned into organic production**
- Harmonizes the market by ensuring all organic dairy producers use the **same transition practices**



HOW WILL THE RULE BENEFIT FARMERS?

- Ensures more consistent production and **certification practices**
- Promotes the ability to **compete more fairly** in the organic market

WHO IS AFFECTED?

- Producers
- Certifiers
- Inspectors
- Consumers



OOL IN PRACTICE

New or transitioning dairy operations may:

- (a) Purchase or raise organic animals, or
- (b) Transition nonorganic animals to organic production **ONCE**.



Once certification is complete:

- (a) The operation may only add animals that have been organically managed from the last third of gestation.
- (b) The operation cannot source transitioned animals from another operation.*

**Some small businesses may be granted limited exceptions by the AMS Administrator*



➔ To learn more about the rule, please see AMS's website: www.ams.usda.gov/organic

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WODPA would like to send a huge thank you to the [Producers](#) & [Businesses](#) that have provided support over the years.



The mission for the Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance is to preserve, protect, and ensure the sustainability and integrity of organic dairy farming across the west.

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