

Executive Director Report for April 2024

OFA Meeting Updates (3/20, 4/3):

1. Legislative Work
 - a. Organic Dairy Assistance, Investment, and Reporting Yields Act of 2023 (O DAIRY Act of 2023) – Senate Bill 3097
 - b. “The Organic Dairy Data Collection Act” – House Bill 6937
 - c. WODPA: OFA Meetings with:
 - i. Valadao (CA)
 - ii. Gluesenkamp- Perez (OR)
 - iii. Chavez- DeRemer (OR)
 - iv. Rep. Scott’s office – Ag Ranking Member
2. Renewed affiliate membership for 2024

OTA Meeting Updates (3/21): Farm Bill Task Force, Dairy Council, Farmers Advisory Council

1. Legislative Work
 1. Organic bill updates: CIAO, OMD
 2. ODMAP update
 3. FMMO update
2. Organic Week Registration
 1. May 14 – 16
3. Renewed affiliate membership for 2024

NOC Meeting Update (3/15):

1. NOC members had their fly-in to DC the week of 3/18. NODPA and WODPA presented the state of organic dairy including the attached presentation so they could lobby for us too!

Government Announcements:

1. Farm Bill still extended
2. Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024 have passed
3. New dairy focused animal health lessons available for elementary and middle school teachers
 - a. [New Dairy-Focused Animal Health Lessons Available for Elementary and Middle School Teachers - Discover Dairy](#)
4. Sonoma County Ballot initiative signatures have been confirmed
 - a. Sonoma County Family Farmers Alliance (<https://www.sonomacountyfamilyfarmersalliance.com/>)

5. Point Reyes National Park update:
 - a. National Park Service trying to facilitate financial exits for organic dairy farmers
 - b. <https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/point-reyes-national-seashore-ranchers-in-talks-with-the-nature-conservancy/>
6. USDA Announces New Steps to Enhance Organic Markets and Support Producers
 - a. USDA Announces \$40.5 Million in Grant Awards to Support Processing and Promotion of Domestic Organic Products
 - b. [USDA Announces New Steps to Enhance Organic Markets and Support Producers | Agricultural Marketing Service](#)
7. Avian Influenza Detection and Spread
 - a. This is the FDA stuff:: <https://www.fda.gov/food/milk-guidance-documents-regulatory-information/questions-and-answers-regarding-milk-safety-during-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-hpai-outbreaks>
 - b. Here is the latest, including a report late this morning from western Ohio: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/livestock>

Letters, Sign- Ons and Write- Ups:

1. NOSB Comments submitted (attached)
2. California Cattle Council Grant 2024 approved!

Mercaris/ Argus update:

1. Mercaris/Argus collecting statements for Q1 2024
 - a. Send statements to AgData@ArgusMedia.com
 - b. All organic dairy producers can submit statements. Only paying WODPA members can see the survey results.
2. Market Brief provided and distributed regarding the Baltimore port closure's effect on organic ag
3. Should be seeing results from Q1 2024 any time.

Financial Opportunities:

1. Organic Dairy Exemption Request Form
 - a. [AMS-15 - Organic Exemption Request Form | Agricultural Marketing Service \(usda.gov\)](#)
2. DMC enrollment is now open
 - a. [Dairy Producers Can Enroll for 2024 Dairy Margin Coverage Beginning Feb. 28 \(usda.gov\)](#)
 - b. [Dairy Margin Coverage Program \(usda.gov\)](#)
3. Organic Transition Initiative Direct Farmer Assistance
 - a. [Organic Transition Initiative Direct Farmer Assistance | Farmers.gov](#)

Reminders:

1. Strengthening Organic Enforcement Rule is now in full effect March 19, 2024.
 - a. If anyone is in need of a certifier, please visit [Organic Integrity Database \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/organic-integrity-database)
2. Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards (OLPS) Rule has officially been announced.
 - a. Effective date: January 12, 2024
 - b. Compliance date: January 2, 2025
3. Save the Date: Spring 2024 NOSB Meeting – Milwaukee April 29 – May 1, 2024
 - a. Public comment webinar is scheduled for April 23 & 25
4. OTA's Organic Week
 - a. May 14 – 16, 2024
 - b. [Organic Week 2024 \(swoogo.com\)](https://www.swoogo.com)