

## **Executive Director Report for August 2023**

### **OFA Meeting Updates (7/26, 8/2):**

1. Legislative Work
  - a. Working with Welch's office on a Marker Bill.
  - b. Setting up meetings with a handful of other Congress people
  - c. COWS Act
    - i. Costa, Vallejo, Pingree. Padilla, Brown, Heinrich
  - d. Application extension on ODMAP

### **OTA's Dairy Council Meeting (8/9):**

1. Regulatory Program updates
  - a. Organic Market Development Grant Application
  - b. Oppose Amendment to eliminate OLPS
  - c. Fall NOSB Comment Period
  - d. Federal Milk Marketing Reforms
2. Farm Bill update

### **Letter Sign- Ons:**

1. Signed on to COWS Act Support Letter (Attached)
2. Signed on to the AMMP Budget sign on letter – California (attached)
3. Signed on to OTA's "Support OLPS Oppose the Self Amendment" letter (attached)
4. Wrote a letter of support for Rumiano application for the "Organic Market Development Grant"

### **Mercaris update:**

1. Q2 report is out. All currently paid WODPA Members should have received this report. You should also receive the commodity reports they provide.
2. Mercaris did a Lunchtime Learning exclusively for Farmers explaining the Q1 & Q2 reports and answering any questions.
3. Mercaris NEEDS your statements ... please! We are already starting Q3 collections.

### **Financial Opportunities:**

1. Cost Share Announcement

- a. [Organic Certification Cost Share Program \(OCCSP\) \(usda.gov\)](#)
2. [ODMAP Update](#)
  - a. NODPA & WODPA created a template for farmers to use to submit with their application
  - b. Full NOFA is at [2023-11030.pdf \(federalregister.gov\)](#)
  - c. Applications were extended to August 11<sup>th</sup>. We sent multiple reminders via email, social media and direct contact.

**Reminders:**

1. FMMO proposal Hearing will convene at 6am PST on Wednesday August 23, 2023
  - a. [FMMO hearing notice 7.21.2023.pdf](#)
2. Strengthening Organic Enforcement Rule goes into full effect March 19, 2024.
  - a. In anyone is in need of a certifier, please visit [Organic Integrity Database \(usda.gov\)](#)
3. WODPA Annual Conference is November 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> in Ferndale, CA