

Executive Director Report for February 2023

1. Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program (ODMAP):
 - a. FSA will deliver details to Congress in early March
 - b. The structured program FSA is using to administer ODMAP is not designed to help with past disasters but rather to look to the future; hence the 2023 marketing costs
 - c. What happens if there is a cap but not all the money is applied for/ distributed?
2. Strengthening Organic Enforcement Rule:
 - a. Must comply by March 19, 2024
 - b. Organic Certificates and Data Reporting – Certifiers must provide uniform organic certificates that are electronically generated in the Organic Integrity Database (OID), using a standardized certificate format and data fields. Certifiers may continue to add their own unique addenda to certificates that provide additional details about the certified operation, provided that the addenda include certain information such as a link to the operation’s profile in the OID and the operation’s unique OID identification number. Certifiers must maintain current and accurate data for certified operations in the OID. Mandatory data fields that are publicly viewable in the OID are: certification status, scope(s) of certification, and the organic commodities products or handled by the operation. Acreage is a mandatory data field that will not be publicly available. Certifiers must update the OID within 72 hours of an operation’s suspension, revocation, or surrender of certification.
 - c. On-site and Unannounced Inspections – During all annual on-site inspections, inspectors are required to conduct mass-balance (“in-out”) and traceability (“trace-back”) audits. Mass-balance audits verify that quantities of organic product and ingredients produced or purchased by an operation account for organic product and ingredients used, stored, sold, or transported by the operation. Traceability audits verify that organic products and ingredients are traceable by the operation from the time of purchase or acquisition through production to sale or transport. Certifiers must verify compliance back to the last certified operation. Certifiers must additionally conduct unannounced inspections of at least 5% of the operations they certify. Unannounced inspection may be limited in scope but must be conducted without advance notice to the operator (no more than 4 hours prior to inspector arriving on-site)
 - d. Continuation of Certification – As part of the annual certification update process, certified operations do not need to submit a full Organic System Plan (OSP) every year and only need to submit sections of the OSP that have changed. Operations do not need to include updates on the correction of previous minor non-compliances with the annual OSP update. **Annual on-site inspections must be conducted at least once per calendar year, regardless of when the certified operation was last inspected or when the operation last submitted its annual update.**
 - e. Noncompliance, Mediation, and Appeals – Certifiers must update the certification status of an operation in the Organic Integrity Database within 3 business days of issuing a notification of suspension or revocation, or from effective date of surrender. The rule

more clearly explains the procedures for mediation, settlement agreements, and the appeals process for adverse actions against an operation.

- f. All Handlers must hold organic certification.
- 3. OFA's National Organic Dairy Call 2/6/2023
 - a. Safety Net Ask
 - i. Provided written feedback on Ed's "Why Organic Dairy Needs a Federal Safety Net Program"
 - ii. OFA believes this will be very difficult to get with Republicans in control of Congress
 - b. 2023 Farm Bill conversations are starting
- 4. Mercaris update
 - a. Mercaris was provided a handful of different milk statements and made the following observations regarding the information we can use for comparison when looking at it regionally:
 - i. Total Solids
 - ii. Gross Pay
 - iii. Net Pay
 - iv. Volume shipped (milk lbs. & total solids lbs.)
 - v. Value (total solids price (cwt \$) & Gross pay)
 - vi. Mailbox price will be compared in report
 - b. Mercaris is checking to see if there is an email address or phone number to send a picture of statements to so that their team can input the necessary info to guarantee validity of information.
 - c. Ryan is checking on our contract to see what is included and if pricing would change depending on how frequent we want reports.
 - d. Follow up meeting scheduled for February 16th at 11am PST
- 5. Washington D.C. Trip with OTA for Organic Week
 - a. Check in: 5/7; Check out: 5/11
 - b. Budget of \$3500