

Executive Director Report for January 2024

OFA Meeting Updates (12/20):

1. Legislative Work
 - a. Organic Dairy Assistance, Investment, and Reporting Yields Act of 2023 (O DAIRY Act of 2023)
 - b. “The organic Dairy Data Collection Act”
 - i. Improved data collection for organic dairy
 - ii. Introduced by Congresswoman Pingree and Congressman Molinaro
 - iii. WODPA submitted a quote to be included in their press release:
 1. "We are thankful to Congresswoman Pingree and Congressman Molinaro for taking the lead and acknowledging the lack of data we have accessible for organic dairies. This is a nationwide issue affecting organic dairy farmers of all sizes and backgrounds. Our hope is that this information becomes the conduit to many necessary conversations that the sustainability and succession of our industry hinges upon." - Lia Sieler, Executive Director - Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (WODPA)
 - c. Baldwin’s office is not interested in adding things to this year’s ag appropriations package but are willing to discuss for financial year 2025
 - d. Whole Milk Bill was stalled in the Senate

OTA Meeting Updates (12/13): Dairy Council Meeting

1. Fly In advocacy scheduled for early February focusing on the Organic Market Development Act and CIAO
2. ODMAP
 1. OTA is engaging with USDA. They have indicated they want to continue the program but there are other priorities they are focusing on (appropriations, farm bill). Awaiting follow up from USDA.
3. Organic Market Development Grant
 1. Still waiting on USDA to announce the successful applicants.
4. NOSB
 1. 5 seats opening in January 2025 on NOSB. They want to get those filled by October 2024. Currently no dairy representatives on the Board.
 2. Spring 2024 meeting is April 29th – diving into the next round of sunset materials.

Government Announcements:

1. “The Organic Dairy Data Collection Act” – attached

2. Farm Bill: extension includes all orphan programs (cost share, organic data initiative, etc.)

Letters, Sign- Ons and Write- Ups:

1. California Cattle Council Grant 2024 applications are due February 16, 2024
 - a. Working on a grant proposal with Sonoma County Farm Bureau to put on a pilot program for “Cookies and Milk with the Cows (and their Farmers, too!)”
 - b. \$15,000 maximum
2. A Re-cap of the 2023 WODPA Conference & Trade Show is attached

Mercaris/ Argus update:

1. Mercaris/Argus collecting statements for Q4
 - a. Send statements to AgData@ArgusMedia.com
 - b. All organic dairy producers can submit statements. Only paying WODPA members can see the survey results.
 - c. Preliminary report for Q4 will be out February 9, 2024.
 - d. Final report should be out February 6, 2024.
2. Lunchtime Learning to cover End of Year Q4 commodity report and Q4 2023/Q1 2024 Milk Statement Survey – February 13th @ 12pm PST

Financial Opportunities:

1. Organic Dairy Exemption Request Form
 - a. [AMS-15 - Organic Exemption Request Form | Agricultural Marketing Service \(usda.gov\)](#)
2. Emergency Livestock Disaster Assistance Program
 - a. Application and fact sheet attached.
3. Livestock Forage Disaster Program
 - a. Application and fact sheet attached.

Reminders:

1. Strengthening Organic Enforcement Rule goes into full effect March 19, 2024.
 - a. If anyone is in need of a certifier, please visit [Organic Integrity Database \(usda.gov\)](#)
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