

## **Executive Director Report for July 2023**

### **OFA Meeting Updates (6/21, 7/3):**

1. Petition to remove class 1 organic milk from pooling. OV, Aurora, Fairlife are in support. This opens the door to recognizing 3<sup>rd</sup> party certified milk having different sorts of classification.
2. ODMAP – Pingree & Gillibrand are open to working on a follow up letter if needed.
3. Farm Bill:
  - a. Welch’s office is still working with the Legislative Council to fill in some text and definitions. We are waiting on the full text but there are 3 general sections:
    - i. Extension of ELAP to certain losses incurred by organic dairy farmers
    - ii. Investment in organic dairy processing infrastructure
    - iii. Improved data collection for organic dairy – may be able to include a safety net program
  - b. The time for these meetings is changing for summer. TBD.

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

1. Signed on to the “Safeguard Agriculture Research Funding” letter
  - a. The intent of the letter is to protect (and potentially expand) the current existing direct (mandatory) funding for research (i.e. organic, specialty crop, urban ag and 1890s). Rumors are now circulating on the House side of majority staff looking at farm bill baseline research funding, especially organic, as a funding offset for their other priorities.
2. Origin of Livestock comments of variances allowed.
  - a. Comments attached.
  - b. Letter signed by WODPA, NODPA, OFA, NOC and NOFA- NY

### **Mercaris update:**

1. Q2 preliminary report is planned to be sent out 7/11. Q2 FINAL report is planned to be sent out 8/1.
2. Mercaris wants to do a Lunchtime Learning (free of charge) exclusively to Farmers explaining the Q1 & Q2 reports and answering any questions.
  - a. Mercaris Lunchtime Learning is scheduled for 8/3 @ 11:30am (20 minute presentation + 10 minutes of Q & A)
3. Q2 report will show \$/lb. of Total Solids on Net Pay section
4. Mercaris NEEDS your statements ... please!

### **ODMAP update:**

1. NODPA & WODPA created a template for farmers to use to submit with their application
2. Full NOFA is at [2023-11030.pdf \(federalregister.gov\)](#)

### **Financial Opportunities:**

1. [Organic Market Development Grant | Agricultural Marketing Service \(usda.gov\)](#)
  1. CCOF has a grant writer that can help if anyone is interested (lbenador@ccof.org)

2. Applications are due August 8, 2023
2. Cost Share Announcement
  1. [Organic Certification Cost Share Program \(OCCSP\) \(usda.gov\)](#)

**Reminders:**

1. 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 \(usda.gov\)](#)
2. WODPA Annual Conference is November 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> in Ferndale, CA