

Executive Director Report for September 2023

OFA Meeting Updates (8/16, 8/23, 9/6):

1. Legislative Work
 - a. Working with Welch's office on a Marker Bill.
 - i. Detailed review of the Bill
2. ODMAP update
 - a. FSA reported slightly over 1,000 applications with \$13.5 million distributed
 - b. Decision should be made any day on the 2nd payment and beyond
3. Met with Chris Wolf – a Dairy economist currently at Cornell
 - a. He highlighted the need for more information gathering. Cornell may be able to spearhead this collection privately.
4. Working with USDA (Erin Healy) to determine what info needs to be presented in the Market News reports weekly/monthly per commodity

Letter Sign- Ons:

1. We joined the "Save the Seashore Community and Farms Coalition" (Straus & WUD)
2. We are supporting NODPA & their work with Dan Smith to advocate for organic dairy.
3. Cost Share Program Letters (with NOC)
4. Signed on to the "Support Organic in the Farm Bill" (with NOC)

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 NEEDS your statements ... please! We are already starting Q3 collections.
3. We are increasing the reminders being sent to producers to the 8th, 18th and 28th of each month.

OFA Board Member Seat:

1. OFA reached out about an opening on the OFA Governing Council (like their Board of Directors) for a California Organization. This is a non-voting position.
 - a. I applied and the elections will be held in March

Reminders:

1. USDA Announces Milk Loss Assistance for Dairy Operations
 - a. [USDA Announces Milk Loss Assistance for Dairy Operations | Morning Ag Clips](#)
2. Cost Share Announcement
 - a. [Organic Certification Cost Share Program \(OCCSP\) \(usda.gov\)](#)
3. Organic Dairy Exemption Request Form
 - a. [AMS-15 - Organic Exemption Request Form | Agricultural Marketing Service \(usda.gov\)](#)
4. 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 \(usda.gov\)](#)
5. WODPA Annual Conference is November 6th – 8th in Ferndale, CA