



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has finalized the long-awaited Origin of Livestock Rule

3.29.2022:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has finalized long-awaited organic dairy rules. The **Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (WODPA)** has worked for years to make changes to the Origin of Livestock rule to create a more level playing field for organic dairy farms.

The new rule supports the integrity of the National Organic Program (NOP) and helps to close loopholes that give some operations an unfair advantage over those following the rule as intended.

The final rule published today is a long-needed clarification for all organic dairy producers:

- Greater consistency and clarification on how dairy animals can be transitioned into organic dairy farms.
- Requiring milk produced comes from dairy livestock that has been managed organically from birth – other than the one-time transition of a herd.
- Once a one-time transition has occurred, organic dairies are prohibited from sourcing any transitioned animals. Once a dairy is certified organic, animals must be managed as organic from the last third of gestation.

Western Organic Producers Alliance (WODPA) has fought on behalf of organic producers to get a more meaningful rule for nearly two decades. The mission for WODPA is to preserve, protect, and ensure the sustainability, and integrity of organic dairy farming across the west.

USDA Publishes Origin of Livestock Final Rule for Organic Dairy

WASHINGTON, 3.29.2022: Today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture published the highly anticipated Origin of Livestock (OOL) final rule for organic dairy. This change to the USDA organic regulations will promote consistency in markets for all organic dairy producers, by making sure that certified USDA organic dairy products are produced to the same standard.



WESTERN ORGANIC DAIRY PRODUCERS
ALLIANCE

“This action demonstrates the USDA’s strong commitment to America’s organic dairy farmers,” Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, said. “The Origin of Livestock final rule provides clear and uniform standards about how and when livestock may be transitioned to organic dairy production, and how transitioned animals are managed within the organic dairy system. Now, all organic dairy livestock producers will have the confidence and certainty they are operating in a fair and competitive market.” “Consumers of dairy that carry the USDA Certified Organic Seal can trust that those products meet their expectations for how organic dairy products are produced,” said Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Jenny Lester Moffitt. “At the same time, the rule announced today also ensures consistent standards for current and new organic producers wishing to enter the market.”

USDA’s National Organic Program (NOP) will oversee the new rule, which in general:

- Allows a dairy livestock operation transitioning to organic, or starting a new organic farm, to transition non-organic animals one time.
- Prohibits organic dairies from sourcing any transitioned animals. Once a dairy is certified organic, animals must be managed as organic from the last third of gestation. Variances may be requested by small businesses for specific scenarios.

More information about the Origin of Livestock rule is available at:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/national-organic-program-origin-livestock>.