

Executive Director Report for December 2024

Legislative/Policy Work

1. **ODMAP application is extended to December 13th.**
 1. The small print: ODMAP 2024 will be paid out as follows: 75% if the \$1.68/cwt initially and the other 25% if there is money left over out of the \$58 million still allocated.
 2. **EVERY farmer** needs to re-register for the 2024 payment using 2023 milk production.
 3. Reach out to your local FSA office NOW!!!
 4. Producers who had to project production should now be getting approved.
2. Organic Dairy Assistance, Investment, and Reporting Yields Act of 2023 (O DAIRY Act of 2023) – Senate Bill 3097
3. “The Organic Dairy Data Collection Act” – House Bill 6937
4. Elections/ Appointments:
 1. Farm Bill update
 - i. Most of the key programs have funding through the end of the calendar year. Then it will revert to “permanent law”. Both the House and the Senate approved the stopgap spending bills at the end of September to avoid a partial government shutdown. The continuing resolution will keep the federal government running through December 20th.
 - ii. House Republicans rejected the Farm Bill language put forth by Senate Democrats in November.
 2. Nominating Brooke Rollins for Secretary of Ag
 - i. focuses heavily on foreign farm ownership
 - ii. served as White House domestic policy chief during 1st Trump administration
 3. Nominating Robert F. Kennedy to be head of Department of Health & Human Services
 4. Republicans “trifecta” – Presidency, House and Seante

5. Pass through funding for DBIC to get organic milk into schools
 1. \$15 million to increase domestic consumption and provide diversified dairy products
6. NOSB Re-cap
 1. Meloxicam
 2. Behavior of Committee
7. SOE & OOL Feedback Form (Attached)
 1. [Farmer Feedback for SOE and OOL - Google Forms](#)
 2. Shared with our affiliate organizations (NODPA, NOC, OTA, OFA)
 3. The goal of this survey is to collect information and feedback regarding the newly implemented Strengthening Organic Enforcement (SOE) Rule and the Origin of Livestock (OOL) Rule.
8. Conference Feedback Form (attached)
9. Avian Influenza Detection and Spread
 1. [USDA to Begin Accepting Applications for Expanded Emergency Livestock Assistance Program to Help Dairy Producers Offset Milk Loss Due to H5N1 | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#)
 - i. Confirmed H5N1 positive test results are required for recovery assistance
 - ii. OFA Farmer Hotline to help buffer: (833)724-3834

Mercaris/ Argus update:

1. Mercaris/Argus collecting statements for Q4 2024 (October, November, December 2024)
 - 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. SEND IN YOUR STATEMENTS NOW
2. We renewed our contract for 2025 which includes the quarterly milk statement survey

Financial Opportunities:

1. Organic Dairy Exemption Request Form
 - a. [AMS-15 - Organic Exemption Request Form | Agricultural Marketing Service \(usda.gov\)](#)
2. Organic Transition Initiative Direct Farmer Assistance
 - a. [Organic Transition Initiative Direct Farmer Assistance | Farmers.gov](#)

Reminders:

1. Strengthening Organic Enforcement Rule is now in 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 Dates:
 - a. WODPA Conference & Trade Show – November 2025 in Petaluma, CA
4. National Organic Coalition – “Helping Organic Producers Access NRCS Programs”
 - a. January 15th @ 11am
 - b. [Helping Organic Producers Access NRCS Programs — National Organic Coalition](#)