

## **Executive Director Report for October 2024**

### **Legislative/Policy Work**

OFA Meetings (8/21, 9/4 ,9/18)

**1. ODMAP is out!!!**

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!!!
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
  1. Met with GT Thompson’s staff (House Ag Majority Leader)
  2. Met with David Scott’s staff (House Ag Minority Leader)
4. Farm Bill update:
  1. Federal funding expired October 1. 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 20<sup>th</sup>.
5. WODPA’s NOSB Comments attached.
6. Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is working to improve how they reach farmers.

### **Government Announcements:**

1. Sonoma County Ballot Measure J
  - a. Sonoma County Family Farmers Alliance  
(<https://www.sonomacountyfamilyfarmersalliance.com/>)
2. Point Reyes National Seashore
  - a. Legal mediation still ongoing
  - b. Parks extended the lease talks for 30 days (expires on October 18<sup>th</sup>)
3. Avian Influenza Detection and Spread
  - a. [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
  - iii. Now cases found in CA
- 4. MOCA (Marin County) certifier is no longer going to be certifying dairy, poultry or beef
  - a. No longer certifying starting January 1, 2025
  - b. Attached article from AgAlert

**Mercaris/ Argus update:**

- 1. Mercaris/Argus collecting statements for Q3 2024 (July, August, September 2024)
  - a. Send statements to [AgData@ArgusMedia.com](mailto: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

**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](#)
- 3. Farmer Scholarship Opportunity to attend the NOSB meeting in Portland in October
  - a. [Farmer Scholarship Application: Fall 2024 Portland \(OR\) NOSB Meeting Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)
  - b. Priority given to farmers who apply by September 20<sup>th</sup>
  - c. Farmer Panel for pre-NOSB meeting on land, labor and markets
- 4. Round 5 of the Dairy Processors Grant Funding
  - a. Open to applicants in Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon and Washington
  - b. Applications are open August 1 – September 30.
  - c. [Pacific Coast Coalition - Dairy Business Innovation Initiative \(dairypcc.net\)](#)

**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. Fall 2024 NOSB Meeting – Portland, OR

- i. Public comment webinar is scheduled for October 15 & 17
    - ii. Public Meeting is scheduled for October 22-24
  - b. NOC in-person public meeting – Portland, OR
    - i. October 21<sup>st</sup>
- 4. Currently working on a feedback form for SOE impact on dairy farmers. This will be released by next week. We will also be discussing this during the WODPA business meeting.