



## WESTERN ORGANIC DAIRY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE

### 2022 CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW RECAP

*WE WOULD LIKE TO SEND A HUGE THANK YOU OUT TO ALL THE ATTENDEES, SPONSORS AND VENDORS FOR MAKING THIS ONE OF THE BEST CONFERENCE'S YET! THANK YOU ALL!!!*



The annual meeting of the Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance was held in McMinnville, Oregon from November 14th - 16th. We kicked things off with a reception at the Golden Valley Brewery & Restaurant courtesy of the Kircher family. The venue gave a prime opportunity to say hello to old friends and make new ones over beer, wine and appetizers as the 2022 conference officially began.

The first full day of the conference was spent at the Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum where guest speakers, sponsors, vendors, etc. spoke below a massive American flag hanging from the ceiling and an assortment of aircraft surrounding the meeting area. President Jennifer Beretta kicked things off with a welcome, introduction of the new Executive Director - Lia Sieler, and a recap

of WODPA's year. 2022 was a busy year for WODPA marked by the exciting collaboration with OFA, NOC, NODPA and NOP to push for the final ruling on the origin of livestock. This is a major win for organic integrity! March 29, 2022, USDA finalized their origin of livestock rule to state organic milk and milk products must be from animals that have been under continuous organic management from the last third of gestation onward, with the exception of newly certified livestock operations. Ed Maltby from NODPA said it best – “The new rule closes the loopholes that have given some operations an unfair advantage. The rule is meaningful and essential to protect the livelihoods of family- scale organic dairy producers.” In addition, WODPA & NODPA collaborated on an article entitled “Dynamics & challenges in the Organic Milk Market”. WODPA was represented at the pre- NOSB meeting and submitted written comments to both state and federal levels for organic standards and supported the creation of the Western Organic Dairy Farming Crisis Coalition. Finally, she touched on the fact that WODPA signed on to Mercaris which allows WODPA members to gain exclusive access to publications and resources regarding the organic milk and commodity markets. We sipped on coffee complete with organic half and half sponsored by American AgCredit and enjoyed a delicious meal before moving into a happy hour sponsored by Hunt & Behren's. We heard from key contributors to the organic dairy industry including Dr. Jennifer Tucker who provided an update on the National Organic Program, Alltech representatives Dr. Luke Miller and Ulises Salas covered mastitis

prevention and milk quality troubleshooting, Ryan Koory from Mercaris spoke in regards to their work in the organic and non-GMO commodity market, trading and data analysis (more to come on this) and lastly, Anthony Avila and Robert Christensen shared with us their equipment options for adaptable automation on dairies. That afternoon, all conference attendees had the opportunity to explore the two museums including the highly anticipated “Spruce Goose” (officially named the H-4 Hercules) – the largest wooden airplane ever constructed or flown. Prior to dinner on Tuesday evening, Mat Schager auctioned off semen generously donated by Select Sires, ABS, Semex and Alta Genetics.

On Wednesday, we were hosted by Forest Glen Jerseys for an on-farm visit and equipment showcase. Surrounded by alfalfa bales and the familiar sound of the vacuum pump in the background, we heard Dr. Doug Hammon of Zoetis present on Protivity: A New Approach to Mycoplasma bovis followed by a delicious lunch also sponsored by Zoetis. As we said goodbye, we couldn’t help but encourage each other. Times have been tough, especially in the past couple years but we all play a vital role in keeping our industry alive and leaving it better than we received it for generations to come. There are many different avenues WODPA is partaking in to try to get more money, opportunities and recognition for our members and industry stakeholders. We promise to pass along any opportunities we come across for our dairies and share in the hopes that our farms will begin to thrive again like they have so many times throughout history.

If you have any ideas, we are happy to listen so please do not hesitate to contact us at [wodpa@outlook.com](mailto:wodpa@outlook.com) or [lia.wodpa@outlook.com](mailto:lia.wodpa@outlook.com).



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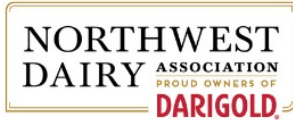


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WODPA would like to send a huge thank you to the

Producers & Businesses that have provided support over the years.



**The mission for the Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance is to preserve, protect, and ensure the sustainability and integrity of organic dairy farming across the west.**

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