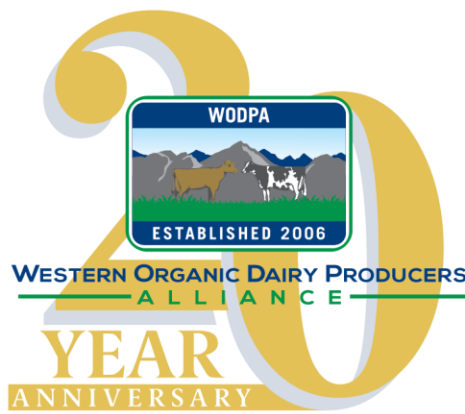




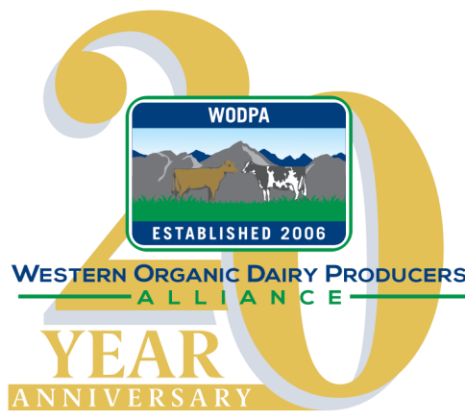
Executive Director's Report for September 2026

WODPA topics of focus this month

- ☐ Conference & Trade Show preparations
- ☐ NOSB meeting preparations
- ☐ Preparations for Maternity Leave

A. Legislative/Policy Work

1. On August 6, the Senate Agriculture Committee's latest Farm Bill proposal failed to advance after lawmakers were unable to reach an agreement on SNAP provisions. The committee is expected to revisit the bill following the August recess, potentially as early as September 15.
2. While the Senate proposal includes several positive provisions for organic agriculture, several priorities important to organic dairy producers remain unaddressed.
3. Key organic provisions currently included in the Senate proposal:
 - i. Stronger testing of high-risk organic feed imports to help protect U.S. producers from fraudulent organic imports.
 - ii. Risk-based organic inspections designed to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens on lower-risk operations.
 - iii. Increased access to EQIP conservation funding for organic and transitioning producers.
 - iv. Additional funding for the National Organic Program (NOP) and continued support for organic certification cost share.
 - v. Important organic dairy priorities are still missing. Most notably, WODPA continues to advocate for statutory Organic Dairy Data Collection to provide producers with reliable information on organic milk prices, feed costs, production costs, and regional market conditions.
4. WODPA also continues to support increased certification cost-share reimbursement, EQIP payment parity for organic producers, and stronger investments in organic research and domestic organic infrastructure.
5. If the bill advances out of committee, it would move to the Senate floor and ultimately need to be reconciled with the House version. WODPA will continue monitoring the



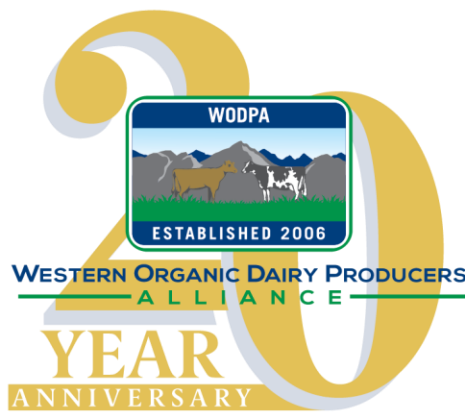
Farm Bill process and advocating for policies that support the long-term strength and viability of organic dairy producers.

B. Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations Update

1. Each year, Congress goes through the **appropriations process**, which is how it decides how much federal funding will be provided to government agencies and programs for the upcoming fiscal year. This annual funding supports many USDA programs that are important to organic agriculture.
2. The House and Senate have passed a **Continuing Resolution (CR)**, which the President has signed into law. A Continuing Resolution is a temporary funding measure that keeps the federal government operating when Congress has not yet completed its full-year appropriations bills.

i. What does this mean for organic producers?

1. The Continuing Resolution prevents a government shutdown this fall and keeps federally funded organic programs operating without interruption through the next funding deadline of **December 11, 2026**.
2. Programs receiving continued funding include:
 - a. **National Organic Program (NOP)**: Oversees and enforces USDA organic standards and helps protect the integrity of the organic marketplace.
 - b. **Organic Transitions Program**: Supports research focused on the challenges and opportunities facing organic and transitioning farmers.
 - c. **Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)**: Funds research and education that helps farmers adopt practical, sustainable agricultural practices.
3. For now, these programs will continue operating under existing funding levels while Congress works toward longer-term federal funding decisions.



C. Government updates:

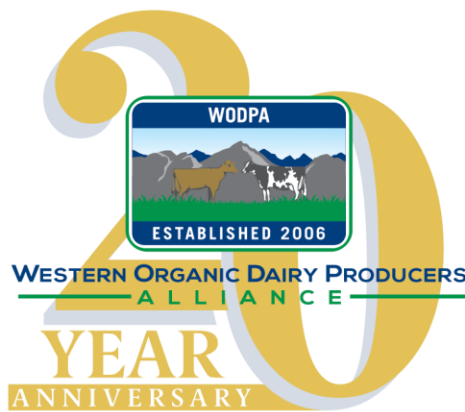
1. New World Screwworm
 - i. 49 confirmed cases as of 9/10/2026 (primarily in Texas with 1 in New Mexico)
 - ii. The petition has officially been filed and accepted as complete by USDA and has been placed on the agenda for discussion leading up to and during the **Fall 2026 NOSB meeting**.
 1. The official petition submitted to the NOSB
 2. The supporting source packet
 3. A one-page summary of the petition, which I plan to use as the basis for WODPA's oral comments during the NOSB virtual public comment meeting in October
 - iii. [Current Status of New World Screwworm | Screwworm.gov](#)
2. Temporary variances
 - i. Temporary Variance Guidance & Producer Form created with OFA and NODPA. Available to download off our website. WODPA was also paid \$500 to contribute to this project. If you or a farmer you know needs to apply for a temporary variance, they can use this form!
 - ii. <https://wodpa.com/current-news>

D. Mercaris/ Argus update:

1. Mercaris/Argus collecting statements for Q3 2026 (July, August, September)
 - i. Send statements to AgData@ArgusMedia.com
 - ii. All organic dairy producers can submit statements. Only paid- in WODPA members can see the survey results.

E. Farmer Resources & Financial Opportunities:

1. Organic Cost Share Program funds released for 2025 & 2026 program years – must apply by December 31st.
 - i. You can apply for both 2025 & 2026. State agencies have not gotten the funds dispersed to them yet or the dates that they will.
 - ii. [Organic Certification Cost Share Program \(OCCSP\) | Farm Service Agency](#)
2. Organic Dairy Exemption Request Form : [AMS-15 - Organic Exemption Request Form | Agricultural Marketing Service \(usda.gov\)](#)
3. National Organic Farmer Education Network (NOFEN)
 - i. <https://organicfarmersassociation.org/organic-events/>



F. Reminders:

1. The 26th Annual NODPA Field Days: September 24 – 25, 2026
 - i. SAVE THE DATE for the 26th Annual NODPA Field Days, September 24 & 25, 2026 - Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance
2. WODPA's 20th Anniversary WODPA Conference & Trade Show
 - ii. October 27 – 28, 2026 in Chico, CA – Register at: CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW
3. National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) Fall 2026 Meeting
 - i. National Organic Standards Board (NOSB/Board) Meeting - Virtual | Agricultural Marketing Service
 - ii. Public Comment Webinars – October 20th & 22nd
 1. Must sign up for oral comments by October 1st
 - iii. Public Meeting: October 27th – 29th
 - iv. Written Comments due October 1st
4. NOC's Pre-NOSB Meeting (free, virtual)
 - i. October 14th @ 10am – 1pm PST
 - ii. Upcoming events — National Organic Coalition