



WESTERN ORGANIC DAIRY PRODUCERS
ALLIANCE

Organic Farmers Association

Ms. Kate Mendenhall, Executive Director
PO Box 709
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW, MS 2201
Washington, D.C. 20250-2201

February 27, 2025

Dear Review Committee,

The mission of the Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (WODPA) is to preserve, protect, and ensure the sustainability and integrity of organic dairy farming across the West. WODPA represents the collective voice of our producers at the local, state and national levels. We share the organic dairy producers' perspective when lobbying on crucial issues currently facing dairy producers, and we work in collaboration with national organic advocacy groups and industry stakeholders to provide perspective on what matters most to our organic producers. We are writing this letter in support of the Organic Farmers Association's Organic Agriculture Research and Education Initiative Grant Proposal Titled: "Ensuring Organic Integrity and Farm Viability: Farmer Driven Solutions to Strengthening Organic Enforcement."

I am a member of OFA's National Dairy Workgroup. In our group, we discuss our experiences with working in organic dairy and share ideas about ways to improve the current system to make it work better for organic farmers. WODPA finds so much value in participating in this workgroup because it allows us to come together from all different regions where dairying is so different yet we are still able to find commonalities and fight for our industry efficiently and effectively. Workgroups like ours allow farmers and farmer organizations to address needed changes and offer farmer-generated solutions for a successful future.

I support the Organic Farmers Association's efforts to continue this work as part of its OREI proposal.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope you will support the Organic Farmers Association's proposal.

Sincerely,

Lia Sieler, Executive Director

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