



WESTERN ORGANIC DAIRY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE

Organic Dairy Washington DC Fly-In – July 2025

WODPA's Executive Director, Lia Sieler, and Board Member, Zach Cahill, participated alongside representatives from NODPA and the Organic Farmers Association (OFA) in an organic dairy fly-in in Washington, D.C. The group, made up of 6 organic dairy farmers and advocates who presented a unified set of priorities on Capitol Hill, engaged with policymakers and government officials to discuss vital support measures for organic dairy farmers nationwide.

Key Priorities Presented in Washington, D.C.:

1. Advocacy for marker bills and the importance of a modernized, comprehensive Farm Bill
 - “The Organic Dairy Data Collection Act” – H.R. 4110 (attached)
 - Introduced by Congresswoman Pingree (D - ME), Congressman Langworthy (R - NY) and Congressman Wied (R - WI)
 - “The Organic Dairy Assistance, Investment, and reporting Yields Act of 2025” – Senate 2442 (attached)
 - Introduced by Senator Welch (VT), Senator Gillibrand (NY), Senator Sanders (VT) and Senator Booker (NJ)
2. Ensuring organic farmers are meaningfully involved and considered in decision-making at federal, state, and local levels.
3. Advocating for sufficient resources for the National Organic Program (NOP) to effectively support, educate, and regulate the industry.
4. Emphasizing the importance of an immigration system that works to address challenges facing agricultural labor.
5. Conveying challenges and existing variance allowances still surrounding the Origin of Livestock Rule.

While there, we had the opportunity to meet with over 15 different congressional offices spanning from the Senate side to the House of Representatives. All of our meetings were certainly worth noting but a couple key meetings that stood out to us included a meeting with the organic focused staffer and dairy focused staffer for the House Ag Committee Majority, meeting with the Senate Ag Minority's office, meeting with Senator Welch (who just reintroduced the O DAIRY Act of 2025) and meetings with the cosponsors of the Organic Dairy Data Collection Act (Congresswoman Pingree, Congressman Langworthy and Congressman Wied).

WODPA extends sincere appreciation to the Organic Farmers Association for their leadership in organizing this event. A prominent aspect of the fly-in was the diverse representation of organic dairy farmers from across the nation, allowing for cohesive advocacy on behalf of the entire industry. This gathering provided a significant platform to communicate the needs and vision necessary for the ongoing success of organic dairy farming.

Summary of Meetings Held in Washington, D.C.:

- House Agriculture Committee Staffers (Dairy & Organic) – **GT Thompson** (PA)
- Senate Agriculture Minority – **Senator Klobuchar** (MN)
- **Senator Welch** (VT)
- **Congresswoman Simon** (CA)
- **Congressman Newhouse** (WA)
- **Congresswoman Pingree** (ME)
- **Congressman Carbajal** (CA)
- **Senator Merkley** (OR)
- **Senator Smith** (MN)
- **Senator Gillibrand** (NY)
- **Congressman Wied** (WI)
- **Congressman Finstad** (MN)
- **Congresswoman Craig** (MN)
- **Congressman Riley** (NY)
- **Congressman Langworthy** (NY)
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (**NRCS**)



