

## **Executive Director Report for April 2025**

### **Legislative/Policy Work**

1. Organic Dairy Assistance, Investment, and Reporting Yields Act of 2023 (O DAIRY Act of 2023) – Senate Bill 3097
2. “The Organic Dairy Data Collection Act” – House Bill 6937
3. Farm Bill update
  - i. No progress on the new Farm Bill yet.
  - ii. Congress passed a new continuing resolution to fund the government until September 30, 2025, which marks the end of the fiscal year.
  - iii. Funding for USDA continues to be paused.
  - iv. OFA is still collecting farmer stories to use when speaking with USDA and advocating with members of Congress
2. USDA canceled \$1 billion in local food purchasing for schools and food banks. (“Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program in 2025”)
  - i. Rumiano/Foggy Bottom Boys, et.al. has postponed their farm school director tour. They are hoping to hold it in July 2025.
4. Avian Influenza Detection and Spread
  1. Secretary of Ag is focusing on poultry
1. NOSB Spring Meeting 2025 IS BACK ON!
  - a. The meeting will be held virtually
    - i. April 22 & 24, 2025, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm Eastern: Public Comment Webinars
    - ii. April 29 - May 1, 2025, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm Eastern: Public Meeting
  - b. Public Comment Webinars
    - i. Day 1: Tuesday, April 22 from Noon - 5:00 pm Eastern
    - ii. Day 2: Thursday, April 24 from Noon - 5:00 pm Eastern
  - c. [National Organic Standards Board \(NOSB\) Meeting | Agricultural Marketing Service](#)
  - d. Items for sunseting in 2027 that directly affect organic dairy: flunixin & oxytocin

2. Leadership changes within USDA
  - a. Met with Christopher Purdy (new Deputy Administrator for the NOP) last week
  - b. Dudley Hoskins is nominated to be Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs but has not been officially confirmed yet.

**Letter Sign Ons:**

1. Letter to Protect Organic Farmers & the USDA National Organic Program (attached)
  - a. [We Need a FULLY Funded and Staffed National Organic Program /and/ USDA Halts Some Contract Payments to Farmers - Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance](#)
2. Honor Farmer Contracts (attached)

**Mercaris/ Argus update:**

1. Mercaris/Argus collecting statements for Q1 2025 (January, February, March)
  - 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 PLEASE

**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](#)

## Reminders/ Resources:

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 \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/organic-integrity-database)
2. Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards (OLPS) Rule.
  - a. Effective date: January 12, 2024
  - b. Compliance date: January 2, 2025**
3. Save the Dates:
  - a. WODPA Conference & Trade Show
    - i. October 28–29, 2025 in Santa Rosa, California
  - b. Virtual WODPA State Meetings:
    - i. Washington: June 5<sup>th</sup>
    - ii. Oregon: June 12<sup>th</sup>
    - iii. Idaho: June 19<sup>th</sup>
    - iv. California: July 17<sup>th</sup>
    - v. Texas: July 24<sup>th</sup>
  - c. Sonoma County Regional WODPA Meeting
    - i. July 8<sup>th</sup> at the Washoe House
  - d. NOC's pre-NOSB meeting (virtual)
    - i. April 28<sup>th</sup> 10am – 1pm PST
    - ii. To register: [Upcoming events — National Organic Coalition](#)
  - e. NOC's Organic Summit (virtual)
    - i. May 20<sup>th</sup> 10am – 2pm PST
    - ii. To register: [Upcoming events — National Organic Coalition](#)