

## Executive Director's Report for May 2026

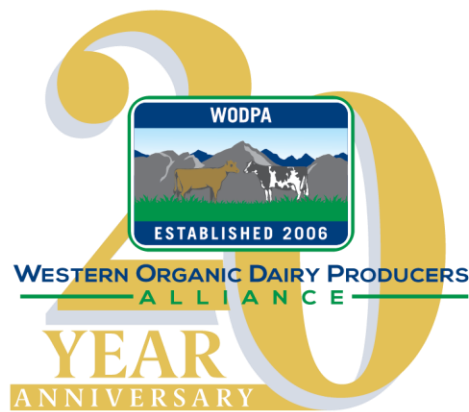
### WODPA topics of focus this month

1. Continuing to stay updated on Farm Bill updates
2. Outreach for 2026 Conference & new farmer members
3. Creating printed Newsletter
4. Planning regional trips to WA & OR

### A. Legislative/Policy Work

#### 1. WODPA supports:

- i. "The Organic Dairy Data Collection Act" – H.R. 4110 (attached)
  1. Sponsors: Rep. Pingree (ME), Rep. Langworthy (NY) and Rep. Wied (WI)
  2. Aims to improve data collection for organic dairies by requiring the USDA to gather and publish information about the cost of producing organic milk, including the cost of key organic feedstuffs—whether produced domestically or imported. The USDA must also report monthly on the payments organic dairy farmers receive for their milk and release state-level cost-of-production reports, along with regional statistics on organic milk production quantities and prices.
- ii. "The Organic Dairy Assistance, Investment, and reporting Yields Act of 2025" – Senate 2442 (attached)
  1. Sponsors: Senator Welch (VT), Senator Gillibrand (NY), Senator Sanders (VT), Sen. Smith (MN), Senator Booker (NJ)
  2. The Organic Dairy Assistance, Investment, and Reporting Yields Act aims to enhance data collection for organic dairy, mandates that the USDA create an effective safety-net program for organic



dairy farmers, and allocates funding to support regional organic dairy infrastructure.

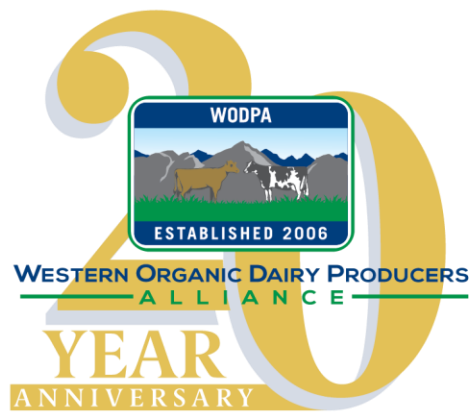
- iii. “Domestic Organic Investment Act (DOIA) – S. 3427 & H.R. 6593
  - 1. Sponsors: Sen. Baldwin (WI), Sen. Collins (ME), Rep. Salinas (OR), Rep. Van Orden (WI)
  - 2. DOIA aims to boost domestic organic production by encouraging USDA to reduce imported organic goods and offering grants to help domestic producers invest in storage, processing, aggregation, and distribution facilities.
- iv. “Opportunities in Organic Act of 2026” – H.R. 7318
  - 1. Sponsors: Rep. Panetta (CA), Rep. Adams (NC), Rep. Tonko (NY), Rep. Lieu (CA), Rep. Tokuda (HI), Rep. Lofgren (CA), Rp. Pingree (ME)
  - 2. Expands the Organic Certification Cost-Share Program and adds flexible funding to enhance the USDA Organic Transition Initiative, prioritizing underserved producers.

## 2. WODPA opposes:

- i. “Meeting Demand for Organic Produce Act – S. 2797 & H.R. 5367
  - 1. Sponsor: Rep. Newhouse (WA)
  - 2. The bill would let producers test land for banned substances instead of completing the mandated three-year transition to organic methods without synthetic chemicals or GMOs, a period crucial for maintaining organic integrity.

## B. Federal Government Updates

- 1. The House passed its version of the Farm Bill, which now goes to the Senate Ag Committee for review and a vote. If approved, it proceeds to the Senate Floor. Both chambers must pass the final bill before it's sent to the President for signature.
  - i. A few very important wins for organic:
    - 1. Inclusion of a risk- based organic oversight reform.



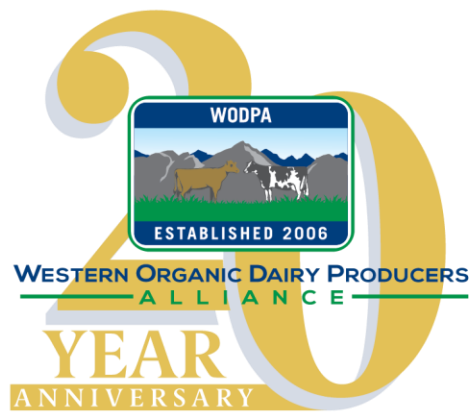
2. Extends the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative through 2031, sustaining USDA's main organic research program and grant support for transitioning to organic agriculture, including studies on barriers, practices, and outcome measurement.
3. The Organic Production and Market Data Initiative is extended through 2031, with new requirements for organic dairy data. These include reporting on organic feed prices, production costs, organic milk prices, regional data, and regular updates on organic milk.
4. The House bill proposes raising EQIP conservation payment limits for organic production from \$140,000 to \$200,000 (2027–2031), addressing the higher costs organic producers face.
5. Other provisions aim to improve USDA support for organic farming through technical assistance, outreach, education, and a report identifying barriers to program participation.
6. Includes a provision that aims to prevent states from regulating agricultural production practices outside their own borders, effectively allowing the sale of pork in California that does not meet Prop 12 standards
7. Removed the shield for pesticide companies – this is being debated separately

**C. Organic Dairy Market News reporting update**

**D. Common OSP Template update**

**E. NOSB Spring 2026 Meeting**

1. WODPA received 5 responses on the NOSB Spring 2026 Feedback Form. Those comments helped immensely in building out what is especially important in commenting to the National Organic Standards Board. Thank you!
2. [NOSB WODPA Comments 5.4.2026.pdf](#) were electronically submitted on May 4<sup>th</sup>. A copy can be found on the WODPA website.

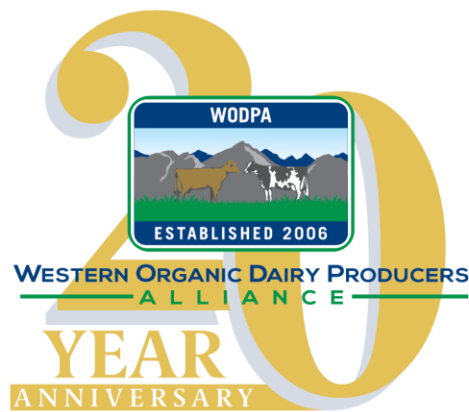


#### **F. Coalition for Organic Dairy Exemption (CODE): FMMO Reform for Organic Dairy**

1. 2 weeks ago, the [Coalition for Organic Dairy Exemption](#) (CROPP Cooperative, Aurora Organic Dairy and Horizon Organic Dairy) took important legal actions as part of a broader strategy to seek an exemption for organic dairy from the pooling obligations required within the FMMO.
2. April 24: Each company filed individual cases in district court against USDA challenging FMMO rules being applied to organic dairy. This is a continuation of an ongoing challenge happening through USDA administrative processes related to FMMO's changes made effective in June 2025. The April 24 filings focus on constitutional claims.
3. April 28: Seven CROPP Cooperative farmer-owners filed a separate farmer class-action claim, in the court of federal claims, asserting that the application of FMMO rules to organic dairy constitutes an unlawful taking.
4. For context, the current FMMO system treats organic and conventional dairy the same, even though organic dairy operates under a very different market model. As a result, organic producers have been required to pay into a federal pricing and pooling system that provides no benefit to organic dairy producers. Since 2006, organic dairy has contributed more than \$400 million to the FMMO system.
5. For additional background and access to the joint release (which is also below), please visit the Coalition's website: [Home page | Coalition for Organic Dairy Exemption](#).

#### **G. Alignment on Meloxicam**

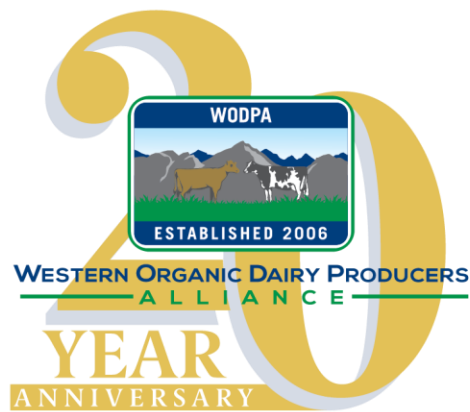
1. We urge the NOP to promptly advance the proposed rule to add meloxicam to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Materials, ensuring organic livestock producers can meet modern animal welfare expectations. Advancing rulemaking to add meloxicam to the National List is necessary, timely, and unquestionably supported by producers, veterinarians, businesses, and animal welfare advocates committed to the integrity and future of organic livestock production.
  - i. Strong stakeholder support



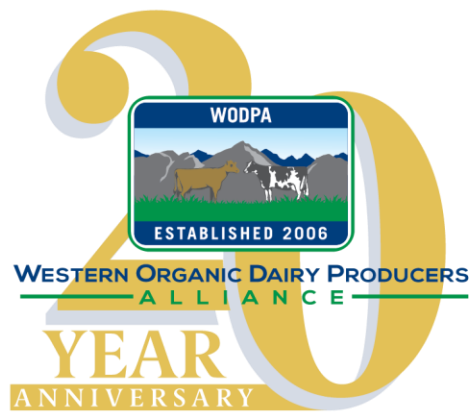
- ii. Essential Tool for Humane, High-Standard Animal Care
  - iii. Alignment with other Animal Care Programs
  - iv. Increasing Urgency Due to Regulatory Changes Clear Request to the National Organic Program
2. Comments are due May 22, 2026 and can be submitted here:  
<https://www.regulations.gov/commenton/AMS-NOP-22-0029-0001>
3. Template to submit comments can be found at: <https://wodpa.com/current-news>

#### H. Farmer Resources & Financial Opportunities:

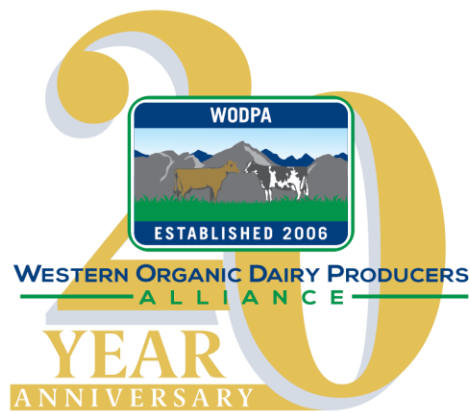
1. Organic Dairy Exemption Request Form : [AMS-15 - Organic Exemption Request Form | Agricultural Marketing Service \(usda.gov\)](#)
2. New World Screwworm - What Organic Farmers need to know and what their treatment options are
  - i. [New World Screwworm update edited.pdf](#)
  - ii. Expert working group focused on organic specific remedies is convening at the end of May.
3. **Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP)**
  - i. The American Relief Act of 2025, provides more than \$16 billion in disaster relief payments to producers who suffered revenue, quality or production losses to crops, trees, bushes, or vines due to qualifying disaster events in calendar years 2023 and 2024. The Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP) will be administered in two stages. Producers can receive payments in both stages, if applicable, and for one or both years, depending on losses.
  - ii. Stage 1 & Stage 2:
    1. Complete & submit your application
    2. Make sure your FSA Forms are all up to date
    3. Check future insurance coverage requirements
  - iii. A couple things to keep in mind:
    1. Keep your [FSA 578 Form](#) up to date and on file at your local FSA office.



2. Let your local FSA office know of your intent to apply with a documented communication chain (email) and call to make an appointment now!
  3. Keep all items that might be related to forage crop losses including variations on reduced grazing days over the normal grazing season.
  4. This payment is tied to indemnified (stage 1) & non-indemnified (stage 2) losses
  5. Useful information on the SDRP  
Program: [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/disaster-recovery/supplemental-disaster-relief-program-sdrp?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery#stage-1](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/disaster-recovery/supplemental-disaster-relief-program-sdrp?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery#stage-1)
  6. Find your local FSA Office  
here: <https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator>
4. **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm- Raised Fish (ELAP)**
- i. The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), offers **financial aid** to producers who **suffer losses** from specific adverse conditions not covered by other USDA disaster assistance programs. This includes losses due to **disease, certain adverse weather events, and other qualifying conditions affecting livestock**, honey bees, and farm-raised fish. ELAP provides critical support to help producers recover and sustain their operations.
  - ii. **Eligible applicants include producers of livestock**, honey bees, and farm-raised fish who have suffered losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other qualifying conditions. **Producers must provide verifiable documentation of the losses** and meet all program requirements.
  - iii. A couple things to keep in mind:



1. Keep your [FSA 578 Form](#) up to date and on file at your local FSA office.
  2. Let your local FSA office know of your intent to apply with a documented communication chain (email) and call to make an appointment now!
  3. Keep track of everything including feed bought/ trucked in, water hauled, any pastures or acreage that could not be accessed for grazing, animals transported offsite/ sold (miles driven, equipment used, etc.)
  4. Due date is August 12, 2026 but DON'T WAIT until the last minute. Get your applications and paperwork in now!
  5. ELAP Program overview & application: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/disaster-recovery/emergency-assistance-livestock-honeybees-farm-raised-fish-elap>
  5. Mercaris/ Argus update:
    - i. Mercaris/Argus collecting statements for Q2 2026 (April, May, June)
    - ii. Send statements to [AgData@ArgusMedia.com](mailto:AgData@ArgusMedia.com)
    - iii. All organic dairy producers can submit statements. Only paid- in WODPA members can see the survey results.
    - iv. Waiting on Q1 (January, February, March 2026) final report now
  6. National Organic Farmer Education Network (NOFEN)
    - i. <https://organicfarmersassociation.org/organic-events/>
- I. Reminders:
1. Spring 2026 NOSB Meeting
    - i. May 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> in Omaha, Nebraska
    - ii. [National Organic Standards Board Meeting - Omaha, NE | Agricultural Marketing Service](#)
  2. The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual NODPA Field Days: September 24 – 25, 2026



- iii. [SAVE THE DATE for the 26th Annual NODPA Field Days, September 24 & 25, 2026 - Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance](#)
- 3. WODPA's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary WODPA Conference & Trade Show
  - iv. October 27 – 28, 2026 in Chico, CA
  - v. [CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW](#)
- 4. WFCFO Pasture/Rules Webinar
  - vi. June 10<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm PST
  - vii. Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88281580918?pwd=d3WAG0tBYTADdY8LwazibfLr06Nkbj.1>
  - viii. Meeting ID: 882 8158 0918
  - ix. Passcode: 685102
  - x. One tap mobile: +13092053325,,88281580918#,,,,\*685102#  
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