

Executive Director's Report for June 2026

WODPA topics of focus this month

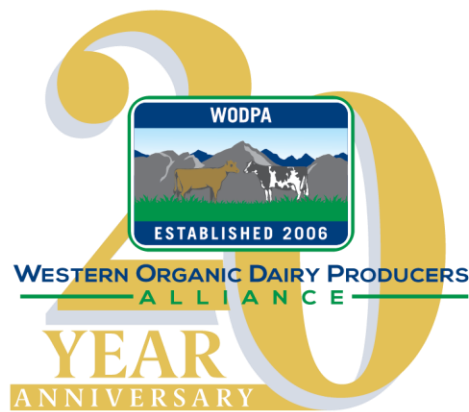
1. Continuing to stay updated on Farm Bill updates
2. Outreach for 2026 Conference & new farmer members
3. Regional visits to Northern Oregon, Colorado (two organic farms) and Sonoma County

A. Legislative/Policy Work

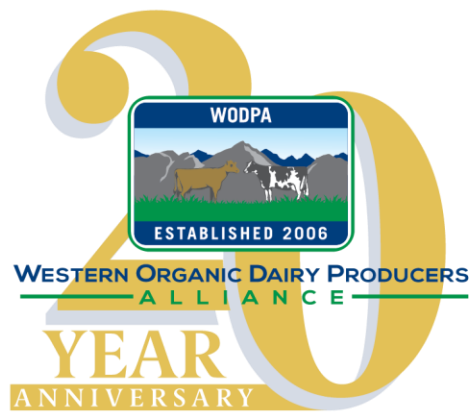
1. AB 2100 (Connolly) was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, meaning the bill is dead for the year.
 - i. two agencies named in it, the California Air Resources Board and the State Water Board, assigned [unreasonably high cost estimates](#) to fulfill their responsibilities under the bill.
2. Senate Ag Minority meeting
 - i. Leadership hopes to pass a bill before the August recess, but there have been few bipartisan discussions on its details.

B. Federal Government Updates

1. The House passed its version of the Farm Bill. It is currently being debated/ revised by the Senate Ag Committee. 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 in the House version:
 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
2. New World Screwworm (updates can be found on our newly written article
 - i.
 - ii. What Organic Farmers need to know and what their treatment options are
 1. [New World Screwworm update edited.pdf](#)
 2. Expert working group focused on organic specific remedies convened at the end of May and has been working diligently since.
 3. First detection in the US: Detected on 6/3 in a 3-week-old beef calf (umbilical cord) in La Pryer, TX ; looked at all other animals there and no other animals were found to be infected. Animals had not been moved recently (therefore ensuring it hadn't spread yet).
 - a. Quarantine was placed on all warm- blooded animals within 20 kilometers.
 - b. This is not a food safety issue. NWS does not infest meat, other byproducts, fruits, etc. This is not an infectious disease.
 - c. Currently there are 12 products authorized by FDA to treat NWS. This is highly treatable (conventionally). They are considering sterile flies as the #1 organic treatment. FDA responded with "we don't classify our treatments as organic or not. We don't look at that option."
 - d. USDA boots on the ground.
 - e. Ground release chambers as well as aerial releases
 - i. 4 million flies being released on the ground + 4 million flies now released aerially



- f. All ports are closed to livestock movement country to country (have been for the past year)

C. Common OSP update

1. It's LIVE! [Organic System Plan Template | Agricultural Marketing Service](#)
2. This is still voluntary for certifiers to use. First check with your certifier if they will accept the OSP in this format.
3. NOP has tasked the Accredited Certifiers Association (ACA) with developing a governance system for updating the Common OSP.

D. Alignment on Meloxicam

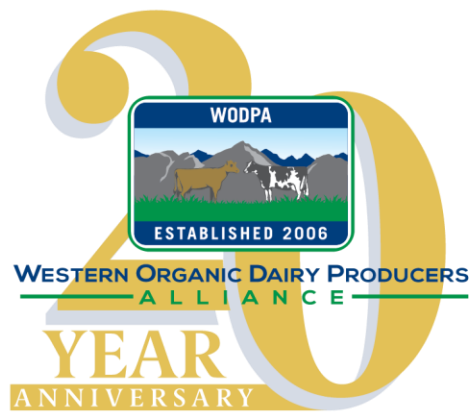
1. We submitted comments (attached) urging the NOP to promptly advance the proposed rule to add meloxicam to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Materials, ensuring organic livestock producers can meet modern animal welfare expectations. Advancing rulemaking to add meloxicam to the National List 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 were due May 22nd. Many farmers submitted comments as well using the template we created.

E. Letter Sign- Ons:

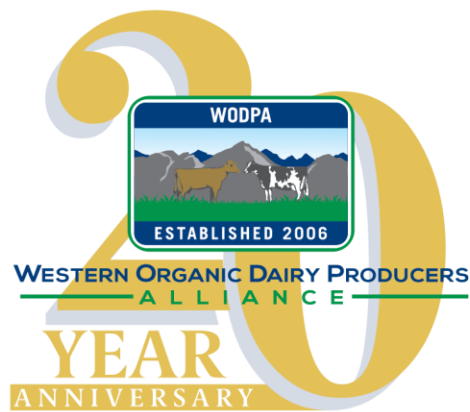
1. Support letter sent for nomination of OTA's Farmer of the Year Award
2. Letter of Support for Fly and Tick Control in Organic Dairies - Ohio State
3. Letter of Support for Nurse Cows and Profitability – Oregon State university

F. Farmer Resources & Financial Opportunities:

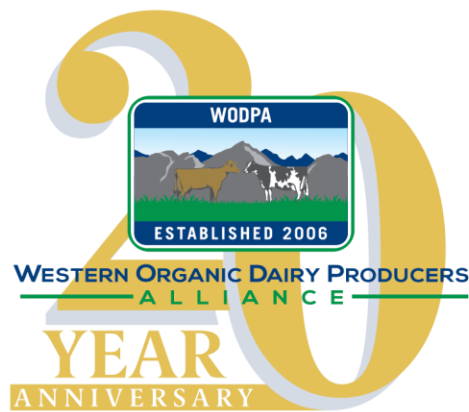
1. Organic Dairy Exemption Request Form : [AMS-15 - Organic Exemption Request Form | Agricultural Marketing Service \(usda.gov\)](#)
2. USDA Invests \$65 Million for Projects that Help Farmers Improve their Operations and Conserve Natural Resources through Science and Innovation



- i. [Thanks to Working Families Tax Cuts Act, USDA Invests \\$65 Million for Projects that Help Farmers Improve their Operations and Conserve Natural Resources through Science and Innovation | Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)
 - ii. For fiscal 2026, NRCS is investing \$50 million for CIG On-Farm Trials and \$15 million for CIG Classic.
 - iii. This year's priorities for CIG On-Farm Trials are:
 - 1. Irrigation water management technologies;
 - 2. Nutrient management;
 - 3. Grazing lands; and
 - 4. Soil health demonstration trials.
 - iv. This year's priorities for CIG Classic are:
 - 1. Water management;
 - 2. Conserving ecosystems by managing pest pressure;
 - 3. Soil;
 - 4. Habitat improvement; and
 - 5. Farmer-focused conservation outcomes.
 - v. Applications are being accepted now through July 27, 2026.
- 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
 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
 - iii. All organic dairy producers can submit statements. Only paid- in WODPA members can see the survey results.
 - iv. Q1 (January, February, March 2026) final report now available
6. National Organic Farmer Education Network (NOFEN)
 - i. <https://organicfarmersassociation.org/organic-events/>

G. 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
 - iii. [CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW](#)
 - iv. In person Board meeting
3. WFCFO Pasture/Rules Webinar
 - v. June 10th @ 2pm PST
 - vi. Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88281580918?pwd=d3WAG0tBYTADdY8LwazjbfLr06Nkbj.1>
 - vii. Meeting ID: 882 8158 0918
 - viii. Passcode: 685102
 - ix. One tap mobile: +13092053325,,88281580918#,,,,*685102#
US+13126266799,,88281580918#,,,,*685102# US (Chicago)
- b. Northern Oregon Regional Visit: June 24th – 26th
- c. Colorado Springs, CO Regional Visit: June 18th – 19th
- d. Sonoma County, CA Regional Visit: July 6th – 8th
 - i. Regional meeting at Washoe House on July 7th @ 11:30am