



5/12/2026

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 for The Ohio State University's proposed project, "Producer-Driven Solutions for Fly and Tick Control in Organic Dairies", which addresses a critical and growing need in organic dairy production systems.

Fly and tick pressure continues to be a significant management challenge for organic dairy producers, particularly given the limitations on synthetic pest control products under organic certification standards. These pests can negatively impact animal welfare, reduce productivity, and increase the risk of disease transmission within and between herds. In addition, the emergence and spread of invasive species such as the Asian longhorned tick, alongside renewed concerns about New World Screwworm, highlights the urgent need for prevention-oriented management strategies suited to organic systems. WODPA is committed to supporting efforts that translate research into tools and strategies that organic dairy producers can realistically implement on their farms. As part of this project, WODPA will support outreach and dissemination of results through member communications, digital platforms, and producer-focused events. We also welcome opportunities to contribute to project engagement by facilitating focus groups and educational sessions into our programming, including our annual conference and trade show. In addition, a WODPA representative can volunteer to serve on the advisory panel to help ensure that the work remains grounded in producer needs and reflects the operational realities of organic dairy farms in the western US.

We view this project as a valuable contribution to advancing integrated, organic-compliant fly and tick management strategies that are both scientifically sound and practically applicable across diverse production environments. Collaborative, producer-engaged efforts such as this are essential to improving animal health and welfare outcomes, while strengthening the long-term resilience and sustainability of organic dairy farms. WODPA is pleased to endorse this proposal and looks forward to its success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lia Sieler".

Lia Sieler, Executive Director

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