

Executive Director Report for January 2025

Legislative/Policy Work

1. **ODMAP payments should be out (including initial payments & top up).**
2. Organic Dairy Assistance, Investment, and Reporting Yields Act of 2023 (O DAIRY Act of 2023) – Senate Bill 3097
3. “The Organic Dairy Data Collection Act” – House Bill 6937
4. Elections/ Appointments:
 1. Farm Bill update
 - i. Federal government to remain running at 2024 levels through March 14, 2025
 - ii. Farm Bill extended one year (set to expire September 30, 2025)
 - iii. No funding for “orphan programs” including organic certification cost-share, the Organic Data Initiative and the Organic Certification Trade & Tracking Program
 - iv. Final 2025 appropriations package is now due to be completed by March 14th
 - v. 2026 appropriations package is due September 30th
 2. Ag Committee changes
 - i. House Ag Committee:
 1. Led by Chair GT Thompson (R-PA)
 2. Ranking member Angie Craig (D-MN)
 3. No new members from our region)
 - ii. Senate Ag Committee:
 1. Led by John Boozman (R-AR)
 2. Ranking member Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
 3. Adam Schiff (D-CA) will be added to the committee.
 - iii. Brooke Rollins scheduled to be confirmed as Secretary of Agriculture on January 15th

5. SOE & OOL Feedback Form (Attached)
 1. [Farmer Feedback for SOE and OOL - Google Forms](#)
 2. Shared with our affiliate organizations (NODPA, NOC, OTA, OFA)
 3. The goal of this survey is to collect information and feedback regarding the newly implemented Strengthening Organic Enforcement (SOE) Rule and the Origin of Livestock (OOL) Rule.
 4. 24 responses so far!
6. Avian Influenza Detection and Spread
 1. [USDA to Begin Accepting Applications for Expanded Emergency Livestock Assistance Program to Help Dairy Producers Offset Milk Loss Due to H5N1 | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#)
 - i. Confirmed H5N1 positive test results are required for recovery assistance
 - ii. OFA Farmer Hotline to help buffer: (833)724-3834
7. Legislation that would require residue testing on high-risk imported organic grains to ensure organic integrity and a fair domestic marketplace
 1. [Sign On to Fight Fraudulent Organic Imports](#)

Mercaris/ Argus update:

1. Mercaris/Argus collecting statements for Q4 2024 (October, November, December 2024)
 - a. Send statements to 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:

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 \(usda.gov\)](#)
2. Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards (OLPS) Rule has officially been announced.
 - a. Effective date: January 12, 2024
 - b. Compliance date: January 2, 2025**
3. Save the Dates:
 - a. WODPA Conference & Trade Show – October 2025 in California
4. National Organic Coalition – “Helping Organic Producers Access NRCS Programs”
 - a. January 15th @ 11am
 - b. [Helping Organic Producers Access NRCS Programs — National Organic Coalition](#)
5. AOAC developing methodology for detecting fraud in organic. Webinar available to watch:
 - a. January 16, 2025 @ 9am
 - b. [Advancing Authenticity Testing in Certified Organic Products Webinar - AOAC INTERNATIONAL](#)