

Executive Director's Report for January 2026

WODPA topics of focus this month

1. Staying up to date with government shutdown, Farm Bill, etc.
2. 2026 Membership letters
3. Lunchtime Learning Re-launch

Legislative/Policy Work

1. "The Organic Dairy Data Collection Act" – H.R. 4110 (attached)
 - a. Introduced by Congresswoman Pingree (D - ME), Congressman Langworthy (R - NY) and Congressman Wied (R - WI)
2. "The Organic Dairy Assistance, Investment, and reporting Yields Act of 2025" – Senate 2442 (attached)
 - a. Introduced by Senator Welch (VT), Senator Gillibrand (NY), Senator Sanders (VT) and Senator Booker (NJ)
3. Federal Government Reopened
 - a. Continuing Resolution that funds the government through January 30.
 - b. Includes a one- year extension of the Farm Bill programs through September 2026 and suspends permanent agricultural laws that would incentivize Congress to speed work on a full Farm Bill.
4. Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act – S. 222, H.R. 649
 - a. Reintroduces whole and 2% milk to school lunch programs, challenging long-standing USDA guidelines.
 - b. Passed Congress & is on its way to the President's Desk for signing

Other Business

1. USDA Launches New Regenerative Pilot Program to Lower Farmer Production Cost & Advance MAHA Agenda
 - a. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins, alongside U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz announced a \$700 million Regenerative Pilot Program to help American farmers adopt practices that improve soil health, enhance water quality, and boost long-term productivity, all while strengthening America's food and fiber supply.
 - b. Apply through your local NRCS Service Center; Applications for both EQIP and CSP can now be submitted under the new single regenerative application process
2. National Organic Standards Board Rescheduled Fall 2025 Meeting
 - a. New start date: 1/13/2026 @ 8am PST; Completely virtual

- b. Only meeting to discuss substances petitioned for addition to or deletion from the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List), substances due to sunset from the National List in 2027 and recommendations on organic policies.
3. Common OSP update
 - a. Met with NOP to discuss our want for an available set of OSP documents provided (for free) by the NOP to be downloaded off their website as wanted/needed
 - b. Agreed to hold off on announcement until March or April
 - c. OSP templates will be approved by the USDA/NOP but will not be mandatory; They will also not be directly tied to Quick Organics so any certifier or producer could use them.
 - d. Asking us to find livestock farmers willing to review the templates in the coming weeks

Letter Sign-Ons and Comments:

1. NOP Letter Supporting Meloxicam Rulemaking

Farmer Resources & Financial Opportunities:

1. National Organic Farmer Education Network (NOFEN)
 - a. <https://organicfarmersassociation.org/organic-events/>
2. Organic Dairy Exemption Request Form
 - a. AMS-15 - Organic Exemption Request Form | Agricultural Marketing Service (usda.gov)
3. Mercaris/ Argus update:
 - a. Mercaris/Argus collecting statements for Q4 2025 (October, November, December)
 - i. Send statements to AgData@ArgusMedia.com
 - ii. All organic dairy producers can submit statements. Only paid- in WODPA members can see the survey results.
 - iii. SEND IN YOUR STATEMENTS NOW PLEASE
 - b. Q3 (July, August, September 2025) final report should be available any day
4. Halter Virtual Fencing sign-ups are still available
 - a. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeMsY7fedij96_gxaJT4wIOQXxhGW_B_oASdH-DN-Opjz8dFRw/viewform

Reminders/ Resources:

- a. Lunchtime Learning: Project Talks with NRCS**
 - i. January 15th @ 11:30am PST**
 - ii. Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83701007435?pwd=EdoeA5MjhCS6oypLU5CVhls2rvGIY.1>
Meeting ID: 837 0100 7435
Passcode: 313452
- b. OFA's Annual Policy Survey (due January 25th)
 - i. [OFA 2026 Annual Policy Development \(Closes Jan. 25, 2026\) Survey](#)
- c. Management of Organic Dairy Youngstock Survey
 - i. [Brochure 1page Final](#)
 - ii. Pays \$250 to complete