

Executive Director Report for June 2024

Legislative/Policy Work

OFA Meetings (4/17, 5/1, 5/9, 5/15, 5/29)

OTA Meeting (4/19 – Farm Bill Task Force)

1. Organic Dairy Assistance, Investment, and Reporting Yields Act of 2023 (O DAIRY Act of 2023) – Senate Bill 3097
2. “The Organic Dairy Data Collection Act” – House Bill 6937
 1. House Ag Committee passed their version (after 13 hours of mark-ups)
3. DFA ending relationship with Horizon – effecting the East Coast primarily

Government Announcements:

1. Farm Bill still extended
2. Sonoma County Ballot Measure J
 - a. Sonoma County Family Farmers Alliance
(<https://www.sonomacountyfamilyfarmersalliance.com/>)
 - b. Local Producer meeting THIS FRIDAY (6/14) @ 11am at SCFB
3. Avian Influenza Detection and Spread
 - a. Increase biosecurity & decrease allowance of visitors
 - b. The spread could be attributed to hauling (in and out). We don't know.
 - c. Government issuing support under ELAP – no details yet
4. USDA Announces New Steps to Enhance Organic Markets and Support Producers
 - a. USDA Announces \$40.5 Million in Grant Awards to Support Processing and Promotion of Domestic Organic Products
 - b. [USDA Announces New Steps to Enhance Organic Markets and Support Producers | Agricultural Marketing Service](#)
 - c. Multiple WODPA stakeholders received grants ... check out the list: [Organic Market Development Grant Program Fiscal Year 2024 Description of Funded Projects \(usda.gov\)](#)
5. ODMAP Update:
 - a. Still on track for distribution by last day of spring (June 20th)
 - b. Retroactive payments idea was rejected
 - c. Pressure put on FSA

Letters, Sign- Ons and Write- Ups:

1. NOC's “Organic Research in the Next Farm Bill” letter (attached)
2. Another California Cattle Council Grant 2024 approved!
 - a. North Coast Food Service Director Farm to School Dairy Training

- b. WODPA, Humboldt County Farm Bureau
 - c. Rumiano Cheese Co.
- 3. NOSB Petition for use of Meloxicam
 - a. Not yet in the NOSB agenda
 - b. May be an opportunity for us to provide oral comment in Portland in the Fall

Mercaris/ Argus update:

- 1. Mercaris/Argus collecting statements for Q2 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.
- 2. WODPA Q1 2024 Final Report attached
 - a. 10 farms; 36 statements; 7 processors; 28,899,206 lbs. of milk
- 3. Mercaris platform is now gone. Argus platform is up and running.

Financial Opportunities:

- 1. Organic Dairy Exemption Request Form
 - a. [AMS-15 - Organic Exemption Request Form | Agricultural Marketing Service \(usda.gov\)](#)
 - b. Renews each June so send yours in now ... don't forget your organic certificate!
- 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 Date: Fall 2024 NOSB Meeting – Portland, OR
 - a. Public comment webinar is scheduled for October 15 & 17
 - b. Public Meeting is scheduled for October 22-24
- 4. Milk & Cookies with the Cows (and their farmers, too!) is in Sonoma County on 7/17
- 5. Sonoma County Regional Meeting on 7/18