

Executive Director Report for March 2024

OFA Meeting Updates (1/10, 1/24, 2/21):

1. Legislative Work
 - a. Organic Dairy Assistance, Investment, and Reporting Yields Act of 2023 (O DAIRY Act of 2023)
 - b. “The Organic Dairy Data Collection Act”
 - i. Meeting with Pingree’s office
 - c. Preserving Organic Integrity: A Marker Bill for Organic Import

OTA Meeting Updates (2/23): Farm Bill Task Force

1. NOSB
 1. 5 seats opening in January 2025 on NOSB. They want to get those filled by October 2024. Currently no dairy representatives on the Board.
 2. Spring 2024 meeting is April 29th Hot topic: 2024 Spring Meeting Prep
 - i. March 21st @ 10am to review the agenda
2. Organic Week Registration
 1. May 14 – 16
3. Officially supporting the Organic Dairy Data Collection Act
4. CCC funds- safe from clawback – ODMAP and OMDG both awaiting remaining announcements of dispersal

Government Announcements:

1. Farm Bill: extension includes all orphan programs (cost share, organic data initiative, etc.)
2. New dairy focused animal health lessons available for elementary and middle school teachers
 - a. [New Dairy-Focused Animal Health Lessons Available for Elementary and Middle School Teachers - Discover Dairy](#)

Letters, Sign- Ons and Write- Ups:

1. California Cattle Council Grant 2024
2. Rumiano Letter of support for the 2024 Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program
3. WODPA 2024 Handout (attached)
4. WODPA’s OLPS and SOE Write- up (attached)
5. CCC Rider letter (attached)

Mercaris/ Argus update:

1. Mercaris/Argus collecting statements for Q1 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. Lunchtime Learning webinar (2/13) covered End of Year Q4 commodity report and Q4 2023/Q1 2024 Milk Statement Survey

Financial Opportunities:

1. Organic Dairy Exemption Request Form
 - a. [AMS-15 - Organic Exemption Request Form | Agricultural Marketing Service \(usda.gov\)](#)
2. DMC enrollment is now open
 - a. [Dairy Producers Can Enroll for 2024 Dairy Margin Coverage Beginning Feb. 28 \(usda.gov\)](#)
 - b. [Dairy Margin Coverage Program \(usda.gov\)](#)
3. Organic Transition Initiative Direct Farmer Assistance
 - a. [Organic Transition Initiative Direct Farmer Assistance | Farmers.gov](#)

Reminders:

1. Strengthening Organic Enforcement Rule goes into 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: Spring 2024 NOSB Meeting – Milwaukee April 29 – May 1, 2024
 - a. Public comment webinar is scheduled for April 23 & 25
4. OTA's Organic Week
 - a. May 14 – 16, 2024
 - b. [Organic Week 2024 \(swoogo.com\)](#)