



How robots are taking over the milking parlor, and why that's good for cows and farmers.

This story appeared in GeekWire and is reprinted with permission by GeekWire's editors. The story involves the Austin family's farm, the subject of WODPA's Fall Conference tour. The story is one of a special series where GeekWire explores the evolving relationship between humans and machines, examining the ways that robots, artificial intelligence and automation are impacting our work and lives.

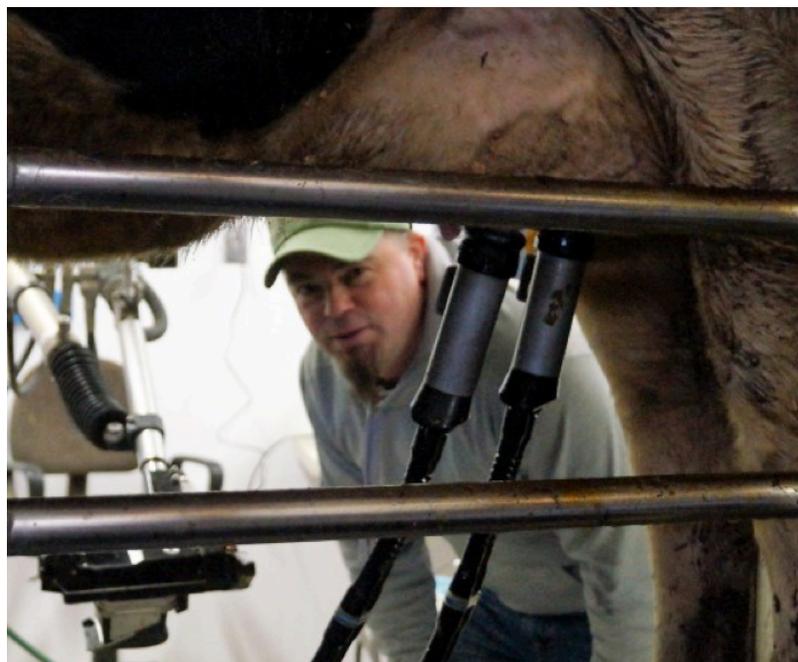
by Alan Boyle on January 28, 2016 at 9:30 am

OAKVILLE, Wash. – The Austin family's cows seem a lot more contented since the robots took over the milking. It's the humans, not the cows, who have had to make the biggest adjustments.

"At first, you're a deer in the headlights," Ron Austin recalled at the family farm, 90 miles southwest of Seattle. "You get a call from the robot, and you don't know what to do. The cows learned faster than we did."

The Austins and about a dozen other families in Washington state are part of a rising robot revolution in the dairy industry.

More than 30,000 autonomous milking machines have been sold around the world, and the trend is just now picking up speed in the United States. By 2025, as much as a quarter of



Dairy farmer Ron Austin peers past the robot-controlled milking cups attached to a cow's teats. The cows mostly decide when and how often they're milked. (GeekWire photo by Alan Boyle)

the cows in North America could be milked by robots.

A milking robot doesn't look anything like C-3PO or R2-D2. It's basically a metal cabinet that's positioned next to the cow's stall.

A robotic arm extends out from the cabinet to sanitize the cow's teats and hook up suction cups. Laser-scanning sensors make sure the cups go in the right places. The cups squeeze the teats so that milk flows through hoses and into a holding tank for analysis. When the computer senses that the flow has slowed to a trickle, the cow is unhooked, cleaned up and set loose to make room for the next one.

The cows don't have to be chased into the milking pen. They want to come back, to get more of the tasty feed they're served automatically while they're in the stall. Each cow wears a RFID tag, so the computer knows how long since she's been milked and determines when she should be let back in for another go-round. Computer-controlled gates are used to herd the cows in the proper order.

If something in the system isn't right – for example, if a cow has been waiting in the pen for too long, or if blood is detected in the milk – the farmers get a robo-call on their

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President's Message

Greetings,

Hopefully we've all had a good winter. One of the mildest for us in Washington, spring has been equally nice. I really want to express my gratitude for all those that have supported us financially!! I can't say it enough.



That being said, we all worked hard to get our milk price up where it needed to be. Now we can REALLY start working; to keep our pay price. Is milk long? If so, how long? Are farm gate prices down? Are retail prices up? What products are selling and which are not? One good rumor is that New Zealand organic dairymen will be getting almost a 100% pay raise; still below us though. Why is New Zealand important? Well TPP, if it passes, it will allow them to export to the U.S.A. more and more organic butter tariff free. There are a lot of groups and people that want to grow the organic industry in the U.S.A. That's all nice and dandy; we'd all like to see more organic products in the market. A growing market creates a place for us to sell our products. Question is; will a growing organic industry help organic dairymen? Possibly; depends on what we end up getting paid. To me; what we get paid overrides growing an industry.

Over and over we've heard about how Organics support the "family farm". Supporting "family farms" is a very laudable effort. I think that supporting the "family processor" is equally important! Same with retailers, it would not be good for us with only a couple of box stores selling our milk. It takes all sorts of farmers, processors and retailers to keep this program viable for all. Family farmers", "family processors and "family retailers"!

Hopefully everyone has read the proposed Animal Welfare rules! I won't go into the details here, but there are several items in it that will have dramatic impacts on YOUR dairy. It is imperative that everyone pay attention and get their comments in.

Let's all have a great summer! Be thankful for what we have going. We all realize that the conventional dairymen are doing not so well. Your WODPA board will do it's best to keep things going to the best of our ability!

Thanks

Andrew Dykstra,
President

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Executive Director's Message

This has shaped up as another critical year for organic dairy producers.



The first issue foremost on everyone's mind, because it endangers the farmer's sustainability, is the move by some processors to cut pay price. These processors claim over supply. WODPA's not buying that excuse. Why, because if there was a legitimate oversupply, the processor would have implemented a mandatory reduction

in milk provided by the farmer; not cut the farmer's pay price. That would be the socially responsible thing to do since it is the farmer and his product that is the first key to the processor's success as an entity. Instead they are cutting pay price, seeking a voluntary cut back in supply from their farmers, and adding new operations to the truck. You read that correctly; **some processors are cutting pay price and adding new farmers to the milk truck.**

Why would some processors undermine the sustainability of the very farmers who stuck with them during the organic dairy crises? A crisis brought on by low pay price

and high feed costs (caused by drought). During this crisis farmers held on by postponing maintenance and equipment upgrades, reducing the size of their herd, and other cost cutting measures. Regrettably, some farmers were forced out of organic dairy production altogether. The net result was the creation of a milk shortage.

Commencing in late 2014, due to the milk shortage and increased competition from new and smaller milk handlers, processors began to offer a sustainable pay price. Now in 2016, feed costs are down but debt accumulated prior to 2015 continues to weigh heavy on the farmer and the farm's sustainability. Water, its price and availability, also continues to threaten sustainability. Regrettably, once again, pay price has been added to the mix threatening farm sustainability.

Farmers do not believe that supply is long or very long. How can it be, when processors continue to take on new farms?

Some processors take exception to meeting the contracted price while feed costs are down. Have they forgotten that farmers went into debt to feed their dairy livestock, and put off maintenance and equipment upgrades? Have they forgotten that it was high feed costs coupled with low pay price that ultimately forced many to reduce the size of their herd while others were forced to abandon organic dairy production completely?

(Continued on page 4)

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Processors should quit importing cheap organic powdered milk, butter, and cheese which unfairly compete with U.S. produced organic dairy products. Processors should focus on supporting their U.S. dairy partners; not some faceless foreign entity.

Processors have their fingers on the pulse of retailer and consumer demand. They also know how much farmers can produce and they know how long it takes for farmers to respond with an increase in supply. With this knowledge, it seems reasonable that processors can be proactive vs. reactive to supply and demand. The cycle of over and under supply can be broken, but it requires cooperation between the processors and their farmer partners. It will not be solved by pay price cuts. **Clearly they can work with their farmers to better master the issue of supply.**

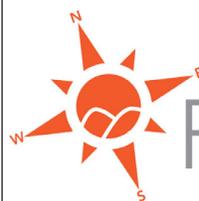
The USDA final rule "Exemption of Organic Products From Assessment Under a Commodity Promotion Law" was published December 31, 2015, and became effective February 29, 2016. This regulation exempts all processors of organic milk from the Fluid Milk Promotion Program. Previously, only processors who processed and marketed not more than 3,000,000 pounds of fluid milk per month were exempt from the Fluid Milk Promotion Program. The rule's impact analysis estimates that 11 milk processors will qualify for the organic exemption. The analysis estimates that the savings to these processors will total \$4,530,000 per year, at the production level used in the analysis. Processors, who made timely application, would have received a certificate of exemption several months ago and would have begun reaping the exemption benefits at that time. **WODPA contends that processors should be using these funds to increase consumer demand for their farmer partners' milk and the products made from that milk.**

OTA wants the USDA to create a National Organic Research and Promotion Program (organic check-off) that would assess farmers and processors, among others. A Federal organic check-off may not differentiate between U.S. and imported milk and products made from milk. Such a program will just enlarge the problem of cheap imported organic powdered milk, butter, and cheese which unfairly compete with U.S. produced organic dairy products. **As WODPA has done, organic processors should come out in opposition to OTA's proposal.** They can better use the funds to support their farmer partners by promoting their U.S. milk and the products made from that milk.

Processors need to understand that farmers need time to back fill the debt incurred during the time of low pay price and high feed cost.

Taking money from the farmer will not stimulate an immediate reduction in supply. Just the opposite will happen. Farmers will increase supply to try and recapture lost funds. This will create a true state of oversupply resulting in further

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pay price cuts, mandatory supply reductions, herd size reductions and farmers selling whole herds. Processors, retailers, and consumers will then face another organic milk shortage triggered by pay price cuts. We all know what happens next; processors fill the void with low priced products from overseas, just like they did during the last supply shortage.

Processors born out of the organic dairy crises and their farmers may well be the first fatalities, but surely not the only fatalities. **WODPA calls on the processors to correct the perilous course they have set for the U.S. organic dairy sector by retroactively reversing their pay price cuts.**

Sincerely,

Richard H. Mathews, Executive Director

rhmathews51@comcast.net

717-457-0100.

Secretary's Message

**2016 Conference and Trade Show, Wednesday, October 26th & Thursday, October 27th 2016
Great Wolf Lodge, Centralia, Washington**

By Darby Heffner

The Conference Committee is hard at work on this year's Conference and Trade Show aiming to make it the best conference yet. We have reviewed the suggestions and comments from last year's conference and have taken all into consideration in planning for this year's conference.



We have decided to change up the format of this year's conference to allow our members added time for open forums and an extended business meeting. The first day will feature a presentation by an economist addressing maintaining sustainable prices. Dairymen will meet in a producer only session the morning of the second day to

further explore this issue. A panel of environmental experts will address environmental issues currently facing Washington's dairymen. We will look into why dairymen are being attacked, how they are being attacked and how you can avoid and defend against this happening to you and your dairy.

After lunch, Mr. Scott Nehls, DeLaval and Mr. Jim Austin, Austin Family Farm, will address the benefits of using a robotic milking system. We will then depart for our farm tour generously hosted by the Austin Family. They have a Robotic Milking System that they will describe and demonstrate to attendees. At the farm, we will break into three smaller groups which will rotate every 45 minutes between the dairy tour and two simultaneous presentations. Dr. Sarah Slaby, DVM from Arcadia, Wisconsin will present on organic calf management and Mr. Larry Burrows will be talking about balancing organic rations for all age groups.

The second day will feature a producer only meeting. During this meeting producers will discuss ideas for sustaining organic pay price, and increasing the price of organic cull cows. We will also discuss the Global Organic Milk Production Report. During the second half of the morning, open to all attendees, we will discuss hot topic issues and hold our elections. Hot topic issues currently include origin of livestock, animal welfare, OTA's proposed organic check-off, and OTA's proposed USDA certified transitional program. Issues raised by attendees will also be discussed.

We are planning a strong trade show with a goal of 40 companies represented. We are excited that this facility

allows for all the companies to be located in the same room, directly connected to the meeting room.

WODPA will host a Welcome Reception on Tuesday, October 25th from 6:00pm-8:00pm. This is a great event to kick off the Conference; we hope you can make it.

For all 2016 Conference and Trade Show details including registration forms please see our website at wodpa.com or email us at wodpa@outlook.com. We look forward to seeing you this fall!

Thank you,

Darby Heffner, Secretary



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(Continued-How robots are taking over the milking parlor, and why that's good for cows and farmers.)

smartphones. They can even tap on an app to fine-tune the system, without ever setting foot in the barn.

Why are robot milkers taking over from humans? It's not just because of money.

"It may or may not increase profitability," said Larry Tranel, a dairy field specialist for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. "It may or may not increase cash flow."

On the plus side of the balance book, the robots tend to cut down on the need for human labor. There's also increased productivity: Instead of being milked only twice a day, the cows can unburden themselves up to six times a day. For the Austins, that translates to an 11 to 17 percent increase in daily milk output.

Robot-milked cows seem more at ease because they're not spooked so much by all those jumpy humans. "Taking the people out of the picture gives the cows a relaxed environment," said Scott Nehls, a technician for DeLaval, the company that made the Austins' robots.



A smartphone app sends an alert whenever the milking robots encounter something out of the ordinary. (GeekWire photo by Alan Boyle)



Ron Austin keeps track of milking stats in an office next to the milking parlor. (GeekWire photo by Alan Boyle)

On the minus side, the machines are expensive: Jim Austin, Ron's father and the family patriarch, figures that he spent half a million dollars to buy two robots and remodel the milking parlor. There's repair and maintenance to consider, of course. And because the Austins are early adopters, they've had to spend more time and money on the transition than they anticipated.

"It's been a rough couple of years," Ron said.

Despite the fact that the labor savings haven't fully kicked in yet, the Austins say the prospects look good for recouping their investment – in part because the price they're getting from the Organic Valley co-op has trended upward.

The big attraction has to do with quality of life: To milk 110 cows the old way, the Austins and their three hired workers had to hook up and take down milking machines for three to four hours at a stretch, twice a day, seven days a week. Sometimes the milking didn't stop until 9 p.m.

"I tell you, that was getting old," Jim said.

Now that the robots are on the scene, humans don't have to set foot in the milking parlor unless something needs to be checked. Last year, Jim and his wife Janie celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with the family in Hawaii while their workers kept an eye on things back home. There's no more need for the daily milking marathon. "I don't work as hard as I used to," Jim admitted.

Based on the surveys he's taken, Tranel said having that kind of flexible lifestyle is worth as much as \$50,000 a year to dairy farmers.

Robot farming does require a more computer-savvy skill set, Ron Austin said. "Some of the old-school farmers would be scared of this technology, but the bottom line is getting the milk out of the cow," he said.

The robotic system provides a flow of data as well as milk, and the Austins use that data flow to keep track of the best producers and the cows that may eventually have to be culled. "We've got seven cows out of 113 that we're looking at," Jim Austin said, as he pointed to the red bars lighting up an office computer screen.

Will all this automation lead to an influx of urban nerds into the dairy industry? Ron Austin, who's due to take over the farm when Jim retires, doubts that'll ever happen.

"Someone from the city saying, 'I'm going to start milking'? That's not going to work," he said. "You need the farming background. The only thing the robots are doing is milking the cows. But farmers are not just milkers. They're mechanics. They're veterinarians. They're construction workers."

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WODPA Opposes Organic Check-Off

WODPA hereby announces that it opposes the creation of any Federal Organic Research and Promotion Program by the United States Department of Agriculture. Specifically, WODPA opposes all efforts to implement the Organic Trade Association's proposed "Generic Research and Promotion Order for Organic ("GRO Organic")."

Who is WODPA?

The Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (WODPA) is a nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation. Our purpose is to enable organic dairy farmers, situated across an extensive area in the west, to maintain the sustainability of organic dairy farming. We represent over 275 organic dairy farm families throughout the Western United States. Organic dairy production in the western states accounts for over half of the Nation's milking cows and milk production.

WODPA is the ONLY organic dairy organization working specifically for organic dairywomen in the Western United States.

Why We Oppose an Organic Check-Off

1. In October 2012 and October 2015 WODPA's membership voted against the creation of an Organic Check-Off.
2. "Organic" is not a commodity, it is a system of production.

3. WODPA sees no need for a check-off. Consumer demand is good. The problem of increased competition due to processor import of dairy products cannot be addressed through a check-off. Further, the problem of cheap imported beef cannot be addressed through a check-off. To the contrary, check-offs' assess imports and promote generically.
4. A check-off will do nothing to help producers receive a sustainable price for their product. U.S. producers are experiencing lower prices for their products due to competition from imports which sell for less than the U.S. farmers can produce them.
5. Check-offs' assess a tax on farmers to fund advertising and other activities that they would not pay for voluntarily. These dollars can be put to better use on the farm.
6. Speech under a check-off is government speech and the Secretary of Agriculture has final approval authority over every word in every promotional campaign. The United States Department of Agriculture prohibits comparative promotion of agricultural products and systems of agriculture. Accordingly, speech to promote the virtues and benefits of organic will be censored, thereby, severely limiting the ability to effectively promote those virtues and benefits.

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7. Check-off programs of public relations and advertising target foodservice entities and consumers. Organic does not suffer from a lack or decline in demand. Promoting organic sales will not increase organic acreage in the U.S. but will further increase demand thereby increasing lower priced organic imports. That trend will further undermine the sustainability of U.S. producers which will result in an increased loss of family farms.
8. A check-off consisting of so many individual agricultural commodities cannot equitably address all production research needs or equitably represent the interests of all those taxed.
9. Check-offs are ineffective and their cost/benefit is unreasonable.
10. The percentage of the funds proposed to “administer” the Organic Check-Off is ridiculous. **W**

WODPA Needs You!

WODPA is an organization of, for, and by organic dairy producers. WODPA is the ONLY organic dairy organization working specifically for organic dairymen in the Western United States.

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WODPA is responding to USDA on initiatives of significant impact on organic dairy producers, including:

1. USDA's animal welfare proposed rule.
2. Organic Trade Association's (OTA's) application (and amended application) for implementation of an Organic Check-Off Program
3. OTA's request that USDA implement a USDA Certified Transition Program for the labeling of products from farms transitioning to organic.
4. National Organic Standards Board parasiticide recommendations which will weaken the National Organic Program parasiticide regulations.

While WODPA has a wonderfully dedicated pool of producer volunteers and donors, that pool is too small. WODPA needs you to volunteer your time and contribute financially.

To volunteer your time, you can:

1. Become a Board Member.
2. Serve on the Board Member Nominations Committee.
3. Assist with fundraising.
4. Serve on the Conference Committee.
5. Serve as a conference volunteer (information, registration, voting, vendor assistance, etc.).
6. Serve on an issues Committee.
7. Write an article for our newsletter the Integrity. For example, tell us about you and your farm. Write about a farming practice that has helped you improve your milk quality, forage production, animal health, or other issue important to the success of your dairy operation.

You can help financially by:

1. Becoming a Producer Milk Assignment Member (\$0.01 per hundredweight shipped),
2. Becoming a Per Head Member (\$1.50 per milking cow per year), or
3. Making a donation in any amount you are comfortable with.

Contact me at rhmathews51@comcast.net to volunteer your time and contribute financially. Additionally, please contact me should you have questions about WODPA or need assistance with issues involving the National Organic Program.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Mathews, Executive Director



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2016 WODPA Elections

Officer and director elections will be held during WODPA's 2016 Fall Conference and Trade Show. The Conference and Trade Show is scheduled for October 26 & 27, 2016, at the Great Wolf Lodge, in Grand Mound, Washington.

Nominations

Nominations are being sought for the two year officer positions of President, First Vice-President, and Second Vice-President. Nominations are also being sought for the three year Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Oregon, and Utah Director Positions. Producers may self nominate.

Producers interested in any of these positions are asked to contact WODPA's Executive Director, Richard H. Mathews, at rhmthews51@comcast.net or via telephone at 717-457-0100.

Board Member Qualifications

The WODPA Board has stated that the success of our organization depends on our ability to:

1. Effectively organize the organic dairy producers in the Western Region.
2. Become proactive on the most important issues facing our community and our membership's family dairy business.

Examples include: Pay Price, Cull Cow Price, Origin of Livestock Regulations, Animal Welfare Regulations, Livestock Materials, the Organic Research & Promotion Program proposed by the Organic Trade Association, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, GMO contamination, Farm Bill negotiations, and reform of the Federal Milk Marketing Order system.

Board membership provides an opportunity to join with others of like mind on behalf of a cause. By working together as a board, individual efforts are more effective. Accordingly, WODPA is looking for leaders who will:

1. Bringing their interests and ideas to WODPA, especially as they relate to enhancing fulfillment of WODPA's mission.
2. Serve Western Region organic dairy farmers by actively participating in WODPA activities intended to fulfill WODPA's mission.
3. Lend their voice, time, and energy to help WODPA address the important issues affecting our members and drive the process so that our opinions and positions are heard.
4. Represent WODPA to the membership by acting as goodwill ambassadors for WODPA as they educate, inform, and recruit support.

5. Assist in fundraising from members.
6. Financially support WODPA.
7. Serve with the intent of enhancing WODPA's management effectiveness.

Eligibility

Director – Organic dairy producers actively producing and selling organic milk and located in one of the Western States are eligible for election to the Board. This eligibility includes designated representatives in non-ownership positions.

Officer – An individual must retain a minimum 10 percent ownership in a milking organic herd to be eligible for election to the officer team. Any individual who holds the office of President cannot simultaneously hold a position on a milk handler or processor board. **W**

NOSB Votes to Weaken NOP Parasiticide Regulation

At its April 2016 meeting, the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) voted unanimously to:

1. Continue the prohibition on the use of parasiticides in slaughter stock.
2. Reduce the milk withholding period after treatment with fenbendazole or moxidectin from 90 days to 2 days for dairy cows, and 36 days for goats and sheep.
3. Retain the 90 day milk withholding period after treatment with ivermectin.
4. Expand the use of moxidectin, from internal parasite control only, to allow internal and external use.
5. Remove the fenbendazole use restriction "only for use by or on the lawful written order of a licensed veterinarian."
6. Expand the use of fenbendazole, moxidectin and ivermectin to allow their use in the production of fleece and wool from fiber bearing animals when used a minimum of 90 days prior to fleece and wool harvest.

NOSB's recommendations have been forwarded to the National Organic Program (NOP) for conduct of the Federal notice and comment rulemaking process necessary to amend the applicable NOP regulations. Documents pertaining to this action can be found at www.wodpa.com under "Parasiticides – NOSB".

During the pre-meeting comment period, the Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (WODPA) objected to all but the slaughter stock provision of the NOSB parasiticides recommendations. WODPA reinforced its position during public comment on the first day of the NOSB's April meeting.

Under the NOP regulations producers are responsible for minimizing the occurrence of parasite infestation. In turn, certifiers are responsible for assuring that producers have taken the steps necessary to minimizing the occurrence of parasite infestation. When both, producers and certifiers, are in compliance with the regulations, the emergency use of parasiticides should be uncommon. This does not mean that parasiticides should not be available to producers. To the contrary they are a necessity, when all else fails, for the humane treatment of an animal during an emergency.

WODPA suggested, **rather than reducing withdrawal periods and expanding use, which weakens the standards and encourages use**, that NOSB explore options for ensuring compliance and reducing parasiticide use. WODPA went on to suggest that NOSB recommend changes:

1. Requiring that use be "by or on the lawful written order of a licensed veterinarian."

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2. Prohibiting off-label use.
3. Allowing topical, oral and subcutaneous use for dairy and breeder stock, not of breeding age.
4. Allowing topical use only for breeding age dairy and breeder stock; since lice, mites and cattle grubs can infest all ages.
5. Establishing milk withdrawal periods twice the slaughter withholding periods.
6. Creating a definition for "emergency."

WODPA's position is that all parasiticide use must be "by or on the lawful written order of a licensed veterinarian." This is a key piece in assuring that the parasiticides are used only in an emergency situation. It also helps in creating an auditable paper trail of compliance. Further, all parasiticide use must be in compliance with the product label. WODPA vigorously objects to off-label use and strongly advocates for a prohibition on off-label use of parasiticides.

WODPA stressed that the animals most vulnerable to parasite infestation are the young dairy animals placed on pasture prior to full development of their immune system. For dairy cattle, parasiticides are almost exclusively needed from about 4 months to a year in age. Parasiticides are rarely

used in breeding aged cattle. In fact, most parasiticide products with **on-label** dairy cattle use provide that the product is not for use in breeding aged dairy cattle.

During his testimony, WODPA Executive Director, Richard Mathews, was told that NOSB lacked authority to recommend prohibition of off-label use of parasiticides. This is patently false. There are many instances where NOP regulations are more restrictive than those of the Food and Drug Administration. The most obvious is the milk withhold periods required by the NOP following treatment of lactating organic dairy animals. It is well within NOSB's rights to recommend a prohibition on off-label use of parasiticides and NOP's rights to conduct rulemaking to implement the prohibition.

In follow-up to his public testimony, WODPA's Executive Director had a one-on-one conversation with a Livestock Committee member. That member stated NOP Deputy Administrator, Miles McEvoy, told Board members that they could not make substantive changes to their recommendations. If this statement is true, one must question why the USDA would place such a restriction on its advisory committee. Perhaps this is just a misunderstanding between the NOP and one or more members of the NOSB.

(Continued on page 12)

The NOSB is not a rulemaking body. The NOSB makes recommendations based on input from stakeholders in the organic community. When NOSB proposed recommendations are posted for public comment: Everyone has notice of what is contemplated and everyone has a chance to submit written or oral evidence and argument. The NOSB, in turn, has every right to retain, amend, return to committee for further action or withdraw its recommendation from consideration. We know of no restrictions on the extent to which a Federal Advisory Committee can amend its recommendations prior to submission to the USDA for its consideration and the possible implementation of notice and comment rulemaking.

So what is driving the NOSB’s move to weaken the restrictions on parasiticide use? Apparently, the driving force is animal welfare activists seeking prompt treatment of infested animals and fleece and wool producers seeking use approval for their production system.

Discussing its November 2016 NOSB meeting work plan, the Livestock Committee announced plans to receive a petition for **Ivermectine’s removal from the National List** of allowed substances. They also stated that they plan to recommend Ivermectin’s removal due to adverse impact on dung beetles.

Go to WODPA News at www.wodpa.com to view WODPA’s April 14, 2016, comments on the NOSB Livestock Committee “Proposal to Amend Use of Parasiticides in Organic Livestock Production.”

WODPA welcomes comments on its position on parasiticide use in organic dairy production. Send comments to rhmathews51@comcast.net. **W**

Animal Welfare

USDA published its Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices proposed rule on April 13, 2016. **The comment period closes July 13, 2016.** WODPA asks that producers reply directly to the USDA through <http://www.regulations.gov> as instructed under ADDRESSES in the proposed rule (2nd page). The proposed rule is available on WODPA’s website at www.wodpa.com. WODPA has worked with MODPA and NODPA in preparing a joint comment under the FOOD Farmers banner. FOOD Farmers comments can be found on WODPA’s website at www.wodpa.com.

USDA is proposing to amend the organic livestock and poultry production requirements by: adding new provisions for livestock handling and transport for slaughter and avian living conditions. They also propose expanding and clarifying existing requirements covering livestock health care practices and mammalian living conditions.

Below are 4 tables that summarize the revisions and additions applicable to dairy producers. Complete tables can be found on WODPA’s website at www.wodpa.com.

Definitions

USDA has proposed 15 new definitions, of which 3 are applicable to dairy producers (See the definitions table).

Section Title	Definitions New Terms Defined
205.2	<p>Indoors. The flat space or platform area which is under a solid roof. On each level the animals have access to food and water and can be confined if necessary. Indoor space for avian species includes, but is not limited to:</p> <p>Pasture housing. A mobile structure for avian species with 70 percent perforated flooring.</p> <p>Aviary housing. A fixed structure for avian species which has multiple tiers/levels with feed and water on each level.</p> <p>Slatted/mesh floor housing. A fixed structure for avian species which has both: (1) a slatted floor where perches, feed and water are provided over a pit or belt for manure collection; and (2) litter covering the remaining solid floor.</p> <p>Floor litter housing. A fixed structure for avian species which has absorbent litter covering the entire floor.</p>
205.2	<p>Outdoors. Any area in the open air with at least 50 percent soil, outside a building or shelter where there are no solid walls or solid roof attached to the indoor living space structure. Fencing or netting that does not block sunlight or rain may be used as necessary.</p>
205.2	<p>Soil. The outermost layer of the earth comprised of minerals, water, air, organic matter, fungi and bacteria in which plants may grow roots.</p>

Livestock Health Care Practice Standard

USDA is proposing numerous revisions and additions to § 205.238. The accompanying “Livestock Health Care Practice Standard” table only includes provisions being revised and added which are applicable to dairy producers.

Livestock Health Care Practice Standard			
Section Number	Existing Regulatory Text	Type of Action	AMS Proposed Regulatory Text
205.238	Livestock Health Care Practice Standard.	No Change	
205.238(a)	(a) The producer must establish and maintain preventive livestock health care practices, including:	No Change	
205.238(a)(2)	(2) Provision of a feed ration sufficient to meet nutritional requirements, including vitamins, minerals, protein and/or amino acids, fatty acids, energy sources, and fiber (ruminants);	Revision	(2) Provision of a feed ration sufficient to meet nutritional requirements, including vitamins, minerals, protein and/or amino acids, fatty acids, energy sources, and fiber (ruminants), resulting in appropriate body condition.
205.238(a)(5)	(5) Performance of physical alterations as needed to promote the animal's welfare and in a manner that minimizes pain and stress; and	Revision	(5) Physical alterations may be performed to benefit the welfare or hygiene of the animals, or for identification purposes or safety. Physical alterations must be performed on livestock at a reasonably young age, with minimal stress and pain and by a competent person.
205.238(a)(5)(ii)		New	(ii) The following practices must not be performed on a certified operation: de-beaking, de-snooding, caponization, dubbing, toe trimming of chickens, toe trimming of turkeys unless with infra-red at hatchery, beak trimming after 10 days of age, tail docking of cattle, wattling of cattle, face branding of cattle, tail docking of sheep shorter than the distal end of the caudal fold, and mulesing of sheep.
205.238(a)(7)		New	((7) All surgical procedures necessary to treat an illness must employ best management practices to minimize pain, stress, and suffering, with the use of appropriate and allowed anesthetics, analgesics, and sedatives.
205.238(a)(8)		New	(8) Monitoring of lameness and keeping records of the percent of the herd or flock suffering from lameness and the causes.
205.238(b)	(b) When preventive practices and veterinary biologics are inadequate to prevent sickness, a producer may administer synthetic medications: Provided, That, such medications are allowed under § 205.603. Parasiticides allowed under §205.603 may be used on:	No change	
205.238(b)(3)		New	(3) Synthetic medications may be administered in the presence of illness or to alleviate pain and suffering: Provided, that such medications are allowed under § 205.603.

205.238(c)	(c) The producer of an organic livestock operation must not:	No change	
205.238(c)(1)	(1) Sell, label, or represent as organic any animal or edible product derived from any animal treated with antibiotics, any substance that contains a synthetic substance not allowed under § 205.603, or any substance that contains a nonsynthetic substance prohibited in § 205.604.	Revision	(1) Sell, label, or represent as organic any animal or edible product derived from any animal treated with antibiotics, any substance that contains a synthetic substance not allowed under §205.603, or any substance that contains a nonsynthetic substance prohibited in §205.604. Milk from animals undergoing treatment with synthetic substances allowed under § 205.603 having withholding time, cannot be sold as organic but may be fed to their own offspring. Milk from animals undergoing treatment with prohibited substances cannot be sold as organic or fed to organic livestock.
205.238(c)(2)	(2) Administer any animal drug, other than vaccinations, in the absence of illness;	Revision	(2) Administer any animal drug in the absence of illness or to alleviate pain or suffering, with the exception of vaccinations and other veterinary biologics.
205.238(c)(3)	(3) Administer hormones for growth promotion;	Revision	(3) Administer hormones for growth promotion, production or reproduction.
205.238(c)(7)		New	(7) Withhold medical treatment from a sick animal in an effort to preserve its organic status. All appropriate medications, approved or unapproved, must be used to restore an animal to health when methods acceptable to organic production fail. Livestock treated with a prohibited substance must be clearly identified and neither the animal nor its products shall be sold, labeled, or represented as organically produced.
205.238(c)(8)		New	(8) Withhold individual treatment designed to minimize pain and suffering for injured, diseased, or sick animals, which may include forms of euthanasia as recommended by the American Veterinary Medical Association.
205.238(c)(9)		New	(9) Neglect to identify and record treatment of sick and injured animals in animal health records.
205.238(d)		New	(d) Organic livestock operations must have comprehensive plans to minimize internal parasite problems in livestock. The plan will include preventive measures such as pasture management, fecal monitoring, and emergency measures in the event of a parasite outbreak. Parasite control plans shall be approved by the certifying agent.
205.238(e)		New	(e) Euthanasia
205.238 (e)(1)		New	(1) Organic livestock operations must have written plans for prompt, humane euthanasia for sick or injured livestock.
205.238 (e)(2)		New	(2) The following methods of euthanasia are not permitted: suffocation; blow to the head by blunt instrument; and the use of equipment that crushes the neck, including killing pliers or burdizzo clamps.
205.238 (e)(3)		New	(3) Following a euthanasia procedure, livestock must be carefully examined to ensure that they are dead.

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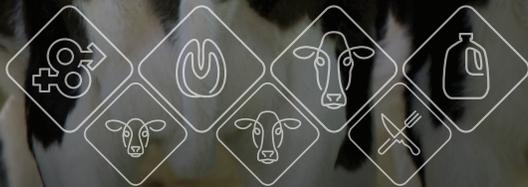


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Mammalian Living Conditions

USDA is proposing to change the title of § 205.239 from “Livestock living conditions” to “Mammalian livestock living conditions.” USDA is proposing numerous revisions and additions to § 205.239. The accompanying “Mammalian livestock living conditions” table only includes provisions being revised and added which are applicable to dairy producers.

Mammalian Livestock Living Conditions			
Section Number	Existing Regulatory Text	Type of Action	AMS Proposed Regulatory Text
205.239	Livestock Living Conditions.	Revision	Mammalian Livestock Living Conditions.
205.239(a)	(a) The producer of an organic livestock operation must establish and maintain year-round livestock living conditions which accommodate the health and natural behavior of animals, including:	No change	
205.239(a)(1)	(1) Year-round access for all animals to the outdoors, shade, shelter, exercise areas, fresh air, clean water for drinking, and direct sunlight, suitable to the species, its stage of life, the climate, and the environment: Except, that, animals may be temporarily denied access to the outdoors in accordance with §§ 205.239(b) and (c). Yards, feeding pads, and feedlots may be used to provide ruminants with access to the outdoors during the non-grazing season and supplemental feeding during the grazing season. Yards, feeding pads, and feedlots shall be large enough to allow all ruminant livestock occupying the yard, feeding pad, or feedlot to feed simultaneously without crowding and without competition for food. Continuous total confinement of any animal indoors is prohibited. Continuous total confinement of ruminants in yards, feeding pads, and feedlots is prohibited.	Revision	(1) Year-round access for all animals to the outdoors, soil, shade, shelter, exercise areas, fresh air, clean water for drinking, and direct sunlight, suitable to the species, its stage of life, the climate, and the environment: Except, that, animals may be temporarily denied access to the outdoors in accordance with paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section. Yards, feeding pads, and feedlots may be used to provide ruminants with access to the outdoors during the non-grazing season and supplemental feeding during the grazing season. Yards, feeding pads, and feedlots shall be large enough to allow all ruminant livestock occupying the yard, feeding pad, or feedlot to feed without competition for food in a manner that maintains all animals in a good body condition. Continuous total confinement of any animal indoors is prohibited. Continuous total confinement of ruminants in yards, feeding pads, and feedlots is prohibited.
205.239(a)(3)	(3) Appropriate clean, dry bedding. When roughages are used as bedding, they shall have been organically produced in accordance with this part by an operation certified under this part, except as provided in § 205.236(a)(2)(i), and, if applicable, organically handled by operations certified to the NOP.	Revision	(3) Animals must be kept clean during all stages of life with the use of appropriate, clean, dry bedding, as appropriate for the species. When roughages are used as bedding, they must be organically produced and handled in accordance with this part by certified operations, 0 except as provided in § 205.236(a)(2)(i).



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205.239(a)(4)	(4) Shelter designed to allow for:	No change	
205.239(a)(4)(i)	(i) Natural maintenance, comfort behaviors, and opportunity to exercise;	Revision	(i) Sufficient space and freedom to lie down in full lateral recumbence, turn around, stand up, fully stretch their limbs without touching other animals or the sides of the enclosure, and express normal patterns of behavior;
205.239(a)(4)(iv)		New	(iv) Areas for bedding and resting that are sufficiently large, solidly built, and comfortable so that animals are kept clean, dry, and free of lesions.
205.239(a)(6)		New	(6) Housing, pens, runs, equipment, and utensils shall be properly cleaned and disinfected as needed to prevent cross infection and build-up of disease-carrying organisms.
205.239(a)(7)		New	(7) Dairy young stock may be housed in individual pens under the following conditions:
205.239(a)(7)(i)		New	(i) Until weaning, providing that they have enough room to turn around, lie down, stretch out when lying down, get up, rest, and groom themselves; individual animal pens shall be designed and located so that each animal can see, smell, and hear other calves.
205.239(a)(7)(ii)		New	(ii) Dairy young stock shall be group-housed after weaning.
205.239(a)(7)(iii)		New	(iii) Dairy young stock over six months of age shall have access to the outdoors at all times, including access to pasture during the grazing season, except as allowed under paragraph (c) of this section.
205.239(a)(11)		New	11) In confined housing with stalls, at least one stall must be provided for each animal in the facility at any given time. A cage must not be used as a stall. For group-housed swine, the number of individual feeding stalls may be less than the number of animals, as long as all animals are fed routinely over a 24-hour period.
205.239(a)(12)		New	(12) At least 50 percent of outdoor access space must be soil, except when conditions threaten the soil or water quality, outdoor access without soil must be provided temporarily.
205.239(b)	(b) The producer of an organic livestock operation may provide temporary confinement or shelter for an animal because of:	No change	

205.239(b)(7)	(7) Breeding: Except, that, bred animals shall not be denied access to the outdoors and, once bred, ruminants shall not be denied access to pasture during the grazing season; or	Revision	(7) Breeding: Except, that, animals shall not be confined any longer than necessary to perform the natural or artificial insemination. Animals may not be confined to observe estrus; and
205.239(b)(8)	(8) 4-H, Future Farmers of America and other youth projects, for no more than one week prior to a fair or other demonstration, through the event and up to 24 hours after the animals have arrived home at the conclusion of the event. These animals must have been maintained under continuous organic management, including organic feed, during the extent of their allowed confinement for the event.	Revision	(8) 4-H, National FFA Organization, and other youth projects, for no more than one week prior to a fair or other demonstration, through the event, and up to 24 hours after the animals have arrived home from the event. These animals must have been maintained under continuous organic management, including organic feed, during the extent of their allowed confinement for the event. Notwithstanding the requirements in paragraph (b)(6) in this section, facilities where 4-H, National FFA Organization, and other youth events are held are not required to be certified organic for the participating animals to be sold as organic, provided all other organic management practices are followed.
205.239(d)	(d) Ruminant slaughter stock, typically grain finished, shall be maintained on pasture for each day that the finishing period corresponds with the grazing season for the geographical location: Except, that, yards, feeding pads, or feedlots may be used to provide finish feeding rations. During the finishing period, ruminant slaughter stock shall be exempt from the minimum 30 percent DMI requirement from grazing. Yards, feeding pads, or feedlots used to provide finish feeding rations shall be large enough to allow all ruminant slaughter stock occupying the yard, feeding pad, or feed lot to feed simultaneously without crowding and without competition for food. The finishing period shall not exceed one-fifth (1/5) of the animal's total life or 120 days, whichever is shorter.	Revision	d) Ruminant slaughter stock, typically grain finished, shall be maintained on pasture for each day that the finishing period corresponds with the grazing season for the geographical location: Yards, feeding pads, or feedlots may be used to provide finish feeding rations. During the finishing period, ruminant slaughter stock shall be exempt from the minimum 30 percent DMI requirement from grazing. Yards, feeding pads, or feedlots used to provide finish feeding rations shall be large enough to allow all ruminant slaughter stock occupying the yard, feeding pad, or feedlot to feed without crowding and without competition for food. The finishing period shall not exceed one-fifth (1/5) of the animal's total life or 120 days, whichever is shorter.

Transportation and Slaughter

USDA is proposing a new § 205.242 Transportation and Slaughter. The accompanying “Transportation and Slaughter” table only includes provisions being added which are applicable to dairy producers.

	Transportation and Slaughter
Section Number	AMS Proposed Regulatory Text
205.242	Transportation and Slaughter
205.242(a)	(a) Transportation
205.242(a)(1)	(1) Certified organic livestock must be clearly identified as organic, transported in pens within the livestock trailer clearly labeled for organic use and be contained in those pens for the duration of the trip.
205.242(a)(2)	(2) All livestock must be fit for transport to auction or slaughter facilities.
205.242(a)(2)(i)	(i) Calves must have a dry navel cord and be able to stand and walk without human assistance.
205.242(a)(2)(ii)	(ii) Sick, injured, weak, disabled, blind, and lame animals must not be transported for sale or slaughter. Such animals may be medically treated or euthanized.
205.242(a)(3)	(3) Adequate and season-appropriate ventilation is required for all livestock trailers, shipping containers and any other mode of transportation used to protect animals against cold and heat stresses.
205.242(a)(4)	(4) Bedding must be provided on trailer floors and in holding pens as needed to keep livestock clean, dry, and comfortable during transportation and prior to slaughter. Poultry crates are exempt from the bedding requirement. When roughages are used for bedding they must have been organically produced and handled by a certified organic operation(s).
205.242(a)(5)	(5) Arrangements for water and organic feed must be made if transport time exceeds twelve hours.
205.242(a)(5)(i)	(i) The producer or handler of an organic livestock operation must transport livestock in compliance with the Federal Twenty-Eight Hour Law (49 USC 80502) and the regulations at 9 CFR 89.1-89.5.
205.242(a)(5)(ii)	(ii) The producer or handler of an organic livestock operation must provide all non-compliant records and subsequent corrective action related to livestock transport during the annual inspection.

205.242(a)(6)	(6) Organic operations must have in place emergency plans to address possible animal welfare problems that might occur during transport.
205.242(b)	(b) Mammalian Slaughter
205.242(b)(1)	(1) Organic operations that slaughter organic livestock must be in compliance with the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 603(b) and 21 U.S.C. 610(b) and the regulations at 9 CFR part 313) regarding humane handling and slaughter of livestock.
205.242(b)(2)	(2) Organic operations that slaughter organic exotic animals must be in compliance with the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621, et seq.) and the regulations at 9 CFR parts 313 and 352 regarding the humane handling and slaughter of exotic animals.
205.242(b)(3)	(3) Organic operations that slaughter organic livestock must provide all non-compliant records related to humane handling and slaughter issued by the controlling national, federal, or state authority and all records of subsequent corrective actions during the annual organic inspection.



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Chico State Organic Dairy Management Team: the student perspective.

Angela Faryan & Jennie Mullen, Student Herdsman

The Chico State Organic Dairy has been a fully operational certified organic dairy since 2006. For ten years now, this program has pursued the goal of creating an environment where students have the opportunity to grow in competence, knowledge, and leadership. Most importantly, the program serves an ever-growing industry by cultivating the next generation of skilled professionals. It is our intention that the students who participate in the Dairy Management Program will one day become active members of the dairy industry.

This article marks the first of many articles to come from the young men and women of the Chico State Organic Dairy Management Team (DMT). This progressive group of students is from very diverse backgrounds, ranging from little to no past dairy experience to multi-generational dairy producers coming directly off the farm. Each student has a unique story and an interesting perspective that we hope to feature over the course of the next several issues of the "Integrity". We hope that you will enjoy our perspective.

"Why are you in the Organic Dairy Program?"

Choosing CSU Chico was one of the best decisions that we could have made. The College of Agriculture has a reputation for being "hands-on" and very connected to growers. It's common knowledge among students, that if you want valuable on-farm experience, you need to interview for one of the nearly 50 student positions located

at the University Farm. The Organic Dairy Unit is one of five livestock units on the University Farm. It serves as a living laboratory for one of the most rapidly expanding sectors of production agriculture.

"Although I had previous commercial beef cow-calf experience, I knew it would be important for me to diversify my knowledge of production agriculture. Increasing consumer demand for organic products has created more opportunity within agriculture, and the organic dairy has provided me



Dairy Management Team Spring 2016: Back Row L-R: Cindy Daley, Victor Medina, Jennie Mullen, Gina Marcucci, Shae McElory, Rylee Pedotti, Angela Faryan, Darby Heffner. Front Row L-R: Zach Cahill, Zayne Evangelo, Jack Strozzi, Clint Lundell

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with hands-on experience in this growing industry." Jennie Mullen - Student Herdsman.

Some members of our team are looking toward a future as dairy farmers. *"I work at the Chico State Organic Dairy in order to get more hands on experience with how a dairy operates. I plan to use all this later in my life when I plan to operate and own my own dairy. This opportunity will give me great management skills needed for this profession." Clint Lundell - Dairy Management Team.*

Finally, as a team, we are actively pursuing future advances and trends within the industry. *"I set my sights on Chico State in an effort to expand and diversify my experience. The Chico State Organic Dairy has an unwavering commitment to progress and exploring new*

(Continued on page 23)

technologies for dairymen through extensive research, which has introduced me to several new industry technologies.” Rylee Pedotti - Dairy Management Team.

“What do you hope to gain from this program?”

Perhaps the greatest value of the University Farm, and the Dairy Unit in particular, is that it creates a platform of hands-on learning for students. Being actively involved in the management decisions that take place on the dairy, we are

able to apply what we learn in the classroom to a real-life production environment. We know that what we learn in textbooks is invaluable knowledge, but for many, it truly takes root when put into practice.

“I work at the dairy because I like working with cattle, and I get to learn more about the industry and how it functions. It also gives me the opportunity to do hands on things, and learn, as in reproduction, herd health, and nutrition. I just hope to get as much experience as I can working here.”

Victor Medina - Dairy Management Team.

Every day that we come to work, we have the privilege to learn something new. Every experience that we take part in, from mixing rations, to pasture management, to herd health maintenance, presents an opportunity to grow. *“I work at the dairy to gain experience and to learn about the organic industry. I can see myself involved in organic dairy production, and being a member of the team has given me confidence in making this a viable career option”.*

Gina Marcucci - Dairy Management Team.

Where do you see yourself as a part of the industry in the future?

Just as we all have varying backgrounds; we each have our individual dreams for the future. Even so, we are unified in our commitment to agriculture. Some of us will be directly involved in the industry as future producers, while some of us will be helping to serve the organic dairy industry in other ways. *“Between on-farm experience, educational team meetings and industry events, I have learned many useful tools and practices that I intend to bring back to my own family’s dairy. One day, I hope to work with my dad and eventually take over the farm and continue the family tradition of dairying.”*

Zach Cahill - Dairy Management Team

Regardless of our intentions for our future, we know that we have a lot to look forward to as the organic dairy industry grows. *“Because I have been able to apply my classroom education to real-life scenarios on a working dairy, I know that I will graduate with invaluable knowledge*

and experiences that will benefit my future career. I am also very excited about the future possibilities for young farmers in this industry.” (Angela Faryan - Student Herdsman). **W**



Top photo: Dairy Management Team Student Herdsman, Angela Faryan

Bottom photo: Cows out to pasture at Chico State Dairy



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**Pending USDA Rulemaking
Materials**

The National Organic Program (NOP) is working to publish a proposed rule to add Acidified Sodium Chlorite (ASC) and Zinc Sulfate to section 205.603 *Synthetic substances for use in organic livestock production*. Both substances were recommended for addition to the National List by the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) in April 2015. NOSB approved Acidified Sodium Chlorite for use on organic livestock as a pre and post teat dip treatment. They approved Zinc Sulfate for use in hoof and foot treatment only.

Approvals of all synthetic substances currently allowed in organic livestock production are scheduled to expire in 2017. The NOSB completed its review of all of the substances and recommended, at its October 2015 meeting, the relisting of all but furosemide. The NOSB determined that furosemide, a diuretic-saluretic, is not necessary for organic livestock production. NOP has accepted the NOSB's recommendations and has begun the process of renewing all but furosemide for another 5 years.

Origin of Livestock

USDA published the origin of livestock proposed rule on April 28, 2015, and WODPA formally commented on July 27,



2015. NOP is still working on publication of the final rule. Their goal is to publish the final rule by the end of 2016.

WODPA recommended that the effective date of the final rule be the date of publication. Producers with animals in transition on the effective date would be allowed to complete the transition of those animals and no others. Accredited Certifiers want a minimum 1 year implementation period. WODPA adamantly opposes that position. WODPA estimates that by that time there will be another 50,000 conventional heifers in transition.

The following issues, addressed in our comment, are vital to protecting the Integrity of the USDA Organic Seal, and helping protect the sustainability of Organic Dairy men.

1. Close the loophole which allows organic dairy producers to repeatedly transition female bovines into organic milk production an unlimited number of times.
2. Close the loophole which allows heifer ranches to purchase conventional female bovines, transition them for 12 months, and then sell as "organic animals".
3. Breeder Stock (used for Organic Beef Production) not be allowed to cycle conventional animals into and out of organic production for the sole purpose of producing an organic calf. They must be held to the same high standard as Organic Dairy men.
4. Transitioning bovines that consume 3rd year transitional crops must not be considered for organic meat, since they are not consuming a 100% Certified Organic Diet.
5. Only those animals that have completed their 12 month transition are eligible to produce a calf that can be certified organic for both milk and meat.
6. Extending the "allowable" single transition time to 18 months, in order to allow calves born early in the 12 month transition period to finish transitioning. **W**

Organic Exemption National Dairy Promotion and Research Board (Board)

Who qualifies?

Any person engaged in the production of milk for commercial use who:

1. Operates under an approved National Organic Program organic production system plan;
2. Maintains a valid organic certificate issued by an AMS accredited certifying agent;
3. Produces milk eligible to be labeled "organic" or "100% organic" under the National Organic Program Regulations; and
4. Is subject to assessments under the National Dairy Promotion and Research Order.

How to apply?

1. Submit a complete Organic Exemption Request Form – National Dairy Promotion and Research Board (Form AMS-15 (Rev. 12/15)); and
2. Attach a copy of your organic certificate, and any addendum, issued by an AMS Accredited certifying agent.

When to apply?

Apply at any time during the year initially, and annually thereafter on or before July 1, for as long as you remain exemption eligible.

Where to apply?

National Dairy Promotion and Research Board
Attn: Collections and Compliance
10255 West Higgins Road, Suite 900
Rosemont, IL 60018
Fax Number: (847) 803-1044

When will you receive a response?

If a producer complies with the requirements, the Board will grant an assessment exemption and issue a Certificate of Exemption to the producer within 30 days.

If the application is disapproved, the Board will notify the applicant of the reason(s) for disapproval within the same timeframe.

Certificate of Exemption

Each producer must provide a copy of their Certificate of Exemption to each person responsible for remitting assessments to the Board on behalf of the producer. **W**

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2016 Conference and Trade Show

When: Wednesday and Thursday October 26th & 27th, 2016

Location: Great Wolf Lodge, 20500 Old Highway 99, SW Centralia, WA 98531

Hotel Rate and Reservation: Please use group code **1610WODPA**. The group room rate is \$119.00 per night, plus daily resort fee of \$9.99 and 10% tax on both. **Please reserve your room before Friday, October 7th, 2016 to receive the group rate.** For reservations, go to our website at www.wodpa.com for the link to the hotel. Alternatively, you can call the Great Wolf Lodge at 866-941-9653. Don't forget the group code **1610WODPA**.

Conference Rate and Registration: **The registration fee is \$100.00 per person for payment received on or before October 7th, 2016.** The rate increases to \$130.00 per person for payment received after October 7th, 2016 or if you are paying with credit card regardless of date of registration. **Please note check payment is preferred.** Conference meals are included with the registration fee. Please help us plan an accurate number of meals by registering before October 1st, 2016. Please note the check boxes on the registration form; please fill them out so we receive an accurate count for the reception and farm tour. To register for the conference please complete the registration form found on our website at www.wodpa.com.

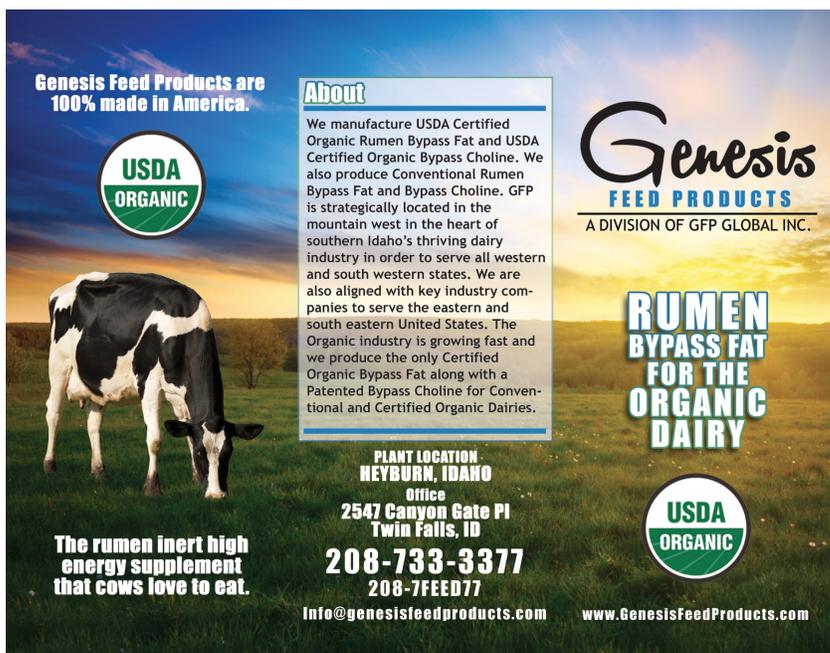
Trade Show Booth Registration: **Trade Show booth fee is \$500.00 per booth and includes one registration to all conference events and meals.** Additional conference admissions are available for \$100.00 per person before October 7th, 2016. Booth Payment is due by October 7th, 2016. Booth registration received after October 7th will be \$550.00. Additional conference attendees received after October 7th are \$130.00 per person. Check payment preferred. To register for the trade show please complete the registration form found on our website at www.wodpa.com. Booth set up access 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 25th, 2016, Chehalis Salon B,C,D,E,F.

WODPA hosted Welcome Reception: Tuesday, October 25th 6:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m. located in the Northwest Territory Ballroom. Everyone is welcome.

Where to Register: Mail your registration and payment to:
WODPA
2485 Notre Dame Blvd
Suite 370-162
Chico, CA 95928

Additional Details: We are posting conference updates as they occur. Please check our website at www.wodpa.com for conference updates.

Questions: Email wodpa@outlook.com or call Darby Heffner at 707-696-5154 or Richard Mathews at 717-457-0100



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2016 Trade Show Vendors

As of 6/30/16 the following entities have registered for WODPA's 2016 Conference and Trade Show. WODPA thanks them for their support!

- Agri - King Nutrition
- Blue River Hybrids
- Boehringer Ingelheim
- Excel Dairy Service Inc.
- Gallagher
- Genesis Feed Products
- ImmuCell Corporation
- Oregon Tilth
- Pure Life Organic Foods
- Redmond Mineral