



Presidents Message

Good Day!

I hope that this newsletter finds you and your family well. It has been a great honor to serve WODPA as president since



October of 2016. There are a lot of good people working in WODPA behind the scenes, from our Executive Director Richard Mathews, to the Officers and Board Members. Unless you have been following us on our website (www.wodpa.com), you haven't officially heard from us. I want you to know that we haven't been just sitting on our hands, in fact, it's been a

whirl-wind eight months since October. The organic dairy industry we all rely on has been hit with challenges from many angles.

Those challenges were and still are: 1) substantial decreases in farm gate pay prices; 2) complete loss of organic market for some long time organic dairy families; 3) an attempted USDA Transitional Certification Program (which WODPA stopped); 4) a dramatic increase in organic dairy animals and subsequent increase in organic milk supply; 5) the failure of NOP to finalize the more than two year old proposed Origin of Livestock rule; 6) National newspaper articles containing accusations of cheating within the organic dairy industry; 7) slowing consumer demand growth for organic dairy at the retailer; 8) imports of organic dairy products and organic beef

disrupting domestic supplies and pricing. I could probably increase this list if I sat here long enough.

Most organic dairymen got an average price boost of about 25% in 2014. As we are keenly aware, organic milk prices paid to farmers are down between 15-20 percent since the spring of 2016. Unfortunately, prices are down at least 50% for some dairymen, as they are having to sell their organic milk into the conventional market. I've heard the number of 50 million gallons of excess organic milk per year thrown about at the present time. I have no definitive way to confirm that this number is 100% accurate. For argument's sake, let's say that it is. So, 50 million gallons is 137,000 gallons a day or 1,178,000 pounds per day (25 semi-truck loads) with 23,560 cows producing 50 pounds of milk. So if the 50 million gallon figure is accurate, the organic dairy industry has 23,560 too many cows. What does this mean? By our estimations, since January of 2016, there has been \$525 million in value that has vanished from organic dairy producer's pockets. **That is an average of \$1.8 Million per organic dairy farm.** Where did that value go? The value is calculated from the: 1) decrease in farm gate pay price, 2) decline in replacement cattle values (equity), and 3) difference in cost of raising transitioned dairy cattle versus raising a true last-third of gestation organic animal from birth. For details, see USDA Triggers Great Economic Harm, page 11.

In 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, WODPA made comments and suggestions for a more restrictive Origin of Livestock Rule. The team at WODPA had intensive dialogue internally as well as externally with the Organic Trade Association and the USDA. In fact, a WODPA team went to Washington DC in 2015 to talk with the Agriculture Marketing Service Administrator about Origin of Livestock and other dairy issues. In January 2017, a team met with the Agriculture Marketing Service Administrator and National Organic Program Manager about the Origin of Livestock Rule and other dairy issues.

Why did we suggest that transitioning livestock go away when the organic dairy market was growing by 15% +/- per year? Because current organic dairy farmers can sustain 15% annual production growth, internally, from the animals that are being raised organically on-farm. This is simple math, it's not rocket science. Take 100 animals that calve per year; 50 of those will be heifers, on average 5-7 will die or won't breed, which leaves 43 heifers available for replacement. Now, consider, the milk cow herd cull rate of 25% to 30% per 100 cows, which means 25-30 cows will leave the herd for various reasons per year. No problem, you have 43 replacement animals that you've raised. Forty-three replacements, less 25-30 (cull cows), equals 13 to 18 more animals than you need. There's your 13-18% growth rate.

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(Continued from page 1)

There is no longer a need for one more conventional dairy cow to be transitioned to organic production.

Accusations of cheating and the actual act of cheating hurt all organic producers and break public trust of the Organic Label. The USDA Organic Label and the subsequent rules and standards that we are all required to operate under, are based upon one important principle, Integrity. Yes, organic production is a process-based system of plans, documentation and verification (by qualified certifiers and on-farm inspectors), but the overarching principle is Integrity. If you don't have Integrity, then get out of Organic production, you are not welcome here. If there are dairy operations that are skirting the rules and not following the letter of the organic law, you will be caught, and you will lose certification. I've never met a rich thief, who's been rich for very long. Or if you believe in Karma; you reap what you sow, or get what you deserve. The system of process verification for organic certification may need to be tightened up to keep the Integrity in the Organic Label solid. This will include the NOP, the Accredited Certifying Agents, and the on-farm inspectors, and ultimately the organic producers on farm.

It makes my stomach turn to think that some of these cheating accusations are turning consumers away from organic dairy products. Could this be a factor in the slowing demand for our products? Could pricing at the retail level, which is more than three times what we receive at the farm, also be a factor? How much do imports of organic dairy products and organic beef disrupt our price stability? The importing question is hard to answer because "organic" dairy and beef are not listed in the tariff codes when they arrive on shore, so they can't be tracked. Whatever the reasons are for slowing consumer demand, they need to be figured out by our processors. We, the organic dairy farmers, produce the organic milk to be sold. The processors and marketers are charged with processing it and figuring out how to market that organic milk to consumers. We, as producers, don't get to participate in those marketing decisions.

I invite you to attend our annual conference this November 15th and 16th, in Sparks, Nevada. We moved the conference to Reno/Sparks so that it will be more accessible to more producers in the West. The facilities are top-notch and the airport is close. I know, money may be tight this year, but that's more reason to come to the conference and participate. I invite you to participate in your future by meeting with other organic dairymen, talking about the

(Continued on page 3)

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issues that affect you the most, and helping guide the organic dairy industry into the future. We have invited all the CEO's and Presidents of companies that purchase organic milk in the West to come and address organic dairy producers. We have asked them to speak on the current state and future of organic dairy. We look forward to seeing them all there and hearing their insight on organic dairy – the thing that we all bank our livelihoods on.

With great emphasis, I implore you to either continue your financial support of WODPA, or start supporting WODPA. Richard Mathews, WODPA's Executive Director, is a valuable resource to have on our team. He keeps us

abreast of organic dairy issues, helps keep the Board and myself in line as we get passionate about those issues and helps WODPA navigate the process in Washington D.C. The Vice Presidents, Board of Directors and myself put in a lot of time figuring out the best way to respond to the various issues that arise every month. WODPA is working hard for you, and your organic dairy farm.

Perseverance, Determination and Resolve are characteristics that successful organic dairy farmers have. We deal with so many variable factors in our daily operations – markets, feed, farming, equipment, animals, people, water, weather, regulations, finances, etc. – as we produce organic milk for consumers. I encourage you to continue to Persevere through these tough times.

Stop. Look around you every day. Smell the grass, drink your organic milk, laugh with your family. Let us all be grateful and count the blessings we have been given; those are the things that will keep us positive in these turbulent times. **Remember: The best way to predict the future...is to create it.**

Sean Mallett
WODPA, President

Executive Director's Message

Transitional Certification

In December 2016, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that it would be providing organic cost share funding to farmers and handlers certified as transitional by USDA approved certifying agents. WODPA has halted implementation of that program.



FSA's expansion of the organic cost share program would have been a misapplication of appropriated funds. Expansion of the organic cost share program to cover transitional certification fees violates the provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014; the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008; and the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. Those acts plainly limit organic cost share to reimbursement of fees incurred to obtain "organic" certification.

On January 11, 2017, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced the creation of a new accreditation program for transitional certification. For now, WODPA has halted implementation of that program. I used the words "for now" regarding our halting the accreditation program because, USDA's Deputy General Counsel informed us that AMS is reviewing program requirements.

WODPA is firm in its position that the program violates the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA). OFPA provides no authority for transitional certification or transitional labeling claims. In fact, the terms "transition" and "transitional" do not occur in OFPA. Further, during the OFPA Legislative Process, Congress considered and rejected a National Transition Label Demonstration Program.

It violates Section 2106(a)(1)(A) and (B) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA) [7 U.S.C. 6505(a)(1)(A) and (B)]. Paragraphs (A) and (B) read as follows:

"(A) a person may sell or label an agricultural product as organically produced only if such product is produced and handled in accordance with this chapter; and

(B) no person may affix a label to, or provide other market information concerning, an agricultural product if such label or information implies, directly or indirectly, that such product is produced and handled using organic methods, except in accordance with this chapter."

Accordingly, identifying what they are transitioning to will constitute providing other market information which "implies, directly or indirectly, that such product is produced and handled using organic methods". A clear violation of OFPA.

The fight is not over. AMS has not taken enforcement action against those who are violating OFPA Section 2106(a)(1)(A)

and (B). OTA is actively pursuing actions to "facilitate transitioning to organic," including initiatives in their priorities for the 2018 Farm Bill. For example, their certification cost share priority reads, in part, as: "The next farm bill should maintain funding and allow for maximum flexibility in administering the program, including the applicability for reimbursement for the costs of transitional certification."

Furosemide

On July 6, 2017, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) published the "National Organic Program (NOP) Sunset 2017 Amendments to the National List" final rule.

This final rule removes the listing for "furosemide" which was listed in NOP section 205.603 Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic livestock production. Furosemide is used for the treatment of physiological parturient edema of the mammary gland and associated structures. A diuretic-saluretic for prompt relief of edema. Furosemide was not a commonly used product in organic livestock production.

The rule states that after June 27, 2017, furosemide will no longer be allowed for use in organic livestock production. The final rule's effective date is August 7, 2017.

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- chemical free -

NZI Biting Fly Trap



The Nzi Trap attracts biting flies by mimicking the shape of a large animal. Flies visit under the front blue panel expecting to take a blood meal from its "underbelly," then end up in the mosquito netting. As the fly tries to fly away toward the sunlight it is channeled into a clear plastic bottle where it dies.

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The two dates appear to conflict with each other, so I sought clarification on when enforcement would commence. On July 6, 2017, I discussed the issue with Paul Lewis, Director Standards Division, NOP. My takeaway from our conversation is that the effective date for when use of furosemide must stop and enforcement will begin, is August 7, 2017. I put my understanding of our conversation in writing to Mr. Lewis and requested correction if my understanding is incorrect. I received no response.

In the unlikely event that anyone used furosemide after June 26, 2017, and before August 7, 2017, and your certifier initiates enforcement action, please contact me immediately.

Organic Check-Off

On January 18, 2017, AMS published the proposed rule "Organic Research, Promotion, and Information Order." WODPA submitted comments opposing the proposed order. Our comments are posted on our website www.wodpa.com. We encourage you to read our comments.

AMS is reviewing the comments received. Based on public comments, USDA may: (1) issue a final proposed rule and announce a referendum; (2) issue a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking; or (3) terminate the proceedings.

The proposed organic research and promotion program would assess imports and, therefore, promote cheaper

organic import products. Products like beef, which drives down the price for organic cull cows, and butter, cheese, and powdered milk, which drives down the farm gate price for milk. These products will take the place of U.S. organic products.

Through this program, organic dairy producers will be forced to fund the destruction of their own operations.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Mathews
Executive Director
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Organic Fluid Milk Sales Data

The following information is based on The Nielsen Company data.

Nationally Organic Fluid Milk Sales totaled \$1.072 Billion at retail for the period July 1, 2016, through March 31, 2017. During this period, Private label, Horizon, Organic Valley, and Stonyfield made up 94% of organic fluid milk market sales at retail.

National Fluid Milk Market Share Data (Rounded to nearest %)

Private Label	41%
Horizon	37%
Organic Valley	10%
Stonyfield	5%

Western Region Organic Fluid Milk Sales totaled \$295 Million at retail for the period July 1, 2016, through March 31, 2017. During this period, Horizon, Private label, Organic Valley, and Clover made up 91% of organic fluid milk market sales at retail.

Western Fluid Milk Market Share Data (Rounded to nearest %)

Horizon	41%
Private Label	31%
Organic Valley	10%
Clover Organic Farms	9%



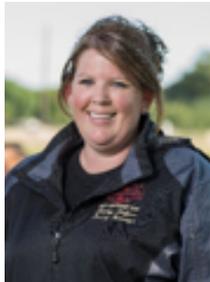
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Secretary's Message

By Darby Heffner

We need your help!

I hope everyone had a fantastic spring and is having a great summer. I know here in Northern California we are extremely relieved to see our lakes full and our mountains packed with snow.



I wanted to call to your attention the need for yearly producer financial support. The Board is working daily on extremely important issues that affect your dairy. These issues include oversupply and farm gate pay cuts; USDA's failure to enforce the pasture regulations; taking legal action against USDA to stop the transitional certification program announced by USDA and created by OTA, which would create a competing label; USDA's failure to issue the origin of livestock final rule to eliminate the continuous transitioning of conventional animals; and much, much more.

We all know, as dairymen, you are much too busy to fight these issues on your own. With your financial support, you can help WODPA keep up the fight for you. I know money

is tight, especially right now, but please contribute to the organization. All we ask is, \$1.50 per milking cow.

Please see the Producer Payment form enclosed with this issue of the Integrity or go to www.wodpa.com.

I thank all the producers that have continued to financially support the program year after year! Your support does not go unnoticed and helps us achieve our goals for this alliance and organic dairies on the west coast. You can see which dairies have contributed in the past by going to www.wodpa.com.

See you in November in The Biggest Little City!!!

Darby Heffner, Secretary

THANK YOU, Associate Members!

WODPA thanks its Associate Members for their support of WODPA and its mission.

Calendar year 2017 Associate Members, through 7/10/17:

- Eden Organic Grains Inc.
- Genesis Feed Products
- PGG Seeds
- West Aqua Commodity Group

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12th Annual WODPA Conference and Trade Show

Please join us at the Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks, Nevada (Reno) for WODPA's 12th Annual Conference and Trade Show. Events begin on the evening of November 14 and run through midafternoon November 16. This year the conference will focus on topics vital to the sustainability of organic dairy farms.

This conference has gotten bigger each year reaching 45 trade show companies and 235 attendees in 2016. We anticipate that 2017 will be the biggest and best yet.

This growth has presented challenges finding a venue that can accommodate us. With the Nugget venue size will not be a limiting factor. In addition to its spacious and newly renovated conference accommodations, the Board selected the Nugget due to its easy access.

When you attend you will be treated to spacious accommodations at a price that's easy on the wallet. The Nugget also provides convenient and complementary shuttle service to and from the Reno-Tahoe airport. For those wanting to extend their stay, the Nugget is graciously offering, based on availability, the group rate three days before and after the conference. We recommend you register early to lock in the group rate.

Dairy men and dairy women are gamblers by nature, so it would not surprise us if some of you made it to the casino. If you do, WE HOPE YOU WIN BIG!

Conference Registration: Registration will be solely online through Eventbrite. You can find the link to register at www.wodpa.com or go directly to www.eventbrite.com and type in the word WODPA. **General registration is \$165.00 per person until November 1, 2017, and \$215.00 per person thereafter.** Conference meals are included with the registration fee.

Trade Show Booth Registration: Trade Show booth fee is \$650.00 per booth, until November 1, 2017, and \$700 thereafter. One conference registration is included with the booth registration. Additional conference registrations are available for \$165.00 per person until November 1, 2017, and \$215.00 per person thereafter. You can find the link to register at www.wodpa.com or go directly to www.eventbrite.com and type in the word WODPA.

The trade show is being upgraded this year. For the first time, we are using an events company to provide booth space with back and side walls along with other amenities such as signage. The company will be able to provide, at additional cost, services requested but not provided by WODPA.

Lodging: WODPA has reserved a block of rooms at the Nugget Casino Resort at a discounted nightly rate of \$59.00, plus taxes and resort fee for a total of just over \$83 per night. The rate applies to single and double occupancy. Triple and Quad occupancy rates are \$10.00 per person over the quoted nightly rate. The resort fee includes: Daily complementary wireless Internet in guest room; complementary local calls; daily complementary bottled water, two bottles per day; round-trip shuttle transportation to and from Reno-Tahoe International Airport; a 2 for 1 drink coupon for draft or well drink, unlimited use of the year-round Atrium Pool; unlimited use of the Fitness Center; full service concierge; and valet, and self-parking in their secured covered parking structure.

Please reserve your room before October 22, 2017, to receive the group rate. To reserve your room over the phone call 1-800-648-1177 and use code GWODPA. You can also use the link provided at www.wodpa.com. For those wanting to extend their trip, the group rate applies, based on availability, beginning November 11 until 3 days after the conference.

Shuttle Service: The Nugget offers free round-trip shuttle service to and from Reno-Tahoe International Airport. At the hotel, the shuttle departs from the Valet parking area every hour, on the hour from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. At the airport, the shuttle picks up outside door D of the baggage claim area every hour on the half hour from 5:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Welcome Reception: Tuesday, November 14th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Everyone registered for the conference is

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invited to the WODPA/Nugget hosted Welcome Reception.

Producer Only Meeting: Tuesday, November 14, starting at 7:30 p.m. Open to Western Producers Only. The Board decided to hold this meeting the evening before the conference to allow more time for the meeting. This will also eliminate the down time experienced by trade show representatives and other nondairy producers and will allow more time for trade show visitations. The producer only meeting will be the forum for issues such as pay price and cull cow price.

Business Meeting: The Business Meeting is scheduled for early morning on Wednesday immediately following the Executive Director's update. We encourage all producers to attend and participate in this meeting. Issues to be addressed include: Board elections; USDA's failure to enforce the pasture regulations; USDA's failure to issue the origin of livestock final rule; WODPA's legal actions against USDA to stop the transitional certification program; and Status of USDA's proposed Organic Check-Off Program.

There are nine Board member positions up for election this year. Elections will be held for the two-year officer positions of Treasurer and Secretary. We will also be electing State Representative Directors and Member At Large Directors to three year terms. State Representative positions are available for Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, Texas, Utah, and Washington. Member At Large elections will follow State Representative elections should State Representative positions go unfilled.

Job descriptions for Treasurer, Secretary, and Board of Director can be found on our website at www.wodpa.com. You can obtain them via email by contacting Richard H. Mathews at rhmathews51@comcast.net or 717-457-0100. You can also call or email Richard, should you have questions about any of the positions.

Producers interested in running for any of the positions should notify Richard H. Mathews at rhmathews51@comcast.net.

Producers may self-nominate.

Educational Sessions: The Conference Committee has confirmed three educational sessions. Mr. Robert Burroughs, Genske, Mulder and Company, will speak on the "Importance of Tracking Expenses." Mr. Larry Burrows, Excel Dairy Nutrition, will speak on "What it costs to Produce Milk—How to Get More Efficient." Zoetis will be holding their annual sponsored producer breakfast on Thursday morning with another fantastic presentation from Dr. Victor Cortese, DVM. Dr. Cortese will address "Organic Health: Bench Marks for Health Issues."

The Conference Committee is still confirming Dairy Company representatives to speak on the "Organic Dairy Sector Future." Speakers will share their views regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the organic dairy sector (including supply), consumer purchasing trends, and the potential for demand

growth. Each presentation will be followed by a question and answer session. In respect for each company's need to avoid antitrust issues, questions regarding price will be strictly prohibited. As of publication, three speakers have been confirmed: Mr. Albert Straus, Founder and CEO, Straus Family Creamery; Mr. Mike Bedessem, CFO, CROPP; and Mr. Marcus Beneditti, Clover Sonoma Farms.

The Conference Committee is also working on bringing together a panel of certifiers to address pasture enforcement.

Contact and Update Information: We look forward to having an extremely productive conference discussing and acting on issues of vital importance to you and your family and the sustainability of your organic dairy operations. We invite you to take time from your busy schedule to be a part of this important event. Please contact Darby Heffner at 707-696-5154, wodpa@outlook.com or Richard Mathews at 717-457-0100, rhmathews51@comcast.net with your Conference and Trade Show questions. Conference updates are posted on our website www.wodpa.com, as they become available.

Speaker Profiles

Mr. Robert Burroughs, CPA, Genske, Mulder & Co. LLP. After graduating from Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo in 1982, Mr. Burroughs worked for seven years with two large



national accounting firms in the San Francisco Bay Area in their audit and tax departments, spending the last two years as a tax manager for KPMG Peat Marwick. Robert moved to Modesto in 1989 to be more involved with agricultural clients and joined Genske, Mulder & Co. in 1992. Genske, Mulder & Co. LLP specializes in serving the accounting, tax and estate

planning needs of a large number of dairy farmers across the United States as well as other agricultural producers. The firm's clients produce more than 10% of the entire nation's milk supply. Having been born on a dairy that was started by his grandfather in the early 1900s, Robert very much enjoys working with conventional and organic dairies, providing financial statements accompanied by industry standards to assist dairy owners in evaluating and improving their operations.

Mr. Larry Burrows, Excel Dairy Nutrition. Larry performed his professional schooling in Upstate New York where he was raised on a dairy farm.



He has been enjoying Dairy Nutrition for the past 17 years. Larry has clients in Idaho, California, New Mexico and Texas. He lives in Stephenville Texas. Larry and his son, Dylan, own and operate Excel Dairy Nutrition. Dylan Burrows is a graduate of the University of Idaho and has been

working with Larry for over two years. Their focus is on Organic Dairy Nutrition and animal welfare.

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Dr. Victor Cortese, DVM, PhD, Zoetis. Dr. Cortese serves as Director Technical Services—Cattle Immunology for Zoetis.



He is widely recognized as an expert in bovine immunology and bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) diagnosis and control. Dr. Cortese earned a doctorate in veterinary medicine from Michigan State University and a Ph.D. in Microbiology from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan. He is a

Diplomat with the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. With a vast level of training and years of hands-on experience in cattle immunology, Dr. Cortese puts his expertise to work educating practitioners and customers about preventative medicine, immunology and vaccinology. His numerous publications have earned him many awards including the AABP's Award for Excellence in 1997. In 2013 he was named as one of the 20 most influential cattle veterinarians in the U.S. by Bovine Veterinary Magazine. Dr. Cortese lives near Simpsonville, Ky., with his wife, Joy. They have three adult children. **W**

THANK YOU PRODUCERS!

WODPA thanks its dairy producer sponsors for their much valued financial contributions to WODPA's mission. It is through their generous financial support that WODPA is able to pursue its mission to preserve, protect, and ensure the sustainability and integrity of organic dairy farming across the west.

Calendar year 2017 producer sponsors, through 7/10/17:

\$1.50 per Milking Cow Participants:

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- Haugen Family Farm, LLC
- Hopewell Farm, LLC
- Hughes Dairy
- JTL Ranch
- McClelland's Dairy
- R and J McClelland Dairy
- Son-Ton Dairy
- Sunrise Organic Dairy, LLC
- Til-Tom Dairy
- Walter Stornetta Ranch

2017 Trade Show Vendors As of 7/10/17 the following entities have registered for WODPA's 2017 Conference and Trade Show. WODPA thanks them for their support!

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alltech | G&D Chillers | Jaguar Animal Health | Spalding Labs |
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Dry-Off "The efficacy of the herbal products was similar to that of conventional (antibiotic) therapy, and the herbal products had no apparent adverse effects." Journal Dairy Science 2014 Jun; 97(6):3509-22.

Active Ingredient "Thyme oil at concentrations > 2% completely inhibited bacterial growth in all replications. Only thyme essential oil had consistent antibacterial activity against the 3 mastitis-causing organisms tested in vitro." Journal Dairy Science 2014 Sep; 97(9):5587-91.

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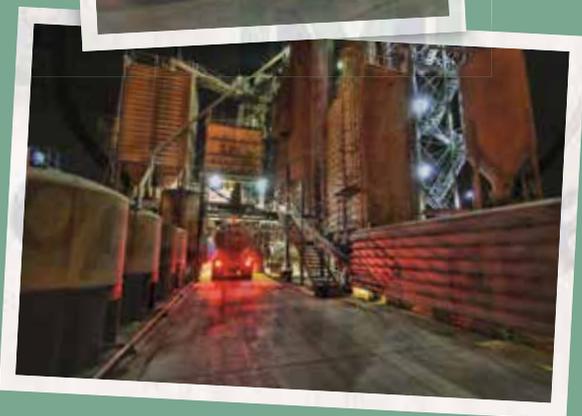
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USDA Triggers Great Economic Harm

The organic dairy sector is in crisis. This crisis is characterized by oversupply, falling farm gate prices and struggling organic farmers and small organic handling operations.

This crisis is directly attributable to the failure of the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and National Organic Program (NOP) to perform in conformance with USDA's mission statement. AMS and NOP have failed to provide leadership, sound public policy and efficient management. These failures are having an adverse impact on the sustainability of organic dairy producers and small organic handling operations.

Specifically, on April 28, 2015, AMS/NOP initiated, long awaited, rulemaking to amend the origin of livestock requirements for dairy animals. The public comment period ended on July 27, 2015. Rather than complete this important rulemaking action in a timely fashion, AMS/NOP put it in a file cabinet somewhere.

Origin of livestock is directly connected to the sustainability of the organic dairy sector. Inexplicably, AMS/NOP chose to put its resources into creating a new area of regulation;

aquaculture, which went nowhere. They also chose to devote their resources to an area not adversely impacting producer sustainability or consumer demand; animal welfare. The NOP has a staffing level of 45 (current number of staff is 35) and a budget of \$9.1 million. Thus, even with the named other rulemaking actions, **there is no excuse, beyond mismanagement, for not completing this rulemaking action!**

In a nut shell, there are two tracks for dairy animal conversion; animals managed organically for a full year and animals managed under the old 80-20 rule or the third-year conversion rule. The old 80-20 rule was, and the third-year conversion rule is, an exception to the one year continuous organic management transitioning requirement, which itself is an exception to the last third of gestation requirement. This tangled web created the situation where those who managed their animals organically for the full one year transition period have been allowed to continuously transition animals to organic. Those that took advantage of the

(Continued on page 12)

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feed exceptions have been required to comply with the last third of gestation requirement; which prevents them from continuously transitioning animals.

In publishing its proposed origin of livestock rule, the AMS stated, "This proposed action would specify that a producer can transition dairy animals into organic production once. This proposed action would clarify that, after completion of this one-time transition, any new dairy animals that a producer adds to a dairy farm would need to be managed organically from the last third of gestation or sourced from dairy animals that already completed their transition into organic production." This change would eliminate the two-track system and place all producers on a level playing field. WODPA supports elimination of the continuous transitioning of dairy animals.

In publishing the proposed rule, USDA triggered a massive transitioning of conventional dairy animals by producers increasing their herds before losing the ability to transition continuously. Beginning in the spring of 2016, one year after publication of the proposed rule, these transitioned cattle began producing organic milk. This was to be expected.

As those transitioned cows produced more milk than the milk buyers could process and consumers were buying, farm gate prices began to fall. One year after the initial influx of surplus milk, conditions continue to worsen and USDA stands idly by.

USDA's failure to publish the Origin of Livestock final rule in a timely manner has compounded the resulting financial harm to Organic Dairy Farm Families in the Western United States. Every day the final rule goes unpublished, additional conventional animals begin transition to organic. Every day the final rule goes unpublished increases the financial harm to, and undermines the sustainability of, many in the organic dairy sector.

Transitioning livestock to organic production is no longer needed. The existing rule never intended there to be constant transition of animals to organic production. There can be enough of a growth rate in replacement organic dairy animals from existing organic dairies to supply consumer market growth every year.

WODPA has calculated estimated losses related to additional cattle transitioned to organic milk production in response to the Origin of Livestock Proposed Rule for the period 2016 - June 2017.

Loss factors are as follows:

1. Loss due to milk price decline because of dairy animal oversupply caused by transitioned animals
2. Loss due to added cost of raising organic animals from the last 3rd of mother's gestation vs. cheaper cost of transitioning conventional animals
3. Loss due to reduced market sales price of animals due to transitioned animals oversupply and milk price decline (cattle demand and value is a factor of organic milk price)

By our calculations, loss due to these factors totals an estimated \$525,431,750 for the period 2016 - June 2017; an average of over \$1.8 million per farm.

See below tables for details.

Loss due to milk price decline because of dairy animal oversupply caused by transitioned animals

Estimated Number of organic milk cows on Western Dairy Farms	177,000 head
Milk Produced per year in gallons at 5.8 gallons per cow per day average (50 #/head)	374,709,000 gal
Average Decline in Milk Price per gallon paid to farmers in 2016	\$0.50
Estimated Loss 2016	\$187,354,500
Estimated Loss 1st 6 months in 2017	\$93,677,250
Total milk price loss at the farm for 2016 - June 2017	\$281,031,750

(Continued on page 13)

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Loss due to added cost of raising organic animals from the last 3rd of mother's gestation vs. cheaper cost of transitioning conventional animals

Estimated additional cattle transitioned to organic milk production in response to Origin of Livestock Proposed Rule (creating oversupply) 2016 - June 2017	40,000 head
Added cost per head to raise an animal from birth (includes feed cost, additional labor, expensive medicines, housing) vs. cost per head for transitioned animals	\$800/head
Total additional cost to raise 40,000 head from birth for 2016 - June 2017	\$32,000,000

Loss due to reduced market sales price of animals due to transitioned animals oversupply and milk price decline (cattle demand and value is a factor of organic milk price)

Estimated Number of organic milk cows on Western Dairy Farms	177,000 head
Decline in Value of Organic Dairy Cattle in 2016 per head (\$3,200 to \$2,400)	\$800/head
Estimated Loss 2016	\$141,600,000
Further Decline in Value of Organic Cattle in 2017 per head (\$2,400 to \$2,000)	\$400/head
Estimated Loss 1st 6 months in 2017	\$70,800,000
Total organic cattle value loss at the farm for 2016 - June 2017	\$212,400,000

Total loss due to milk price decline, added cost of raising organic animals, and reduced market sales price of animals

Total milk price loss at the farm for 2016 - June 2017	\$281,031,750
Total additional cost to raise 40,000 head from birth for 2016 - June 2017	\$32,000,000
Total organic cattle value loss at the farm for 2016 - June 2017	\$212,400,000
Total Loss 2016 - June 2017	\$525,431,750
Number of Organic Dairy Farms in the West	285
Average Value (income, equity) Lost per Farm 2016 - June 2017	\$1,843,620

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Final Rule: Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices

WODPA detailed USDA's "Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices" proposed rule, in "the Integrity" Spring-Summer 2016 issue. The proposed rule was published in the April 13, 2016, Federal Register. WODPA worked with MODPA and NODPA in preparing a joint comment under the FOOD Farmers banner and asked western dairymen to also comment. The proposed rule and FOOD Farmers comments are posted on WODPA's website at www.wodpa.com.

The final rule was published in the January 19, 2017, Federal Register. The effective date published in the final rule has been delayed to November 14, 2017. The **full implementation date of March 20, 2018**, has not changed. Accordingly, organic dairy producers will have to be in full compliance with all applicable amendments by that date.

The final rule amendments expanded and clarified existing requirements covering livestock health care practices (Section 205.238) and mammalian living conditions (Section 205.239). The final rule adds new provisions for livestock handling and transport for slaughter (Section 205.242) and avian living conditions (Section 205.241). New definitions were also added to Section 205.2.

This article does not address 11 of the 17 definitions added to Section 205.2; Section 205.241 Avian living conditions; or Section 205.242, paragraph (c) *Avian slaughter*. All the new definitions, Section 205.241 and Section 205.242, paragraph (c) can be found in the final rule posted on our website, www.wodpa.com.

Those with questions are encouraged to call Richard Mathews at 717-457-0100 or email him at rhmathews51@comcast.net.

The Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices amends PART 205—National Organic Program as follows:

Section 205.2 Terms defined

Section 205.2 Terms defined is amended by adding 17 new definitions of which 6 are addressed in the below table as follows:

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Section 205.2 Terms defined	
Indoors or indoor space.	The space inside of an enclosed building or housing structure available to livestock. [The balance of this definition applies to avian species only.]
Non-ambulatory.	As defined in 9 CFR 309.2(b). Note: Per 9 CFR 309.2(b), "Non-ambulatory disabled livestock are livestock that cannot rise from a re-cumbent position or that cannot walk, including, but not limited to, those with broken appendages, severed tendons or ligaments, nerve paralysis, fractured vertebral column, or metabolic conditions."
Outdoors or outdoor space.	Any area outside an enclosed building or enclosed housing structure, including roofed areas that are not enclosed. [The balance of this definition applies to avian species only.]
Ritual slaughter.	Slaughtering in accordance with the ritual requirements of the Jewish faith or any other religious faith that prescribes a method of slaughter whereby the animal suffers loss of consciousness by anemia of the brain caused by the simultaneous and instantaneous severance of the carotid arteries with a sharp instrument and handling in connection with such slaughtering.
Soil.	The outermost layer of the earth comprised of minerals, water, air, organic matter, fungi, and bacteria in which plants may grow roots.
Vegetation.	Living plant matter that is anchored in the soil by roots and provides ground cover.

Livestock Health Care Practice Standard

Section 205.238 Livestock Health Care Practice Standard is revised to read as follows:

Section 205.238 Livestock care and production practices standard	
Current Language	New Language
§ 205.238 Livestock Health Care Practice Standard.	§ 205.238 Livestock care and production practices standard.
(a) The producer must establish and maintain preventive livestock health care practices, including:	(a) The producer must establish and maintain preventive health care practices, including:
(1) Selection of species and types of livestock with regard to suitability for site-specific conditions and resistance to prevalent diseases and parasites;	No change.
(2) Provision of a feed ration sufficient to meet nutritional requirements, including vitamins, minerals, proteins and/or amino acids, fatty acids, energy sources, and fiber (ruminants);	(2) Provision of a feed ration sufficient to meet nutritional requirements, including vitamins, minerals, proteins and/or amino acids, fatty acids, energy sources, and fiber (ruminants), resulting in appropriate body condition.
(3) Establishment of appropriate housing, pasture conditions, and sanitation practices to minimize the occurrence and spread of diseases and parasites.	No change.

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<p>(4) Provision of conditions which allow for exercise, freedom of movement, and reduction of stress appropriate to the species.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>5) Performance of physical alterations as needed to promote the animal's welfare and in a manner that minimizes pain and stress; and</p>	<p>(5) Physical alterations may be performed to benefit the welfare of the animals, for identification purposes, or for safety purposes. Physical alterations must be performed on livestock at a reasonably young age, with minimal stress and pain and by a competent person.</p> <p>(i) The following practices may not be routinely used and must be used only with documentation that alternative methods to prevent harm failed: Needle teeth clipping (no more than top one-third of the tooth) in pigs and tail docking in pigs.</p> <p>(ii) The following practices are prohibited: de-beaking, de-snooding, caponization, dubbing, toe clipping of chickens, toe clipping of turkeys unless with infrared 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.</p>
<p>(6) Administration of vaccines and other veterinary biologics.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
	<p>(7) All surgical procedures necessary to treat an illness shall be undertaken in a manner that employs best management practices in order to minimize pain, stress, and suffering, with the use of appropriate and allowed anesthetics, analgesics, and sedatives.</p>
	<p>(8) Monitoring of lameness and keeping records of the percent of the herd or flock suffering from lameness and the causes. Certified operations may monitor lameness in a manner prescribed by the NOP.</p>
<p>(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:</p>	<p>(b) Producers may administer medications that are allowed under 205.603 to alleviate pain or suffering, and when preventive practices and veterinary biologics are inadequate to prevent sickness. Parasiticides allowed under § 205.603 may be used on:</p>
<p>(1) Breeder stock, when used prior to the last third of gestation but not during lactation for progeny that are to be sold, labeled, or represented as organically produced; and</p> <p>(2) Dairy stock, when used a minimum of 90 days prior to the production of milk or milk products that are to be sold, labeled, or represented as organic.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>(c) The producer of an organic livestock operation must not:</p>	<p>(c) An organic livestock operation must not:</p>

(Continued on page 17)

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<p>(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.</p>	<p>(1) Sell, label, or represent as organic any animal or 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 cannot be sold as organic but may be fed to calves on the same operation. Milk from animals undergoing treatment with prohibited substances cannot be sold as organic or fed to organic livestock.</p>
<p>(2) Administer any animal drug, other than vaccinations, in the absence of illness;</p>	<p>(2) Administer synthetic medications unless: (i) In the presence of illness or to alleviate pain and suffering, and (ii) That such medications are allowed under §205.603.</p>
<p>(3) Administer hormones for growth promotion;</p>	<p>(3) Administer hormones for growth promotion, production, or reproduction, except as provided in § 205.603.</p>
<p>(4) Administer synthetic parasiticides on a routine basis.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>(5) Administer synthetic parasiticides to slaughter stock.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>(6) Administer animal drugs in violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; or</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>(7) Withhold medical treatment from a sick animal in an effort to preserve its organic status. All appropriate medications 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 shall not be sold, labeled, or represented as organically produced.</p>	<p>(7) Withhold medical treatment from a sick animal in an effort to preserve its organic status. All appropriate medications 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.</p>
	<p>(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.</p>
	<p>(9) Neglect to identify and record treatment of sick and injured animals in animal health records.</p>
	<p>(10) Practice forced molting or withdrawal of feed to induce molting.</p>
	<p>(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.</p>

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	<p>(e) Euthanasia. (1) Organic livestock operations must have written plans for prompt, humane euthanasia for sick or injured livestock.</p> <p>(2) The following methods of euthanasia are not permitted: suffocation; manual blow to the head by blunt instrument or manual blunt force trauma; and the use of equipment that crushes the neck, including killing pliers or Burdizzo clamps.</p> <p>(3) Following a euthanasia procedure, livestock must be carefully examined to ensure that they are dead.</p>
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Livestock living conditions

USDA changed the title of Section 205.239 from “Livestock living conditions” to “Mammalian livestock living conditions.” USDA made numerous revisions and additions to § 205.239.

Section 205.239 Livestock living conditions is revised to read as follows:

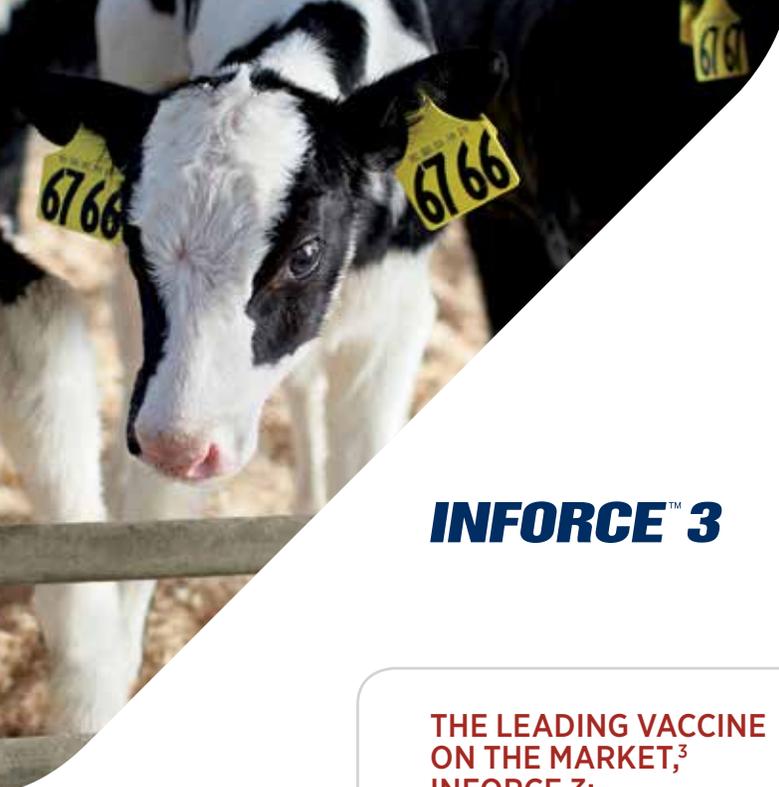
Section 205.239 Mammalian livestock living conditions	
Current Language	New Language
Section 205.239 Livestock living conditions.	§ 205.239 Mammalian livestock living conditions.
(a) The producer of an organic livestock operation must establish and maintain year-round livestock living conditions which accommodate the wellbeing and natural behavior of animals, including:	No change
(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.	(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 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. Continuous total confinement of any animal indoors is prohibited. Continuous total confinement of ruminants in yards, feeding pads, and feedlots is prohibited.
(2) For all ruminants, management on pasture and daily grazing throughout the grazing season(s) to meet the requirements of § 205.237, except as provided for in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this section.	No change

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

<p>(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.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>(4) Shelter designed to allow for:</p> <p>(i) Natural maintenance, comfort behaviors, and opportunity to exercise;</p> <p>(ii) Temperature level, ventilation, and air circulation suitable to the species; and</p> <p>(iii) Reduction of potential for livestock injury.</p>	<p>(4) Shelter designed to allow for:</p> <p>(i) Over a 24-hour period, sufficient space and freedom to lie down, turn around, stand up, fully stretch their limbs, and express normal patterns of behavior;</p> <p>(ii) Temperature level, ventilation, and air circulation suitable to the species;</p> <p>(iii) Reduction of potential for livestock injury; and</p> <p>(iv) If indoor housing is provided, areas for bedding and resting that are sufficiently large, solidly built, and comfortable so that animals are kept clean, dry, and free of lesions.</p>
<p>(5) The use of yards, feeding pads, feedlots and laneways that shall be well-drained, kept in good condition (including frequent removal of wastes), and managed to prevent runoff of wastes and contaminated waters to adjoining or nearby surface water and across property boundaries.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
	<p>(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.</p>
	<p>(7) Dairy young stock may be housed in individual pens until completion of the weaning process but no later than 6 months of age, provided 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.</p>
	<p>(8) Swine must be housed in a group, except:</p> <p>(i) Sows may be housed individually at farrowing and during the suckling period;</p> <p>(ii) Boars; and</p> <p>(iii) Swine with documented instance of aggression or recovery from an illness.</p>
	<p>(9) Piglets shall not be kept on flat decks or in piglet cages.</p>
	<p>(10) For swine, rooting materials must be provided, except during the farrowing and suckling period.</p>

(Continued on page 22)



GIVE YOUNG CALVES AND FRESH COWS A HEALTHY START.

INFORCE™ 3

PROTECT THEM BOTH WITH INFORCE™ 3.

Research shows INFORCE™ 3 can provide lasting protection against key viral respiratory diseases for young calves¹ and boost cow immunity in the face of calving stress.²

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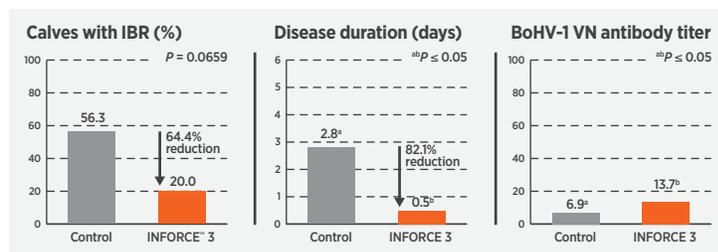
- Offers the highest level of protection available against BRSV
- Provides lasting protection against IBR respiratory disease
- Aids in the prevention of parainfluenza 3
- Is now approved for single-nostril administration

GET CALVES OFF TO A HEALTHY START, EVEN IN THE PRESENCE OF MATERNAL ANTIBODIES.

In a separate study, INFORCE 3 was administered to colostrum-deprived neonatal calves and to calves with maternal antibodies against the virus that causes infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR). After challenge, compared with unvaccinated calves, those given INFORCE 3 demonstrated:¹

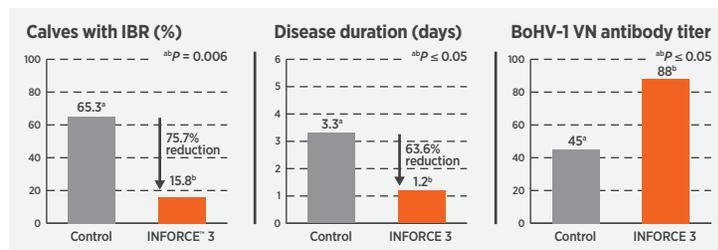
- A marked reduction in the incidence of IBR respiratory disease
- Significantly higher ($P \leq 0.05$) IBR virus neutralizing antibody titers
- Significantly shorter ($P \leq 0.05$) disease duration
- Less nasal shedding of IBR virus

Results 105 Days Post-Vaccination Challenge of IBR Seropositive Calves

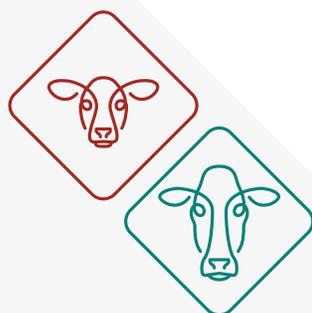


Even in the presence of maternal antibodies, INFORCE 3 generated a protective response that lasted at least 15 weeks after vaccination.

Results 193 Days Post-Vaccination Challenge of Colostrum-Deprived Calves



Colostrum-deprived, IBR naïve calves vaccinated with INFORCE 3 were protected against IBR respiratory disease for at least six months after vaccination.



PROVIDE EFFECTIVE PROTECTION, WHEN COWS NEED IT MOST.

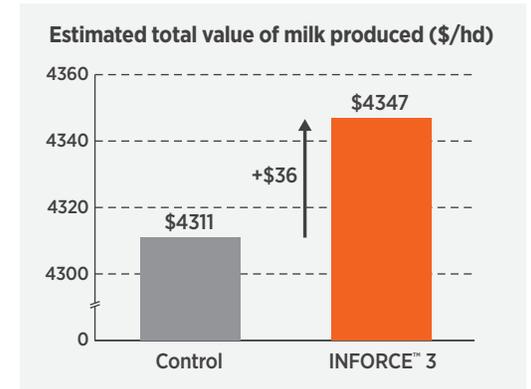
On the day of calving, dairy cows are immunosuppressed and at their most disease-vulnerable state. In one study, cows vaccinated with INFORCE™ 3 on the day of calving demonstrated equivalent or greater innate and adaptive local immune responses than those vaccinated up to 12 days before calving.²

Another study compared cattle that were not vaccinated against bovine respiratory syncytial virus (BRSV) with those that received INFORCE 3.⁴

Those that received INFORCE 3:

- Produced approximately 205 pounds more milk per head
- Estimated \$36 more milk production revenue per head

Value of Milk Production Over a 315-Day Period



Fresh cows vaccinated with INFORCE 3 generated an additional estimated \$36 per head in income versus those not vaccinated against BRSV.



Get young calves and fresh cows off to a healthy start, even in the face of maternal antibodies and calving stress, with INFORCE 3.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR ZOETIS ANIMAL HEALTH REPRESENTATIVE.

¹ Mahan SM, Sobacki B, Johnson J, et al. Efficacy of intranasal vaccination with a multivalent vaccine containing temperature-sensitive modified-live bovine herpesvirus type 1 for protection of seronegative and seropositive calves against respiratory disease. *J Am Vet Med Assoc.* 2016;248(11):1280-1286.

² Cortese V, Woolums A, Hurley D, Bernard J, Berghaus R, Short T. Comparison of interferon and BoHV1 IgA levels in nasal secretions of dairy cattle vaccinated with Inforce 3 prior to calving or on day of calving, in *Proceedings*. 29th World Buiatrics Congress 2016;436.

³ Animalytix® data, September 2016, Zoetis Inc.

⁴ Data on file, Study Report No. 10PETINF01, Zoetis Inc.



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(Continued from page 19)

	(11) In confined housing with stalls for mammalian livestock, enough stalls must be present to provide for the natural behaviors of the animals. A cage must not be called 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. For group-housed cattle, bedded packs, compost packs, tie-stalls, free-stalls, and stanchion barns are all acceptable housing as part of an overall organic system plan.
	(12) Outdoor space must be provided year-round. When the outdoor space includes soil, maximal vegetative cover must be maintained as appropriate for the season, climate, geography, species of livestock, and stage of production.
(b) The producer of an organic livestock operation may provide temporary confinement or shelter for an animal because of:	No change.
(1) Inclement weather;	No change.
(2) The animal's stage of life: Except, that lactation is not a stage of life that would exempt ruminants from any of the mandates set forth in this regulation	(2) The animal's stage of life, however, lactation is not a stage of life that would exempt ruminants from any of the mandates set forth in this part;
(3) Conditions under which the health, safety, or well-being of the animal could be jeopardized;	No change.
(4) Risk to soil or water quality;	No change.
(5) Preventive healthcare procedures or for the treatment of illness or injury (neither the various life stages nor lactation is an illness or injury);	No change.
(6) Sorting or shipping animals and livestock sales, provided that the animals shall be maintained under continuous organic management, including organic feed, throughout the extent of their allowed confinement;	No change.
(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	(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
(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.	(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 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. Notwithstanding the requirements in paragraph (b)(6) of 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.

(Continued on page 23)

(Continued from page 22)

<p>(c) The producer of an organic livestock operation may, in addition to the times permitted under §205.239(b), temporarily deny a ruminant animal pasture or outdoor access under the following conditions:</p>	<p>(c) The producer of an organic livestock operation may, in addition to the times permitted under paragraph (b) of this section, temporarily deny a ruminant animal pasture or outdoor access under the following conditions:</p>
<p>(1) One week at the end of a lactation for dry off (for denial of access to pasture only), three weeks prior to parturition (birthing), parturition, and up to one week after parturition;</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>(2) In the case of newborn dairy cattle for up to six months, after which they must be on pasture during the grazing season and may no longer be individually housed: <i>Provided</i>, That, an animal shall not be confined or tethered in a way that prevents the animal from lying down, standing up, fully extending its limbs, and moving about freely;</p>	<p>(2) In the case of newborn dairy cattle for up to six months, after which they must be on pasture during the grazing season and may no longer be individually housed: Except, That, an animal shall not be confined or tethered in a way that prevents the animal from lying down, standing up, fully extending its limbs, and moving about freely;</p>
<p>(3) In the case of fiber bearing animals, for short periods for shearing; and</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>(4) In the case of dairy animals, for short periods daily for milking. Milking must be scheduled in a manner to ensure sufficient grazing time to provide each animal with an average of at least 30 percent DMI from grazing throughout the grazing season. Milking frequencies or duration practices cannot be used to deny dairy animals pasture.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>(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.</p>	<p>(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 feed lot 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.</p>
<p>(e) The producer of an organic livestock operation must manage manure in a manner that does not contribute to contamination of crops, soil, or water by plant nutrients, heavy metals, or pathogenic organisms and optimizes recycling of nutrients and must manage pastures and other outdoor access areas in a manner that does not put soil or water quality at risk.</p>	<p>No change.</p>

(Continued on page 25)



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Transport and slaughter.

Section 205.242 Transport and slaughter (minus paragraph (c) Avian slaughter) is added to read as follows:

§ 205.242 Transport and slaughter.
(a) Transportation.
(1) Certified organic livestock must be clearly identified as organic, and this identity must be traceable for the duration of transport.
(2) All livestock must be fit for transport to buyers, auction or slaughter facilities. (i) Calves must have a dry navel cord and be able to stand and walk without human assistance. (ii) Non-ambulatory animals must not be transported for sale or slaughter. Such animals may be medically treated or euthanized.
(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.
(4) Bedding must be provided on trailer floors and in holding pens as needed to keep livestock clean, dry, and comfortable during transport and prior to slaughter. Bedding is not required in poultry crates. When roughages are used for bedding, they must be certified organic.
(5) Arrangements for water and organic feed must be made if transport time, including all time on the mode of transportation, exceeds 12 hours. (i) The producer or handler of an organic livestock operation, who is responsible for overseeing the transport of organic livestock, must provide records to certifying agents during inspections or upon request that demonstrate that transport times for organic livestock are not detrimental to the welfare of the animals and meet the requirements of paragraph (a)(5) of this section.
(6) Organic producers and handlers, who are responsible for overseeing the transport of organic livestock, must have emergency plans in place that adequately address possible animal welfare problems that might occur during transport.
(b) Mammalian slaughter.
(1) Producers and handlers who slaughter organic livestock must be in compliance, as determined by FSIS, with the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 603(b) and 21 U.S.C. 610(b)), the regulations at 9 CFR part 313 regarding humane handling and slaughter of livestock, and the regulations of 9 CFR part 309 regarding ante-mortem inspection.
(2) Producers and handlers who slaughter organic exotic animals must be in compliance with the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621, et seq.), the regulations at 9 CFR parts 313 and 352 regarding the humane handling and slaughter of exotic animals, and the regulations of 9 CFR part 309 regarding ante-mortem inspection.
(3) Producers and handlers who slaughter organic livestock or exotic animals must provide all noncompliance records related to humane handling and slaughter issued by the controlling national, federal, or state authority and all records of subsequent corrective actions to certifying agents during inspections or upon request.



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2017 Board of Directors Elections

WODPA is an organization **of, for and by** organic dairy producers. To proactively address the most important issues facing our industry and your family dairy business we need your help. A valuable and rewarding way to help is to actively serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

Elections will be held during the business meeting at WODPA's 2017 Fall Conference and Trade Show on the morning of Wednesday, November 15, 2017.

Elections will be held for the two-year officer positions of Treasurer and Secretary. We will also be electing State Representative Directors and Member At Large Directors to three year terms. State Representative positions are available for Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, Texas, Utah and Washington. Member At Large elections will follow State Representative elections should State Representative positions go unfilled. **Producers may self-nominate.**

Producers interested in running for any of the positions should notify Richard H. Mathews at rhmhews51@comcast.net.

Job Descriptions for Treasurer, Secretary and Board of Director can be found on our website at www.wodpa.com. You can also obtain them via email by contacting Richard H. Mathews at rhmhews51@comcast.net or 717-457-0100.

You can also call or email Richard, should you have questions about any of the positions.

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, Farm Bill negotiations, and both the Organic Research & Promotion Program and Transitional Certification Program proposed by the Organic Trade Association.

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.

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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**



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2017 Conference and Trade Show

When: Wednesday and Thursday November 15th & 16th, 2017

Location: Nugget Casino Resort, 1100 Nugget Ave, Sparks, NV 89431

Hotel Rate and Reservation: The group nightly room rate is \$59.00, plus taxes and resort fee for a total of just over \$83 per night. **Please reserve your room before October 22, 2017, to receive the group rate.** To reserve your room over the phone call 1-800-648-1177 and use code GWODP. You can also use the link provided at www.wodpa.com. For those wanting to extend their trip, the group rate applies, based on availability, beginning November 11 until 3 days after the conference. The Nugget offers free round-trip shuttle service to and from Reno-Tahoe International Airport. At the hotel, the shuttle departs from the Valet parking area every hour, on the hour from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. At the airport, the shuttle picks up outside door D of the baggage claim area every hour on the half hour from 5:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Conference Rate and Registration: Registration will be solely online through Eventbrite. You can find the link to register at www.wodpa.com or go directly to www.eventbrite.com and type in the word WODPA. **General Registration is \$165.00 per person until November 1, 2017, and \$215.00 per person thereafter.** Conference meals are included with the registration fee.

Trade Show Booth Registration: Trade Show booth fee is **\$650.00 per booth, until November 1, 2017, and \$700 thereafter. One conference registration is included with the booth registration.** Additional conference registrations are available for \$165.00 per person until November 1, 2017, and \$215.00 per person thereafter. You can find the link to register at www.wodpa.com or go directly to www.eventbrite.com and type in the word WODPA.

Booth set up:

Exhibitor Move-In: Tuesday, November 14, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Event Open: Wednesday, November 15, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. & Thursday, November 16, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Event Closes: Thursday, November 16, 2:00 p.m.

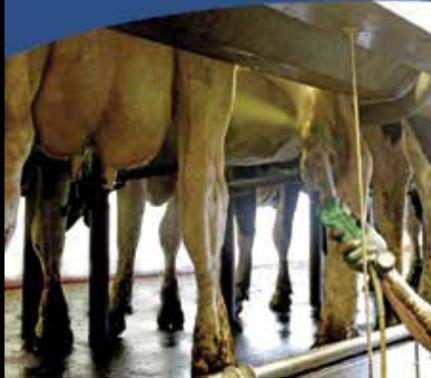
Exhibitor Move-Out: Thursday, November 16, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

WODPA & Nugget hosted Welcome Reception: Tuesday, November 14, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Producer Only Meeting: Tuesday, November 14, 7:30 p.m. Open to Western Producers Only.

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— Jeff Greenberg



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