

MAY 17, 2021



WESTERN ORGANIC DAIRY PRODUCERS
ALLIANCE

DROUGHT IN THE WEST

WODPA has heard from many producers about the drought in the west and concerns about meeting grazing requirements. The following information details the National Organic Program allowance and opportunity to request a temporary variance for your operation.



The National Organic Program regulations requires the following under **General Requirements for Certification 205.400(f)(2)**:

A person seeking to receive or maintain organic certification under the regulations in this part must: (f) Immediately notify the certifying agent concerning any: (2) Change in a certified operation or any portion of a certified operation that may affect its compliance with the Act and the regulations in this part.

NOP 205.290 – Temporary Variances

NOP Program Handbook – NOP 2606 Instruction on Temporary Variances

It is an operations duty to let their certifier know at the earliest opportunity if they are concerned with their compliance to the act, in this case, the pasture rule. This may then lead to the opportunity to make a temporary variance request as an operation sees necessary.

Your certifier will let you know what additional information they need from you upon receiving your request.

See below for additional drought declaration resources:

- [US Drought Monitor](#)
- [FSA Disaster Designation Information](#)

WODPA supports efforts to comply with ALL pasture regulations under the National Organic Program. However, we hope this information will be useful to those of you with emergency drought conditions.

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Thank you
Producers!!



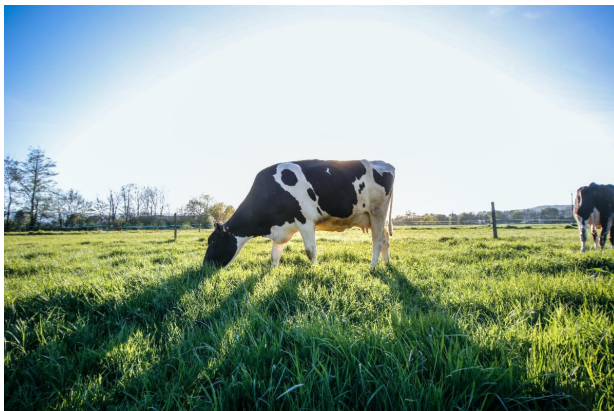
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ORIGIN OF LIVESTOCK UPDATE



On May 12, the AMS National Organic Program (NOP) will announce in a Federal Register Notice the reopening of the public comment period for the Origin of Livestock proposed rule originally published in 2015. The comment period will be open for 60 days: May 12 – July 12, 2021.

The Origin of Livestock Notice proposes revisions to the USDA organic regulations that would change how conventional livestock are transitioned into organic production and how transitioned animals are managed in the organic system.

This Notice invites comments on specific provisions that were not considered in the previous 2015 proposed rule, based on public comments to that proposed rule and comments received during the supplemental public comment period in 2019. This additional public comment period will inform USDA's development of a final rule and allows people an opportunity to submit comments on the new information.

[Comment Here](#)

[Proposed Rule](#)

What Another Drought to California Means for its Dairy Producers

[Click here to read article from Dairy Herd Management](#)



McClure dairy shuts down



David Briggs
Tomales Point rancher Bob McClure, the fourth generation on Point Reyes, is shutting down his dairy this month. The spring that feeds the ranch is running dry, there is a glut in the organic milk market and he does not have a successor. He has moved to Petaluma, but plans to raise a small number of heifers on the land, which was one of six dairies in the park.

McClure Dairy shuts down

[Click here to read the article](#) from the Point Reyes Light. McClure Dairy has been extremely supportive of WODPA over the years. Thank you Bob and Ruth for your support!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

We would love if you shared with us about what projects or accomplishments you have completed on your dairy.

New technology, new grazing methods, new funding for infrastructure - we are interested and would love to share.

Click the link below to learn about the new pivot **Andrew Dykstra** of Burlington, Washington was able to install at his dairy with help from funding from NRCS. [Click here to view.](#)



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ORGANIC DAIRY MARKET NEWS

DAIRY MARKET NEWS, MAY 3 - 7, 2021 VOLUME 48, REPORT 18

ORGANIC DAIRY MARKET NEWS
Information gathered April 26, May 7, 2021

ORGANIC DAIRY FLUID OVERVIEW

The National Organic Program (NOP) announced the creation of a new website with numerous resources for farmers and business owners seeking information about organic certification. Resources will include Spanish translations of the Organic Foods Production Act, along with several other fact sheets, videos and training resources. Website information: Spanish Language Resources for Organic Stakeholders | Agricultural Marketing Service (ams.usda.gov)

U.S. economy suffered intense damages caused by a fire. There are reportedly no employees who have been physically harmed. The dairy operation took in 550,000 pounds of milk a day from nearby farms. There have been numerous milk cows. Some organic farmers are able to send their milk to conventional processors, although the farmers are receiving payment at a discounted level. However, many conventional operations do not all have the ability to isolate the organic milk while still receiving milk from their own producers.

On an organic farm in the UK, a robotic tractor is able to operate up to 24 hours a day through GPS technology. The robotic tractor completes weeding, planting, cultivating, and has four and four cameras where the farmer is always able to watch progress without physically being in a tractor. There are reports the robotic tractor is light weight, with capabilities to reduce the risk of soil damage.

Dutch Organic Milk Pay Price. In the Netherlands, a large processor of organic milk announced the May 2021 pay price for organic milk is €8.75 EUR/100kg (currently \$78.99 USD). The organic milk producer applies an average of 550,000 kilograms of milk, containing a fat content of 4.42 percent, protein content of 3.57 percent and a lactose content of 4.57 percent, on an annual basis.

For more additional information, access the link: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/empire/labeling>

Organic Dairy Market News reports are released bi-weekly. They provide market condition information and analysis. The reports include unbiased data concerning market prices and volumes for organic milk and organic dairy products. This information comes from the USDA.

ORGANIC DAIRY MARKET NEWS VISIT THE PAGE

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SUPPORT WODPA AND ITS MISSION

WODPA is funded by volunteer
Producer Payments & Associate Member dues.
 Click [here](#) to learn how you can support WODPA and its mission.
 WODPA would like to send a huge thank you to the
Producers & Businesses that have provided support over the years.



The mission for the Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance is to preserve, protect, and ensure the sustainability and integrity of organic dairy farming across the west.

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