

## **Executive Director's Report for March 2026**

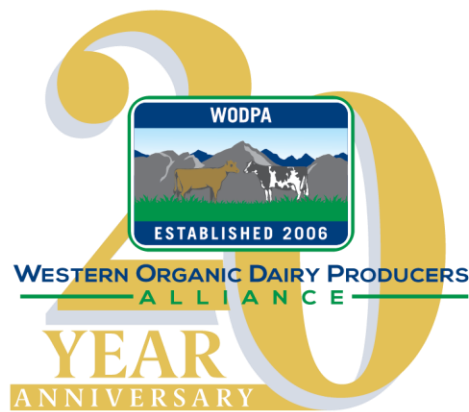
### **WODPA topics of focus this month**

1. Regional dairy visits and meetings in Oregon & Washington
2. Updating 2026 dairy list
3. Continuing to stay updated on Farm Bill updates

### **Legislative/Policy Work**

#### **WODPA supports:**

1. "The Organic Dairy Data Collection Act" – H.R. 4110 (attached)
  - a. Sponsors: Rep. Pingree (ME), Rep. Langworthy (NY) and Rep. Wied (WI)
  - b. Aims to improve data collection for organic dairies by requiring the USDA to gather and publish information about the cost of producing organic milk, including the cost of key organic feedstuffs—whether produced domestically or imported. The USDA must also report monthly on the payments organic dairy farmers receive for their milk and release state-level cost-of-production reports, along with regional statistics on organic milk production quantities and prices.
2. "The Organic Dairy Assistance, Investment, and reporting Yields Act of 2025" – Senate 2442 (attached)
  - a. Sponsors: Senator Welch (VT), Senator Gillibrand (NY), Senator Sanders (VT), Sen. Smith (MN), Senator Booker (NJ)
  - b. The Organic Dairy Assistance, Investment, and Reporting Yields Act aims to enhance data collection for organic dairy, mandates that the USDA create an effective safety-net program for organic dairy farmers, and allocates funding to support regional organic dairy infrastructure.
3. "Domestic Organic Investment Act (DOIA) – S. 3427 & H.R. 6593
  - a. Sponsors: Sen. Baldwin (WI), Sen. Collins (ME), Rep. Salinas (OR), Rep. Van Orden (WI)



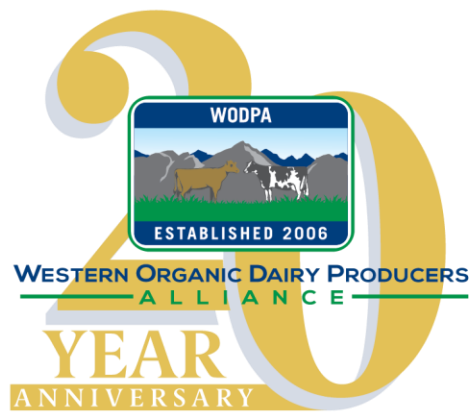
- b. DOIA aims to boost domestic organic production by encouraging USDA to reduce imported organic goods and offering grants to help domestic producers invest in storage, processing, aggregation, and distribution facilities.
- 4. “Opportunities in Organic Act of 2026” – H.R. 7318
  - a. Sponsors: Rep. Panetta (CA), Rep. Adams (NC), Rep. Tonko (NY), Rep. Lieu (CA), Rep. Tokuda (HI), Rep. Lofgren (CA), Rep. Pingree (ME)
  - b. Expands the Organic Certification Cost-Share Program and adds flexible funding to enhance the USDA Organic Transition Initiative, prioritizing underserved producers.

**WODPA opposes:**

- 1. “Meeting Demand for Organic Produce Act – S. 2797 & H.R. 5367
  - a. Sponsor: Rep. Newhouse (WA)
  - b. The bill would let producers test land for banned substances instead of completing the mandated three-year transition to organic methods without synthetic chemicals or GMOs, a period crucial for maintaining organic integrity.

**Federal Government Updates**

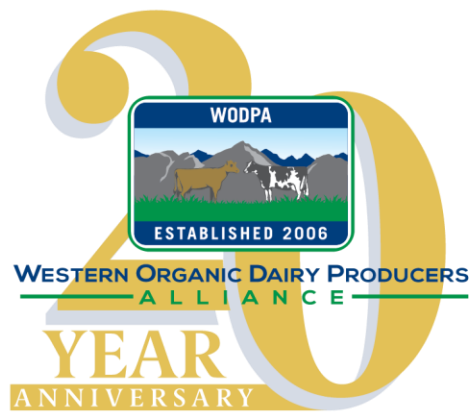
- a. On February 13<sup>th</sup>, House Ag Committee Chairman introduced the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 (H.R. 7567) intended to reauthorize the 2018 Farm Bill that originally expired in 2023, but has since been extended multiple times.
  - i. Organic dairy data collection was included!
  - ii. Funding would be maintained but not increased. This fails to keep pace with both raising consumer demand and the challenges faced by organic producers.
  - iii. The bill also shields pesticide companies from liability and gives authority to state and local government to regulate pesticide usage.



- iv. Prohibits states from creating animal welfare standards (like Prop 12 in CA) that apply to animals raised outside of the state borders.
  - v. Cuts EQIP by approximately \$1 billion over the next 4 years; restricting the opportunity for conservation practices to be implemented on farms
- c. USDA Reorganization
- i. USDA is moving forward with major reorganization that could relocate roughly **2,600 employees from Washington, DC to regional hubs** over the next two years.
2. Initiative Petition (IP) 28 – Oregon
- a. Oregon Farm Bureau is leading the PAC effort, and the Oregon Dairy Farmers Association is on the steering committee.
  - b. This website will be built out further, but you can sign up as supporting the effort: [Families for Affordable Food](#).
  - c. The Oregon Hunters Assn has great information about IP 28: [Oregon IP28: Hunting & Fishing Ban Explained – Oregon Hunters Association](#)
  - d. Finally, Oregon Farm Bureau: [No on IP28 | Oregon Farm Bureau](#)

### **Farmer Resources & Financial Opportunities:**

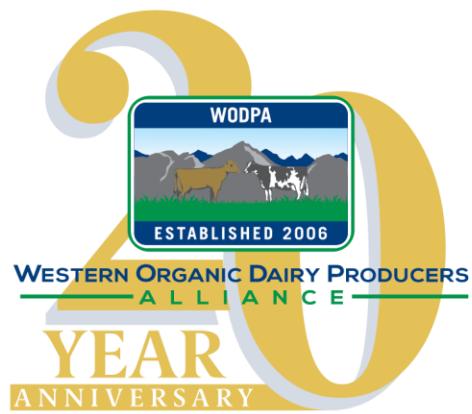
1. New World Screwworm - What Organic Farmers need to know and what their treatment options are
  - a. [New World Screwworm update edited.pdf](#)
2. National Organic Farmer Education Network (NOFEN)
  - a. <https://organicfarmersassociation.org/organic-events/>
3. Organic Dairy Exemption Request Form
  - a. [AMS-15 - Organic Exemption Request Form | Agricultural Marketing Service \(usda.gov\)](#)



4. Mercaris/ Argus update:
  - a. Mercaris/Argus collecting statements for Q1 2026 (January, February, March)
    - i. Send statements to [AgData@ArgusMedia.com](mailto:AgData@ArgusMedia.com)
    - ii. All organic dairy producers can submit statements. Only paid- in WODPA members can see the survey results.
    - iii. SEND IN YOUR STATEMENTS NOW PLEASE
  - b. Q4 (October, November, December 2025) final report has been distributed.

**Reminders/ Resources:**

- a. Lunchtime Learning: Kemin Animal Nutrition & Health
  - i. April 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 11:30am PST
  - ii. Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/81741226044?signature=vmFFF508wen6siTuldfmkELrBZLjPwMqKsiS7kLci8>  
Meeting ID: 817 4122 6044  
Passcode: 399611
- b. The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual NODPA Field Days: September 24 – 25, 2026
  - i. [SAVE THE DATE for the 26th Annual NODPA Field Days, September 24 & 25, 2026 - Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance](#)
- c. WODPA's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary WODPA Conference & Trade Show
  - i. October 27 – 28, 2026 in Chico, CA
  - ii. [CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW](#)
- d. Dairy Cattle Welfare Council: Beyond the Method: Building Reliable Euthanasia Systems on Dairy Farms
  - i. March 26<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30pm PST
  - ii. [Dairy Cattle Welfare Council](#)
- e. Dairy Preparedness in the Face of New World Screwworm Webinar
  - i. March 16<sup>th</sup> @ 11am PST
  - ii. Register at: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)



- f. Closing the Loop: Strengthening Organic Enforcement Farmer Survey Results
  - i. March 24<sup>th</sup> @ 11am PST
  - ii. [Closing the Loop: Strengthening Organic Enforcement Farmer Survey Results - Organic Farmers Association](#)