

Executive Director Report for September 2024

Legislative/Policy Work

OFA Meetings (8/21, 9/4); OTA Meetings (8/28)

1. Organic Dairy Assistance, Investment, and Reporting Yields Act of 2023 (O DAIRY Act of 2023) – Senate Bill 3097
2. “The Organic Dairy Data Collection Act” – House Bill 6937
3. Farm Bill update:
 1. Very low likelihood it will pass in 2024
 2. More of Congress thinks there will be another 1-year extension.
 3. Could have another shutdown if a continuing resolution is not passed by Oct. 1.
 4. Met with House Ag Minority Scott’s office on dairy data collection bill.
 5. Organic Certification Cost Share Program is not guaranteed past 2024.
4. Meloxicam Petition
 1. Meloxicam would be a very beneficial and crucial material to be able to use on farm. I cannot speak for other species but specifically for Dairy, I see the benefits. There are not many options for pain, mitigation, especially for disbudding, and dehorning and dairy calves. This would be a great option to use and allow for optimal pain mitigation during this process. In addition to that, many of the animal welfare certifications require multiple pain mitigation options. In Organic, farmers can really only use Banamine or aspirin as a form of pain mitigation. This would allow another tool for our toolbox in order to ensure animals are taken care of and we are able to meet the expectations of certifiers.
 2. No technical review conducted by the Livestock subcommittee
 3. Petition lacks detail for all species/ withdrawals
 4. The recommendation from the Livestock Sub Committee is:
 - i. National List Motion: Motion to add meloxicam as a disinfectant, sanitizer and medical treatment as applicable. In accordance with approved labeling for organic livestock. NOP requires use by or under lawful written order of a licensed veterinarian and a meat withdrawal period of at least two- times that required by the FDA.
 - ii. Withdrawal is 96 hours for milk and between 15 – 21 days for meat. For organic, that would mean 192 hours (8 days) for milk and up to 42 days for meat.
 - iii. FDA does screen for residue of meloxicam in slaughter animals

Government Announcements:

1. Pessimistic about the Farm Bill passing now by elections in November
2. Sonoma County Ballot Measure J
 - a. Sonoma County Family Farmers Alliance
(<https://www.sonomacountyfamilyfarmersalliance.com/>)
3. Point Reyes National Seashore
 - a. Legal mediation still ongoing
 - b. Parks extended the lease talks for 30 days (expires on October 18th)
4. Avian Influenza Detection and Spread
 - a. [USDA to Begin Accepting Applications for Expanded Emergency Livestock Assistance Program to Help Dairy Producers Offset Milk Loss Due to H5N1 | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#)
 - i. Confirmed H5N1 positive test results are required for recovery assistance
 - ii. OFA Farmer Hotline to help buffer: (833)724-3834
5. ODMAP: no update
 - a. OTA wrote a letter to FSA (attached)
6. MOCA (Marin County) certifier is no longer going to be certifying dairy, poultry or beef

Mercaris/ Argus update:

1. Mercaris/Argus collecting statements for Q3 2024 (July, August, September 2024)
 - a. Send statements to AgData@ArgusMedia.com
 - b. All organic dairy producers can submit statements. Only paying WODPA members can see the survey results.

Financial Opportunities:

1. Organic Dairy Exemption Request Form
 - a. [AMS-15 - Organic Exemption Request Form | Agricultural Marketing Service \(usda.gov\)](#)
2. Organic Transition Initiative Direct Farmer Assistance
 - a. [Organic Transition Initiative Direct Farmer Assistance | Farmers.gov](#)
3. Farmer Scholarship Opportunity to attend the NOSB meeting in Portland in October
 - a. [Farmer Scholarship Application: Fall 2024 Portland \(OR\) NOSB Meeting Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)
 - b. Priority given to farmers who apply by September 20th
 - c. Farmer Panel for pre-NOSB meeting on land, labor and markets
4. Round 5 of the Dairy Processors Grant Funding
 - a. Open to applicants in Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon and Washington
 - b. Applications are open August 1 – September 30.

- c. [Pacific Coast Coalition - Dairy Business Innovation Initiative \(dairypcc.net\)](http://dairypcc.net)

Reminders:

1. Strengthening Organic Enforcement Rule is now in full effect March 19, 2024.
 - a. If anyone is in need of a certifier, please visit [Organic Integrity Database \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/organic-integrity-database)
2. Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards (OLPS) Rule has officially been announced.
 - a. Effective date: January 12, 2024
 - b. Compliance date: January 2, 2025
3. Save the Dates:
 - a. 2024 Annual NODPA Field Days – Nichols, NY
 - i. September 26 – 27
 - b. Fall 2024 NOSB Meeting – Portland, OR
 - i. Public comment webinar is scheduled for October 15 & 17
 - ii. Public Meeting is scheduled for October 22-24
 - iii. Comments due September 30th
 - c. NOC in-person public meeting – Portland, OR
 - i. October 21st