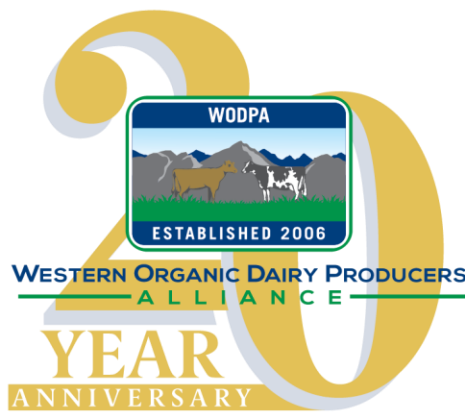




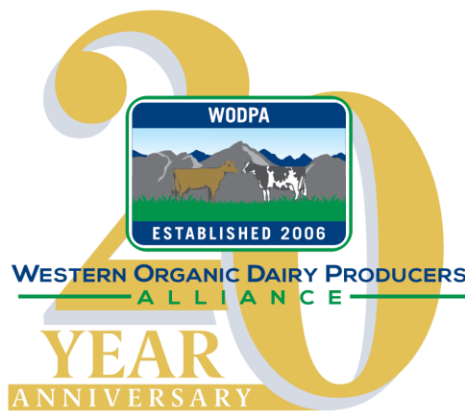
Executive Director's Report for July 2026

WODPA topics of focus this month

1. Continuing to stay updated on Farm Bill updates
2. Preparations for 2026 Conference
 - a. Elections, outreach, etc.
3. Scholarship outreach & Prep
4. New World Screwworm

A. Legislative/Policy Work

1. Where are we with the Farm Bill?
 - i. The House passed its version of the Farm Bill & it went to the Senate Ag Committee.
 - ii. Senate Ag Committee Republicans have released a DRAFT Discussion Farm Bill Document that they would like to see passed.
 1. Senate Democrats did not help create this discussion document as they are standing firm on the Farm Bill issues and positions regarding SNAP benefits.
 - iii. Once the Senate Ag Committee passes a version of the Farm Bill, it proceeds to the Senate Floor.
 - iv. Both chambers must pass the final bill before it's sent to the President for signature.
 - v. House's proposal for the Farm Bill
 1. A few very important wins for organic:
 - a. Better data for organic dairy
 - b. Authorization of the Organic Transitions Program
 - c. Higher payment limits for the EQIP Organic Initiative
 - d. Support for regionally adopted seeds & breeds
 - e. Local food system investments
 - f. Removed the shield for pesticide companies
 2. However, the House version did fall short for organic in many ways. Now is the time to tell your Senators to:
 - a. Increase funding for the USDA National Organic Program (NOP).
 - b. Provide meaningful organic certification cost-share support.



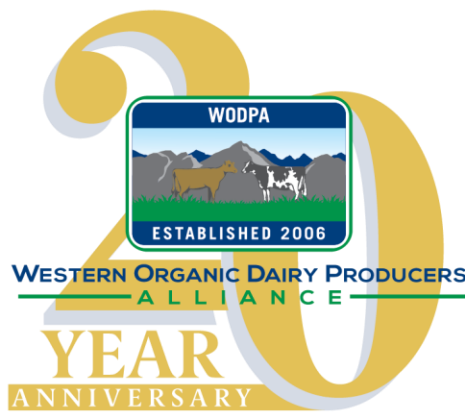
- c. Help organic farms reach new markets.
 - d. Protect against organic import fraud.
- vi. Senate's released Discussion Draft
 - 1. The Senate Ag Committee has now released a discussion draft of their proposed "Farm Bill 2.0". In some areas, it improves on the Farm Bill passed by the House earlier this year but it still falls short on what the organic industry needs.
 - 2. This draft does NOT include:
 - a. Better data for organic dairy
 - b. Provide meaningful organic certification cost-share support.
 - c. Increase mandatory funding for organic research
 - d. investments needed to help farmers transition to organic and expand domestic markets
 - 3. However, the Senate version does include:
 - a. Increase funding for the USDA National Organic Program (NOP).
 - b. Strengthening verification of high-risk organic imports
 - c. creates a process for considering risk- based oversight approach
- 2. New World Screwworm
 - i. What Organic Farmers need to know and what their treatment options are
 - 1. [New World Screwworm update edited.pdf](#)
 - 2. Created educational fliers for farmers in both English & Spanish
 - a. <https://wodpa.com/current-news>
 - 3. Currently 31 confirmed cases in beef (Texas), sheep (Texas) and a dog (New Mexico)

B. Letter Sign- Ons:

- 1. Letter of Support for OTA – “Supporting the Domestic Organic Investment Act (DOIA)”

C. Farmer Resources & Financial Opportunities:

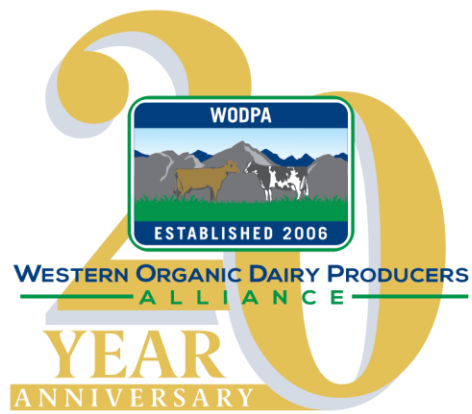
- 1. Organic Cost Share Program funds released for 2025 & 2026 program years – must apply by December 31st.
 - i. [Organic Certification Cost Share Program \(OCCSP\) | Farm Service Agency](#)
- 2. Dairy Plus Program (CDFA)
 - i. [CDFA - OARS - Dairy Plus Program](#)
- 3. Organic Dairy Exemption Request Form : [AMS-15 - Organic Exemption Request Form | Agricultural Marketing Service \(usda.gov\)](#)



4. USDA Invests \$65 Million for Projects that Help Farmers Improve their Operations and Conserve Natural Resources through Science and Innovation
 - i. [Thanks to Working Families Tax Cuts Act, USDA Invests \\$65 Million for Projects that Help Farmers Improve their Operations and Conserve Natural Resources through Science and Innovation | Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)
 - ii. For fiscal 2026, NRCS is investing \$50 million for CIG On-Farm Trials and \$15 million for CIG Classic.
 - iii. This year's priorities for CIG On-Farm Trials are:
 1. Irrigation water management technologies;
 2. Nutrient management;
 3. Grazing lands; and
 4. Soil health demonstration trials.
 - iv. This year's priorities for CIG Classic are:
 1. Water management;
 2. Conserving ecosystems by managing pest pressure;
 3. Soil;
 4. Habitat improvement; and
 5. Farmer-focused conservation outcomes.
 - v. Applications are being accepted now through July 27, 2026.
5. **Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP)**
6. **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm- Raised Fish (ELAP)**
7. **Mercaris/ Argus update:**
 - i. Mercaris/Argus collecting statements for Q2 2026 (April, May, June)
 - ii. Send statements to AgData@ArgusMedia.com
 - iii. All organic dairy producers can submit statements. Only paid- in WODPA members can see the survey results.
8. **National Organic Farmer Education Network (NOFEN)**
 - i. <https://organicfarmersassociation.org/organic-events/>
9. Common Organic System Plan
 - i. [The Organic System Plan | Agricultural Marketing Service](#)

D. Reminders:

1. The 26th 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](#)



2. WODPA's 20th Anniversary WODPA Conference & Trade Show
 - ii. October 27 – 28, 2026 in Chico, CA
 - iii. [CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW](#)