

the Integrity

Newsletter of the Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (WODPA)

SPRING 2019

President's Message

Greetings from California's Northern San Joaquin Valley. As your new WODPA President, I look forward to working with your WODPA board to lead our organization to continue to preserve, protect and insure the sustainability and integrity of Western Organic Dairy Farmers.

WODPA has become a force and spokesperson for all of organic dairy in Washington D.C.; at the NOP, at the NOSB meetings and anywhere else that is needed. Richard Mathews, retiring Executive Director, and past president's Sean Mallet and Andrew Dykstra, have seen to this for the past six years. Where it can, WODPA has worked in conjunction with others, as we see in the combined effort to get the NOP to enforce against the Idaho State Certifying Agency. In other matters, WODPA has stood alone, as in its position against the transitional label.

When we started this organization 13 years ago in Santa Nella, CA, we could only hope we would reach the point where WODPA is viewed today, where when WODPA and Richard Mathews talk, people in the organic world LISTEN!!!! This is a tremendous Position.

Reality for all of us is that our Organic Milk Industry is at a crossroads. Organic Dairy men face huge challenges; first and foremost an oversupply, a lowering of demand and downward pressure of price for organic milk products, especially fluid organic milk. The big question is will large retailers prevail with their idea of cost/plus pricing or conventional/plus premium pricing or will our organic milk industry be able to maintain its own structured milk pricing systems under which we have succeeded and then struggled with for the last 15 years. Our hearts go out to all those who are facing difficult financial times and for those who have had to leave our industry.

At the core of lower demand for organic milk is the question about integrity of the organic milk industry from dairy men to feed suppliers to certifiers. WODPA is

CalCAN Grants: California has a relatively new grants program to fund dry manure management strategies and increased pasturing. This is an effort to reduce methane emissions on livestock operations, called the Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP). The program gives out grants of up to \$750,000 for improvements such as compost pack barns, solid separators and compost infrastructure. So far, it has provided a total of \$31 million in grants to 57 dairies. To learn more about CalCAN and California's grant programs to incentivize farmers and ranchers to use climate smart practices, see www.calclimateag.org.

leading the charge for enforcement of NOP's rules and will continue to do so.

Your board and officers are committed to this end and to addressing all of the other important issues for Western Organic Dairy Producers. But we need your continued financial support.

We send out a huge thank you to all - one cent and per head contributors. Because of this support, WODPA is able to be tremendously effective as a national voice for the organic milk industry and organics. For those of you who have not supported WODPA Financially, please start today, we need all of you.

On behalf of this organization, many thanks to past president Sean Mallet, 1st vice-president Tim Miranda, and retiring board member Mario Avelar, for their time, effort, and support as well as their invaluable energy and input while serving on the WODPA board. I want to extend a special thank you to Richard Mathews for his tireless and magnificent support of the Organic Dairy Industry, especially over the last 6-years.

WODPA salutes you Richard!

Sincerely,



Ward Burroughs, President



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WODPA Working For You:

- Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) Issue
- Origin of Livestock
- Pasture Enforcement
- Dairy Compliance Project: Year 1
- National List Amendments
- WODPA is committed to addressing the following 2019 priorities:
 - Continuing our efforts for improved and consistent pasture enforcement.
 - Advocating for publication of the Origin of Livestock final rule to end the practice of continuous transition of conventional dairy animals on organic operations.
 - Advocating for the elimination of unforeseen livestock regulatory defects (real or fabricated), that allow practices that undermine organic integrity and organic dairy sustainability.
 - Commenting and advocating for dairymen on all proposed changes to the National List of approved livestock materials.
 - Identifying and working to resolve issues impacting organic dairy sustainability.
 - Supporting removal of the word “MILK” from plant based products.
 - Growing membership and program support.

POLICY UPDATE

Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) Issue

ISDA is allowing organic dairy producers to declare calves born of organic mothers to be conventional for the purposes of raising them conventionally for later transition back to organic. By doing so ISDA is violating several provisions of the NOP regulations and is allowing numerous violations of the regulations by their certified dairy producers.

WODPA filed complaint with NOP.

NOP refused to take corrective action claiming:

“Because of the unresolved regulatory issues related to the Origin of Livestock standards, the USDA is not taking enforcement action against ISDA with this case.”

WODPA brought the issue to the attention of:

- Kate Mendenhall, Director, Organic Farmers Association (OFA)
- Jennifer Cruse, Coordinator, Accredited Certifiers Association (ACA)
- Johanna Mirenda, Farm Policy Director, Organic Trade Association (OTA),
- Gwendolyn Wyard, Vice President of Regulatory & Technical Affairs, OTA,
- Laura Batcha, CEO/Executive Director, OTA.
- Abby Youngblood, Executive Director, National Organic Coalition (NOC)

Due to WODPA’s efforts all 4 organizations are united with WODPA in calling for publication of the Origin of Livestock Final Rule.

Origin of Livestock

The Committee on Appropriations’ report in explanation of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies fiscal year 2020 appropriations includes the following language:

“Origin of Livestock Regulations.—The Committee is concerned by USDA’s delay in issuing final guidance regarding the origin of organic livestock. In 2015, USDA issued a proposed rule to clarify regulations around the origin of livestock while still allowing a onetime transition of a conventional herd to organic. *(Continued on page 3)*

While there was widespread support from the organic industry, USDA did not issue a final rule. This has caused a lack of uniform enforcement by USDA and direct economic harm for organic farmers. The bill requires USDA to issue a final rule within 180 days of enactment of this Act.”

The House Appropriations Committee draft fiscal year 2020 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies funding bill, Section 756, contains the following language:

“SEC. 756. Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue a final rule based on the proposed rule entitled “National Organic Program; Origin of Livestock,” published in the Federal Register on April 28, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 23455): Provided, That the final rule shall incorporate public comments submitted in response to the proposed rule.”

Congress is still early in the appropriations process.

- The Origin of livestock language is positive.
- The requirement to publish the origin of livestock final rule is addressed in the appropriations bill and the report language, giving it more weight.
- In the past report language requirements have not received USDA follow through. Including the requirement in both documents should help with USDA follow through.

Possible USDA roadblocks:

- The Executive Order requiring removal of 2 rules before publication of a new rule.
- The Federal rulemaking regulatory impact analysis.

National List Amendments

Since December 2018, USDA has taken the below, dairy related, National List final rule actions. If you have questions concerning any of the listed materials please contact your certifying agent. Contact your certifying agent before starting to use any material not previously listed in your approved organic system plan.

Ivermectin

USDA has removed Ivermectin from the National List as an allowed parasiticide. Implementation of the prohibition is effective December 27, 2019.

Parasiticides, Fenbendazole, and Moxidectin USDA has reduced milk withholding from 90 days to 2 days and added use for treatment of goats, sheep and other dairy species. *Effective January 28, 2019.*

Sodium chlorite, acidified

For use on organic livestock as a teat dip treatment only. *Added to Sections 205.603(a) and (b). Effective January 28, 2019.*

Elemental Sulfur—for treatment of livestock and livestock housing. For use as a topical pesticide treatment to repel mites, fleas, and ticks from livestock and livestock living quarters. *Added to Section 205.603(b). Effective May 30, 2019.*

Sodium chlorite, acidified

For use on organic livestock as a teat dip treatment only. *Added to Sections 205.603(a) and (b). Effective January 28, 2019.*

Pasture Enforcement

Dairy Compliance Project: Year 1 USDA information reported April 23, 2019

Process	Policy Outcomes	Compliance Outcomes
Players: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMS Auditors • NOP Compliance Specialists • Office of Inspector General • USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Services • Certifiers Unannounced Visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationwide • Single and multi-day 2019 visits started week of April 21!	Training Needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining the regional grazing season • Reviewing justifications for breaks in the grazing season • Crop rotations and natural resource management • Access to shade, water source 	All Operations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated at least 120 days of grazing • All cows got 30% DMI from pasture in season • Some operations had other correctable issues • Where supported by the evidence, investigations are ongoing (operations /certifiers) • Civil penalty levied against a livestock operation

Zinc sulfate

For use in hoof and foot treatments only. This addition allows zinc sulfate to be used in a footbath for control of foot rot in livestock, primarily dairy cattle, sheep and goats. Adding zinc sulfate provides an additional tool to treat foot disease and aids animal welfare. *Added to Section 205.603(b). Effective January 28, 2019.*

Other New Additions effective January 28, 2019.

Activated Charcoal
 Calcium Borogluconate
 Calcium Propionate
 Hypochlorous acid
 Kaolin pectin
 Mineral oil
 Nutritive supplements—Propylene glycol

Other Annotation Amendments effective January 28, 2019.

Chlorhexidine
 Xylazine
 Lidocaine
 Procaine
 Excipients

Details available at www.wodpa.com

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. Producer Sponsors as of 5/31/2019.

1.50 per Milking Cow Participants

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Double M Dairy, LLC
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McClure Dairy, Inc.
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