



## Organic Dairy Market Overview

Agricultural Marketing Service  
Dairy Market News

Report 20

May 17, 2024

MMN Slug ID 1592 / Slug Name: MD\_DA900

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The Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) was formed through cooperative agreements between the USDA and non-profit organizations to provide technical assistance and support for transitioning and existing organic farmers. A calendar of events held by partner organizations can be found at the following link: <https://www.organictransition.org/events/>

A selection of upcoming events is included below:

Regenerative Agriculture Intensive Day 4 - Anthony, NM - May 18

Ranchfest 2024, Tombstone AZ - May 18

WVU Extension's National Farm Viability Conference, Charleston, WV - May 24-26

Alabama CRAFT's Added-Value Products & Farm Tour, Blountsville, AL, May 26

Barnyard Banter: Monthly Technical Assistance, Virtual Discussion - May 26

MOFGA's Livestock Handling and Animal Health, Albion, ME - May 28

Florida Organic Growers' Preparing for your Organic Inspection, Virtual Workshop - May 30

NYC CRAFT's Transitioning to Organic Certification, Chester, NY - May 30

The USDA AMS National Organic Program (NOP) provides an email notification service to send out updates to the organic community. The Organic Insider sent out on May 16th stated the Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) is seeking to improve tools used to connect new and transitioning organic producers with interested buyers. As part of TOPP the NOP has partnered with the Organic Trade Association and the Rodale Institute to help connect organic producers and buyers throughout the country. To provide input to this program, or to read more from the Organic Insider, view archives, or register to receive updates by email visit: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/reports/organic-insider>

The USDA recently announced an additional \$24.8 million dollars in funding awarded to 23 grant projects through the Organic Market Development Grant Program (OMDG). This year fundings has been announced for 93 projects totaling 75.2 million dollars. One project awarded in May is in Alabama, which aims to increase output and reduce costs for a small organic dairy processing plant and to expand market access for current and transitioning organic producers in the area. Another project, in California, aims to expand the processing of a local dairy and increase revenues for organic farmers in the region by enabling the processor to install new equipment and double processing capacity for certain commodities. In Iowa, a project received funding to expand production capacity for a variety of organic commodities which would enable them to increase the volume of organic milk sourced from producers in Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

The USDA Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, recently announced an additional \$10 million in funding to expand markets for organic products and to help producers transition to organic productions. This funding will create programs supporting new and better markets for organic products, create training opportunities for transitioning farmers, and the financial burden of organic certification. The secretary noted that reducing the cost burden for transitioning farmers will help farmers margins and increase access for consumers. The secretary further noted this would reduce the need of the organic industry to rely on imported products and address critical infrastructure needs, while aiding small and mid-size producers.

The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) is seeking nominations to fill five vacant spots, with terms beginning in January 2025. Board members represent specific sectors of the organic community and serve a 5-year term. Applications are due by June 28, 2024 and can be submitted electronically or by mail postmarked by the due date. More information about the current board openings, duties of board members, or application visit the following link: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/nosb/nomination-process>

Information for the period May 6 - 17, 2024, issued biweekly



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