

Organic Dairy Market Overview

Agricultural Marketing Service Dairy Market News

Report 42

October 18, 2024

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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:

OFRF's Farmer-Led Trials Applications Open from October 14 - December 1
IOA's How to Apply for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program Webinar, virtual - October 19
MOA's Transition to Organic Farm Tour and Panel Discussion, Jamestown, MO - October 20
NOC's National TOPP Fall Meeting, Portland, OR - October 21
NABC's SE Asian Farmers Info Session, Kirkland Washington - October 26
Rodale's Fall into Soil Health: Field Walk, Glenwood, GA - October 28
Grow Pittsburgh's Urban Farms: Certifying Organic, One Step at a Time, Pittsburgh, PA - October 29
Rutgers Gardens' Soil Health, Fertility, and Conservation Workshop, New Brunswick, NJ - October 30
CDA's Organic Field Day and Workshop at Brightwood Farm, Durango, CO - November 1
FOG's Organic Research Innovations and Solutions for Florida Farmers, Citra, FL - November 1

The USDA's National Organic Standard Board (NOSB) is meeting in Portland Oregon October 20 - 22 to discuss petitions regarding the addition or removal of substances from the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances, substances due to be removed from the list in 2026, and recommended changes to organic policies. The NOSB takes comments from the public and usually schedules meetings twice a year in various locations throughout the country. The NOSB will discuss agenda items and vote on recommendations to make to the Secretary of Agriculture. To find more information about this meeting or other upcoming NOSB meetings visit: https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/nosb/meetings

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 November 15 discussed the upcoming NOSB meeting. This update further noted the NOSB provides an update before meetings and the NOP Fall 2024 is available in the Organic Integrity Learning Center. Links to the presentation and to access the Learning Center were included for interested parties. To read more about the Organic Certification Interest Form, view archives, or register to receive updates by email visit: https://www.ams.usda.gov/reports/organic-insider

The USDA recently announced \$11.04 million in funds have been provided through the Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives (DBI) to support dairy businesses and producers. This includes \$690,000 in funding being made available to help farmers gain access to higher-value uses for milk, including organic dairy production, this initiative includes a training program which aims to keep dairy businesses competitive by providing access to more diverse markets. To learn more about the DBI visit: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/dbi

The Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory recently published a report regarding new technology they developed which can convert dairy wastewater into biofuel and greatly reduce carbon emissions in jets. This publication noted biofuel is a popular method to reduce carbon emissions in certain sectors of the economy heavily reliant of fossil fuels. The new technology from Argonne strips organic carbons from waste streams, which are often difficult to cost-effectively treat. The Argonne publication noted greenhouse gas emissions from aviation could be reduced by 70 percent utilizing this new technology.

A recent study, which utilized publicly available data and included interviews with organic farmers and subject matter experts, aimed to better understand where USDA programs provide insufficient support to farmers and understand what obstacles farmers feel hinder their success. Surveyed farmers who utilized the USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) noted the knowledge of USDA employees they worked with significantly affected how they felt about these programs. The study highlighted barriers organic farmers encountered and noted incorporating organic farmers into existing USDA programs made designed around conventional farming has been ineffective in supporting organic producers. The study suggests the USDA should better train employees regarding organic production or create a program with subject matter experts who can help farmers obtain aid offered by current USDA programs.



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