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:
CT NOFA's Energy Efficiency on the Farm, East Haddam, CT - May 05
Oxbow Farm Cover Crop and Farming for Conservation Field Day, Carnation, WA - May 11
CT NOFA's Soul Health Assessment 3 Ways, Naugatuck, CT - May 11
TOPP's Taking the Worry Out of Inspection, Virtual Workshop - May 14
NOFA NY's Rotational Grazing, Draft Power, and Medicinal Herbs, Marathon, NY - May 14
NOFA/Mass’s Demystifying Organic Certification: Record Keeping, Virtual Workshop - May 15
NOFA-NH’s Farmers Organic Roundtable, Virtual Workshop - May 16
MH CRAFT's Cover Cropping, Poughkeepsie, NY - May 16

The USDA AMS National Organic Program (NOP) provides an email notification service to send out updates to the organic community. The NOP solicits public comments regarding new rules, one part of the May 1 Organic Insider included a training titled Writing an Effective Public Comment. This training was made to aid those who would like to participate in the organic standards process. To read previously released Organic Insiders visit the following link: https://www.ams.usda.gov/reports/organic-insider

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

The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) releases monthly export data which includes export volumes and values for organic milk categorized as HS-10 code 0401201000. Recently released data for March 2024 indicated organic milk exports were 132,223 liters, down 44.0 percent from the month prior, and down 18.9 percent from 2023. Exports of organic milk from the start of the year through March are up 7.3 percent, compared to the same time period one year ago.

Information for the period April 22 - May 3, 2024, issued biweekly