

DAIRY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT | 2024

The Organic Trade Association’s **Dairy Council** gives members in the dairy industry an organized and ongoing forum for discussing organic-specific dairy issues, challenges, and opportunities. It seeks to work together to grow the organic industry and to utilize the Organic Trade Association member community system for networking and problem solving. The Dairy Council brings together farmers, handlers, processors, and manufacturers to discuss ideas around promotion, research, and education; to vocalize the sector’s benefits; to identify opportunities for continuous improvements and advance solutions; and to advocate for dairy policy.

Council Highlights | 2024

- Secured advancement of the final USDA Organic Dairy Market Assistance Program sign-up, delivering over \$31 million to hundreds of organic dairy farmers.
- Led pre-competitive dialogue across the supply chain to identify challenges and inform OTA’s policy and advocacy work.
- Engaged on key regulatory and policy issues, including Federal Milk Marketing Orders, NOP Board seats, tariffs, certification cost-share, and the Dairy Margin Coverage Program.
- Addressed on-farm realities such as rightsizing organic inspections and the financial pressures of inflation on family farms and processors.



**For more information
check out the Dairy
Council feature on
OTA’s News Center here**



Council Priorities | 2025-2026



- Advance favorable organic dairy measures in both legislative and administrative arenas.
- Deepen understanding of organic dairy opportunities and challenges for consumers and retailers.
- Grow participation and engagement within the Council.

Why participate?



OTA’s Dairy Council is a dedicated space for farmers, processors, brands, and policy professionals across the organic dairy supply chain to collaborate on both short-term and long-term challenges and opportunities. The Council serves as a forum to discuss dairy trends, policy developments, and market dynamics in a pre-competitive environment where information is shared openly and strategically. By participating, members not only stay informed but also help guide how the organic trade approaches key issues, ensuring the sector remains resilient, collaborative, and forward-looking.

COUNCIL MEMBERS



**ORGANIC
TRADE
ASSOCIATION**

The Dairy Council is led by Chair Adam Warthesen (Organic Valley) and Vice Chair Blake Alexandre (Alexandre Family Farm). If you are interested in joining the Council, please contact Danielle Cote (DCote@ota.com).