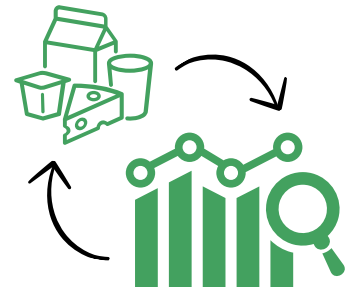


The organic dairy industry has a unique supply chain and challenges. From foreign wars to transportation issues and adverse weather, ranging from drought and flooding, world events are impacting feedstuff costs. These rising costs have created a dire economic situation for organic dairy farmers across the U.S. in recent years – leading to closures of farms and difficult economic circumstances.

Congress, the Department of Agriculture, farmers and other stakeholders need the necessary data to understand the challenges organic dairies face to support policies that better protect this vital sector. If not addressed with effective and appropriate policies based on accurate data, these closures will have lasting, devastating impacts on the organic dairy sector and diminish the ability of domestic organic dairy to meet the demands of consumers in the marketplace for years to come.



The bipartisan Organic Dairy Collection Act (H.R. 6937):

- ✓ Directs USDA to collect and publish cost-of-production data for organic milk, including the costs of major organic feedstuffs, domestically produced or imported;
- ✓ Directs USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to gather and report monthly data on the price of organic milk;
- ✓ Directs USDA NASS, the Economic Research Service (ERS) or Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to publish reports on state and regional data on the cost and volume of organic milk production.

By having accurate and timely data available, Congress and USDA can make critical policy decisions which may affect the organic domestic dairy industry's ability to survive. Without this information, the agency can only estimate needs using data on conventional dairies, which proved to be insufficient during the roll out of the Organic Dairy Market Assistance Program and led to a significant underestimation of the costs incurred by organic producers.

The information collected by USDA under this legislation has applications beyond dairy, as other commodities could track feedstock costs as well. This is only the first step in data collection for organic - as organic continues to grow, having accurate data will become more crucial as Congress drafts policies and direct federal resources.

## ➤ ENDORSERS



## ➤ COSPONSORS

- ★ Rep. Chellie Pingree [D-ME-1]
- ★ Rep. Molinaro, Marcus J. [R-NY-19]
- ★ Rep. Van Orden, Derrick [R-WI-3]
- Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]
- Rep. Craig, Angie [D-MN-2]

★ = original sponsors

**For more information, contact:**  
**Matthew Dillon, Co-Chief Executive Officer**  
 mdillon@ota.com • (202) 539-7674  
 444 N. Capitol St. NW, Suite 445A, Washington D.C. 20001  
 OTA.com • @OrganicTrade