

**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 benefits of the sector; to identify opportunities for continuous improvements and advance solutions; and to advocate for dairy policy.

"The real strength of OTA's Dairy Sector Council comes from how it brings together a diversity of voices from across the organic dairy supply chain, from farmers to processors and manufacturers. We're able to leverage our collective strengths to advocate for a fair and level playing field for all organic dairy producers and identify solutions that will make our sector stronger overall."

– Britt Lundgren, Stonyfield Organic (Chair)

### Highlights from 2021:

- Continued forward progress on the Council's goals to advocate for clear regulations and consistent enforcement of organic dairy standards. Two significant ways they advocated were helping to inform comments for the Spring 2021 NOSB sunset review and closely monitoring the Origin of Livestock rulemaking process and advocating for a final rule.
- The Council also helped in evaluating the impact of Federal Milk Marketing Orders (FMMO) and other proposed changes on the organic dairy sector. The current FMMO structure continues to disadvantage organic producers who are required to pay into the program without benefitting from it.
- This past year also was challenging for the sector, with particular attention to the northeastern United States. The Council dedicated time to discussing solutions and evaluating how to prevent similar outcomes in the future, resulting in a letter to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack outlining these potential solutions. With members representing farmers, processors, and manufacturers, the group is uniquely positioned to advocate now and in the future for solutions to grow the sector.

## Looking Ahead to 2022:

- Improving consumer and trade awareness about benefits of organic dairy through communications materials to improve messaging, participating in future research on consumer health, develop talking points on the benefits around benefits to human health and climate change, and other educational opportunities.
- Opening lines of communication between the Dairy Council and organic farmers and stakeholders across the country, increase participation in dairy council.
- Initiating a research agenda to highlight the attributes of organic dairy and leverage solutions to persistent challenges.
- Advocating for clear regulations and consistent enforcement of organic standards and policy that directly impacts certified organic dairy operations.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS



Fagundes Bros.  
Dairy



Sheffer's  
Grassland Dairy  
LLC

K-n-R Farms  
Organics



The Dairy Council is led by Chair Britt Lundgren (Stonyfield Organic), Vice Chair Adam Warthesen (Organic Valley), and Secretary Perry Clutts (Pleasantview Farm). OTA's International and Government Affairs Associate, Laura Holm serves as staff liaison to the Dairy Council, with support from Vice President of Government Affairs, Megan DeBates. To join the Council, please contact Laura (lholm@ota.com).



### Headquarters

444 N. Capitol St. NW, Suite 445A, Washington, DC 20001 (202) 403-8520  
OTA.com | info@ota.com | @OrganicTrade

### Locations

Washington, D.C. | Brattleboro, VT | Santa Cruz, CA | Corvallis, OR