

Value Added Labels

WHEREAS Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (WODPA) recognizes that the USDA “Certified Organic” Label represents the highest standard for true organic food products,

And

WHEREAS the National Organic Program (NOP) contains and enforces a high standard for animal welfare as a vital part of the USDA Certified Organic Label program,

And

WHEREAS Other “Value-added” labels and programs could distract or mislead the food consumer ,

And

WHEREAS the USDA Certified Organic Label requires 3rd Party, nationally standardized, independent verification,

Therefore be it resolved that Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance strongly recommends that all retailers and processors use and promote the USDA Certified Organic label as the premiere dairy product standard.

Proxy Vote

Consensus from the floor discussion seemed to lean toward requiring members to attend the Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance Conference or meeting to be eligible to vote – no changes will be made to the bylaws at this time.

USDA/Aurora Organic Dairy Issues

- Press Release – Aurora
- USDA Letter – 14 violations are recorded
- Emergency Press Release from USDA – consent agreement
- FOOD Farmers Letter to USDA
- FOOD Farmers Press Release

Pasture Ruling

WHEREAS Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance believes that specified grazing standards are critical to the success of the organic dairy industry,

And

WHEREAS the organic dairy consumer expects milk produced under the USDA Certified Organic Label comes from cows that are consuming pasture as a significant component of the diet,

And

WHEREAS the current National Organic Program (NOP) standards for pasture access is vague and difficult to enforce,

THEREFORE be it resolved that Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance strongly supports the 120 days of pasture grazing with a minimum of 30% dry matter intake come from grazing pasture.

Heifer Replacement

WHEREAS the current National Organic Program regulation on heifer replacement is vague and complex,

And

WHEREAS organic dairy consumers expect that organic replacements have been raised under organic management from the last 1/3 of gestation,

And

WHEREAS organic dairy producers need to manage all replacement females under the same regulatory guidelines,

THEREFORE be it resolved that Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance support changing the current National Organic Program guidelines to include a mandatory requirement for replacements to come from cows organically managed from last 1/3 of gestation, and a one-time exemption for transitioning dairies.

Website Update

The new WODPA web site will post pertinent, timely industry information that is discussed and released from O-Dairy.

<http://www.csuchico.edu/agr/wodpa>