

PROTECTING AND DEFENDING OHIO'S DAIRY COMMUNITY



OHIO
DAIRY
PRODUCERS
ASSOCIATION

ODPA is a membership organization that works to protect and defend Ohio's dairy farmers on important state and federal issues including milk pricing, environmental policy, school milk, fair trade, taxes and more. ODPA is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of Ohio dairy farmers and dairy organizations.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY HIGHLIGHTS:

Questions? Call Scott Higgins at 614.890.1425 or visit ODPA.org

Seeking Milk Pricing Solutions

The ODPA board is reviewing alternative milk pricing solutions to the Federal Milk Marketing Order system.

A committee of the ODPA board is looking closely at the proposals of the American Farm Bureau, NMPF, IDFA and other dairy organizations throughout the U.S.

ODPA intends to host several virtual meetings for farmers to introduce solutions, gather feedback and answer questions about the recommended changes.

ODPA will work with Ohio's Congressional Delegation to advance agreed-upon milk pricing improvements through USDA.

BACKGROUND: *USDA will not entertain any FMMO milk pricing changes until the dairy industry brings forward universally accepted proposals.*

Supporting & Opposing Legislation

ODPA is closely following the Ohio Governor and U.S. Senate races. Staff and board members are interacting with candidates to expand their knowledge of farming.

Conversations are occurring with our two newly elected U.S. House Ag Committee representatives, Rep. Shontel Brown and Rep. Troy Balderson, to enlighten them about the needs of the dairy industry and advocate for federal policies that support Ohio's dairy farm families.

ODPA advocated for House Bill 95 which authorizes a nonrefundable income tax credit for beginning farmers or those who sell or rent farmland, livestock, buildings or equipment to beginning farmers.

BACKGROUND: *ODPA serves as a collective voice to address state and federal issues, providing input to state agency leadership and the Governor's office and testifying to support or oppose legislation.*

Serving as a Proactive Voice

ODPA nominated Nathan Steiner, dairy farmer and veterinarian, to serve on the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board. As a result, he was appointed by Governor DeWine to serve a 3 year term.

John Douglass, dairy farmer and ODPA board member, serves on the pain management sub-committee of the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board.

ODPA recruited the Ohio Dairy Veterinarians group to testify before the Ohio Senate Finance Committee requesting additional funding to increase staff and equipment at the ODA laboratory. As a result, a funding increase was achieved for 2022-23.

BACKGROUND: *ODPA staff work behind the scenes to communicate, educate and serve as a voice for dairy farmers to thought leaders and policy makers on critical issues that affect dairy farm families.*

Defending Environmental Efforts

On behalf of the Ohio Agriculture Conservation Initiative (OACI), ODPA provided testimony to the House and Senate Ag Committees demonstrating how dairy farmers are working to improve Ohio's waterways and reduce nutrient runoff.

As a result, Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson, who is the former Mayor of Toledo, invited OACI to share agriculture's conservation progress in NW Ohio. This is a win because her constituents have been historically negative towards agriculture.

ODPA represents dairy farmers on the Harmful Algal Bloom Research Initiative to ensure that reasonable methods are used to determine the projected effect of manure best management practices.

BACKGROUND: *ODPA is a member and leader of OACI and works with H2Ohio to help farmers finance water quality and soil health best management practices.*