

# 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](http://ODPA.org)

### Seeking Milk Pricing Solutions

ODPA reviewed numerous alternative milk pricing solutions to the Federal Milk Marketing Order system.

ODPA took action to support the milk pricing modernization proposals of NMPF and AFBF. ODPA submitted a letter of recommendation to USDA to be entered into the FMMO hearing considerations.

ODPA hosts virtual meetings for farmers to hear more about the milk pricing solutions, gather feedback and answer questions about the recommended changes.

ODPA works with Ohio's Congressional Delegation to advance agreed-upon milk pricing improvements through USDA and the FARM Bill.

**BACKGROUND:** *The FMMO milk pricing system needs modernized. ODPA seeks to partner with key dairy and farm organizations to advance a universally supported proposal to USDA.*

### Supporting & Opposing Legislation

ODPA works closely with Governor DeWine, Ohio legislators and US House and Senate members to expand their knowledge of dairy farming and address issues that impact dairy farmers.

ODPA meets with Ohio's two U.S. House Ag Committee representatives, Rep. Brown and Rep. Miller, to advocate for a FARM Bill and federal policies that support Ohio's dairy farm families. ODPA board member Mark Dotterer serves on Congressman Miller's Ag Advisory Council.

ODPA advocated for the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act which would expand milk options served in schools. All 15 of Ohio's U.S. Representatives voted to support the legislation! The bill is in the Senate, awaiting action.

**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 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 to testify before the Ohio Senate Finance Committee requesting additional funding to increase staff and equipment at the ODA lab. As a result, funding was increased and the new Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory will be operational in 2026.

**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 she and 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 and USDA/NRCS to help farmers finance water quality and soil health best management practices.*