

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

Pursuing a Growth Strategy for Ohio Dairy

ODPA is pursuing the support of the Ohio General Assembly for financial assistance to inspire the expansion and growth of Ohio's dairy processing companies. It is essential that Ohio maintain a vibrant and growing dairy processing community for dairy farmers to sell their milk to.

ODPA staff and dairy farmer leaders are meeting with the Ohio Department of Agriculture to explore improvements in the dairy farm CAFF permitting process. The goals are to eliminate ambiguity in the permit application process, improve the permit requirements to help farmers expand more timely and efficiently, and outline a clear pathway for herd growth to meet growing demand for milk in this region.

BACKGROUND: Ohio's dairy industry has not grown in milk production and manufacturing as other nearby states. ODPA is leading the way on a growth strategy to increase milk production to meet the growing demand for milk and dairy foods.

Supporting & Opposing Legislation

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

ODPA meets with Ohio's U.S. House Ag Committee representatives, Rep. David Taylor and Rep. Shontel Brown, to advocate for a FARM Bill and federal policies that support Ohio's dairy farm families.

ODPA serves on Rep. Troy Balderson's Agriculture Advisory Committee.

ODPA advocated for the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act to expand milk options served in schools. All 15 of Ohio's U.S. Representatives supported 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, along with Ohio's livestock and ag organizations, continues to meet with Governor DeWine, state agency leadership and elected officials to push back on any movements that would increase regulations on manure management.

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.

ODPA advocated for continued funding of H2Ohio in the 2026-2027 state budget. While funding levels were cut slightly, Ohio's General Assembly maintained funding for agriculture practices. ODPA continues to advise ODA on manure utilization and distribution best management practices.

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.