



Organic Dairy Assistance, Investment, and Reporting Yields Act (O DAIRY) Act of 2025

Introduced By: Senators Peter Welch (D-Vt.); Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.); Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.); Cory Booker (D-N.J.)

Background:

Organic dairy farmers face persistent economic pressures due to spiking production costs without a matching milk price increase. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), small commercial farms with 10-199 milk cows declined by [37% in recent decades](#), with more farms leaving the industry since then due to a variety of economic pressures. The decline of smaller dairy farms has [shifted a large portion of milk production](#) to farms with larger operations (with 1,000 or more cows) due to their lower average operating costs.

As a result, some small farms have transitioned to organic production, which involves a significant upfront investment and adherence to USDA organic guidelines. These guidelines include a 3-year transition period, abstaining from antibiotic use for herd health, providing pasture access to cows, and using feed grown without the use of fertilizers and pesticides.

However, as organic producers strive to meet these guidelines, they face significant and unique increases in their marketing costs, compounded by increases in feed and transportation costs and the limited availability of organic feed. Without assistance, small organic dairies will continue to decline, impacting the well-being of our rural communities.

Legislation:

The *O Dairy Act* will bolster the United States' organic dairy industry by supporting small organic producers as they face volatile market shifts, higher production costs, unstable feed supply and prices, and other challenges that have created unique hardships. The bill would extend emergency assistance to organic dairy farmers facing losses, including any time a farm's net income decreases by over 10% in any given year, and invest \$25 million annually in dairy infrastructure investments, research and innovation.

The legislation also calls for increased organic industry data collection that will be shared with farmers so they can plan better. Additionally, the bill would direct USDA to study the viability of an organic safety net program, which would get aid to farmers faster when disasters hit in the future.

Supporting Organizations:

The *O DAIRY Act* has the broad support of farms, dairy cooperatives, producers and associations across the country, including the Organic Farmers Association, Northeast Organic Farmers Association-Vermont, Northeast Organic Farmers Association-New York, the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance, Straus Family Creamery, the Northeast Organic Dairy Producers' Association, the National Organic Coalition, and the Center for Food Safety.