

# **FOOD Farmers**

**Federation Of Organic Dairy Farmers**

For Immediate Release

Contact: Ed Maltby  
NODPA Executive Director  
(413)772-0444, ednodpa@comcast.net

## **Organic Dairy Processors & Farmers Meet to Protect Organic Integrity**

(Boulder, CO - June 26th 2007) The Federation Of Organic Dairy Farmers (FOOD Farmers) hosted the first Organic Dairy summit in Boulder, CO, on Wednesday June 20<sup>th</sup>. The summit was attended by organic dairy producers representing three regional groups from across the United States — Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (NODPA), Midwest Organic Dairy Producers Association (MODPA), Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (WODPA), and major organic dairy processors and handlers including Organic Valley, Straus Family Creamery, Stonyfield Farm, Horizon Organic, Humboldt Creamery, HP Hood, Clover Stornetta, Dairy Farmers of America, Dairy Marketing Services, Aurora Organic Dairy, Radiance Dairy, and Wisconsin Organics.

The purpose of the meeting was to open a constructive dialogue that would allow producers and processors to work cooperatively to strengthen the organic dairy and pasture production standards, assuring that the USDA National Organic Program's standards remain the most comprehensive organic dairy regulations in the world.

The Organic Dairy summit attendees urge the USDA National Organic Program to publish the proposed rule detailing access to pasture immediately. This long delayed notice is needed to provide the necessary clarity and level playing field that producers and processors need to ensure the economic sustainability of their businesses, and consumer confidence in the organic seal.

"I'm proud that the organic dairy community is committed to constructive dialogue, to taking steps to strengthen the USDA National Organic Standards and to assure that consumer expectations are met" said Kelly Shea, VP of Organic Stewardship for Horizon Organic. California organic dairy producer and WODPA President Tony Azevedo echoed similar sentiments, "It was long overdue for producers and processors to sit down together and work on these issues of great importance to us all. I was pleased that we were able to meet and acknowledge just how much we were in agreement with each other on how to maintain the integrity of organic dairy and pasture standards."

The meeting participants are committed to working together to build on the positive steps taken at this initial meeting.

For more information contact: Ed Maltby, NODPA Executive Director, 413-772-0444 or ednodpa@comcast.net, or by US mail at 30 Keets Road, Deerfield, MA 01342.