

## NODPA 2011 Member Survey!

The NODPA board is reviewing its priorities for the new calendar year and is seeking input from organic and transitioning dairy producers on several important issues. Will you please take a few minutes to share your views? Space is provided at the end of the survey for sharing additional feedback. Instructions on where to send the survey are also at the end of the survey. Thank you.

1. **Please enter your zip code. It will help us analyze responses.**

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Please provide us with information about your state and email address. Phone number is optional.**

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

3. **How many cows are you milking?**

- 0-33  
 34-66,  
 67-100  
 101-200  
 201 or greater

4. **Who do you ship to? (If you are transitioning, who do you plan to ship to?)**

- Horizon Organic  
 Organic Valley  
 Other (insert the name of milk buyer)

\_\_\_\_\_

5. **How would you describe the financial condition of your business?**

- Great- paying our bills and saving for retirement  
 Good- paying the bills, but not saving for the future.  
 Fair- barely covering the direct cost of production, routine maintenance is being put off, no health insurance.  
 Poor- borrowing to stay in business, and falling behind on bills.  
 Bad- on the brink of bankruptcy, would sell out if we could.

6. **Are you satisfied with the way your milk handler does your milk sample testing for Quality and Components?**

- Yes  
 No  
 Transitioning; don't know yet

7. **Do you feel that the new pasture rule will benefit your business if it helps to control the supply of milk from feed-lot operations which were certified but were not grazing at all?**

- Yes  
 No

8. **Summer feed supply: How would you rate the pasture available for your animals in light of the new NOP pasture rule?**

- Great- plenty of quality pasture for all the animals. Meeting the new NOP standard of 30% DMI from pasture for a minimum of 120 days should be no problem.  
 Good- we can meet the new standard if we have a good season.  
 Fair- we can meet the new standards if we make some adjustments to our program and if we have a good season.  
 Poor- will have to make serious adjustments to the program like renting more land for pasture and/or contracting with other farms to graze heifers and dry cows.  
 Bad- will have to contract graze heifers and dry cows and/or cut back on the number of milk cows to meet the standard.

9. **Do you have a need for technical assistance to upgrade your pastures in order to comply with the new pasture rule?**

- Yes  
 No

10. **If YES, what kind of assistance are you needing?**

**Check all that apply:**

- Fencing, water system, laneways  
 Technical assistance (to design/implement fencing, water, laneway)  
 Advice from a mentor  
 Creating a grazing plan for my Organic System Plan  
 Capital (\$\$ for implementing)  
 Other:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**11. How do you measure your Dry Matter Intake (DMI) from pasture?**

- Subtraction Method (winter feeding ration – summer feeding ration = pasture fed)
- Pasture pre-grazing measurements (using pasture stick, rising plate, forage samples, or other dry matter measurement device)
- Nutritionist recommendation
- Educated guess
- Don't know

**12. Which resource person(s) do you turn to for making these calculations? (Check all that apply)**

- NODPA
- NRCS
- Education Branch of Certifier
- Cooperative Extension
- Private Consultant
- Fellow Producer/Peer
- I don't know my resource person

**13. Generally does your farm have animals to sell?**

- Yes we sell quality milkers or heifers every year.
- Yes but we are expanding our herd and are not selling now.
- Yes but we keep all our replacements and only sell cull cows.
- No, we keep losing cows as fast as our replacements freshen.
- No we are keeping everything and buying cows to expand
- No we are keeping everything and buying cows to maintain our herd size.

**14. Is there a premium price for organic cows and heifers in your area?**

- Yes certified organic cows are worth more in our area.
- No, they seem to be selling for about the same as conventional cows.
- I don't know

**15. Currently the NOP allows certain organic dairy operations to purchase conventional young stock and transition them for organic production. Would a new rule preventing the sale of conventional heifers to all certified organic dairy farms help your business by making your certified cows and calves worth more?**

- Yes  No  I don't know

**16. Do you support NODPA's position that the NOP should develop a rule requiring that all certified organic dairy replacements must be born from cows being managed organically from the last 1/3 of their gestation?**

- Yes  No  I don't know

**17. Do you get the NODPA News?**

- Yes  No

**18. If you don't get the NODPA News, would you like to subscribe?**

- Yes  No

To subscribe to the NODPA News, please send \$35 to the address at the bottom of the page. The NODPA News is published 6 times a year.

**19. Have you been to NODPA's Website (www.nodpa.com)?**

- Yes  No

**Do you receive the NODPA e-Newsletter? To subscribe, go to [http://nodpa.com/nl\\_email.shtml](http://nodpa.com/nl_email.shtml)**

- Yes  No

**20. Are you subscribed to the Odairy Listserv? To subscribe, go to [http://www.nodpa.com/list\\_serv.shtml](http://www.nodpa.com/list_serv.shtml)**

- Yes  No

**21. What is the most important thing NODPA could focus on to benefit your farm specifically?**

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Surveys like this help NODPA's Board of Directors better understand the needs of organic and transitioning dairy producers. Thank you for your time.

Please provide additional comments here:

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**Please send your Survey to:**

Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (NODPA)  
30 Keets Rd, Deerfield, MA 01342