

# Organic Dairy Farmer Survey: Help Us Understand Your Situation

**Dear Fellow Organic Dairy Farmers**—To help NODPA know your current situation and needs and get feedback on how we can better serve you, please fill out and return this survey. Results will be kept anonymous. Thanks!

Kathie Arnold, NODPA President

**1. What is the biggest challenge currently facing your organic dairy farm?**

---



---

**2. How is your winter supply of forage looking? (please check one)**

- Fine, with both adequate quantity and quality.
- Will have enough quantity but the quality is lacking.
- Lack enough forage to get through winter, but what I have is good quality.
- Have neither adequate quantity or quality.

**3. How does your grain picture look? (check all that apply)**

- Never feed grain.
- Have stopped / reduced (circle one) feeding grain because of the high cost.
- Grow some / all (circle which) of own grain and my crop looks poor, good, great (circle one).
- Have to buy all / some (circle one) grain. If you check this, then check the following that apply.
  - No problem with supply / price (circle one or both) of purchased organic grain.
  - Concerned about being able to find an adequate supply of organic grain.
  - Concerned about not being able to afford the high cost.
  - Other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

**4. What does the financial picture of your farm look like? (check one and add a comment if you'd like)**

- Great \_\_\_\_\_
- Good \_\_\_\_\_
- Fair \_\_\_\_\_
- Poor \_\_\_\_\_
- On the edge of financial ruin \_\_\_\_\_

**5. How does your farm's financial picture compare to previous years? (can check more than one)**

- Better
- About the same
- Worse
- The poorest financial shape since being organic
- Worse than much of the time before converting to organic production

**6. What are the top three priorities NODPA should focus on in the coming years?**

- #1 \_\_\_\_\_
- #2 \_\_\_\_\_
- #3 \_\_\_\_\_

continued on next page

Organic Dairy Farmer Survey, continued from page 21

7. Suggestions for what NODPA should do to meet those priorities.

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

8. Feedback on NODPA's performance over the last year.

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

9. Additional comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
-----

About Your Operation:

10. Are all your dairy herd replacements organically certified from the last third of gestation? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Do you currently meet the proposed access to pasture standard (a minimum of 120 days on pasture with at least 30% DM intake from pasture during the growing season)? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Do you have trouble measuring DM intake from pasture? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What year did you start shipping organic milk? \_\_\_\_\_

14. What state do you farm in? \_\_\_\_\_

15. How many organic cows do you milk? \_\_\_\_\_

To return this survey by mail, fold on the dotted lines so that the below address shows, tape shut, stamp, and mail. OR, just put it in an envelop, and mail to the address below. To return by fax: 866-554-9483 or by email: randkarnold1@juno.com or ednodpa@comcast.net (go to www.nodpa.com to download an electronic copy). THANKS!!

-----

Kathie Arnold  
3175 State Route 13  
Truxton, NY 13158-3107

\_\_\_\_\_