

OHIO ECOLOGICAL FOOD AND FARM ASSOCIATION

OEFFA CERTIFICATION

NOVEMBER 2026 BULLETIN

GREETINGS FROM OEFFA CERTIFICATION!

Greetings from OEFFA Certification! We hope this end of year update finds you well and everyone is having a fine fall. OEFFA Staff are hard at work reviewing inspection reports, focusing first on operations who have priorities. We have also submitted comments for the NOSB meeting that was held in October and updated forms and processes for next year.

INSIGHTS INTO THE ORGANIC INDUSTRY

Demand for organic products appears to be holding relatively steady in 2026, although some sectors are experiencing minor fluctuations.

DAIRY

According to the Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS), overall organic milk sales declined slightly, falling 0.6% from January through July compared to the same period in 2025. However, organic whole milk sales increased by 4.2% year over year during the same timeframe. The overall decline was primarily driven by lower sales of non-whole milk products, including skim milk, 2% milk, and flavored milk.

GRAIN

The USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News (LPGMN) reported in September that demand for organic grains and feedstuffs remained strong. Prices varied depending on the type of buyer and market destination.

Organic feed corn sold through country elevators increased by 59 cents per bushel from the previous reporting period. In contrast, corn delivered to feed mills declined by 47 cents per bushel. Soft red winter wheat prices decreased by 26 cents per bushel, while soybeans delivered to crush facilities increased by 33 cents per bushel.

LIVESTOCK

As of September, the Agricultural Marketing Service Organic Market News report showed that organic cows averaged $140.37 per hundredweight. By comparison, conventionally auctioned cows averaged $119.70 per hundredweight, highlighting the continued price premium for organic livestock.

UPDATES FOR 2027

MAILING

Our first update has already been enacted. We hope your renewal or new applicant paperwork has made it to you in a timely manner. For postal applicants, we utilized priority mailing that has a 5-day delivery to ensure you have your paperwork that needs to be submitted by the standard deadline of **February 15, 2027**. As always, you can submit it earlier and receive a discount off your fee if you have it post marked by January 15, 2027.

Along with your renewal documents, you will find a membership survey in your annual mailing materials. Some operations opt out of membership, but most certified operations are OEFFA members, and we would love to hear from you. The results will help inform how we interact with our members and what services are provided. A stamped return envelope to use for the member survey is included, please return these as soon as possible.

DEADLINES AND LATE FEES

The new applicant deadline for producers is now **March 15, 2027**. To better serve all of our operations, we must have new applicant paperwork and fees by that date. Allowing later new applicant and holding later renewal deadlines has made it difficult to review applications, inspect all operations within the calendar year (as is required by the NOP regulations) and get new operations through the certification process before harvest time.

To encourage operations to have their renewal paperwork by the **February 15, 2027** standard deadline, we are increasing late fees. This is not about trying to squeeze more money out of anyone; we really hope it instead encourages operations to submit items by the standard deadline so that OEFFA can complete our work within the timeline required by the NOP.

PROCESS UPDATES

Every year we look for ways to improve our internal processes so we may better keep up with our core workload and changes in the organic industry. The last two years, we trialed an express review process for renewing operations who did not have new items for certification. This allowed our inspections department to assign them to inspectors sooner. As with any new process, there were some kinks to work out, but in 2027 this process will be formalized and expanded to all renewing operations. Renewing operations with new items, such as land, crops, and products will still have those new items reviewed prior to inspection. ***You must indicate on your fee sheet what new items you have, so review of those items can be prioritized.***

2027 OEFFA CONFERENCE

Join us February 12-14, 2027, for the 48th annual OEFFA Conference: Tending to Resilience. This popular event is full of learning, sharing, and connecting with sustainable and organic farmers, gardeners, homesteaders, and local food supporters. It offers educational workshops, an exhibit hall, in-depth classes, and a number of social activities.

Registration will open later this year at conference.oeffa.org.

From all of us here at OEFFA certification, thank you for your commitment to organic agriculture, stewarding the land and water, and for producing healthy food. We look forward to partnering with you in 2027!





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