



FINAL NOSB ACTIONS FOR SPRING 2015 NOSB MEETING

Below is an at-a-glance look at final NOSB decisions on 2016 Sunset materials and petitions followed by a summary chart providing a quick overview of all NOSB discussion documents, proposals and final decisions. Quick summaries of discussion, public comments, and votes can be found on OTA Twitter: <https://twitter.com/organictrade>. For additional background information, [READ](#) OTA's summary of NOSB Subcommittee Recommendations and Discussion Documents.

AT-A-GLANCE 2016 SUNSET DECISIONS

Relist for continued allowance:

- *Crops:* Ferric Phosphate and Hydrogen Chloride
- *Handling:* L-Malic Acid; Microorganisms; Activated Charcoal; Peracetic Acid; and Sodium Acid Pyrophosphate

Remove from the National List and no longer allow:

- *Handling:* Egg White Lysozyme; Boiler Additives - Cyclohexylamine, Diethylaminoethanol, Octadecylamine; and Tetrasodium Pyrophosphate

AT-A-GLANCE CROP, LIVESTOCK AND HANDLING PETITIONS

Passed – will be ADDED to the National List following NOP approval and rulemaking:

- *Livestock:* Zinc Sulfate and Acidified Sodium Chlorite (both alternative healthcare treatments)
- *Handling:* Agricultural forms of glycerin will be added and may **only** be used when organic forms are commercially unavailable. Non-organic agricultural forms may be used in natural flavors with no requirement to source organic. Synthetic Glycerin will be removed from the National List and prohibited.

Failed – will continue to be PROHIBITED in organic production and handling:

- *Crops:* Exhaust Gas; Calcium Sulfate; and 3-decen-2-one
- *Handling:* Whole Algal Flour; Ammonium Hydroxide; Polyalkylene Glycol Monobutyl Ether (PGME); and Triethyl Citrate

SUMMARY CHART OF MOTIONS AND FINAL DECISIONS FOR ALL NOSB AGENDA ITEMS

As specified in the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA), two-thirds of the votes cast at an NOSB meeting at which a quorum is present shall be decisive of any motion [§2119(i)]. As there are 15 NOSB members, 10 votes in favor are needed to pass any recommendation.

- **Non-input related proposals:** two-thirds of NOSB members must vote in favor of the motion for the recommendation to pass
- **Petition to add or remove an input or ingredient to/from the National List:** two-thirds of NOSB members must vote in favor of adding (or removing) the input/ingredient in order for USDA to have the authority to add or remove it from the National List
- **Sunset review proposals:** two-thirds of NOSB members must vote in favor of removing an input or ingredient in order for USDA to have the authority to amend the National List. If two-thirds of NOSB vote to remove and USDA accepts the recommendation then USDA will pursue rulemaking.

Note: Items highlighted in RED will be *removed* from the National List following NOP approval and rulemaking

Subcommittee	Agenda Item	Motion and Subcommittee Votes	FINAL VOTE: RELIST/ADD/REMOVE
Handling: Proposal (Petition)	Synthetic Glycerin	REMOVE from the National List as an allowed synthetic and add it to *205.606 as an allowed agricultural (non-synthetic) ingredient that can only be used when organic forms are not available (6 yes, 0 No, 2 Absent)	PASSED: Agricultural forms may be used only when organic forms are not available in quantity, quality or form. Synthetic glycerin will no longer be allowed. Yes: 14 No: 0 Absent: 1
Handling: Proposal (Petition)	Whole Algal Flour	ADD to the National List as an allowed non-synthetic non-allergen ingredient option (0 Yes, 6 No, 2 Absent)	FAILED - WILL NOT BE ADDED Whole Algal Flour will continue to be prohibited in organic handling Yes: 14 No: 0 Absent: 1
Handling: Proposal (Petition)	Ammonium Hydroxide	ADD to the National List as an allowed synthetic boiler water additive	PETITION WAS WITHDRAWN Ammonium Hydroxide will continue to be prohibited in organic handling
Handling: Proposal (Petition)	Polyalkylene Glycol Monobutyl Ether (PGME)	ADD to the National List as an allowed synthetic processing aid for livestock pellet production (0 Yes, 7 No, 1 Absent)	FAILED – WILL NOT BE ADDED PGME will continue to be prohibited in organic handling Yes: 14 No: 0 Absent: 1
Handling: Proposal (Petition)	Triethyl Citrate	ADD to the National List as an allowed synthetic foam stabilizer (e.g. whipping enhancer for eggs) (0 Yes, 7 No, 1 Absent)	FAILED – WILL NOT BE ADDED Will continue to be prohibited in organic handling Yes: 14 No: 0 Absent: 1
Handling: Proposal	Ancillary Substances Permitted in Microorganisms	ACCEPT a chart of allowed ancillary substances that could be used in microorganism products and require organic forms of ancillary substances when available (6 yes, 0 no, 2 Absent)	TABLED – Subcommittee will revisit this topic in spring 2016
Handling: Sunset 2016 Proposal	Egg White Lysozyme	REMOVE from the National List as an allowed non-synthetic processing aid. Egg White Lysozyme is used as a natural anti-microbial in wine and cheese. Subcommittee voted to RELIST (0 yes, 5 No, 3 Absent)	REMOVE – Following NOP approval and rulemaking, Egg White Lysozyme will no longer be allowed in organic handling Yes: 11 remove No: 3 relist Absent: 1
Handling: Sunset 2016 Proposal	L-Malic Acid	REMOVE from the National List as an allowed non-synthetic. L-Malic Acid is commonly used as a flavor enhancer and for pH adjustment. Subcommittee voted to RELIST (0 yes, 5 No, 3 Absent)	RELIST – L-Malic Acid will continue to be allowed in organic handling Yes: 2 remove No: 12 relist Absent: 1
Handling: Sunset 2016 Proposal	Microorganisms	REMOVE from the National List as an allowed non-synthetic used for multiple fermented food applications. Subcommittee voted to RELIST (0 yes, 6 No, 2 Absent)	RELIST – Microorganisms will continue to be allowed in organic handling Yes: 0 remove No: 14 relist Absent: 1

Handling: Sunset 2016 Proposal	Activated Charcoal	REMOVE from the National List as an allowed synthetic filtering aid Subcommittee voted to RELIST (0 yes, 5 No, 3 Absent)	RELIST - Activated Charcoal will continue to be allowed in organic handling as a filter aid Yes: 1 remove No: 13 relist Absent: 1
Handling: Sunset 2016 Proposal	Peracetic Acid	REMOVE from the National List as an allowed synthetic sanitizer Subcommittee voted to RELIST (0 yes, 7 No, 1 Absent)	RELIST - Peracetic Acid will continue to be allowed in organic handling Yes: 0 remove No: 14 relist Absent: 1
Handling: Sunset 2016	Sodium acid pyrophosphate (SAPP)	REMOVE from the National List as an allowed synthetic for use as a leavening agent only Subcommittee voted to RELIST (0 yes, 5 No, 3 Absent)	RELIST – SAPP will continue to be allowed in organic handling as a leavening agent. Yes: 3 remove No: 11 relist Absent: 1
Handling: Sunset 2016 Proposal	Tetrasodium pyrophosphate (TSPP)	Remove from the National List as an allowed synthetic that may only be used in meat analog products Subcommittee voted to REMOVE (6 yes, 0 No, 2 Absent)	RELIST - Following NOP approval and rulemaking, TSPP will no longer be allowed in organic handling Yes: 14 remove No: 0 relist Absent: 1
Handling: Sunset 2016 Proposal	Boiler Additives -Cyclohexylamine -Diethylaminoethanol -Octadecylamine	Remove from the National List as allowed synthetic boiler water additives for packaging sterilization Subcommittee voted to REMOVE all three (5 yes, 0 No, 3 Absent)	REMOVE - Following NOP approval and rulemaking, all three boiler additives will no longer be allowed in organic handling for direct contact with product or production packaging Yes: 14 remove No: 0 relist Absent: 1
Handling: Sunset 2017	Sunset 2017 Materials (schedule to expire in 2017, however the vote for relisting will take place at the next NOSB meeting).	DISCUSSION ONLY: The subcommittee flagged the ingredients and processing aids in the next column as ones they are considering for REMOVAL in the fall, or as ones they have expressly requested comments for due to the lack of comments received on this first round of review NOSB will vote on the relisting of 2017 materials at the fall 2015 in Stowe, Vermont.	PUBLIC COMMENT IS NEEDED ON THE FOLLOWING: Nonagricultural: Waxes (Carnauba, Wood Resin), ammonium bicarbonate, magnesium carbonate, magnesium stearate, potassium phosphate, sodium phosphates. Agricultural: Chia seeds, chipotle peppers, frozen lemon grass, celery powder, colors, gelatin, dillweed oil, frozen galangal, whey protein concentrate, sweet potato starch, and cornstarch.
Livestock: Proposal (Petition)	Methionine in Organic Poultry Feed	Motion to CHANGE the current allowance of synthetic methionine used as an essential amino acid in organic poultry feed rations from a rate expressed as a maximum (pounds per ton) to an average rate calculated over the life of the bird. Additionally, the subcommittee resolved to remain committed to the phase-out of synthetic methionine in favor of natural alternatives. (6 yes, 2 No, 0 Absent)	PASSED – The amount of methionine allowed in organic poultry production will be measured as an average over the life of the bird. Yes: 10 No: 4 Absent: 1 NOSB is committed to the phase-out of synthetic methionine for organic poultry production and encourages aggressive research for alternatives. Yes: 15 No: 0

Livestock: Proposal (Petition)	Acidified Sodium Chlorite	ADD to the National List at *205.603 as an allowed synthetic livestock pre/post teat dip (4 Yes, 1 No, 3 Absent)	PASSED - Following NOP approval and rulemaking, Acidified Sodium Chlorite will be allowed in organic livestock production as an alternative health care treatment Yes: 14 No: 0 Absent: 1
Livestock: Proposal (Petition)	Zinc Sulfate	ADD to the National List at 205.603 as an allowed synthetic livestock input for foot baths only (4 Yes, 3 No, 1 Absent)	PASSED - Following NOP approval and rulemaking, Zinc Sulfate will be allowed in organic livestock production as an alternative health care treatment Yes: 12 No: 2 Absent: 1
Livestock: Sunset 2017	Sunset 2017 (schedule to expire in 2017, however the vote for relisting will take place at the next NOSB meeting).	DISCUSSION ONLY: The subcommittee flagged the livestock production inputs in the next column as ones they are considering for REMOVAL in the fall, or as ones they have expressly requested comments for due to the lack of comments received on this first round of review NOSB will vote on the relisting of 2017 materials at the fall 2015 in Stowe, Vermont.	PUBLIC COMMENT IS NEEDED ON THE FOLLOWING: Furosemide: Used to treat pulmonary edema and hypercalcemia Parasiticides (Ivermectin and Moxidectin): Used to control internal parasites in organic breeder stock and dairy animals only Poloxalene: Used for emergency bloat treatment Copper Sulfate: Used as hoof bath to treat foot conditions Mineral Oil: Used for topical treatments / lubricant
Crops: Proposal (Petition)	Exhaust Gas	ADD to the National List at *205.601 as an allowed synthetic pest (burrowing rodents) control input (0 Yes, 5 No, 2 Absent)	FAILED – WILL NOT BE ADDED Exhaust Gas will continue to be prohibited in organic crop production Yes: 14 No: 0 Absent: 1
Crops: Proposal (Petition)	Calcium Sulfate (GYPSUM) produced by the flue gas desulfurization	ADD to the National List at 205.601 as an allowed synthetic soil and crop input (0 Yes, 6 No, 1 Absent)	FAILED – WILL NOT BE ADDED Calcium Sulfate will continue to be prohibited in organic crop production Yes: 14 No: 0 Absent: 1
Crops: Proposal (Petition)	3-decen-2-one	ADD to the National List at 205.601 as an allowed synthetic crop production aid (plant growth regulator). (0 Yes, 5 No, 1 Absent)	FAILED – WILL NOT BE ADDED 3-decen-2-one will continue to be prohibited in organic crop production Yes: 14 No: 0 Absent: 1
Crops: Proposal (Petition)	Ferric phosphate	Remove from the National List at 205.601 as an allowed synthetic crop input used for delinting cotton seed prior to planting. The majority voted to REMOVE (split vote) (2 Yes, 3 No, 2 absent)	RELIST - Ferric phosphate will continue to be allowed in organic crop production Yes: 14 remove No: 0 relist Absent: 1
Crops: Proposal (Petition)	Hydrogen chloride	Remove from the National List at 205.601 as an allowed synthetic crop input used for slug control. The majority voted to RELIST (0 Yes, 5 No, 3 absent)	RELIST - Hydrogen chloride will continue to be allowed in organic crop production Yes: 14 remove No: 0 relist Absent: 1

Crops: Sunset 2017	Sunset 2017 (schedule to expire in 2017, however the vote for relisting will take place at the next NOSB meeting).	DISCUSSION ONLY: The subcommittee flagged the crop production inputs in the next column as ones they are considering for REMOVAL in the fall, or as ones they have expressly requested comments for due to the lack of comments received on this first round of review NOSB will vote on the relisting of 2017 materials at the fall 2015 in Stowe, Vermont.	PUBLIC COMMENT IS NEEDED ON THE FOLLOWING: Lignin Sulfonate: Used as a floatation agent in post-harvest handling (NOSB does not flag its use as chelation agent/dust suppressant for removal) Vitamins B1, C, and E: Used as a fertilizer and soil amendment Ethylene: Used to regulate pineapple flowering and de-greening citrus EPA List 4 Inerts of Minimal Concern: NOSB indicated their intention to consider the prohibition on Nonylphenol Ethoxylates (NPEs), specifically, in organic pesticide products
Certification, Compliance, & Accreditation: Proposal	NOP Peer Review Panel	ACCEPT the Peer Review Proposal in support of NOP's peer review process and a panel that will review NOP's oversight of 3 rd party certification agencies. (8 yes, 0 no, 1 Absent)	PASSED – Proposal will be forwarded to NOP for approval Yes: 15 No: 0
Materials / GMO: Discussion	Excluded Methods Terminology	DISCUSSION ONLY: Posted for additional discussion and feedback to inform a future proposal on updating the terminology in the regulation that is used to express the prohibition on the use of excluded methods (GMOs).	NOSB will continue its work and REVISIT the topic in fall of 2015 or spring 2016
Materials / GMO: Discussion	Prevention Strategy on Excluded Methods	DISCUSSION ONLY: Posted for additional discussion and feedback to inform a future proposal on precautions organic producers and handlers should take to prevent contact with GMOs.	NOSB will continue its work and REVISIT this topic in fall of 2015 or spring 2016

- National List References: 205.606 = allowed non-organic agricultural ingredient only when OG is not available / 205.601 = allowed synthetic crop input / 205.603 = allowed synthetic livestock input