

FALL 2023 NOSB MEETING AT-A-GLANCE SUMMARY OF AGENDA TOPICS & SUBCOMMITTEE VOTES

The [fall 2023 National Organic Standards Board \(NOSB\) Meeting](#) will be held on October 24-26 in Providence, RI. The [Meeting Agenda](#) and [Meeting Packet](#) (all proposals, discussion documents, and Sunset Reviews to be considered at the meeting) are available, and the comment period is open. The virtual oral comment webinars will occur on October 17 & 19 in advance of the in-person meeting. The deadline to submit written comments and sign up for oral comments is **September 28, 2023**. Visit OTA's webpage [for more information](#).

PROPOSALS (To Be Voted On)

- **Oversight Improvements to Deter Fraud: Consistent Location Identification (CAC)** – proposal recommends NOP provide guidance to accredited certifiers to obtain consistent location information of certified operations (parcels, production units - grower groups, handling locations, importers, brokers, etc.). The desired result is the harmonization of data collection to streamline cross-checks and information sharing between operation, certifier, and inspector.
Motion to adopt the proposal: **9 Yes**, 0 No, 0 Absent
- **Potassium Sorbate (CROPS)** – petitioned for use as an active ingredient for plant disease and insect control/suppression in field and greenhouse applications.
Motion to add at §205.601(e) for use in crop production – as insecticides: 1 Yes, **5 No**, 1 Abstain, 1 Absent.
Motion to add at §205.601(i) for use in organic crop production – as plant disease control: 2 Yes, **4 No**, 1 Absent
- **Research Priorities 2023 (MATERIALS)** – NOSB's annual list of organic food and agriculture research priorities.
Motion to adopt the proposal: **6 Yes**, 0 No, 1 Absent

DISCUSSION DOCUMENTS (Discussion Only)

- **Enforcement: Residue Testing for a Global Supply Chain (CAC)** – considers whether updates to periodic residue testing programs will augment accredited certifiers' ability to verify compliance, deter fraud, and prevent contaminated products from entering the organic marketplace.
- **Organic and Climate-Smart Agriculture: Climate Induced Farming Risk and Crop Insurance (CAC)** – continues the conversation started at the Spring 2023 meeting and seeks to build on the body of evidence specifying problems organic farmers face and offers concrete ways to improve organic crop insurance. Three questions are posed to help shape the discussion.
- **Opportunities in Organic - Improving Support for Organic Transition (CAC)** – seeks to gather feedback from inside and outside the organic community on effective tools, resources, and alignment strategies to support organic transition and requirements for participation in programs that support organic transition. Five questions are posed to inform the discussion.
- **Magnesium carbonate – petitioned (HANDLING)** – for addition as a processing aid to §205.605 and is used as a drying/anti-caking agent. Four questions are posed to inform the NOSB in its review.
- **Magnesium carbonate hydroxide – petitioned (HANDLING)** – for addition as a processing aid to



§205.605 and is used as a drying/anti-caking agent. Used interchangeably with magnesium carbonate. Three questions are posed to inform the NOSB in its review.

SUNSET REVIEWS (To Be Voted On)

NOSB is re-evaluating these input materials currently on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances to determine if new information indicates they are harmful to human health or the environment, are not necessary because natural or organic alternatives are available, and/or incompatible with organic production.

MATERIAL (SUBCOMMITTEE)	SUBCOMMITTEE VOTE
Ethanol (LIVESTOCK) – sanitizer	6 to relist, 0 to remove
Isopropanol (LIVESTOCK) – disinfectant	6 to relist, 0 to remove
Aspirin (LIVESTOCK) – inflammation control	5 to relist, 0 to remove, 1 absent
Vaccines (LIVESTOCK) – preventive health care	4 to relist, 0 to remove, 2 absent
Electrolytes (LIVESTOCK) – correcting dehydration, metabolic conditions	4 to relist, 0 to remove, 2 absent
Glycerin (LIVESTOCK) – teat dip	4 to relist, 0 to remove, 2 absent
Phosphoric acid (LIVESTOCK) – equipment cleaner	6 to relist, 0 to remove
Hydrated lime (LIVESTOCK) – external pest control	4 to relist, 0 to remove, 2 absent
Mineral oil (LIVESTOCK) – topical use and lubricant	5 to relist, 0 to remove, 1 absent
Ethanol (CROPS) – sanitizer, disinfectant	7 to relist, 0 to remove
Isopropanol (CROPS) – sanitizer, disinfectant	7 to relist, 0 to remove, 1 absent
Sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate (CROPS) – algicide	6 to relist, 0 to remove, 2 absent
Newspaper / Recycled paper (CROPS) – weed control, compost feedstock	7 to relist, 0 to remove, 1 absent
Plastic mulch and covers (CROPS) – weed control	3 to relist, 0 to remove, 4 abstentions, 1 absent
Aqueous potassium silicate (CROPS) – insecticide, disease control	7 to relist, 0 to remove, 1 absent
Elemental sulfur (CROPS) – insecticide, disease control, soil amendment	6 to relist, 0 to remove, 2 absent
Lime sulfur (CROPS) – insecticide, disease control	7 to relist, 0 to remove, 1 absent
Hydrated lime (CROPS) – disease control	6 to relist, 0 to remove, 2 absent
Liquid fish products (CROPS) – plant and soil amendment	7 to relist, 0 to remove, 1 absent
Sulfurous acid (CROPS) – plant and soil amendment	7 to relist, 0 to remove, 1 absent
Ethylene (CROPS) – for regulation of pineapple flowering	6 to relist, 1 to remove, 1 absent

MATERIAL (SUBCOMMITTEE)	SUBCOMMITTEE VOTE
Microcrystalline cheesewax (CROPS) – for log-grown mushroom production	7 to relist, 0 to remove, 1 absent
Potassium chloride (CROPS) – prohibited nonsynthetic	7 to relist, 0 to remove, 1 absent
Calcium carbonate (HANDLING) – nutrient supplement, acidifier, thickener	7 to relist, 0 to remove, 2 absent
Flavors, nonsynthetic (HANDLING) – only when organic form is not commercially available; no synthetic solvents, carriers or preservatives	7 to relist, 0 to remove, 2 absent
Gellan gum, high-acyl (HANDLING) – thickener, stabilizer, crystallization inhibitor, flavor release	6 to relist, 0 to remove
Oxygen (HANDLING) – modified atmosphere packaging	7 to relist, 0 to remove, 2 absent
Potassium chloride (HANDLING) – nutrient supplement, thickener, pH control, salt replacement for low sodium foods	7 to relist, 0 to remove, 2 absent
Alginates (HANDLING) – thickener, emulsifier	8 to relist, 0 to remove, 1 absent
Calcium hydroxide (HANDLING) – buffer, firming agent, nutrient supplement	8 to relist, 0 to remove, 1 absent
Ethylene (HANDLING) – postharvest ripening of tropical fruit and de-greening of citrus	7 to relist, 0 to remove, 2 absent
Glycerides, mono and di (HANDLING) – only for drum drying of organic foods	7 to relist, 0 to remove, 2 absent
Magnesium stearate (HANDLING) – anti-caking agent; only in “made with” organic products	7 to relist, 0 to remove, 2 absent
Phosphoric acid (HANDLING) – cleaning food-contact surfaces and equipment	7 to relist, 0 to remove, 2 absent
Potassium carbonate (HANDLING) – drying agent, pH control	7 to relist, 0 to remove, 2 absent
Sulfur dioxide (HANDLING) – in wine labeled “made with organic grapes,” Provided, That, total sulfite concentration does not exceed 100 ppm	7 to relist, 0 to remove, 2 absent
Xanthan gum (HANDLING) – thickener, emulsifier, crystallization inhibitor, flavor release	9 to relist, 0 to remove
Fructooligosaccharides (HANDLING) – soluble prebiotic fiber ingredient; only when organic form not commercially available	7 to relist, 0 to remove, 2 absent
Arabic gum (HANDLING) – thickener, stabilizer; only when organic form not commercially available	9 to relist, 0 to remove

MATERIAL (SUBCOMMITTEE)	SUBCOMMITTEE VOTE
Guar gum (HANDLING) – thickener, stabilizer; only when organic form not commercially available	
Locust/Carob bean gum (HANDLING) – thickener, stabilizer; only when organic form not commercially available	
Lecithin, de-oiled (HANDLING) – emulsifier; only when organic form not commercially available	7 to relist , 0 to remove, 2 absent
Tamarind seed gum (HANDLING) – thickener, stabilizer; only when organic form not commercially available	9 to relist , 0 to remove
Tragacanth gum (HANDLING) – thickener, emulsifier; only when organic form not commercially available	9 to relist , 0 to remove