

Organic Trade Association's Fall 2021 National Organic Standards Board Report AT-A-GLANCE MEETING OUTCOMES AND VOTING TALLY

On October 19-21, the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) held its biannual public meeting via live online webinar. The full agenda for the meeting as well as all meeting materials are available on the Organic Trade Association's [fall 2021 NOSB meeting website](#). Full text of our submitted written comments is included on the website as well as more background information about the NOSB Meeting. Below is an at-a-glance review of the meeting outcomes and votes. A full report will soon be available, which will include full details of NOSB deliberation on each agenda item.

PROPOSALS: NOSB considered **13** proposals at this meeting. Of the proposals, **7 PASSED**, **5 FAILED**, and **1 was referred back to subcommittee**.

7 PASSED (Referred to USDA for approval and implementation. Recommendations are not effective until accepted by the USDA and implemented through rulemaking.)

- **Ammonia Extract (Crops)** – proposal to prohibit stripped ammonia and concentrated ammonia **is adopted**. A portion of the Ammonia Extract proposal related to amending 205.203(f) for fertilizers under 3:1 Carbon-to-Nitrogen ratio is sent back to subcommittee for further work.
- **Sodium Nitrate (Crops)** – proposal to reinstate the restricted listing of sodium nitrate fertilizer **is adopted**
- **Biodegradable Mulch (Crops)** – proposal to allow biodegradable mulches that are 80% biobased **is adopted**
- **Lithothamnion (Crops)** – proposal to classify lithothamnion as nonagricultural and to exclude from eligibility for wild crop certification **is adopted**
- **Fish Oil (Handling)** – proposal to restrict sources of fish oil to minimize environmental harm **is adopted**
- **Climate Change** – proposal to send letter to USDA about importance of organic agriculture as a climate solution **is adopted**
- **Research Priorities** – proposal for NOSB's annual list of research priorities for organic food and agriculture **is adopted**

5 FAILED

- **Chitosan (Crops)** – petition to allow chitosan (from seafood shells) as plant disease control **is rejected**
- **Biochar from Manure (Crops)** – petition to allow cow manure derived biochar as a soil amendment **is rejected**
- **Kasugamycin (Crops)** – petition to allow kasugamycin (antibiotic) for fire blight control **is rejected**
- **Hydronium (Crops)** – petition to allow it (sulfuric acid + calcium hydroxide) as a manure processing aid **is rejected**
- **Zein (Handling)** – petition to allow zein (corn protein) as food coating on organic foods **is rejected**

1 Sent Back To Subcommittee: Carbon Dioxide – proposal to allow as pH adjuster of irrigation water sources is sent back to subcommittee for further work

SUNSET REVIEWS: NOSB voted on over **30** currently allowed generic inputs. **All** are recommended for relisting on the National List.

DISCUSSION DOCUMENTS: NOSB considered **3** discussion documents at this meeting.

- **Oversight improvements to deter fraud** – discussion about modernizing organic traceability technology
- **Excluded Methods** – discussion about emerging technologies to be classified as excluded methods (prohibited)
- **Public Comment Process** – discussion about the format of providing public oral comments for NOSB meeting

OFFICER ELECTIONS: NOSB elected Nate Powell-Palm (Chair), Mindee Jeffery (Vice Chair), and Kyla Smith (Secretary). *OTA also extends sincere thanks to outgoing NOSB members Steve Ela, Sue Baird, and Asa Bradman.*

VOTING CHART – PROPOSALS

14 voting members were present at this meeting. 1 seat is vacant. Unless otherwise noted, there were no abstentions or recusals. Motions need two-thirds majority to pass.

SUBCOMMITTEE	PROPOSAL	MOTION & VOTE	OUTCOME
CROPS	Chitosan – petition to allow chitosan (from seafood shells) as plant disease control	To classify chitosan as synthetic. 14 Yes, 0 No. To add chitosan to the National List at §205.601(j)(4) for plant disease control. 7 Yes, 7 No. Motion fails.	PROPOSAL FAILED: Petition is rejected. Chitosan (synthetic) remains prohibited.
CROPS	Biochar – petition to allow cow manure derived biochar as a soil amendment	To classify as nonsynthetic: 13 Yes, 1 No. To add exemption “unless derived as part of the production of biochar from pyrolysis of cow manure” to the prohibition of manure ash at §205.602: 4 Yes, 10 No. Motion fails.	PROPOSAL FAILED: Petition is rejected. Biochar from cow manure remains prohibited under existing listing at §205.602.
CROPS	Ammonia Extract – petition to prohibit nonsynthetic ammonia extract fertilizer	To classify as nonsynthetic: 14 Yes, 0 No. To prohibit at §205.602: “Stripped Ammonia – created by separating, isolating and/or capturing ammonia or ammonium from an agricultural feedstock or other natural source using methods such as, but not limited to, steam stripping, pressurized air, heat, condensation, and/or distillation.” 13 Yes, 1 No. To prohibit at §205.602: “Concentrated Ammonia – contains greater than 3% ammoniacal nitrogen and the total nitrogen content is predominately (i.e., >50%) in the ammonia or ammonium form.” 13 Yes, 1 No. To send the remaining proposal for §205.203(f) back to subcommittee. 10 Yes, 4 No.	PROPOSAL PASSED: Recommendation to prohibit stripped and concentrated ammonia at §205.602 is referred to USDA. The proposal for amending §205.203(f) is referred back to the Crop Subcommittee for further work.
CROPS	Kasugamycin – petition to allow kasugamycin (antibiotic) for fire blight control	To classify as synthetic: 14 Yes, 0 No. Motion passes. To allow at §205.601(j) for disease control: 0 Yes, 14 No.	PROPOSAL FAILED: Petition is rejected. Kasugamycin (synthetic) remains prohibited.
CROPS	Hydronium – petition to allow it (sulfuric acid + calcium hydroxide) as a manure processing aid	To classify as synthetic: 14 Yes, 0 No. Motion passes. To allow at §205.601(j) as processing aid: 0 Yes, 14 No.	PROPOSAL FAILED: Petition is rejected. Hydronium (synthetic) remains prohibited.
CROPS	Carbon Dioxide – petition to allow as pH adjuster of irrigation water sources	To send back to subcommittee. 14 Yes, 0 No. Motion passes.	The proposal on carbon dioxide is referred back to the Crop Subcommittee for further work.
CROPS	Lithothamnion – proposal to classify as nonagricultural and not eligible for wild crop certification	To classify as a nonagricultural: 14 Yes, 0 No. Motion passes. <i>Lithothamnion</i> does not meet wild crop criteria and is not	PROPOSAL PASSED: Recommendation on lithothamnion classification and wild crop eligibility is referred to USDA.

SUBCOMMITTEE	PROPOSAL	MOTION & VOTE	OUTCOME
CROPS	Biodegradable Biobased Mulch – proposal to allow biodegradable mulches that are 80% biobased	eligible to be certified to the wild crop standard: 14 Yes, 0 No. Motion passes. To add “at least 80%” biobased content to the definition of biodegradable biobased mulch film at §205.2, and to add the following phrase to the listing on §205.601, “When greater than 80% biobased biodegradable plastic films become commercially available, producers are required to use them, given that they are of the appropriate quality, quantity, and form. 10 Yes, 4 No. Motion passes.	PROPOSAL PASSED: Recommendation to amend biodegradable mulch definition at §205.2 and listing at §205.601 is referred to USDA.
CROPS	Sodium Nitrate – proposal to reinstate the restricted listing of sodium nitrate fertilizer	To reinstate the listing of sodium nitrate at §205.602(g): 14 Yes, 0 No. Motion passes.	PROPOSAL PASSED: Recommendation to reinstate listing at §205.602(g) is referred to USDA.
HANDLING	Zein – petition to allow zein (corn protein) as food coating on organic foods	To add zein at §205.605(a), annotated as: “Only for use in nutraceuticals or pharmaceuticals as a micro encapsulation acting as a moisture barrier and taste masker.” 3 Yes, 10 No, 1 Abstain. Motion fails.	PROPOSAL FAILED: Petition is rejected. Non-organic zein remains prohibited in organic (95%+) foods.
HANDLING	Fish Oil – proposal to restrict sources of fish oil to minimize environmental harm	To add an additional restriction to the listing of fish oil at §205.606: “Sourced from fishing industry by-product only and certified as sustainable against a third-party certification that is International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labeling (ISEAL) Code Compliant or Global Seafood Sustainability Initiative (GSSI) recognized.” 14 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent. Motion passes.	PROPOSAL PASSED: Recommendation to amend the fish oil annotation at §205.606 is referred to USDA.
MATERIALS	Research Priorities – Annual list of research priorities for organic	To adopt the proposal. 14 Yes, 0 No. Motion passes.	PROPOSAL PASSED: Recommendation for organic research priorities is referred to USDA.
COMPLIANCE, ACCREDITATION, & CERTIFICATION	Climate Change – letter to USDA about importance of organic agriculture as a climate solution	To adopt the proposal. 13 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent. Motion passes.	PROPOSAL PASSED: Recommendation for climate change letter is referred to USDA.

National List References: §205.601 = allowed synthetics for crops / §205.602 = prohibited non-synthetics for crop / §205.603 = allowed synthetics for livestock / §205.604 = prohibited non-synthetics for livestock / §205.605(a) = allowed non-agricultural non-synthetics for processing/handling / §205.605(b) = allowed non-agricultural synthetics for processing/handling / §205.606 = allowed agricultural for processing/handling

VOTING CHART – SUNSET REVIEWS

14 voting members were present at this meeting. 1 seat is vacant. Unless otherwise noted, there were no abstentions or recusals. For sunset materials, two-thirds of NOSB members must vote in favor of removing a material for USDA to have the authority to amend the National List.

SUNSET MATERIAL (SUBCOMMITTEE)	MOTION & VOTE	OUTCOME
Copper sulfate (CROPS) – algicide and tadpole shrimp control in aquatic rice systems	To remove from §205.601(a)&(e). 3 Yes , 11 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Oxone gas (CROPS) – irrigation system cleaner	To remove from §205.601(a). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Peracetic acid (CROPS) – disinfectant, disease control	To remove from §205.601(a)&(i). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
EPA List 3 Inerts (CROPS) – passive pheromone dispensers	To remove from §205.601(m). 1 Yes , 13 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Chlorine materials (CROPS) – sanitizer, disinfectant	To remove from §205.601(a). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Magnesium oxide (CROPS) – viscosity control in humates	To remove from §205.601(j). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Calcium chloride (CROPS) – foliar spray for physiological disorders	To remove from §205.602. 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Rotenone (CROPS) – prohibited	To remove from §205.602. 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Agar-Agar (HANDLING) – gelling agent, emulsifier, thickener	To remove from §205.605(a). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Animal enzymes (HANDLING) – catalysis for biological processes, e.g. cheesemaking	To remove from §205.605(a). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Calcium sulfate (HANDLING) – tofu coagulant	To remove from §205.605(a). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Carrageenan (HANDLING) – gelling agent, emulsifier, thickener	To remove from §205.605(a). 9 Yes , 5 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Glucono delta-lactone (HANDLING) – tofu coagulant	To remove from §205.605(a). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Tartaric acid (HANDLING) – acidulant	To remove from §205.605(a). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Cellulose (HANDLING) – regenerative casings, anti-caking agent, filtering aid	To remove from §205.605(b). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Chlorine materials (HANDLING) – sanitizer, disinfectant	To remove from §205.605(b). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.

SUNSET MATERIAL (SUBCOMMITTEE)	MOTION & VOTE	OUTCOME
Potassium hydroxide (HANDLING) – pH adjuster	To remove from §205.605(b). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Silicon dioxide (HANDLING) – defoamer	To remove from §205.605(b). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Potassium lactate (HANDLING) – antimicrobial agent, pH regulator	To remove from §205.605(b). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Sodium lactate (HANDLING) – antimicrobial agent, pH regulator	To remove from §205.605(b). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Activated charcoal (LIVESTOCK) – adsorbent	To remove from §205.603(a). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Calcium borogluconate (LIVESTOCK) – milk fever treatment	To remove from §205.603(a). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Calcium propionate (LIVESTOCK) – milk fever treatment	To remove from §205.603(a). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Chlorine materials (LIVESTOCK) – sanitizer, disinfectant	To remove from §205.603(a). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Kaolin pectin (LIVESTOCK) – adsorbent, antidiarrheal, and gut protectant	To remove from §205.603(a). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Mineral oil (LIVESTOCK) – intestinal compaction treatment	To remove from §205.603(a). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Nutritive supplements (LIVESTOCK) – injectable vitamins and minerals	To remove from §205.603(a). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Propylene glycol (LIVESTOCK) – ketosis treatment	To remove from §205.603(a). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Acidified sodium chloride (LIVESTOCK) – teat dip	To remove from §205.603(a)&(b). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
Zinc sulfate (LIVESTOCK) – hoof treatment	To remove from §205.603(b). 0 Yes, 14 No. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.

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