

Organic Trade Association's Fall 2022 National Organic Standards Board Meeting Report AT-A-GLANCE MEETING OUTCOMES AND VOTING TALLY

On October 25-27, the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) held its biannual public meeting in Sacramento, CA. The full agenda for the meeting, all proposals and discussion documents presented at the meeting, as well as full text of OTA's submitted written comments is available on the [OTA's NOSB Meeting Webpage](#). Below is an at-a-glance summary of the meeting outcomes and votes.

PROPOSALS: Of the **9** proposals considered by NOSB at this meeting, **6 PASSED** and **3 FAILED**.

6 PASSED (Referred to USDA for approval and implementation. Not effective until accepted by the USDA and implemented through rulemaking.)

- **NOP Risk Mitigation Table** – **Passed (15-0)** recommendation to revise procedures used by NOP to safeguard impartiality in overseeing certifiers
- **NOSB Technical Support** – **Passed (15-0)** recommendation for USDA to provide technical staff to help NOSB members with their workload
- **Acreage Reporting** – **Passed (15-0)** recommendation to require certifiers to list harvested acres by crop type and the total acres of a certified organic operation on the organic certificate
- **2022 Research Priorities** – **Passed (15-0)** recommendation for NOSB's annual list of research priorities for organic food and agriculture
- **Ion Exchange Filtration-Recharge Materials** – **Passed (15-0)** recommendation that recharge materials used in ion exchange filtration process must be on the National List. This recommendation is consistent with current practices used by certifiers and should not result in changes for certified operations.
- **Carbon Dioxide (Crops)** – **Passed (15-0)** recommendation to add to §605.601(a) for use as a pH adjuster of irrigation water sources

3 FAILED (These items will not advance)

- **Potassium Hydroxide (Crops)** – Failed (0-15) petition for use as a production aid for manufacturing liquid fish fertilizers
- **Peroxlactic Acid ("PoLA") (Handling)** – Failed (0-15) petition to allow as an antimicrobial processing aid for meat and poultry carcasses
- **Phosphoric Acid (Handling)** – Failed (0-15) petition to expand use for extracting target molecules from seaweed

SUNSET REVIEWS: NOSB voted to **renew all listings** of materials on the National List that were under sunset review at the meeting. See chart below for list.

RESOLUTIONS: NOSB voted unanimously to **pass a resolution** urging swift implementation of the **Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards Final Rule**.

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

- **Climate Smart Agriculture:** articulating why organic farming as "climate-smart" agriculture
- **Ion Exchange Filtration-Resins:** whether resins used in ion exchange filtration need to be listed on the National List
- **Minimum Reporting Requirements:** exploring need for universal auditing documents (mass-balance and traceback templates)

OFFICER ELECTIONS: NOSB re-elected **Nate Powell-Palm** as Chair and **Mindee Jeffery** as Vice Chair. **Amy Bruch** is elected as Secretary. OTA also extends sincere thanks to outgoing NOSB member **Rick Greenwood**.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- **Excluded Methods:** The Materials Subcommittee acknowledges [NOP's response](#) to recommendations from last meeting on cell and protoplast fusion
- **Organic Farming Research Foundation** presented findings from the [2022 National Organic Research Agenda](#)
- **Former NOSB Members** that didn't have a final in-person meeting shared reflections on the board service (Steve Ela, Jesse Buie, Asa Bradman, Scott Rice)

VOTING CHART: 15 voting members were present at this meeting (1 virtual). Unless otherwise noted, there were no absences, abstentions, or recusals. Motions need two-thirds majority to pass.

SUBCOMMITTEE		PROPOSAL	MOTION & VOTE	OUTCOME
CAC		NOP Risk Mitigation Table	Motion to adopt the proposal : 15 Yes , 0 No.	PROPOSAL PASSED: Recommendation is referred to USDA.
CAC		NOSB Technical Support	Motion to adopt the proposal : 15 Yes , 0 No.	PROPOSAL PASSED: Recommendation is referred to USDA.
CAC		Acreage Reporting	Motion to adopt the proposal : 15 Yes , 0 No.	PROPOSAL PASSED: Recommendation is referred to USDA.
MATERIALS		2022 Research Priorities	Motion to adopt the proposal : 15 Yes , 0 No.	PROPOSAL PASSED: Recommendation is referred to USDA.
HANDLING		Ion Exchange Filtration – Recharge Materials	Motion to adopt the proposal : 15 Yes , 0 No.	PROPOSAL PASSED: Recommendation is referred to USDA.
HANDLING		Peroxylic Acid (“PoLA”) (petitioned)	To add at §205.605(b) <u>“for use as an antimicrobial agent in process water, ice, or brine used in the production, processing, and preparation of meat and poultry products.”</u> : 0 Yes, 15 No .	PROPOSAL FAILED: Remains prohibited for this use.
HANDLING		Phosphoric Acid (petitioned)	To amend the annotation of phosphoric acid at 205.605(b) to (underlined verbiage is the proposed addition): <u>“cleaning of food-contact surfaces and equipment, and as an acidifier to adjust pH of an extraction solvent to extract antioxidants or other target molecules from <i>lamiaceae</i> plants, provided the amount of acid used shall not exceed the minimum needed to lower pH to 2.5.”</u> : 0 Yes, 15 No .	PROPOSAL FAILED: Remains prohibited for this use.
CROPS		Carbon Dioxide (petitioned)	To add at §205.601(a) algicide, disinfectants, and sanitizer, including irrigation system cleaning systems: 15 Yes , 0 No. <i>(Note: petitioned addition to §205.601(j) is deferred to next meeting.)</i>	PROPOSAL PASSED: Recommendation is referred to USDA for addition to the National List.
CROPS		Potassium Hydroxide (petitioned)	To add at §205.601 as a processing aid: 2 Yes , 13 No .	PROPOSAL FAILED: Remains prohibited for this use.
N/A		Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (Resolution)	Be it resolved that the NOSB urges the Secretary to finalize the OLPS Rule expeditiously, to strengthen organic animal health and welfare standards, protect communities and the environment, improve consistency, better meet consumer expectations, and address market failures: 15 Yes , 0 No.	RESOLUTION PASSED: Resolution is referred to USDA.
SUNSET MATERIAL (SUBCOMMITTEE)		MOTION & VOTE		OUTCOME
Herbicidal Soaps (CROPS) – farmstead maintenance and ornamentals		To remove from §205.601(b) 1 Yes , 14 No . Motion fails.		RELIST: Remains on National List.
Biodegradable Biobased Mulch Film (CROPS) – weed control		To remove from §205.601(b) 9 Yes , 6 No . Motion fails.		RELIST: Remains on National List.
Boric acid (CROPS) – structural pest control		To remove from §205.601(e) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.		RELIST: Remains on National List.

SUBCOMMITTEE	PROPOSAL	MOTION & VOTE	OUTCOME
	Sticky traps/barriers (CROPS) – pest control/monitoring	To remove from §205.601(e) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Elemental sulfur (CROPS) – slug and snail bait	To remove from §205.601(h) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Coppers, fixed (CROPS) – disease control	To remove from §205.601(i) 2 Yes, 13 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Copper sulfate (CROPS) – disease control	To remove from §205.601(i) 2 Yes, 13 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Polyoxin D zinc salt (CROPS) – disease control	To remove from §205.601(i) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Humic acids (CROPS) – plant/soil amendment	To remove from §205.601(j) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Boron, Soluble Products (CROPS) – micronutrient	To remove from §205.601(j) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Zinc, Copper, Iron, Manganese, Molybdenum, Selenium, Cobalt (CROPS) – micronutrient	To remove from §205.601(j) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Vitamins C and E (CROPS) – plant/soil amendment	To remove from §205.601(j) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Squid byproducts (CROPS) – fertilizer	To remove from §205.601(j) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Lead salts (CROPS) – prohibited	To remove from §205.602 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Tobacco dust (CROPS) – prohibited	To remove from §205.602 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Attapulgate (HANDLING) – clarifying aid	To remove from §205.605(a) 1 Yes, 14 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Bentonite (HANDLING) – clarifying aid	To remove from §205.605(a) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Diatomaceous earth (HANDLING) – filtering aid	To remove from §205.605(a) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Magnesium chloride (HANDLING) – tofu coagulation; nutrient	To remove from §205.605(a) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Nitrogen (HANDLING) – packaging, propellant	To remove from §205.605(a) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Sodium carbonate (HANDLING) – leavener, pH regulator	To remove from §205.605(a) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Acidified sodium chlorite (HANDLING) – sanitizer; antimicrobial	To remove from §205.605(b) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.

SUBCOMMITTEE	PROPOSAL	MOTION & VOTE	OUTCOME
	Carbon dioxide (HANDLING) – storage aid, carbonation	To remove from §205.605(b) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Sodium phosphates (HANDLING) – dairy processing	To remove from §205.605(b) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Casings (HANDLING) – for sausage	To remove from §205.605(b) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Pectin (HANDLING) – gelling agent	To remove from §205.606 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Potassium acid tartrate (HANDLING) – cream of tartar	To remove from §205.606 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Chlorhexidine (LIVESTOCK) – surgical antimicrobial; teat dip	To remove from §205.603(a) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Glucose (LIVESTOCK) – ketosis treatment	To remove from §205.603(a) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Tolazoline (LIVESTOCK) – sedative reversal	To remove from §205.603(a) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Copper sulfate (LIVESTOCK) – hoof treatment	To remove from §205.603(b) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Elemental sulfur (LIVESTOCK) – external pest control	To remove from §205.603(b) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.
	Lidocaine (LIVESTOCK) – topical anesthetic	To remove from §205.603(b) 0 Yes, 15 No . Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List.

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