

Organic Trade Association's Fall 2019 National Organic Standards Board Report

AT-A-GLANCE MEETING OUTCOMES AND VOTING TALLY

On October 23-25, the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) held its biannual public meeting in Pittsburgh, PA. The primary purpose of NOSB meetings is to provide an opportunity for organic stakeholders to give input on proposed NOSB recommendations and discussion items. The meetings also allow NOSB to receive updates from USDA's National Organic Program (NOP) on issues pertaining to organic agriculture. The full agenda for the meeting as well as all meeting materials are available on the Organic Trade Association's [fall 2019 NOSB meeting website](#). Full text of our comments are included on the website. The [fall 2019 NOSB Resource Booklet](#) contains background information on each topic and a summary of the Organic Trade Association's position. Live coverage of the meeting is provided on [our Twitter feed](#). Below is an at-a-glance review of the meeting outcomes and votes. **A full report will be available later this week**, which will include full details of NOSB discussions on each agenda item as well as a full list of upcoming work agenda items.

AT-A-GLANCE MEETING OUTCOMES

PROPOSALS: NOSB considered **7** proposals at this meeting. Of the proposals, all **7 PASSED** (referred to USDA for approval and implementation)

- **Fatty alcohols** – *proposal to allow use as sucker control in tobacco production is adopted*
- **Potassium hypochlorite** – *proposal to allow for use as irrigation water treatment is adopted*
- **Genetic integrity of seed grown on organic land** – *proposed instruction to certifiers is adopted*
- **Vaccines made with excluded methods** – *proposal to permit GMO vaccines only when non-GMO versions are not commercially available is adopted*
- **Excluded methods determinations** – *proposal to prohibit induced mutagenesis produced via in vitro nucleic acid techniques and allow livestock embryo transfer is adopted*
- **Research priorities** – *proposed research priorities are adopted*
- **Policy and Procedures Manual** – *proposed updates are adopted*

SUNSET REVIEWS: NOSB voted on over **50** currently allowed generic inputs. Of these, **2** are recommended for **REMOVAL** from the National List.

- **Dairy cultures (Handling)** - *recommended that redundant listing is removed and allowance continues under the existing broader listing of Microorganisms. This recommended action will not result in any changes to the current and continued allowance of dairy cultures in organic processing and handling.*
- **Alginate acid (Handling)** - *recommended removal and prohibition of non-organic alginate acid*

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

- **Paper pots and other crop production aids** - *petitioned for use as planting aids in crop production*
- **Marine materials** - *discussion about ensuring sustainable harvesting of seaweeds for use in crop fertilizers and soil amendments*
- **Fenbendazole** - *petitioned for in poultry production as parasiticide for laying hens*

OFFICER ELECTIONS: NOSB elected Steve Ela (Chair), Scott Rice (Vice Chair), and Jesse Buie (Secretary).

AT-A-GLANCE VOTING CHART

Only 13 voting members were present at this meeting (1 vacancy, 1 absent). Unless otherwise noted below, there were no abstentions or recusals. Recommendations are not official policy unless adopted by the USDA National Organic Program.

SUBCOMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM	MOTION & FULL BOARD VOTE	OUTCOME AND NEXT STEPS
CROPS	Fatty Alcohols (Petition)	Motion to add fatty alcohols C6, C8, C10, C12 Naturally Derived Fatty Alcohol at §205.601 for sucker control on organic tobacco crops. 8 Yes, 3 No, 2 Abstain, 1 Absent. Motion passes.	PASSED: A recommendation for addition of substance to the National List will be referred to USDA for approval and rulemaking.
CROPS	Potassium hypochlorite (Petition)	Motion to add potassium hypochlorite at §205.601(a): Chlorine materials - For use in water for irrigation purposes only. Residual chlorine levels in the water in direct crop contact or as water from cleaning irrigation systems applied to soil must not exceed the maximum residual disinfectant limit under the Safe Drinking Water Act. 13 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent. Motion passes.	PASSED: A recommendation for addition of substance to the National List will be referred to USDA for approval and rulemaking.
MATERIALS	Excluded Methods: Induced mutagenesis and embryo transfer in livestock	Motion to accept the proposal on excluded methods determinations. - Excluded: Induced mutagenesis developed via use of in vitro nucleic acid techniques. - Not excluded: Embryo transfer in animals. Use of hormones not allowed in recipient animals. 13 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent. Motion passes.	PASSED: The proposal is accepted and will be referred to USDA for approval and implementation in NOP Guidance.
MATERIALS	Genetic Integrity Transparency of Seed Grown on Organic Land – Instructions to Certifiers	Motion to accept the “Genetic Integrity Transparency of Seed Grown on Organic Land Instructions to Certifiers” Proposal. 13 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent. Motion passes.	PASSED: The proposal is accepted and will be referred to USDA for approval and implementation in NOP Guidance.
MATERIALS	Research Priorities	Motion to adopt the proposal on 2019 NOSB Research Priorities. 13 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent. Motion passes.	PASSED: The proposal is accepted and will be referred to USDA.
POLICY DEVELOPMENT	Updates to Policy and Procedures Manual	Motion to accept the changes to the NOSB Policy & Procedures Manual (PPM). 13 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent. Motion passes.	PASSED: The proposal is accepted and will be referred to USDA for approval and implementation in NOSB Policy and Procedures Manual.
LIVESTOCK	Vaccines made with Excluded Methods	Motion to change the USDA organic regulations at §205.105(e): (Addition to the current rule noted in bold) <i>(e) Excluded methods, except for vaccines: Provided, That, vaccines produced through excluded methods may be used when an equivalent vaccine not produced through excluded methods is not commercially available.</i> 12 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain, 1 Absent. Motion passes.	PASSED: A recommendation for amending the regulations will be referred to USDA for approval and rulemaking.

Sunset Reviews:

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

SUBCOMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM	SUBCOMMITTEE MOTION & VOTE	REMOVE/RELIST
CROPS	Hydrogen peroxide (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.601(a). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
CROPS	Hydrogen peroxide (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.601(i). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
CROPS	Soaps, Ammonium (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.601(d). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
CROPS	Oils, horticultural (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.601(e). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
CROPS	Oils, horticultural (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.601(i). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
CROPS	Pheromones (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.601(f). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
CROPS	Ferric phosphate (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.601(h). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
CROPS	Potassium bicarbonate (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.601(i). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
CROPS	Magnesium sulfate (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.601(j). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
CROPS	Hydrogen chloride (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.601(n). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
CROPS	Ash from manure burning (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.602. 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
CROPS	Sodium fluoaluminate (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.602. 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
LIVESTOCK	Atropine (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.603(a). 0 Yes, 12 No, 2 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
LIVESTOCK	Hydrogen peroxide (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.603(a). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
LIVESTOCK	Iodine (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.603(a). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
LIVESTOCK	Iodine (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.603(b). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List

SUBCOMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM	SUBCOMMITTEE MOTION & VOTE	REMOVE/RELIST
LIVESTOCK	Magnesium sulfate (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.603(a). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
LIVESTOCK	Fenbendazole (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.603(a). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
LIVESTOCK	Moxidectin (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.603(a). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
LIVESTOCK	Peracetic acid (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.603(a). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
LIVESTOCK	Xylazine (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.603(a). 0 Yes, 12 No, 1 Abstain, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
LIVESTOCK	Methionine (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.603(d). 0 Yes, 12 No, 1 Abstain, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
LIVESTOCK	Trace Minerals (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.603(d). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
LIVESTOCK	Vitamins (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.603(d). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Citric acid (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(a). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Lactic acid (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(a). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Calcium chloride (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(a). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Dairy cultures (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(a). 13 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent. Motion passes.	REMOVE: A recommendation for <u>removal</u> of the redundant listing for dairy cultures on the National List will be referred to USDA. Dairy cultures remain allowed under the broader listing of Microorganisms on §205.605(a). The recommended action will not result in any changes to the current and continued allowance of dairy cultures in processing and handling of organic foods. USDA rulemaking is required to implement this action, which will involve another public comment period.
HANDLING	Enzymes (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(a). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	L-Malic acid (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(a). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List

SUBCOMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM	SUBCOMMITTEE MOTION & VOTE	REMOVE/RELIST
HANDLING	Magnesium sulfate (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(a). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Microorganisms (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(a). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Perlite (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(a). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Potassium iodide (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(a). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Yeast (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(a). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Activated charcoal (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(b). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Alginic acid (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(b). 13 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent. Motion passes.	REMOVE: A recommendation for <u>removal</u> of alginic acid from the National List will be referred to USDA, which would result in this material being <u>prohibited</u> in organic processing and handling. USDA rulemaking is required to implement this action, which will involve another public comment period.
HANDLING	Ascorbic acid (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(b). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Calcium citrate (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(b). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Ferrous sulfate (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(b). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Hydrogen peroxide (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(b). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Nutrient vitamins and minerals (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(b). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Peracetic acid (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(b). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Potassium citrate (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(b). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Potassium phosphate (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(b). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Sodium acid pyrophosphate (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(b). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List

SUBCOMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM	SUBCOMMITTEE MOTION & VOTE	REMOVE/RELIST
HANDLING	Sodium citrate (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(b). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Tocopherols (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.605(b). 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Celery powder (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.606. 1 Yes, 11 No, 1 Abstain, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Fish oil (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.606. 0 Yes, 11 No, 2 Abstain, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Gelatin (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.606. 0 Yes, 13 No, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Orange pulp, dried (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.606. 7 Yes, 5 No, 1 Abstain, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Pacific kombu seaweed (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.606. 3 Yes, 9 No, 1 Abstain, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List
HANDLING	Wakame seaweed (Sunset)	Motion to remove from §205.606. 3 Yes, 9 No, 1 Abstain, 1 Absent. Motion fails.	RELIST: Remains on National List

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE SPRING 2020 NOSB MEETING: The next NOSB meeting will take place April 29 – May 1, 2020, at the Westin Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia. Notable work agenda topics are expected to include Marine Materials in crop production, Paper Pots (petition for crop use), Sodium carbonate lignin (petition for crop use), low acetyl gellan gum (petition for handling), red jalapeño pepper (petition for handling), Fenbendazole (petition for livestock use), Biodegradable biobased mulch film, and discussions on 2022 Sunset Reviews.

About the Organic Trade Association’s NOSB Report: As a service to its members, the Organic Trade Association attends National Organic Standards Board meetings. The *NOSB Report*, a member publication, summarizes the meeting and provides an overview of the agenda topics, public commentary, and key decisions made by NOSB. The items included in this report represent recommendations that NOSB developed and reviewed at its meetings. If accepted by the Board, recommendations pass to the National Organic Program, which determines the final form of the NOSB recommendations. Our members are alerted to steps in rulemaking through our *News Flash* or other member communications.

The Organic Trade Association’s **NOSB Report Archives** are available on our website. Please contact **Gwendolyn Wyard**, OTA’s Vice President of Regulatory and Technical Affairs, or **Johanna Mirenda**, OTA’s Farm Policy Director, for more information.