

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

AT-A-GLANCE MEETING OUTCOMES AND VOTING TALLY

On April 24-26, the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) held its biannual public meeting in Seattle, WA. 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 [spring 2019 NOSB meeting website](#). Full text of our comments are included on the website. The [spring 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 **10** proposals at this meeting. Of the proposals, **5 PASSED** and **5 FAILED**.

PASSED

- **Excluded methods determinations** – *proposed updates to NOP Guidance are accepted*
- **Strengthening Organic Seed Guidance** – *proposed updates to NOP Guidance are accepted*
- **Oxalic acid** – *petition to allow in livestock production is accepted*
- **Pullulan** – *petition to allow processing/handling is accepted*
- **Collagen gel** – *petition to allow in processing/handling is accepted*

FAILED

- **Silver dihydrogen citrate** – *petition to allow in processing/handling is rejected*
- **Allyl isothiocyanate** – *petition to allow in crop production is rejected*
- **Ammonium citrate** – *petition to allow in crop production is rejected*
- **Ammonium glycinate** – *petition to allow in crop production is rejected*
- **Calcium acetate** – *petition to allow in crop production is rejected*

DISCUSSION DOCUMENTS: NOSB considered 7 discussion documents at this meeting.

- **Excluded methods: Induced mutagenesis and embryo transfer in livestock**
- **Marine materials in organic crop production**
- **Genetic integrity transparency of seed grown on organic land**
- **Assessing cleaning and sanitation materials used in organic crop, livestock and handling**
- **Oversight improvements to deter fraud**
- **Use of excluded methods vaccines in organic livestock production**
- **Paper (Plant Pots and Other Crop Production Aids)**

AT-A-GLANCE VOTING CHART

14 board members were present. Unless otherwise noted below, there were no abstentions or recusals.

NOTE: Recommendations are not official policy unless adopted by the National Organic Program.

Subcommittee	Agenda Item	Motion and Full Board Vote	Outcome and Next Steps
MATERIALS	Excluded methods determinations	Motion to adopt the proposal (as amended to remove transposons developed through environmental stress). Yes: 14 No: 0 Motion passes.	PASSED: The proposal is accepted and will be referred to USDA for approval and implementation in NOP Guidance.
LIVESTOCK	Oxalic acid (Petition)	Motion to add oxalic acid dihydrate to §205.603(b) with the annotation “For use as a pesticide solely for apiculture.” Yes: 12 No: 0 Abstain: 2 Motion passes.	PASSED: A recommendation for addition of substance to the National List will be referred to USDA for approval and rulemaking.
HANDLING	Silver dihydrogen citrate (Petition)	Motion to add silver dihydrogen citrate at §205.605(b). Yes: 0 No: 13 Abstain: 1 Motion fails.	FAILED: No change to National List. Substance remains prohibited.
HANDLING	Pullulan (Petition)	Motion to add pullulan as petitioned, at §205.605(a) – For use only in tablets and capsules for dietary supplements labeled “made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s)). Yes: 14 No: 0 Motion passes.	PASSED: A recommendation for addition of substance to the National List will be referred to USDA for approval and rulemaking.
HANDLING	Collagen gel (Petition)	Motion to add collagen gel as petitioned at §205.606. Yes: 11 No: 0 Abstain: 3 Motion passes.	PASSED: A recommendation for addition of substance to the National List will be referred to USDA for approval and rulemaking.
CROPS	Allyl isothiocyanate (Petition)	Motion to add allyl isothiocyanate (AITC) at §205.601. Yes: 0 No: 14 Motion fails.	FAILED: No change to National List. Substance remains prohibited.
CROPS	Ammonium citrate (Petition)	Motion to add ammonium citrate as petitioned at §205.601. Yes: 0 No: 14 Motion fails.	FAILED: No change to National List. Substance remains prohibited.
CROPS	Ammonium glycinate (Petition)	Motion to add ammonium glycinate as petitioned at §205.601. Yes: 0 No: 14 Motion fails.	FAILED: No change to National List. Substance remains prohibited.
CROPS	Calcium acetate (Petition)	Motion to add calcium acetate at §205.601. Yes: 0 No: 14 Motion fails.	FAILED: No change to National List. Substance remains prohibited.
CROPS	Strengthening Organic Seed Guidance	Motion to adopt the proposal. Yes: 14 No: 0 Motion passes.	PASSED: The proposal is accepted and will be referred to USDA for approval and implementation in NOP Guidance.

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

SUNSET REVIEWS: NOSB discussed over 50 National List inputs that are scheduled for Sunset Review this year. NOSB will vote on whether these substances should remain on the National List at the fall 2019 meeting.

- **Inputs Used in Crop Production:** Hydrogen peroxide (disinfectant and fungicide); Ammonium soaps (animal repellent); Horticultural oils (for pest and disease control); Pheromones (for insect management); Ferric phosphate (slug or snail bait); Potassium bicarbonate (for disease control); Magnesium sulfate (nutrient fertilizer); Hydrogen chloride (for delinting cotton seed); Ash from manure burning (prohibited for use); Sodium fluoaluminate (prohibited for use)
- **Inputs Used in Livestock Production:** Atropine (medical treatment); Hydrogen peroxide (disinfectant and teat dip); Iodine (disinfectant and teat dip); Magnesium sulfate (medical treatment); Fenbendazole (parasiticide); Moxidectin (parasiticide); Peracetic acid (equipment sanitizer); Xylazine (sedative); Methionine (feed additive for poultry); Trace minerals (feed additive); Vitamins (feed additive)
- **Inputs Used in Processing and Handling:** Citric acid; Lactic acid; Calcium chloride; Dairy cultures; Enzymes; L-Malic acid; Magnesium sulfate; Microorganisms; Perlite (filtering aid); Potassium iodide; Yeast; Alginic acid; Activated charcoal (filtering aid); Ascorbic acid; Calcium citrate; Ferrous sulfate; Hydrogen peroxide (sanitizer); Nutrient vitamins and minerals; Peracetic acid (sanitizer); Potassium citrate; Potassium phosphate; Sodium acid pyrophosphate (leavening agent); Sodium citrate; Tocopherols (antioxidant); Celery powder; Fish oil; Gelatin; Orange pulp, dried; Seaweed, Pacific kombu; Seaweed, Wakame

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FALL 2019 NOSB MEETING: The next NOSB meeting will take place October 23 – 25, 2019, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel & Suites Pittsburgh City Center in Pittsburgh, PA. Notable work agenda topics are expected to include Marine Materials in crop production, Embryo Transfer in livestock, Research Priorities, petitions for Paper Pots, Potassium Hypochlorite, and Fatty Alcohols, and votes on 2021 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.