



## NATIONAL LIST INPUTS UNDER SUNSET REVIEW:

### Organic Stakeholder Feedback Needed!

Please forward if you know organic producers or handlers who should participate.

Your feedback is needed! Over the course of its next two meetings, NOSB will review several of the fertilizers, pest control products, livestock treatments, processing aids, and ingredients currently allowed for use by certified organic operations. These production and handling inputs will be reviewed and voted on by NOSB based on their Sunset timeline (renewal date), and may not be renewed if new information indicates these substances are incompatible with organic production.

It's critical that organic stakeholders weigh in **by the Thursday, March 30, comment deadline** and explain whether these inputs are consistent with and necessary for organic production, or whether there are other effective natural or organic alternatives available. The information you provide now will inform the vote NOSB will take at the fall 2017 meeting in Jacksonville, FL.

To help facilitate the comment process, OTA has created a [survey system for collecting feedback](#) from certified farms and processors. The information collected will significantly help NOSB identify the inputs that should be renewed or removed from the National List. **Below are links to electronic surveys that can be used to submit feedback on each individual input currently under NOSB review.** Each survey is CONFIDENTIAL, and contains about 10 short questions that will take an estimated five to 10 minutes to complete. The information collected will be passed along to NOSB via OTA's comments.

### 2019 SUNSET REVIEW INPUTS (REVIEWED IN 2017)

The National List inputs below are undergoing a reorganization process that will result in a more evenly distributed Sunset Review workload over the five-year Sunset Review cycle. The process is the result of an NOSB recommendation unanimously passed at the fall 2016 NOSB meeting. Please note that as explained in the NOSB recommendation, National List inputs that are reviewed early under the reorganization plan should be allowed to sunset on their original timeline. For example, if NOSB votes to remove a National List item under the 2019 review cycle that was originally under the 2017/2022 Sunset Review cycle, the removal of the item from the National List would not occur until 2022. ***This situation applies to all of the inputs listed below EXCEPT Biodegradable Bio-based Mulch.***

#### Crops

##### § 205.601 – SYNTHETICS ALLOWED IN ORGANIC CROP PRODUCTION

##### Algicides, sanitizers, pest, weed, and disease control materials

- **Chlorine Materials (Calcium Hypochlorite, Chlorine Dioxide, Sodium Hypochlorite)** - Used to disinfect tools, prevent spread of diseases, and increase food safety of organic products. For pre-harvest use, 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, except that chlorine products may be used in edible sprout production according to EPA label directions.

- *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/96GY3L2>
- **Herbicides, soap-based** - For use in farmstead maintenance (roadways, ditches, right of ways, building perimeters) and ornamental crops.
  - *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9Z9LN5J>
- **Biodegradable bio-based mulch film** - As defined in §205.2. Must be produced without organisms or feedstock derived from excluded methods. **§205.2:** A synthetic mulch film that meets the following criteria: (1) Meets the compostability specifications of one of the following standards: ASTM D6400, ASTM D6868, EN 13432, EN 14995, or ISO 17088 (all incorporated by reference; see §205.3); (2) Demonstrates at least 90% biodegradation absolute or relative to microcrystalline cellulose in less than two years, in soil, according to one of the following test methods: ISO 17556 or ASTM D5988 (both incorporated by reference; see §205.3); and (3) Must be bio-based with content determined using ASTM D6866 (incorporated by reference; see §205.3).
  - *Sunset Date: 10/30/2019; Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DQ5Z6ZP>
- **Boric acid** - Used for structural pest control, but cannot come into contact with organic food or crops.
  - *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/969GPZ9>
- **Sticky traps/barriers** - Used to monitor for pest populations issues in organic fields.
  - *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/96KHDPK>
- **Copper sulfate** - Used for pest and disease control and as a fertilizer to correct copper deficiencies in soil.
  - *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9PHQ9LN>
- **Coppers, fixed** - Used for disease control.
  - *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9PHQ9LN>

#### **Fertilizers, soil amendments, and crop production aids**

- **Humic acids** - Used as a fertilizer and soil amendment.
  - *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9PNGSSY>
- **Micronutrients – (i) Soluble boron products, (ii) Sulfates, carbonates, oxides, or silicates of zinc, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, selenium, and cobalt** - Used as a fertilizer when testing shows deficiencies.
  - *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9PSNJ7F>
- **Vitamin B1, C, and E** - Used as a fertilizer and soil amendment.

- Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)
- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9PQYY3B>

## 205.602 – NONSYNTHETICS PROHIBITED IN ORGANIC CROP PRODUCTION

- **Lead salts** –
  - Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DR9WBPV>
- **Tobacco dust (nicotine sulfate)** –
  - Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DT9P6R8>

## Livestock

### § 205.603(a) – SYNTHETICS ALLOWED IN ORGANIC LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

- **Chlorine Materials (Calcium hypochlorite, Chlorine Dioxide, Sodium Hypochlorite)** - Used for sanitizers and disinfectants. Residual chlorine levels in the water shall not exceed the maximum residual disinfectant limit under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
  - Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9PDXMVQ>
- **Chlorhexidine** - Used as an antiseptic and teat dip when alternatives have lost efficacy.
  - Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9PVYNC7>
- **Glucose** - Used to treat ketosis and hypoglycemia.
  - Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9PKQ7DL>
- **Oxytocin** - Used in post-parturition therapeutic applications (e.g. retained placenta).
  - Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9H3Y8M8>
- **Tolazoline** - Used to reverse the effects of Xylazine after surgical procedures.
  - Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9FHBYS2>
- **Copper sulfate** - Used as hoof bath to treat foot conditions.
  - Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9F3WCG8>
- **Lidocaine** - Used as a local anesthetic.
  - Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9FXD699>
- **Procaine** - Used as a local anesthetic.
  - Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9FT7GDL>

## Handling

### § 205.605(a) – ALLOWED NON-AGRICULTURAL NONSYNTHETICS

- **Attapulgate** - Used as a processing aid and functions as a natural bleaching clay for the purification of vegetable and animal oils.

- *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9FQKSYP>
- **Bentonite** - A colloidal clay (aluminum silicate) that has a high swelling capacity in water. Used as a filtering aid, as a thickener and as a colorant in wine.
  - *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9FDF3VY>
- **Diatomaceous Earth (food filtering aid only)** - Used for filtering numerous organic food and beverage products.
  - *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9FLF6QW>
- **Nitrogen** - Keeps cans rigid in still juice. Excludes oxygen from sealed containers. Used in flash freezing of foods. The nitrogen dissipates into the air after freezing and does not remain in the food product.
  - *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9N5887Q>
- **Sodium carbonate** - Baking soda. Used in prepared pancake biscuit and muffin mixes; a leavening agent in baking powders; in various crackers and cookies; to adjust acidity in tomato soup, in pastes and beverages; in syrups for frozen products; in confections and self-rising flours. Used also as a neutralizer for butter, cream mild and ice cream.
  - *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9T775QM>

#### § 205.605(b) – ALLOWED NON-AGRICULTURAL SYNTHETICS

- **Acidified sodium chlorite:** Used as a secondary direct antimicrobial food treatment and indirect food contact surface sanitizing. Under consideration by FDA as a sprouting seed disinfectant.
  - *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9TKNMJZ>
- **Chlorine Materials (Calcium hypochlorite, Chlorine dioxide, Sodium hypochlorite)** - For disinfecting and sanitizing food contact surfaces and as a sanitizer in the handling and processing of organic crops.
  - *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9RBW7SX>
- **Carbon dioxide** - Used in the storage of grains for pest control and for freezing of foods and accelerated cooling. Beverage carbonation. Extraction of essential oils and extracts. Controlled atmospheric packaging.
  - *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9R8RYM7>
- **Magnesium chloride (derived from sea water)** - Coagulant in tofu manufacturing. Firming agent in canned vegetables.
  - *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9S5YNJN>
- **Potassium acid tartrate** - Used in many types of organic baked goods as a leavening agent. Used as part of aluminum free baking powder, along with sodium bicarbonate and cornstarch.

- *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9SHYHNNH>
- **Sodium phosphates (for use only in dairy foods)** - Used as an emulsifier in organic cheese products.
  - *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9SGJ7ZV>

#### § 205.606 – ALLOWED NON-ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL INGREDIENTS WHEN ORGANIC IS NOT AVAILABLE

- **Casings, from processed intestines.** Processed intestines of hogs, cattle and sheep. In most instances the casing is consumed with the product, however in some cases the casing is removed.
  - *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9SNKYVP>
- **Konjac flour** - Used as a gelling agent and stabilizer/thickener; its functional properties are similar to those for food ingredients such as gelatin, pectin, modified starches and vegetable gums. Also classified by USDA-APHIS as a binder in meat and poultry products.
  - *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/99LQMNM>
- **Pectin (non-amidated forms only)** – Used as a stabilizer and thickening agent. Used in jams and jellies. Also in fruit preparations for yogurt and bakery fillings. Can be used in salad dressings, malted milk beverages, and frozen fruit products.
  - *Original Sunset timeline: 2017-2022; New Sunset Review Year 2019 (reviewed in 2017)*
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9V8DW6Z>

### Upcoming NOSB meeting & agenda

The next [National Organic Standards Board \(NOSB\) meeting](#) will be April 19-21 in Denver, CO, at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel. Reservations may be made [online](#). The meetings are open to the public, and no registration is required, except to sign up for oral comments. [Reserve an Oral Comment Slot](#)

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 meeting will be open to the public.

The final deadline to submit written comments and sign up for oral comments will be **Thursday, March 30, at midnight Eastern.**

### Mission and Structure of NOSB

The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) was created through the Organic Foods Production Act, a sub-section of the 1990 Farm Bill. The Board is charged with the task of assisting the Secretary of Agriculture on which substances should be allowed or prohibited in organic farming and processing. This 15-person citizen advisory board brings together volunteers from around the United States. It is



made up of four farmers/growers, two handlers/processors, one retailer, one scientist, three consumer/public interest advocates, three environmentalists, and one USDA accredited certifying agent.

## **Contact OTA staff with questions or concerns**

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