

## Protect the National Organic Standards Board

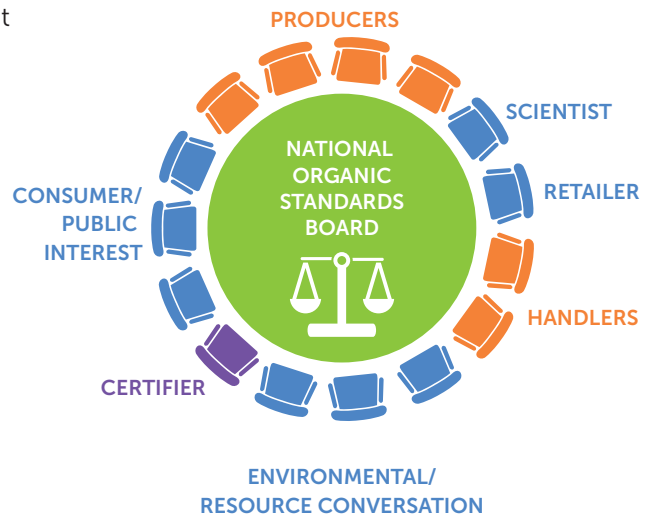
**The organic industry and consumers play an essential role in informing the organic standards through the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB).**

The USDA organic program is a public-private partnership. When drafting the farm bill, Congress should avoid adjudicating specific standards questions and allow the standards to continue to be driven by the organic industry.

An important institution in this process is NOSB. **NOSB ensures that organic farmers, handlers, retailers, certifiers, scientists, and those who consume organic products inform the development and application of the standards.**

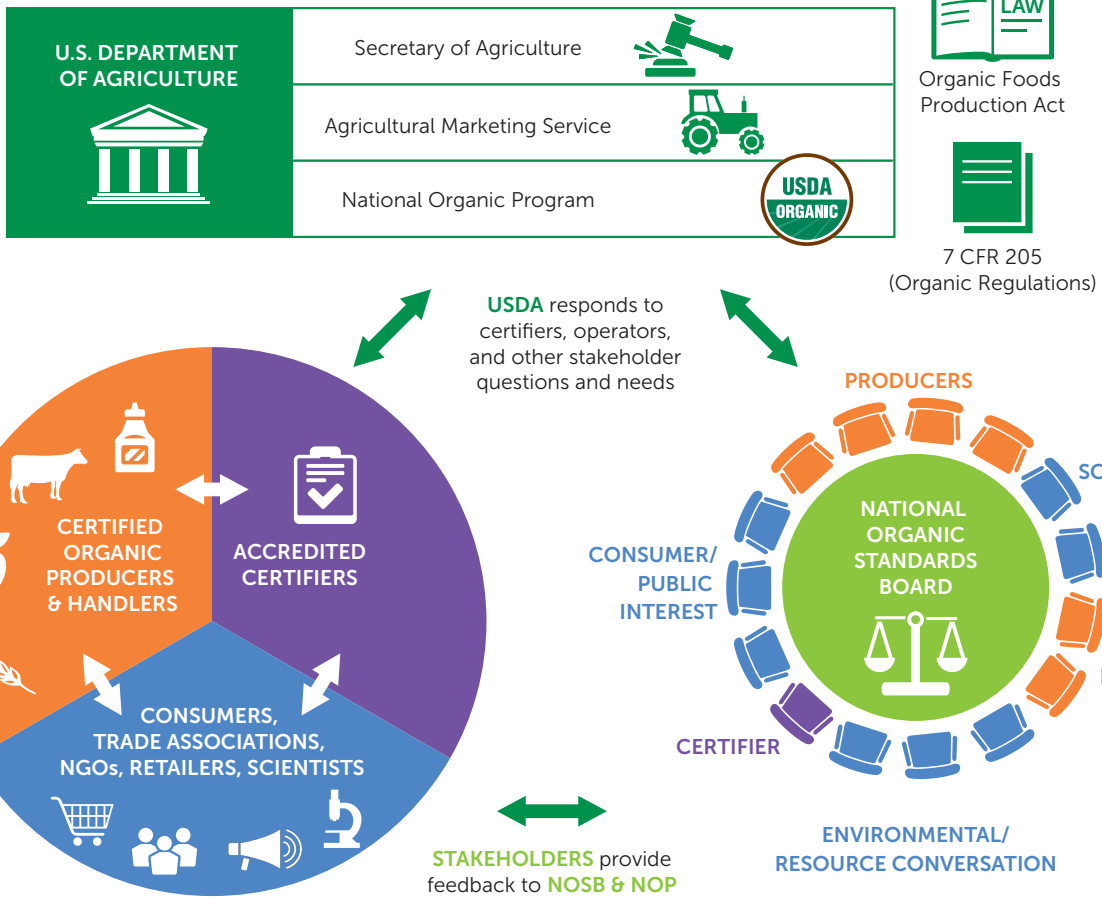
NOSB allows a formal process to ensure transparent and public input from all stakeholders into standard setting and decision-making for USDA organic standards. NOSB is a volunteer, federal advisory board but it has unique statutory authority over recommending and reviewing materials established through the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances for use in organic production and handling.

The USDA Organic label is highly trusted by over 75% of families nationwide. This standard is valued and transparent in a sea of sometimes confusing labeling claims. **NOSB plays an essential role in consumers' trust in organic agriculture.**



**ASK:** Support the underlying law (the Organic Foods Production Act) that governs the authorities and composition of the board, and oppose significant changes to NOSB in the Farm Bill that will undermine consumer trust in the label and harm U.S. organic farmers.

# The Organic Stakeholder Landscape



## KEY



**The Organic Foods Production Act** passed in 1990. It takes an act of Congress to change the law.



**7 CFR 205** are the organic standards that describe the requirements that must be verified before a product can be labeled as USDA organic.



**U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)** is responsible for administering federal regulations related to farming, agriculture, forestry and food.



**The Secretary of Agriculture** appoints and consults with NOSB in the formation of organic standards, policy and guidance.



**USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)** administers and enforces NOP's regulatory framework.



**USDA (AMS) National Organic Program (NOP)** establishes and enforces organic standards, oversees certifiers and supports transitioning and current organic producers and handlers.



**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)** is a 15-member board of volunteer citizens that assists in the on-going development of the organic standards.



**Accredited Certifiers** are third party organizations that certify organic operations to protect the integrity of the USDA organic seal.



**Certified Organic Producers and Handlers** are farmers, ranchers, processors, retailers, traders, distributors and others that are able to sell, label and represent products as organic.



**Consumers, trade associations, NGOs, retailers, scientists** and other stakeholders with an interest in organic agriculture and products provide feedback to USDA and NOSB.

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