

Organic Trade Association's Spring 2021 National Organic Standards Board Report AT-A-GLANCE MEETING OUTCOMES AND VOTING TALLY

On **April 28-30**, the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) held its biannual public meeting via live online webinar. The full agenda for the meeting as well as all meeting materials are available on the Organic Trade Association's [spring 2021 NOSB meeting website](#). Full text of our submitted written comments are included on the website as well as more background information about the NOSB Meeting. Below is an at-a-glance review of the meeting outcomes and votes. A full report will be available in the coming days, which will include full details of NOSB discussions on each agenda item.

PROPOSALS: NOSB considered **4** proposals at this meeting. Of the proposals, **3 PASSED** (referred to USDA for approval and implementation).

- **Paper-Based Planting Aids (Crops)** – proposal to allow with restrictions on biobased and cellulose content **is adopted**
- **Ion Exchange Filtration (Handling)** – proposal on the use of resins, membranes, and recharge materials **is adopted**
- **Human Capital: Strategy for Recruitment and Talent Management of Organic Inspectors and Reviewers** – proposal for potential solutions to address the decline in qualified personnel **is adopted**
- **Biodegradable Biobased Mulch (Crops)** – proposal to allow biodegradable mulches that are not 100% biobased **is sent back to subcommittee**

RESOLUTIONS: NOSB communicated **unanimous support** for **2** key issues

- **Resolution on Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices Rulemaking:** NOSB voted unanimously in support of a resolution calling for immediate implementation of the OLPP rule that was finalized in 2017 but subsequently withdrawn in 2018. The resolution urges the USDA to re-issue the rule with policy considerations related to outdoor access and space requirements as established in 2017 without further delay.
- **Support for the Continuous Improvement and Accountability in Organic Standards Act:** In response to the introduction of the on the Continuous Improvement and Accountability in Organic Standards Act in to Congress on the last day of the NOSB Meeting, the NOSB Chair Steve Ela made a statement of unanimous Board support for the bill.

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

- **Ammonia Extract (Crops)** – discussion on a petition to prohibit nonsynthetic ammonia extract fertilizer
- **Kasugamycin (Crops)** – discussion on a petition to allow kasugamycin (antibiotic) for control fire blight control
- **Zein (Handling)** – discussion on a petition to allow zein (corn protein) as food coating on organic foods
- **Fish Oil (Handling)** – options for restricting sources of fish oil to minimize environmental harm
- **Excluded Methods** – identifying emerging technologies in the food sector and determining whether they will be considered excluded methods (thereby prohibited) in organic production and processing
- **2021 Research Priorities** – discussion on NOSB's annual list of research priorities for organic food and agriculture
- **Human Capital: Supporting the Work of NOSB** – exploring opportunities to obtain assistance for NOSB, as appropriate, to help alleviate some of the workload

SUNSET REVIEWS: NOSB discussed over **30** 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 2020 meeting.

2021 SPRING NOSB VOTING CHART

14 voting members were present at this meeting. Unless otherwise noted below, there were no other absences, abstentions or recusals. Recommendations are not effective until accepted by USDA and implemented through rulemaking. Two-thirds majority is needed to pass motions, except that a simple majority is needed to refer proposals back to subcommittee.

SUBCOMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM	MOTION & FULL BOARD VOTE	OUTCOME AND NEXT STEPS
CROPS	Paper-Based Crop Planting Aids	Motion add to add proposed definition of paper-based crop planting aid to 205.2. 14 Yes, 0 No. Motion passes. Motion to add proposed listing to 205.601. 14 Yes, 0 No. Motion passes.	PASSED: A recommendation for rulemaking will be referred to USDA.
CROPS	Biodegradable Biobased Mulch Film	Motion to refer proposal back to Subcommittee. 14 Yes, 0 No. Motion passes.	The proposal will be referred back to Subcommittee for further work.
HANDLING	Ion Exchange Filtration	Motion to adopt the proposal. 14 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.	PASSED: The proposal will be referred to USDA for consideration.
COMPLIANCE, ACCREDITATION, CERTIFICATION	Human Capital: Strategy for Recruitment and Talent Management of Organic Inspectors and Reviewers	Motion to adopt the proposal. 14 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.	PASSED: The proposal will be referred to USDA for consideration.
LIVESTOCK	Resolution on Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices Rule	Motion to adopt the resolution on OLPP Rule. 13 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent. Motion passes	PASSED: The resolution is adopted and will be referred to USDA.

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

BACKGROUND: The Organic Trade Association’s [spring 2021 NOSB Meeting Resource Booklet](#) contains explanations of all the topics that were under NOSB consideration at this meeting. The booklet includes helpful background information and summaries of our written comments on each issue.

LOOKING FORWARD: The [fall 2021 NOSB Meeting](#) is scheduled for October 19-21 in Sacramento, CA.