



The Organic Specialists

MAY 2015 NEWS & NOSB REPORT

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"I am going to try to pay attention to the spring. I am going to look around at all the flowers, and look up at the hectic trees. I am going to close my eyes and listen."

Anne Lamott

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Earthworms are Watching

Wow, what a difference. Compared to the last few years, the recent NOSB meeting in La Jolla was efficient and reasonably harmonious. Chairperson Jean Richardson stayed on or close to schedule all four days, quite impressive given the incredible number of topics and materials to discuss.

Thanks to all of the volunteer board, especially the four new members Ashley Swaffar, Paula Daniels, Tom Chapman, and Lisa de Lima, who have come up to speed and participated with consensus-building in mind. And special well-wishes need to go to Harold Austin, who fell during the meeting and suffered a serious injury that required surgery.

Faced with over 1200 written public comments, more than 100 in-person speakers, and most of the 200-plus National List materials to discuss, it was a full agenda. Of note, the outcomes of the final full Board votes followed the sub-committee recommendations for the new petitions and the 2016 sunset materials. The most contentious, a recommended change to methionine, still passed by a 2/3 majority.

I had the honor of [re-introducing descendants of the original NOSB earthworms](#) to the proceedings and asking that the NOSB consider in their decision-making what would be in the best interest of farmers and beneficials.

I was also pleased that NOP is seeking input to possibly reduce the restrictions on biodegradable mulch that essentially prohibit it. NOSB voted it allowed in 2012, it was placed on the National List in 2014, and farmers want and need this improved choice over polyethylene.

Unfortunately, two lawsuits against the NOP may put a damper on having transparent and public discussion

about compost and sunset protocols in the Fall. Nonetheless, Miles McEvoy and the NOP are moving forward, posting Origin of Livestock draft standards for comment after six years of recommendations. Expect to see proposed Aquaculture and Pet Food Standards up for comment soon as well. And a new and improved NOP database in September.

On an industry-wide note, organic acreage in the U.S. surpassed 1% and over 5% of the food dollar is now organic! And trust in the organic seal went up by 5% from 2013 to 2014, despite our own consumer group attacking the most robust and transparent food production standard in the world.

And finally, there are five new seats on the NOSB coming up for 2016 appointment. Openings are for two farmers, two public interest representatives, and one certifier. The current deadline for submitting applications is May 15, but we understand it will be extended to June 15. If you need help applying, please let us know.

Bill Wolf
President

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**Wolf, DiMatteo + Associates delivers the strategic expertise to help organic, socially, and Environmentally responsible products and projects reach their full potential—and flourish.*

USDA NEWS

NOSB nominations due May 15

Just a reminder to send in your nomination packet for openings on the National Organic Standards Board. Five seats are open: one USDA accredited certifier, two individuals representing public interest or consumer groups, and two organic farmers/growers. [Details](#).

Comment on proposed rules for origin of livestock for organic dairies

Comment by July 27 on a proposed rule to clarify the requirements for the transition of dairy animals into organic production. The rule would update the USDA's organic regulations by requiring that milk or milk products labeled, sold, or represented as organic be from dairy animals that have been organically managed since the last third of gestation, with a one-time allowance for a producer to convert conventional dairy animals to organic milk production after a one-year transitional period.

Under the proposal, the producer, rather than the herd, becomes what is regulated, and allows a producer a one-time transition period of one year; all animals must end transition at the same time. After the transition, the producer would only be able to expand the number of dairy animals or replace culled dairy animals on any dairy farm in two ways: (1) Add dairy animals that had been under continuous organic management since the last third of gestation, or (2) add transitioned dairy animals that had already completed the transition on another dairy farm during that producer's one-time transition. Breeder stock, however, may be brought from a nonorganic operation onto an organic operation at any time. Comment on regulations.gov.

Save the date for the Fall NOSB meeting

The National Organic Standards Board will meet Oct. 26-29, 2015 at the [Stoweflake Conference Center](#) in Stowe, Vermont.

NOP outlines nanotech policy

Although the National Organic Standards Board suggested a definition, NOP is not establishing a separate definition in order to avoid conflicts with how the presence of nanomaterials is regulated by other Federal agencies. Meanwhile, the [policy](#) differentiates between engineered nanomaterials and incidental nanomaterials, such as might occur through milling or homogenization. No engineered nanomaterial will be allowed for use in organic production and handling unless the substance has been: 1) petitioned for use; 2) reviewed and recommended by the NOSB; and 3) added to the National List through notice and comment rulemaking.

INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY NEWS

EU reaffirms organic equivalency agreement with US

As part of the organic equivalency agreement between the European Union and the United States, the European Commission reviewed the agreement and found it increased market access for producers, expanded consumer choices, and facilitated regulatory cooperation. As a result, the European Commission, in a [letter to USDA](#), re-affirmed its commitment to the organic equivalency arrangement with the US and to reducing barriers to trade in organic products.

EU and South Korea equivalency agreement is in place

Beginning Feb. 1, 2015, an organic equivalency [agreement between the EU and South Korea](#) will facilitate trade in processed organic products from Europe. Unprocessed agricultural products, including fresh fruits and vegetables and frozen or dried fruit and vegetables that are not blended with others, must still be certified to Korean standards for export from the EU.

Mexico delays enforcement for imports

On May 8, 2015, the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries, and Food (SAGARPA) published a notification in the Diario Oficial de la Federación (Mexican Federal Register) extending the deadline to comply with Mexico's organic regulations to October 29, 2016. This extension allows products certified as organic under the USDA's National Organic Program (NOP) to continue to enter and be sold in Mexico as organic. The United States has been in talks with Mexico about an equivalency agreement for organic products.

Peru to fine GMO moratorium violators

On March 14, 2015, Peru's Ministry of the Environment announced a fine structure ranging from \$62,000 to \$1.2 million for any company in non-compliance with the 10 year moratorium on genetically modified organisms. Fineable offenses include bringing GMOs into Peru, producing, trading or releasing GMOs into the environment, and not bearing the cost of destroying GMOs. [More](#).

NEWS AND NOTICES

Interested in exporting organic products?

Wolf, DiMatteo + Associates recently produced two more market reports for the Organic Trade Association's [Global Organic Trade Guide](#). The Guide is designed for US organic producers interested in export markets and organic regulatory status worldwide. The latest market reports are for [Mexico](#) and [China](#).

ISO accredits California's materials review program

California's Organic Input Material program (OIM) has been accredited to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17065 requirements, as being a reputable third party entity capable of evaluating input materials for use in organic crop and food production. Fertilizers sold in California must be reviewed and approved by the California Department of Food and Agriculture OIM program.

One percent of agricultural land is organic

IFOAM – Organics International Annual Report 2014 shows organic agriculture uses 0.98 percent of the world's total agriculture land, or 43.1 million hectares. Meanwhile, the worldwide market for organic products was valued at 54 billion euros in 2013, with the United States, Germany and France leading. Per capita consumption, as measured in spending on organic products was highest in Switzerland, Denmark and Luxembourg.

Just a few more reasons we love organic farms

The Organic Center keeps spreading the word about recent research. See their [web site](#) for more about how certain herbicides might be inducing antibiotic resistance in E. Coli and Salmonella; a study that demonstrates how GMO seeds can create more aggressive weeds even if the herbicide isn't used; a study that suggests children's exposure to pyrethroids is linked to ADHD and a study that indicates daughters of women exposed to pesticides early in their pregnancies may have impaired neurodevelopment. On a more positive note, The Organic Center also highlights a study that found the number and abundance of beneficial predatory insects and spiders are higher both on organically farmed land and surrounding non-agricultural land when compared to conventional farms and their surrounding land.

More families plan to buy organic, says OTA survey

Just over half of all families surveyed said they have increased their organic purchases from a year ago according to Organic Trade Association's U.S. Families' Organic Attitudes and Beliefs 2015 Tracking Study, which polled more than 1,200 households throughout the country with at least one child under 18. Half of U.S. families (47 percent) are "very familiar" with the organic seal, representing a steady and significant increase of awareness from just 27 percent in 2009, the first year of the survey. Meanwhile, 83 percent of U.S. families say they buy organic, up a full 10 points in the last six years. [More](#).

Learn about the latest organic research in the Midwest

The Ceres Trust's 2015 '[Organic Research and Outreach in the North Central Region](#)' report lists state-specific information about organic research in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, where over 1970 acres of university land are being used for organic research. The report includes details about student organic farms; certified organic research land and animals; sources of organic research funding; dissemination of organic research results through field days and peer-reviewed journals; organic academic curricula; and other relevant information.

WHERE TO FIND WOLF, DIMATTEO + ASSOCIATES

May 20-21: MomentUs Path to Positive Leadership Summit, Washington, DC. Katherine DiMatteo will speak.

May 21: SASSI Association Conference, Arlington, VA. Bill Wolf will speak.

NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD SPRING 2015 MEETING RECAP

The April 27-30, 2015 National Organic Standards Board meeting took place in La Jolla, California. Along with extensive materials review and discussions brought forward by subcommittees, the [agenda](#) included presentations from NOP staff, a status update from the Policy Development Subcommittee, and a presentation on inerts and the Environmental Protection Agency/Design for the Environment efforts. Presentations and meeting materials can be found [here](#).

NOP outlined plans for 2015-2018

Among the highlights of the National Organic Program's strategic plan include completing regulations on animal welfare, origin of livestock, aquaculture, apiculture, and mushrooms. They plan to enhance enforcement provisions, develop policies for grower groups, pesticide drift, inspector qualifications, and private labels. The policy on biodegradable mulch films requiring 100% biobased components will get a second look, since current products are 15 to 25% biobased with the remainder comprised of petroleum resins. Deputy Administrator Miles McEvoy commissioned more information for the Crops Committee to review before the Fall meeting with the possibility that these mulches could be allowed for 2016 planting season.

Evaluating inert components of materials

NOP is considering working with the Environmental Protection Agency's Safer Choice program (formerly Design for the Environment) for evaluating inert ingredients in input materials. Clive Davies, Chief, Design for the Environment Branch at EPA, gave an overview of the Safer Choice Program. The program, which includes a label for products that meet the standards, has a framework in place for evaluating the potential risks of materials to human health and the environment. [More](#).

Reminding NOSB of the roots of organic regulation and decisions

Bill Wolf presented a container of earthworms to NOSB to oversee their deliberations during the spring meeting. These earthworms are descendants of the worms that Bill presented to an NOSB meeting 20 years ago and have been under the care of Mark Lipson in the soils of Molino Creek Farming Collective in Davenport, CA since that time. At the end of the meeting Zea Sonnabend, Crops Committee chair transferred them to Karen Archipley of Archi's Acres and they are now living comfortably in the soils of Archipley's Escondido, CA organic avocado orchard that also provides training to returning veterans.



Handling Subcommittee

Petitions:

Glycerin - The petition requested removal of glycerin from §205.605(b) (synthetic materials for handling), stating that there is now sufficient quantity of organically produced glycerin. Due to confusion around classification of glycerin (depending upon the manufacturing methods and source material), and the concerns regarding commercial availability of organically produced glycerin, the Handling subcommittee, after significant discussion, proposed listing glycerin at §205.606 and removing glycerin from §205.605(b). Glycerin that would qualify for listing at §205.606 would include glycerin produced by microbial fermentation of carbohydrate substances as well as glycerin produced from hydrolysis of fats and oils using mechanical/physical methods, as long as the original source material was agricultural.

Three votes were taken:

If organic glycerin is not available in the required quantity, quality or form, then glycerin from agricultural forms could be used; synthetic glycerin will no longer be allowed. Vote: Yes, 14; Absent, 1.

Motion to list glycerin at §205.606, produced from agricultural source materials and processed using biological or mechanical/physical methods. Yes 14; No 0; Absent 1.

Motion to remove glycerin - produced by hydrolysis of fats and oils – from §205.605(b). Yes 14; No 0, Absent 1.

Whole Algal Flour - Use: A whole food ingredient used as either a partial replacement for food ingredients that provide dietary fat and/or protein such as cream, milk, eggs/egg yolks, and/or butter or shortening in baked goods, beverages, dairy and egg products, sauces, gravies, margarines, salad dressings and soups, or as an added ingredient for texture and mouth feel enhancement.

The NOSB **voted against** adding Whole Algal Flour to the National List at §205.605(a) - Nonagricultural (non-organic) substance (non-synthetic) allowed. Yes 14; No 0; Absent 1.

Ammonium Hydroxide - Petitioned for use as a boiler water additive; **petition was withdrawn.**

Polyalkylene Glycol Monobutyl Ether (PGME) - Petitioned for use as a boiler steam additive in feed pellet mills. NOSB **voted against** adding PGME to the National List. Yes 14; No 0; Absent 1.

Triethyl citrate - Use: A food additive to stabilize foams, especially as a whipping aid for egg whites. NOSB voted against adding this to the National List. Yes 14; No 0; Absent 1.

Proposal: Ancillary Substances for Microorganisms

The Ancillary Substance Policy adopted by the Board in 2013 requires any ancillary substance in organic food to be legal for use in food in the United States, or be subject of a FDA “no objections” response in the GRAS Notification Inventory published by FDA. Ancillary substances used with microorganisms, by functional class include: anti-caking and anti-stick agents, carriers and fillers, preservatives, stabilizers, cyroprotectants, and substrate that may remain in the final product. The proposal is designed to re-affirm NOSB’s position that organic materials, even for ancillary substances, must be used unless they are not commercially available. This subcommittee proposal identified which substances are in each functional class, and suggested adding to the National List at §205.605(a): Microorganisms - any food-grade bacteria, fungi, and other microorganism; and required use of organic sources for ancillary substances when available. NOSB tabled the discussion of this proposal until Spring 2016.

2016 Sunset Review:

Sunset date for these materials is Sept. 12, 2016. ‘X’ indicates the material will no longer be allowed, pending NOP approval and rulemaking.

X Egg White Lysozyme - Use: Commonly used as an antimicrobial in cheese and wine making as well as other applications, including health and wellness products. NOSB voted to remove this from the National list: Yes 11; No 3; Absent 1.

L-Malic Acid - Use: L-Malic acid is used as a flavor enhancer, flavoring agent and adjuvant, and for pH control agent in a variety of foods. NOSB voted to keep this on the National list. Motion to remove: Yes 2; No 12; Absent 1.

Microorganisms - any food grade bacteria, fungi, and other microorganism-Uses: Varied, depending on organisms. Some create "biogenic effects" through fermentation (such as in vinegar or miso) or have a "probiotic effect" by interacting directly with the digestive system (such as yogurt with *L. bulgaricus*). Some are used to improve palatability or nutritional value of food, or as antimicrobial agents during the production or processing of foods. Some provide a non-synthetic alternative to cleaning agents, sanitizers, and antimicrobial products that are not allowed for use in organic food processing and handling.

NOSB voted to keep this on the National list. Motion to remove: Yes 0; No 14; Absent 1.

Activated Charcoal (CAS #s 7440 - 44 - 0; 64365 - 11 - 3) only from vegetative sources; for use only as a filtering aid. The subcommittee noted there has been progress in developing alternatives to activated charcoal, and encourages stakeholders to pursue organic alternatives whenever they are available. NOSB voted to keep this on the National list. Motion to remove: Yes 1; No, 13; Absent 1.

Peracetic Acid/Peroxyacetic acid (CAS # 79-21-0)—for use in wash and/or rinse water according to FDA limitations. For use as a sanitizer on food contact surfaces. NOSB voted to keep this on the National list. Motion to remove: Yes 0; No 14; Absent 1.

X Boiler water additives for package sterilization:

- Cyclohexylamine (CAS # 108 - 91 - 8)
- Diethylaminoethanol (CAS # 100 -37- 8)
- Octadecylamine (CAS # 124–30–1)

For each of these materials, NOSB voted to remove them from the National List: Yes 14; No 0; Absent 1.

Sodium Acid Pyrophosphate (SAPP) (CAS # 7758-16-9) - for use only as a leavening agent.

NOSB voted to keep this on the National list. Motion to remove: Yes 3; No 11; Absent 1.

X Tetrasodium Pyrophosphate (TSP) (CAS # 7722–88–5) - for use only in meat analog products. NOSB voted to remove this from the National List: Yes 14; No 0; Absent 1.

Handling 2017 Sunset Materials

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23 listings for review in §205.605(a) Nonsynthetics allowed

Unless otherwise noted, the sunset date for this set of materials is Oct. 21, 2017:

Acid, Alginate

Acid, Citric

Acid, Lactic

Attapulgate - Sunset Aug. 3, 2017

Bentonite - Sunset June 27, 2017

Calcium carbonate - Sunset June 27, 2017

Calcium chloride

Dairy cultures: The NOSB is considering removing dairy cultures from the national list since the broader listing of microorganisms may cover all currently allowed dairy cultures.

Diatomaceous earth

Enzymes

Flavors

Kaolin

Magnesium sulfate

Nitrogen

Oxygen

Perlite

Potassium chloride

Potassium iodide

Sodium bicarbonate

Sodium carbonate

* Waxes: Carnauba

* Waxes: Wood rosin

Yeast

31 listings for review in §205.605(b) Synthetics allowed

Unless otherwise noted, the sunset date for this set of materials is June 27, 2017.

Acidified sodium chlorite - Sunset March 15, 2017

Alginates

* Ammonium bicarbonate

Ammonium carbonate

Ascorbic acid

Calcium citrate

Calcium hydroxide

Calcium phosphates: monobasic, dibasic, tribasic

Carbon dioxide

Chlorine Materials (Calcium hypochlorite, Chlorine dioxide, Sodium hypochlorite)

Ethylene

Ferrous sulfate

Glycerides: mono and di

Glycerin

Hydrogen peroxide

* Magnesium carbonate

Magnesium chloride

* Magnesium stearate

Nutrient vitamins and minerals Sunset Oct. 21, 2017

Ozone

Phosphoric acid

Potassium acid tartrate

Potassium carbonate

Potassium citrate

* Potassium phosphate

Sodium citrate

Sodium hydroxide

* Sodium phosphates

Sulfur dioxide

Tocopherols

Xanthan gum

24 listings for review in §205.606 Nonorganically produced agricultural products allowed as ingredients in or on processed products labeled as “organic.”

Unless otherwise noted, the sunset date for this set of materials is June 27, 2017.

Casings

* Celery powder

* Chia (*Salvia hispanica* L.)

* Colors: Various

* Dillweed oil

Fish oil

Fructooligosaccharides

* Galangal, frozen

* Gelatin

Gums: Arabic, Carob bean, Guar, Locust bean

Inulin-oligofructose enriched

Kelp
Konjac flour
Lecithin - de-oiled - Sunset March 15, 2017
* Lemongrass-frozen
Orange pulp, dried - Sunset March 15, 2017
Orange Shellac - unbleached
Pectin (non-amidated forms only)
* Peppers (Chipotle chile)
Seaweed, Pacific kombu - Sunset March 15, 2017
* Starches, Cornstarch (native), Sweet potato
Turkish bay leaves
Wakame seaweed (Undaria pinnatifida)
* Whey protein concentrate

Crops Subcommittee

Petitions:

Exhaust Gas - Exhaust gas from internal combustion engines has been petitioned for use for control of burrowing rodents, under §205.601 Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic crop production. **NOSB voted against adding exhaust gas to the National List: Yes 14; No 0; Absent 1.**

Allyl isothiocyanate (AITC) – **Petition was withdrawn** March 11, 2015

Calcium Sulfate - The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) received a petition from the American Coal Ash Association to add synthetic calcium sulfate (gypsum) to the National List of Approved Substances at §205.601. Also known as flue gas desulfurization (FGD) gypsum, it is a byproduct of coal-fired power generation. **NOSB voted against adding this to the National List: Yes 14; No 0; Absent 1.**

3-decene-2-one - The petition from AMVAC Chemical Corporation requests approval for the use of 3-decen-2-one on potatoes as a sprout inhibitor. The primary argument for listing the material under §205.601 was that it extends the potato shelf life. **NOSB voted against adding this to the National List: Yes 14; No 0; Absent 1.**

Discussion: Contamination Issues in Farm Inputs

The Crops Subcommittee is looking for ways to ensure that inputs of organic matter do not result in contamination “of crops, soil, or water by plant nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances.” Inputs, such as compost and manures derived from nonorganic operations, mined materials and animal or fish by-products, might contain: heavy metals, antibiotic residues, residues of insecticides, herbicide residues, residues of toxic chemicals or pathogens. The subcommittee prepared a spreadsheet which looks at the potential source of inputs, the types of contaminants it might contain and potential for removing/avoiding contaminants. The subcommittee needs help identifying feedstocks/pathways and ways of categorizing or grouping them, determining which contaminants are associated with each type of feedstock, determining which contaminants can be removed by currently prescribed methods for treating the input, identifying additional contamination removal methods, and identifying low-cost testing methods.

[2016 Sunset reviews](#)

Ferric Phosphate (CAS # 10045 - 86 - 0)—Use: As a synthetic substance allowed for use in organic crop production as slug or snail bait.

NOSB voted to relist: Yes 14; No 0; Absent 1.

Hydrogen Chloride (CAS # 7647 – 01 - 0)—Use: As a synthetic substance allowed for use in organic crop production for delinting cotton seed for planting.

NOSB voted to relist: Yes 14; No 0; Absent 1.

[Crops 2017 Sunset Reviews](#)

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33 listings for review in §205.601 Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic crop production:

Alcohol: Ethanol, Isopropanol

Chlorine Materials: Calcium hypochlorite, Chlorine dioxide, Sodium hypochlorite

Hydrogen peroxide

Soap-based algicide/demossers

Herbicides, soap-based

Newspaper or other recycled paper

Plastic mulch and covers

Soaps, ammonium

Ammonium carbonate

Boric acid

Elemental sulfur

Lime sulfur

Oils, horticultural

Soaps, insecticidal

Sticky traps/barriers

Sucrose octanoate esters

Pheromones

Vitamin D3

Coppers, fixed

Copper sulfate

Hydrated lime

Potassium bicarbonate

Aquatic plant extracts

Humic acids

* Lignin sulfonate: when used as a flotation agent in post-harvest handling.

Magnesium sulfate

Micronutrients: Soluble boron products, Sulfates, carbonates, oxides, or silicates of zinc, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, selenium, and cobalt

Liquid fish products

* Vitamin B1, C, E

* Ethylene gas - for regulation of pineapple flowering

Sodium silicate

* EPA List 4 - Inerts of Minimal Concern: List 4 will be re-listed but Nonylphenol Ethoxylates (NPEs in organic pesticide product) will be excluded. The EPA program will take time to implement – probably the entire next 5 years.

Microcrystalline cheesewax (Sunset March 15, 2017)

7 listings for review in §205.602 Prohibited nonsynthetic substances

Ash from manure burning

Arsenic

Lead salts

Potassium chloride

Sodium fluoaluminate

Strychnine

Tobacco dust (nicotine sulfate)

Materials/GMO Subcommittee

Discussion: Excluded Methods Terminology

Work on these issues will continue; look for this again, with corresponding calls for comment, for the Spring 2016 NOSB agenda. To recap:

Continued from the 2013 discussion of excluded methods and how to better define them, the document covers several topics. Because methods evolve, the subcommittee thinks the best way to address a better definition of excluded methods would be through a Guidance Document from NOP rather than through rulemaking. Key points in the discussion include potential definitions of excluded methods culled from the 16 substantive public comments from the 2013 discussion. The definition from the Cartagena protocol is appealing to the subcommittee because it is more specific than the current definition, it is well accepted internationally, and it provides a better framework for elaborating on the various technologies than the current definition does.

Cartagena Protocol definition:

"Living modified organism"

"[a] living modified organism is defined as any living organism that has a combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology.

"Modern Biotechnology" (also adopted by Codex Alimentarius):

(i) in vitro nucleic acid techniques, including recombinant DNA and direct injection of nucleic acid into cells or organelles, or (ii) fusion of cells beyond the taxonomic family that overcomes natural, physiological reproductive or recombination barriers, and that are not techniques used in conventional breeding and selection."

The subcommittee also highlighted definitions based on the ethics and operational issues.

Another appealing suggestion from public comment was developing a chart that lists various 'traditional' and transgenic breeding methods, and if each method is compatible with organic plant and animal production. The discussion document also lists and describes additional breeding/modification

terms/techniques that were not in the first discussion document, and touches on the differences between process-based and product-based approaches to regulation of these materials.

Discussion: [Prevention Strategy Guidance for Excluded Methods in Crops and Handling](#)

The purpose of the discussion is to garner input from the organic community on precautions that organic producers and handlers should take to prevent and minimize GMO contamination in organic production and processing. The discussion included recommendations for best management practices that could reduce exposure to GMOs in seed, crop and livestock production and during handling as well as how certifiers could best oversee adequate prevention measures. The subcommittee also suggested a requirement for testing the purity of any non-organic seeds used in organic agriculture.

Panelists, including Dr. Jim Myers – Oregon State University; Mac Ehrhardt - Albert Lea Seed; Charles Brown - Brownseed Genetics, Inc.; Matthew Dillon - Seed Matters and Clif Bar Foundation, [presented results of recent research](#) concerning the current levels of seed contamination and what it would take to ensure crops and seeds avoided contamination to particular thresholds. Key points included highlighting the differences between seed and crop types, and how a policy that might work well for one crop might not work well across the board; need for a more complete accounting of the level of GM presence in organic, IP, and non-GMO seed supplies; and strong consideration about how policies might effect the array of seeds available to organic farmers of all kinds of crops.

Look for this topic again, with corresponding calls for comment, on the Spring 2016 NOSB agenda.

[Livestock Subcommittee](#)

Petitions:

[Methionine \(MET\)](#) - The petition changes how the maximum allowed amount of synthetic methionine for poultry is calculated. Instead of limiting how much is in feed rations, the plan is to measure methionine use on average over the life of the bird. This would better take into account birds' higher methionine needs during certain parts of the life cycle, and give farmers more options to ensure animal welfare via proper nutrition. NOSB supported a resolution encouraging research on alternative natural sources of methionine, and breeding and management practices that could reduce the need for synthetic methionine, and affirming its commitment to phase out use of synthetic methionine.

NOSB voted to accept (Yes 10, No 4; Absent 1) the following amendment at §205.603(d):

DL–Methionine, DL–Methionine—hydroxy analog, and DL–Methionine—hydroxy analog calcium (CAS #'s 59-51-8, 583-91-5, 4857-44-7, and 922-50-9) -for use only in organic poultry production at the following maximum average pounds per ton of 100% synthetic methionine in the diet over the life of the flock: Laying chickens – 2 pounds; Broiler chickens – 2.5 pounds; Turkeys and all other poultry – 3 pounds.

[Acidified Sodium Chlorite \(ASC\)](#) - Petitioned for the National List at 205.603(a) as a disinfectant, sanitizer and medical treatment, and at 205.603(b) for use as a topical treatment, for the intended use on organic livestock as a pre and post teat dip.

NOSB voted to add to the National List as petitioned. Yes 14; No 0; Absent 1.

[Zinc Sulfate](#) - Petitioned for use as a foot bath for control of foot rot in livestock, particularly dairy cattle, sheep and goats. NOSB voted to add to the National List: Yes 12; No 2; Absent 1.

Discussion: [Aquaculture Legacy Document](#)

An overview of NOSB activity regarding plant and animal aquaculture. Petitions for materials to be used in organic plant and animal aquaculture are currently tabled in the Livestock subcommittee, since the NOSB and public comments preferred reviewing materials within the context of Organic Aquaculture regulations, which are not yet available.

[Livestock 2017 Sunset Materials](#)

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38 listings for review in §205.603 Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic livestock production:

Alcohols (Ethanol, Isopropanol)

Aspirin

Atropine

Biologics, Vaccines

Butorphanol

Chlorhexidine

Chlorine Materials (Calcium hypochlorite, Chlorine dioxide, Sodium hypochlorite)

Electrolytes

Flunixin

*Furosemide

Glucose

Glycerin

Hydrogen peroxide

Iodine

Magnesium hydroxide

Magnesium sulfate

Oxytocin

Parasiticides (Fenbendazole - Sunset May 16, 2017, *Ivermectin, *Moxidectin - Sunset May 16, 2017)

Peroxyacetic/Peracetic acid

Phosphoric acid

*Poloxalene

Tolazoline

Xylazine

*Copper sulfate

Formic Acid - Sunset Aug. 3, 2017

Lidocaine

Lime, hydrated

*Mineral oil

Procaine

Sucrose octanoate esters

Methionine - Sunset Oct. 2, 2017
Trace minerals
Vitamins
EPA List 4 - Inerts of Minimal Concern
Excipients

1 listing §205.604 Prohibited nonsynthetic substances:

Strychnine

Compliance, Accreditation and Certification Subcommittee

Proposal: [Peer Review](#)

The National Organic Program, which seeks to establish a repeatable transparent peer review process, requested a proposal about the Peer Review Panels. The committee supports the general direction of the proposed peer review process and made suggestions to increase the number of people on a peer review panel, and listed experience and other criteria for individual panelists and the panel as a whole: NOSB voted to accept proposal: Yes, 15; No, 0; Absent, 0.