



The Organic Specialists

NOVEMBER 2015 NEWS & NOSB REPORT

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"When you practice gratefulness, there is a sense of respect toward others."

~ Dalai Lama

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow! Congratulations to the National Organic Standards Board and USDA staff for a successful and civil meeting in October. Special Kudos to Miles McEvoy and outgoing Chair Jean Richardson! Discussing and voting on nearly 200 materials after listening to hundreds of public comments was a Herculean task.

Vermont's Secretary of Agriculture, Chuck Ross, helped set the tone for the meeting with welcoming remarks that encouraged everyone to focus on our common interests and not fight over minor differences.

In general, the Board's decisions were appropriate for the organic community and for fostering additional organic production. A number of materials that are no longer needed in organic farming or handling were voted for removal from the National List. There were a few tough calls. One livestock material, Furosemide, was voted for removal because no one had spoken up for it and now information is emerging that it is in fact, needed. This demonstrates the risks of removing materials from the Organic Toolbox based solely on public comment. For more on this, [check out our written comments to the NOSB on this topic.](#)

Moving forward without picking fights is one theme in a new book, "Reclaiming the 'O' Word: Memoir of an Organic Revolutionary" by Grace Gershuny. NOSB members received preview copies from the author, a Vermonter who helped draft the original US organic regulations. If you are interested in how the regulations came to be, and how it sparked interest in real food, and why organic matters today, look for it early next year.

Thanks to people like Grace and many others who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, we have strong workable organic regulations that encourage and adapt to continuous improvement across the organic community. If you'd like to discuss how your business can move forward or adjust to upcoming changes, [contact Wolf, DiMatteo + Associates today](#).

[Bill Wolf](#)

President

Wolf, DiMatteo + Associates

**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

US and Mexico agree to work toward organic equivalency

On October 26, the US and Mexican agriculture officials signed a letter of intent to determine if US and Mexico's organic production and control systems are equivalent. The US National Organic Program and Mexico's General Directorate of Food Fisheries and Aquaculture Safety will spearhead the efforts, and expect to complete the agreement by 2017.

USDA funds organic research and outreach

USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has \$21.3 million for research and outreach projects to help growers, producers, and processors improve their organic operations' success and ability to innovate. The funding is split between two programs, with \$17.5 for NIFA's Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI), and \$3.8 million for the Organic Transitions Program. OREI's priorities include research and outreach that assist established organic farmers and ranchers with whole farm planning, while the transitions program assists producers switching to organic production.

Compost case will continue through the courts

The US District Court in Northern California denied a motion to dismiss a case against the USDA alleging that USDA improperly issued a guidance document concerning the composition of compost allowed in organic farming. Furthermore, plaintiffs in the case, Center for Environmental Health, Center for Food Safety, and Beyond Pesticides, argue the guidance was actually a change in the rules that should have been subject to public notice and comment, and the change now allows the use of compost made from materials treated with synthetic pesticides. [More](#).

Save the date for the Spring NOSB meeting

The next NOSB meeting will be April 25-27 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. WD+A will be available in advance of the meeting to assist you with your comments and petitions. [Contact us](#) about your needs.

NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

Proposed regulations changes in the EU to focus on reducing fraud

The European Parliament's Agriculture Committee's recommended changes to the EU's organic production rules focus on reducing fraud, rather than on changes to animal welfare standards. Their mid-October votes on changes more closely align with the organic community's comments than the initial proposal. In addition to supporting annual inspections, the committee's votes supported improved supervision of organic implementation to increase accountability across the supply chain. Group certification also garnered support from the committee.

The committee also agreed to scrap plans to eliminate farms that produce both organic and non-organic products, provided that the farms take steps to keep the operations clearly separated. The committee did leave in a contentious clause that, after 2020 and if deemed necessary, the Commission may propose maximum thresholds for prohibited substances that would result in decertification. This clause is staunchly opposed by IFOAM EU. In addition, the committee left in the requirement that all imported organic products must comply with EU organic regulations, phasing out third country agreements over the next five years. Final wording on any changes must still be negotiated with the European Council.

Europe's Horizon 2020 Work Program allocates €33 million for organic for 2016-17

The European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation funding program released its 2016-2017 plans, and provided €33 million for organic farming. In particular, funding requests concerning organic plant breeding and contentious inputs used in organic farming were allocated a total value of 28 million euro. Furthermore, additional funding was devoted to challenges relevant to organic farming. Organic food processing was left out of the funding, however.

New report encourages organic farm research to address environmental and social ills

Commissioned by the Green Party and conducted by the the Université Catholique de Louvain (BE) and the Organic Research Centre (UK), the study "[Research for Transition](#)" highlights the ways organic farming is better placed to address sustainability challenges than conventional farming. Along with highlighting the imbalance of research support in Europe for organic agriculture compared to agricultural biotechnology, the study urges increasing investment in research for organic farming to help provide answers to many environmental and social issues of Europe's farming systems.

Most EU countries opt out of GM corn cultivation

Under a new regulation that allows individual member states to opt-out of GMO cultivation, 19 European Union member states won't be planting Monsanto's GM corn MON 810. The opt-out requests came from Austria, Belgium (for the Wallonia region), United Kingdom (for Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland) Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, and Slovenia.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Food Safety Modernization Act rules slated for publication in the Federal Register

This extensive regulation mandates preventive controls for food facilities, produce safety standards, inspections, testing by accredited laboratories, records access, as well as new authorities for the Food and Drug Administration concerning recalls and imported foods. Compliance dates for the new provisions vary by business size, and range from two years to 6 years.

Stop public funding for unsustainable practices, says new report

Authors of a new report, [*Organic Agriculture and Integrated Pest Management: Synergistic Partnership Needed to Improve the Sustainability of Agriculture and Food Systems*](#), share a common vision of a world where organic and IPM proponents and practitioners work together to improve farm viability, public health and the environment. The report outlines the differences and similarities between organic production and integrated pest management, and how each community could benefit by working more closely with the other toward increasing incentives and public support for research to help farmers move toward greater sustainability. In addition, the report recommends eliminating “publicly funded programs that encourage unsustainable practices based on maximizing yield and profits at the expense of environmental quality and health.” Katherine DiMatteo co-authored one of the papers used to develop the report.

EPA proposal would protect water supplies

After a court order sparked by a petition from the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Pesticide Action Network North America, the Environmental Protection Agency has proposed revoking tolerances for residues of the insecticide chlorpyrifos in food because they cannot determine that aggregate exposure, including dietary and non-occupational exposures particularly in drinking water, to chlorpyrifos is safe. Although not registered for home use, chlorpyrifos is a broad spectrum insecticide registered for many uses, including many types of fruit and nut production, vegetables, grains, turf, greenhouse and nursery production, roach bait, and mosquito control. Public comment on the proposal is open until January 5 at http://www.regulations.gov/-!documentDetail;D=EPA_FRDOC_0001-18297. Use Docket number EPA_FRDOC_0001

South Africa rejects GMO potato farming

After years of campaigns against GMOs from the public and appeals from GMO proponents, South Africa’s Ministry of Agriculture, Water Affairs and Fisheries and an Appeal Board rejected commercialization of potatoes genetically engineered to resist the potato tuber moth. South Africa’s GM regulators cited concerns about biosafety, health and more.

How sustainable is your business? Free questionnaire helps you find out

The Sustainable Food Trade Association (SFTA) has partnered with the non-profit standards and certification organization B Lab to help organic companies quickly measure and assess the quality of their sustainability programs and their impacts on workers, local communities, and the environment. Measuring is key to successful sustainability programs that bring about both cost savings and overall business success. The free organic industry-focused [*Quick Impact Assessment \(QIA\)*](#) has 30 questions about organic purchase/sales, community involvement, emissions, governance, humane animal

management, stakeholder engagement, worker standards, and water quality/use. Instant results enable companies to compare themselves to other similar companies. WD +A's Katherine DiMatteo is Executive Director of SFTA and is ready to help your organic business improve its sustainability efforts.

WHERE TO FIND WOLF, DIMATTEO + ASSOCIATES

Dec. 10-12: ACRES USA Conference & Trade Show, Pittsburgh, PA. Bill Wolf and Sue Wagner to attend.

Jan. 14-15, 2016: Accredited Certifiers Association Training, Savannah, GA. Sandy Mays to attend.

Jan. 20-23, 2016: Eco-Farm Conference, Asilomar State Park, CA. Bill Wolf to attend.

Jan. 28-30, 2016: Virginia Association of Biological Farmers, Bedford, VA. Bill Wolf to attend.

NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD FALL 2015 MEETING RECAP

The National Organic Standards Board met in Vermont, October 26-29, 2015. A [video message](#) from Senator Patrick Leahy, the father of the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) opened the meeting. The Vermont Secretary of Agriculture, Chuck Ross, also welcomed the NOSB meeting attendees (see President's Message above). One and all celebrated the 25th anniversary of the signing OFPA into law in 1990.

Along with extensive materials review and discussions brought forward by subcommittees, the agenda includes presentations from NOP staff, and a presentation from the National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA). Miles McEvoy, Deputy Administrator for USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, [reviewed the National Organic Program's activities](#), including enforcement activity during FY2015. Of the 549 compliance and enforcement complaints, 390 have been completed. Eight complaints ended in settlement agreements, which total \$1,872,875. Even as protesters gathered outside to decry organic certification for greenhouse hydroponic production, McEvoy reviewed NOP actions on hydroponic production, including the formation of a task force to report on current hydroponic and aquaponic method used today, and if those practices align with the Organic Foods Production Act and USDA organic regulations. In addition, Dr. Lisa Brines, National List Manager, presented a [National List: Materials Update](#) that includes outstanding petitions, and Sunset 2018 preview.

Crops Subcommittee

2017 Sunset Materials: All materials listed below were voted to be relisted except those marked with an 'X'. A notice of removal from the National List will be published in the Federal Register prior to the 2017 sunset date. A 2/3 majority vote was necessary to remove an item from the National List. The voting results are only included for those materials that had close or split votes.

§205.601 Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic crop production.

- Alcohol: Ethanol
- Alcohol: Isopropanol

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- 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: The subcommittee will, in their upcoming work plan, review the annotations for potential changes.
 - Soaps, insecticidal
 - Sticky traps/barriers
 - Sucrose octanoate esters
 - Pheromone
 - Vitamin D3
 - Coppers, fixed
 - Copper sulfate
 - Hydrated lime
 - Potassium bicarbonate
 - Aquatic plant extracts: NOSB will request a Technical Report, and will examine which particular species of seaweed should be allowed, in order to address concerns about overharvesting. NOSB votes keep this on the National list: Relist 6; Remove 5; Abstain 3.
 - Humic acids
 - X Lignin sulfonate: This material is approved for multiple uses, as a chelating agent, dust suppressant and a floating agent in post-harvest handling. NOSB will relist as a chelating agent and dust suppressant (Vote: Relist 7, Remove 7) but voted to delist it as a floating agent, as it is no longer essential (Vote: Relist 0; Remove 14).
 - 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 use by pineapple producers
 - Sodium silicate
 - EPA List 4 - Inerts of Minimal Concern: The Crops Subcommittee has been working towards a solution to reviewing the inerts that were formerly on EPA List 4 by collaborating with the EPA Safer Choice Program (SCP) (formerly Design for the Environment Program). Since that work is still in progress, the NOSB voted to renew the inerts listing. Vote: Relist 12; Remove 2.
 - Microcrystalline cheesewax

§205.602 Prohibited nonsynthetic substances

The following materials had no changes to their listings, and remain prohibited.

- Ash from manure burning
- Arsenic
- Lead salts
- Potassium chloride, prohibited unless derived from a mined source and applied in a manner that minimizes chloride accumulation in the soil.
- Sodium fluoaluminate
- Strychnine
- Tobacco dust (nicotine sulfate)

Proposals:

Annotation change for micronutrients: Public comment indicated soil testing for micronutrient deficiency was not effective. **NOSB voted to change the annotation for micronutrients** from "Soil deficiency must be documented by testing," to "Deficiency must be documented, resulting in this listing for micronutrients: 205.601 (j) - As a plant or soil amendment.

(6) Micronutrients - not to be used as a defoliant, herbicide, or desiccant. Those made from nitrates or chlorides are not allowed. Deficiency must be documented.

(i) Soluble boron products.

(ii) Sulfates, carbonates, oxides, or silicates of zinc, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, selenium, and cobalt.

This change allows for other types of testing, professional recommendations, or published information specific to a crop or region. Vote to change annotation: Yes 12; No 1; Abstain 1.

Annotation Changes for EPA List 4 Inerts:

Both the Crops and the Livestock Subcommittees proposed the following change to 205.601(m)(1) and 205.603(e)(1), EPA List 4 - Inerts of Minimal Concern.

205.601(m) and 205.603(e) - As synthetic inert ingredients as classified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), for use with nonsynthetic substances or synthetic substances listed in this section and used as an active pesticide ingredient in accordance with any limitations on the use of such substances.

(i) Substances permitted for use in minimal risk products exempt from pesticide registration under FIFRA section 25(b).1,

(ii) Substances included on the EPA's Safer Chemical Ingredient List.

(iii) Inert ingredients that are exempt from the requirement of a tolerance under 40 CFR 180.1122 - for use only in passive pheromone dispensers.

(iv) [Reserved] (for any other inerts individually petitioned and reviewed)]

The changes removed reference to the Environmental Protection Agency's List 4, which is no longer maintained. In addition, the Inerts Working Group provided a comparison between the Safer Chemicals Ingredient List (SCIL) criteria and the criteria NOSB uses for materials review. There is a lot of similarity between them but also some gaps that can be addressed by the NOSB in periodic review of the SCIL. Although several comments suggested NOSB might engage its own technical review of inert substances

that might potentially be used in organic-approved formulations, the NOSB voted to accept the annotation changes: Yes 10; No 4; Absent 1.

Laminarin - petitioned for use as a disease control: Laminarin meets the criteria for classification as non-synthetic (natural), and therefore does not need to be petitioned for use in organic agriculture. **Its use is allowed. NOSB votes: Yes 9; No 3; Abstain 2.**

Lignin Sulfonate - petitioned for removal from Section 205.601(I)(1) of the National List - for use as a floating agent in postharvest handling. Lack of public input either for or against continued listing of lignin sulfonate for use as a floating agent, as well as a trade association poll that showed no certified organic pear packers in the United States used the material, indicates to the subcommittee that this material is no longer necessary for organic production. The NOSB votes to remove it from use for this purpose. Vote: 14 yes, 0 no.

Sulfuric Acid - petitioned for use in organic crop production as a solubilizing agent to make micronutrients more available for plant uptake. NOSB voted not to list sulfuric acid for this purpose
Vote: Yes, 0; No 14.

Brown seaweed extracts (aquatic plants extracts) - petitioned for use as a synthetic plant strengthener to improve shoot growth and seed germination, increase root growth and improve soil microbial count for use in various fruits, vegetables and cereal crops. NOSB voted not to list brown seaweed extracts: Yes 0; No 14.

Handling Subcommittee

2017 Sunset materials: All materials listed below were voted to be relisted except those marked with an 'X'. A notice of removal from the National List will be published in the Federal Register prior to the 2017 sunset date. A 2/3 majority vote was necessary to remove an item from the National List. The voting results are only included for those materials that had close or split votes.

§205.605(a) Nonsynthetics allowed.

- Acid, Alginic
- Acids- Citric, Lactic
- Attapulgite
- Bentonite
- Calcium carbonate: Sunset June 27, 2017
- Calcium chloride
- Dairy cultures
- Diatomaceous earth
- Enzymes
- Flavors
- Kaolin
- Magnesium sulfate
- Nitrogen

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- Oxygen
 - Perlite
 - Potassium chloride
 - Potassium iodide
 - Sodium bicarbonate
 - Sodium carbonate
 - Waxes (Carnauba): Some NOSB members would like this to be labeled on organic products.
 - Waxes (Wood rosin): NOSB recommended that NOP make a technical correction from wood resin to wood rosin, which is the substance in use.
 - Yeast

§205.605(b) Synthetics allowed

- Acidified sodium chlorite
- 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: NOSB votes keep this on the National list: Relist 8; Remove 6.
- Glycerin
- Hydrogen peroxide
- X Magnesium carbonate: NOSB voted to delist this material, which is used only in 'made with organic' products, because it is not essential to organic production.
- Magnesium chloride
- Magnesium stearate
- Nutrient vitamins and minerals: NOSB votes keep this on the National list: Relist 8; Remove 6.
Expect rulemaking to revise the annotation
- Ozone
- Phosphoric acid
- Potassium acid tartrate
- Potassium carbonate
- Potassium citrate
- Potassium phosphate
- Sodium citrate
- Sodium hydroxide
- Sodium phosphates
- Sulfur dioxide

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- Tocopherols: NOSB will look into an annotation that would require non-synthetic forms. NOSB votes keep this on the National list: Relist 9; Remove 4; Abstain 1.
 - Xanthan gum: NOSB votes keep this on the National list: Relist 8; Remove 5; Abstain 1.

§205.606 Nonorganically produced agricultural products allowed as ingredients in or on processed products labeled as "organic".

Changes in listing status, if any, are noted below and are slated for June 27, 2017, unless noted otherwise.

- Casings
- Celery powder: NOSB votes keep this on the National list: Relist 9; Remove 5.
- X Chia (Salvia hispanica L.): **NOSB voted to remove it from the list, since organic chia seeds are commercially available.**
- Colors: NOSB voted to leave all 18 colors on the national list, but votes varied on each of the colors:
 - Beet Juice Extract color Vote: Relist 6; Remove 6; Abstain 2.
 - Black/Purple Carrot Juice color Vote: Relist 10; Remove 2; Abstain 2.
 - Blackcurrant Juice color Vote: Relist 6; Remove 3; Abstain 5.
 - Blueberry Juice color Vote: Relist 5; Remove 5; Abstain 4.
 - Carrot Juice color Vote: Relist 7; Remove 4; Abstain 3.
 - Cherry Juice color Vote: Relist 9; Remove 3; Abstain 2.
 - Chokeberry/Aronia Juice color Vote: Relist 5; Remove 7; Abstain 2.
 - Elderberry Juice color Vote: Relist 5; Remove 7; Abstain 2.
 - Grape Juice color Vote: Relist 5; Remove 7; Abstain 2.
 - Grape Skin Extract color Vote: Relist 6; Remove 6; Abstain 2.
 - Paprika color Vote: Relist 5; Remove 7; Abstain 2.
 - Pumpkin Juice color Vote: Relist 5; Remove 7; Abstain 2.
 - Purple Potato Juice color Vote: Relist 5; Remove 7; Abstain 2.
 - Red Cabbage Extract color Vote: Relist 11; Remove 2; Abstain 1.
 - Red Radish Extract color Vote: Relist 6; Remove 6; Abstain 2.
 - Saffron Extract color Vote: Relist 5; Remove 7; Abstain 2.
 - Turmeric Extract color Vote: Relist 9; Remove 3; Abstain 2.
- X Dillweed oil: **NOSB voted to remove dillweed oil from the list, since sources of organic dillweed oil exist.**
- Fish oil: Despite strongly held opinions among some NOSB members that this should be removed from the list, NOSB votes keep this on the National list: Relist 5; Remove 8; Abstain 1.
- Fructooligosaccharides: NOSB votes keep this on the National list: Relist 6; Remove 8.
- X Galangal, frozen: **NOSB voted to remove this material from the national list, since organic galangal appears to be available.**
- Gelatin
- Gums - Arabic, Carob bean, Guar, Locust bean
- X Inulin-oligofructose enriched: **NOSB voted to remove it from the National List, since organic inulin is available.** Vote: Relist 9; Remove 3; Abstain 2.
- Kelp: NOSB votes keep this on the National list: Relist 8; Remove 4; Abstain 2.
- Konjac flour: NOSB votes keep this on the National list: Relist 5; Remove 9.
- Lecithin-de-oiled: NOSB votes keep this on the National list: Relist 9; Remove 5.

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- **X Lemongrass-frozen: NOSB voted to remove frozen lemongrass from the list, since organic lemongrass is commercially available.**
 - Orange pulp, dried: NOSB votes to keep this on the National list: Relist 7; Remove 5; Abstain 2.
 - Orange Shellac – unbleached
 - Pectin (non-amidated forms only)
 - **X Peppers (Chipotle chile): NOSB voted to remove this from the list, since organic chipotle chile peppers are commercially available.**
 - Seaweed, Pacific kombu
 - Starches, Cornstarch (native), Sweet potato
 - **X Turkish bay leaves: NOSB voted to remove it, since organic bay leaves are commercially available.**
 - Wakame seaweed (Undaria pinnatifida)
 - **X Whey protein concentrate: NOSB voted to removing this from the list, since organic whey protein concentrate is commercially available.**

Proposals:

Reclassify Alginic Acid

NOSB agreed to reclassify of Alginic Acid from §205.605(a) (non-synthetics allowed) to §205.605(b) (synthetics allowed) of the National List. Expect rulemaking to classify alginic acid as a synthetic. Vote: Yes 13; No 0; Abstain 1.

Reclassify Carnauba Wax

NOSB agreed to classify Carnauba Wax as agricultural and move its listing to section §205.606, since it is extracted from certain palm trees and had never been classified as either agricultural or non-agricultural. Vote: Yes 12; No 1; Abstain 1.

Ancillary Substances Permitted in Microorganisms and Dairy Cultures

Intentionally added to a formulated generic handling substance, ancillary substances do not have a technical or functional effect in the finished product. They are not considered part of the manufacturing process that has already been reviewed by the NOSB. Although some of these substances are removed or consumed in their processing, many may remain in the final product in tiny amounts. During discussion, the subcommittee emphasized its position that the NOSB could not take on reviewing ancillary substances individually. **NOSB tabled the vote until spring 2016, and requested further review from the subcommittee.**

Ancillary Substances for Pectin

NOSB tabled the vote until spring 2016, and requested further review from the subcommittee.

Ancillary Substances for Yeast

NOSB tabled the vote until spring 2016, and requested further review from the subcommittee.

Petitioned materials:

Sodium Lactate and Potassium Lactate

Sodium lactate and potassium lactate are used in meat processing as pathogen inhibitors. Although both of these materials have been on the list as allowed for use in organic handling, their initial inclusion was based on the fact that the components used to produce them were already on the list, rather than individual reviews of the resulting materials. **NOSB tabled the vote, and requested the subcommittee conduct further review. Expect this on the Spring 2016 meeting agenda.**

Flavors, Nonsynthetic

NOSB voted to change the listing from "Flavors, nonsynthetic sources only and must not be produced using synthetic solvents and carrier systems or any artificial preservative" to "Flavors - Non-synthetic flavors may be used when organic flavors are not commercially available. All flavors must be derived from organic or nonsynthetic sources only, and must not be produced using synthetic solvents and carrier systems or any artificial preservative." Vote: Yes 14; No 0.

Livestock Subcommittee

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§205.603 Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic livestock production.

- Alcohols: Ethanol
- Alcohols: Isopropanol
- Aspirin
- Atropine
- Biologics, Vaccines
- Butorphanol
- Chlorhexidine
- Chlorine Materials: Calcium hypochlorite, chlorine dioxide, sodium hypochlorite
- Electrolytes
- Flunixin
- **X Furosemide: Because it is not seen as essential, NOSB voted to remove this from the list of allowed materials.**
- Glucose
- Glycerin
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Iodine (listed in 205.603(a)(14) and 205.603(b)(2))
- Magnesium hydroxide
- Magnesium sulfate
- Oxytocin
- Parasiticides: Fenbendazole. Expect proposals for annotation changes

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- Parasiticides: Ivermectin: NOSB votes keep this on the National list: Relist 4; Remove 6; Abstain 4. Because the alternatives appear to be effective, NOSB may vote to remove this at a future meeting.
 - Parasiticides: Moxidectin
 - Peroxyacetic/Peracetic acid
 - Phosphoric acid
 - Poloxalene
 - Tolazoline
 - Xylazine
 - Copper sulfate
 - Formic Acid
 - Lidocaine
 - Lime, hydrated
 - Mineral oil
 - Procaine
 - Sucrose octanoate esters
 - Methionine: Expect rulemaking on changes to the annotations for methionine. Going forward, an organic poultry working group will advise NOSB on poultry issues. NOSB votes keep this on the National list: Relist 10; Remove 3; Abstain 1.
 - Trace minerals
 - Vitamins
 - EPA List 4 - Inerts of Minimal Concern: See discussion under Crops Committee listing.
 - Excipients

§205.604 Prohibited nonsynthetic substances.

- Strychnine

Discussion Documents:

Annotation Changes for Lidocaine and Procaine

Based on new information received during Sunset Review of these local anesthetics, the subcommittee requested a Technical Report on Lidocaine and Procaine for use in organic livestock production. **Expect more discussion for a possible annotation change to reduce the withholding period.**

Annotation Change for Parasiticides

The subcommittee seeks to clear inherent contradictions and problems in the way the three permitted parasiticides (Fenbendazole, Moxidectin and Ivermectin) are listed and annotated. For example, use of the most environmentally benign option, Fenbendazole, requires the written order from a licensed veterinarian, and the 90 day withdrawal times for organic milk production seem excessive. **NOSB may consider another vote in the spring to remove Ivermectin.**

Materials Subcommittee

Proposals:

Research Priorities

The Materials Subcommittee compiled a list of research topics that would benefit the organic community. Topics include: Prevention of GMO Contamination: Evaluation of effectiveness; Prevention and management of parasites, systems review of successful models of livestock production nationwide, Continued research on the use of synthetic methionine in the context of a system approach, alternatives to chlorine materials; and alternatives to copper for disease and algae control. **NOSB agreed with the list unanimously.**

Prevention Strategy Guidance for Excluded Methods

In April 2014, NOP requested that NOSB provide recommendations regarding best management practices for prevention of unintended genetically modified organism presence. The subcommittee prepared a document outlining prevention strategies and emphasizing the importance of ongoing education of producers and certifiers on where cross contamination might occur. Management practices for seed and crop production, livestock, and handling, as well as the role of certifiers and testing are included in the proposal. NOSB agreed to the strategy. Vote: Yes 13; No 0; Abstain 1. Expect rulemaking.

NOSB work plan gives you a sneak peek at 2016

Although the materials with 2017 Sunset dates have been reviewed, 2018 Sunset reviews are right around the corner. Check out the proposed schedule, along with other likely NOSB discussion topics and proposals, on the [National Organic Standards Board 2016 work plan](#).