



SPRING 2023 NOSB MEETING AT-A-GLANCE SUMMARY OF AGENDA TOPICS & SUBCOMMITTEE VOTES

The [spring 2023 National Organic Standards Board \(NOSB\) Meeting](#) will be held on April 26-27 in Atlanta, GA. The [Meeting Agenda](#) and [Meeting Packet](#) (all proposals, discussion documents, and Sunset Reviews to be considered at the meeting) are available, and the comment period is open. The virtual oral comment webinars will occur on April 18 & 20 in advance of the in-person meeting. The deadline to submit written comments and sign up for oral comments is **April 5, 2023**. Visit OTA's Webpage [for more information](#).

PROPOSAL (To Be Voted On)

- **Organic Is Climate Smart (CAC)** – articulating why organic farming as “climate-smart” and certified operations should be automatically eligible for all climate-smart funding, buying, and other USDA programmatic opportunities. CAC Subcommittee Vote to adopt the proposal: **6 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent**
- **Ion Exchange Resins (HANDLING)** – proposal that resins used in ion exchange filtration process do not need to be individually listed on the National List and that NOP provide instruction to certifiers for verifying compliance. Handling Subcommittee Vote to adopt the proposal: **6 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent**

DISCUSSION DOCUMENTS (Discussion Only)

- **Climate-Induced Farming Risk and Crop Insurance** – provides background information and poses six questions for stakeholders regarding the shortfalls of organic crop insurance, aiming to fill knowledge gap and identify areas for improving risk-management tools for organic farmers.
- **Consistent Location Identification** – explores a requirement for operations to report the GPS coordinates for each field, office, facility, or other location of a certified operation to improve supply chain traceability and oversight, and deter fraud; four questions are posed to stakeholders for feedback.
- **Potassium Sorbate (CROPS)** – petition for the use as an active ingredient for plant disease and insect control/suppression in field and greenhouse applications; seeks stakeholder feedback on necessity and efficacy for this petitioned use.
- **Research Priorities** – presents the NOSB's annual list of research priorities for organic food and agriculture.
- **Excluded Methods** – seeks feedback on plant breeding techniques that are included on the “To Be Determined (TBD) List” and whether the techniques should be prohibited under the existing definition of the excluded method. Techniques include Tilling, Double Haploid Technology, Induced Mutagenesis, and Transposons.
- **Technical Report Template** – explores updates to the template for Technical Reports and additional questions for materials that are at risk for Excluded Methods.

SUNSET REVIEWS (Discussion Only)

NOSB is re-evaluating these input materials currently on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substance to determine if new information indicates they are harmful to human health or the environment, are not necessary because natural or organic alternatives are available, and/or incompatible with organic production.

MATERIAL (SUBCOMMITTEE)	QUESTIONS
Ethanol (CROPS) – sanitizer, disinfectant	1. Should there be an annotation requiring organically produced ethanol if sufficient quantities are available for organic production?
Isopropanol (CROPS) – sanitizer, disinfectant	

MATERIAL (SUBCOMMITTEE)	QUESTIONS
Sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate (CROPS) – algicide	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there potential for misuse as a fungicide when sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate is applied as an algaecide? Additionally, should the NOSB consider expanding the listing to an allowance for use as a fungicide? 2. Is this substance used as an effective alternative to copper sulfate in rice production to control algae?
Newspaper / Recycled paper (CROPS) – weed control, compost feedstock	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Should there be an annotation for these listings that attempts to clarify further what uses are acceptable within organic production? 2. How widely used are these materials in organic production?
Plastic mulch and covers (CROPS) – weed control	1. Please describe in detail how this listing for plastic mulches is being applied in conjunction with the § 205.206(c)(6) requirement for removal, and specifically, how the provision being applied in all areas of organic cropping systems?
Aqueous potassium silicate (CROPS) – insecticide, disease control	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the efficacy of aqueous potassium silicate relative to available alternatives? 2. How would the removal of this product impact organic growers? 3. To what extent does listing aqueous potassium silicate result in reductions in use of sulfur-based products for pest management?
Elemental sulfur (CROPS) – insecticide, disease control, soil amendment	1. How often are wettable formulations used for the application of sulfur?
Lime sulfur (CROPS) – insecticide, disease control	1. Is lime sulfur a necessary organic pesticide?
Hydrated lime (CROPS) – disease control	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there any new information that would warrant the need for a new TR for this substance? 2. Please provide information on the extent to which hydrated lime is used in organic cropping systems.
Liquid fish products (CROPS) – plant and soil amendment	1. Is the liquid fish products annotation “- can be pH adjusted with sulfuric, citric, or phosphoric acid. The amount of acid used shall not exceed the minimum needed to lower the pH to 3.5.” clear and able to be enforced?
Sulfurous acid (CROPS) – plant and soil amendment	
Ethylene (CROPS) – for regulation of pineapple flowering	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have any alternatives become available? 2. Based on international acceptances, is there a need to expand the use of ethylene?
Microcrystalline cheesewax (CROPS) – for log-grown mushroom production	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there now an effective natural or approved synthetic replacement for the microcrystalline cheesewax not derived from petroleum by-products? 2. Should an annotation be added that requires the removal of residues of the microcrystalline cheesewax that remains in the environment once the logs are finished fruiting?
Potassium chloride (CROPS) – prohibited nonsynthetic	1. Is potassium chloride widely used by producers of organic crops?
Ethanol (LIVESTOCK) – sanitizer	
Isopropanol (LIVESTOCK) – disinfectant	
Aspirin (LIVESTOCK) – inflammation control	
Vaccines (LIVESTOCK) – preventive health care	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the most up to date organic regulations on GMO vaccines in other countries? 2. Are there concerns about components of vaccines besides the active ingredients?

MATERIAL (SUBCOMMITTEE)	QUESTIONS
	3. Are certifiers interpreting the provisions at § 205.603(a)(4) and § 205.105(e) consistently, even though the 2019 NOSB recommendation has not been officially adopted? 4. Is the yellow highlighted wording above an acceptable interpretation of § 205.105(e)?
Electrolytes (LIVESTOCK) – correcting dehydration, metabolic conditions	
Glycerin (LIVESTOCK) – teat dip	1. Are natural alternatives sufficient to remove glycerin from the National List? 2. What protocol is followed to determine if the glycerin used is produced through the hydrolysis of fats or oils instead of synthetically from propylene?
Phosphoric acid (LIVESTOCK) – equipment cleaner	1. Is phosphoric acid essential for organic livestock production? 2. Would an annotation be beneficial to clarify when a rinse or purge is or is not required?
Hydrated lime (LIVESTOCK) – external pest control	1. Is hydrated lime regularly used currently for parasitic control in animal herds? 2. What are typical disposal protocols for spent lime after dipping? 3. Since the material was last reviewed, have additional commercially available natural alternatives emerged?
Mineral oil (LIVESTOCK) – topical use and lubricant	1. Are there products used for artificial insemination and parasite control that are not 100% mineral oil? How are they checked for compliance with the Organic Regulations by farmers, technicians, vets, or certifiers? 2. Is mineral oil essential for livestock parasite control?
Calcium carbonate (HANDLING) – nutrient supplement, acidifier, thickener	1. What are the predominate uses for calcium carbonate? 2. Can alternative substances be used without reducing product quality? If so, what are these alternative substances?
Flavors, nonsynthetic (HANDLING) – only when organic form not commercially available; no synthetic solvents, carriers or preservatives	1. Do you produce or certify organic flavors that include ingredients listed on § 205.605? If so, what ingredients? 2. How would removal of flavors from § 205.605 impact the commercial availability of organic flavors? 3. Are there flavors currently used in organic products that cannot be produced organically (including any of the examples listed in the TR such as castoreum derived from beavers, Tonquin musk oil from musk deer, wood chips from nonorganic forest products, distilled liquid smoke, fish flavors)?
Gellan gum, high-acyl (HANDLING) – thickener, stabilizer, crystallization inhibitor, flavor release	1. Is an organic version of gellan gum commercially available? 2. Is this product essential? 3. Are there any ancillary substances used with this product? 4. Have any environmental or health concerns emerged since the last sunset review?
Oxygen (HANDLING) – modified atmosphere packaging	
Potassium chloride (HANDLING) – nutrient supplement, thickener, pH control, salt replacement for low sodium foods	1. Is potassium chloride widely used by handlers of organic products?
Alginates (HANDLING) – thickener, emulsifier	1. What forms of alginates are currently being used in organic production (e.g., ammonium, calcium, potassium, sodium, propylene glycol)?
Calcium hydroxide (HANDLING) – buffer, firming agent, nutrient supplement	1. Is calcium hydroxide essential for organic food production? 2. Since the last review, have additional commercially available alternatives emerged?
Ethylene (HANDLING) – postharvest ripening of tropical fruit and degreening of citrus	1. What types of organic tropical fruits are currently being ripened using ethylene?
Glycerides, mono and di (HANDLING) – only for drum drying of organic foods	1. What products are mono- and diglycerides currently used in? 2. Have any alternatives emerged?

MATERIAL (SUBCOMMITTEE)	QUESTIONS
Magnesium stearate (HANDLING) – anti-caking agent; only in “made with” organic products	1. How is magnesium stearate currently used by organic processors? 2. Have any viable alternatives to magnesium stearate emerged?
Phosphoric acid (HANDLING) – cleaning food-contact surfaces and equipment	1. Is phosphoric acid essential as an equipment sanitizer to be incorporated into your sanitizer rotation? 2. Is phosphoric acid used as an equipment sanitizer in a particular sector of the organic industry?
Potassium carbonate (HANDLING) – drying agent, pH control	1. Since last reviewed, have there been any changes (either in substitute products or manufacturing process) that would warrant removal of potassium carbonate from the National List?
Sulfur dioxide (HANDLING) – in wine labeled “made with organic grapes,” Provided, That, total sulfite concentration does not exceed 100 ppm	1. Do you or your members/clients produce wine from organic grapes? What label claims do you use and why? 2. What form of sulfur dioxide do you use? Is there another form you would prefer, and if so, what, and why? 3. At what stage is the sulfite content of wine measured/verified (e.g., at bottling)?
Xanthan gum (HANDLING) – thickener, emulsifier, crystallization inhibitor, flavor release	1. Is xanthan gum essential? 2. Are there any ancillary substances used with this product? 3. Have any environmental or health concerns emerged since the last sunset review?
Fructooligosaccharides (HANDLING) – soluble prebiotic fiber ingredient; only when organic form not commercially available	1. What is the current availability of suitable organic supply for the manufacture of FOS?
Arabic gum (HANDLING) – thickener, stabilizer; only when organic form not commercially available	1. Are organic versions of gum arabic, locust/carob bean gum, and guar gum commercially available? 2. Is this product essential? 3. Are there any ancillary substances used with this product? 4. Have any environmental or health concerns emerged since the last sunset review?
Guar gum (HANDLING) – thickener, stabilizer; only when organic form not commercially available	
Locust/Carob bean gum (HANDLING) – thickener, stabilizer; only when organic form not commercially available	
Lecithin, de-oiled (HANDLING) – emulsifier; only when organic form not commercially available	1. Are other organic oil seed commodities (e.g., canola) used to produce de-oiled lecithin?
Tamarind seed gum (HANDLING) – thickener, stabilizer; only when organic form not commercially available	1. Is an organic version of tamarind kernels/seeds commercially available? 2. Is this product essential? 3. Are there any ancillary substances used with this product? 4. Have any environmental or health concerns emerged since the product was added to the National List?
Tragacanth gum (HANDLING) – thickener, emulsifier; only when organic form not commercially available	1. Is organic tragacanth now commercially available? 2. Is this product essential? 3. Are there any ancillary substances used with this product? 4. Have any environmental or health concerns emerged since the last sunset review?