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## **Materials Update:** **National List Renewals**

Dear PCO Certified Operators, Members, and Inspectors,

***Did you know that the inputs you are allowed to use on your operation are periodically reviewed for continued allowance?***

The inputs that you are allowed to use now may or may not be allowed in the future. The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) meets twice a year to discuss and vote on whether inputs allowed in organic production should continue to be allowed and whether new inputs should be allowed. Recommendations are sent to the National Organic Program (NOP), and many become proposed and final rules.

On May 7, 2020, the NOP published a final rule (<https://tinyurl.com/ycw5twtl>) based on NOSB recommendations stating that they would continue to allow the following inputs for use on organic operations:

- **Crop materials:**
  - Ethanol and Isopropanol (disinfectants and sanitizers); Sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate; Newspaper and other recycled paper (mulch and compost feedstock); Plastic mulch and covers; Aqueous potassium silicate (insecticide and plant disease control); Elemental sulfur (insecticide, plant disease control, and fertilizer); Lime sulfur (insecticide and plant disease control); Hydrated lime (plant disease control); Liquid fish products (fertilizer); Sulfurous acid (plant or soil amendments); Ethylene gas (plant growth regulator); Microcrystalline cheesewax
- **Livestock materials:**
  - Ethanol and Isopropanol (disinfectants and sanitizers); Aspirin; Biologics (Vaccines); Electrolytes; Glycerin (teat dip); Phosphoric acid (equipment cleaner); Hydrated lime (external pest control); Mineral oil (topical use and lubricant)
- **Handling materials:**
  - Calcium carbonate; Flavors; Gellan gum; Oxygen; Potassium chloride; Alginates; Calcium hydroxide; Ethylene (tropical fruit postharvest ripening and citrus degreening); Glycerides (drum drying of food); Magnesium stearate (for use only in agricultural products labeled "made with organic..."); Phosphoric acid (food-contact surfaces and equipment cleaner); Potassium carbonate; Sulfur dioxide (for use in wine labeled "made with organic grapes"); Xanthan gum

The final rule published by the NOP also stated that potassium chloride would continue to be prohibited for use in organic crop production (§ 205.602(e)).



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This fall, the NOSB will meet to VOTE on whether the following inputs should continue to be allowed in organic production. Based on board's discussion at the spring meeting, the highlighted materials are in jeopardy of being prohibited:

- **Crop materials:**

- Soap-based algicide/demosser; Ammonium carbonate (for use as bait in insect traps); Insecticidal soap; Vitamin D3 (rodenticide); Aquatic plant extracts (fertilizer); Lignin sulfonate (chelating agent, dust suppressant); Sodium silicate (floating agent in post-harvest handling); EPA List 4 inerts

- **Livestock materials:**

- Butorphenol (anesthetic); Flunixin (analgesic/anti-inflammatory); Magnesium hydroxide (antacid/laxative); Poloxalene (emergency bloat treatment); Formic acid (pesticide in beehives); Excipients; EPA List 4 inerts

- **Handling materials:**

- Kaolin (anticaking agent); Sodium bicarbonate (leavening agent); Wood Resin (fruit wax); Ammonium bicarbonate (leavening agent); Ammonium carbonate (leavening agent); Calcium phosphates (leavening agent); Ozone (disinfectant); Sodium hydroxide (caustic bath for pretzels); Inulin-oligofructose enriched (dietary fiber); Kelp (thickener/dietary supplement); Orange shellac-unbleached (fruit and veg coating); Cornstarch (thickener); Sweet Potato Starch (texturizer for bean threads); Turkish bay leaves (flavor development); Whey protein concentrate (nutritional enrichment); Carnauba wax (fruit wax); Colors; Glycerin (solvent)

The NOSB will also VOTE on whether arsenic and strychnine should continue to be prohibited in organic crop production and whether strychnine should continue to be prohibited in organic livestock production.

*Do you use any of these currently allowed input materials?*

**Let the NOSB know!**

PCO will be commenting on these input materials at the NOSB meeting, but the board wants to hear directly from organic producers and handlers! Please contact me (814-422-0251 ext 209, [jen@paorganic.org](mailto:jen@paorganic.org)) with any questions or comments you have on these materials, such as which materials you want to continue to be allowed.

Best,

**Jen Berkebile**

Materials Program Manager