

## **NOSB Meeting Notice!**

*Public comment deadline is October 1, 2020*

*Are you interested in the rules of organic certification?  
Have your voice heard at the NOSB!*

September 2020

Dear PCO Certified Operators, Members, and Inspectors,

You're invited to join PCO in attending the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) meeting, which will be held live online via webinar on Wednesday, October 28, through Friday, October 30, from 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. EST. Please refer to the NOSB meeting website (<https://tinyurl.com/y2frfpuu>) for information on how to watch the webinars, or contact the PCO office. The NOSB is a volunteer board that considers and makes recommendations to the National Organic Program on a wide range of issues involving organic certification.

The agenda for this upcoming meeting includes the items listed below. The NOSB will accept written comments on these items until October 1, 2020, and oral comments via webinars on October 20 and 22, 2020. To access the meeting materials, contact PCO for hard copies or visit the NOSB website.

At the upcoming meeting, the NOSB will be **VOTING** on:

- **Crop topics:**
  - Whether Paper (Plant pots and other crop production aids) should be newly allowed in organic crop production
  - Whether Wild, native fish for liquid fish products should be required to be sourced only from fish waste, bycatch, or invasive species
  - Whether Sodium carbonate lignin should be newly allowed as a dust suppressant in crop inputs
- **Handling topics:**
  - Whether Low acyl gellan gum should be newly allowed as an ingredient in products labeled as “organic” and “made with organic...”
  - Whether components of Ion exchange filtration should be required to be listed on the National List to be permitted for use in organic processing and handling
- **Livestock topics:**
  - Whether Fenbendazole should be newly allowed for use as a parasiticide in organic poultry production
- **Other topics:**
  - Whether Marine microalgae in crop fertility inputs should be restricted according to specified harvest parameters
  - NOSB Research Priorities 2020
- Whether the following materials should continue to be allowed in organic production and handling:
  - **Crop materials:**
    - Soap-based algicide/demossers; Ammonium carbonate (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:**
    - Butorphanol (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)
- Whether the following materials should continue to be prohibited in organic production and handling:
  - **Crop materials:**
    - Arsenic; Strychnine
  - **Livestock materials:**
    - Strychnine

**A note to operators with internet access:** Please also consider completing the following electronic surveys to submit feedback on each individual material listed above. Each survey is CONFIDENTIAL and contains about 10 short questions that will take an estimated 5 minutes to complete. Your responses will be compiled with other data from operators all over the country to better understand the use of each material in organic production and handling. Click on the link below to access the surveys and other information.

[√NOSB Materials Survey](#)

The NOSB will also be discussing, but **NOT VOTING** on, the following topics:

- **Crop topics:**
  - Whether Ammonium Extract should be prohibited in organic crop production
  - Whether the annotation for Biodegradable biobased mulch should be updated
- **Handling topics:**
  - Whether Whey protein concentrate should be removed from §205.606, which would mean that only organic forms would be allowed in products labeled as “organic” or “made with organic...”
- **Other topics:**
  - Human capital strategy for organic inspectors and reviewers
  - Consent calendar voting

### **Give Public Comments!**

PCO will be commenting at the NOSB meeting, but the board wants to hear directly from organic producers and handlers! Submit your written public comments or requests for oral comments by 11:59PM EST October 1, 2020. PCO can submit written comments on your behalf, so please contact Jen Berkebile (814-422-0251, [jen@paorganic.org](mailto:jen@paorganic.org)) for questions or assistance.

- **Written Comments**
  - Submit online via <https://tinyurl.com/yxg8e6s8>
- **Oral Comments (3 minute slots)**
  - Register for oral comments at <https://tinyurl.com/y2frfpuu>. Webinars are scheduled in two slots:
    - October 20, 2020, from 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. EST
    - October 22, 2020, from 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. EST

Please contact me if you have any questions or need assistance in signing up or submitting your comments.

Best,

**Jen Berkebile**  
Materials Program Manager  
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