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NOSB Meeting Notice!

Public comment deadline is April 5, 2021

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

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, April 28 through Friday, April 30. The agenda for this upcoming meeting includes the items listed below. The NOSB will accept written comments on these items until April 5, 2021, and oral comments via webinars on April 20 and April 22. To access meeting materials, or for information on how to participate in the NOSB meeting or comment webinars, contact the PCO office or visit the NOSB website (<https://tinyurl.com/5mec4zcw>).

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

- A proposal on Human Capital Management: Strategy for Recruitment and Talent Management Organic Inspectors and Reviewers
- Whether Paper (Plant pots and other crop production aids) should be allowed for use in organic crop production
- A change to the annotation for Biodegradable biobased mulch film
- The use of ion exchange filtration in organic processing and handling

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

- Whether the following materials should continue to be allowed in organic production and handling:
 - **Crop materials:**
 - Copper sulfate (for use as an algicide and tadpole shrimp control in aquatic rice systems); Ozone gas (irrigation system cleaner); Peracetic acid (for use in disinfecting equipment, seed, and asexually propagated planting material and in hydrogen peroxide formulations); EPA list 3 Inerts of unknown toxicity (for use in passive pheromone dispensers); Chlorine materials (Calcium hypochlorite, chlorine dioxide, hypochlorous acid, and sodium hypochlorite - as algicides, disinfectants, and sanitizers); Magnesium oxide (additive in humate products)
 - **Livestock materials:**
 - Activated charcoal (for digestive disturbance); Calcium borogluconate (for treatment of milk fever); Calcium propionate (for treatment of milk fever); Chlorine materials (Calcium hypochlorite, Chlorine dioxide, Hypochlorous acid; Sodium hypochlorite – for disinfecting and sanitizing facilities and equipment); Kaolin pectin (adsorbent, anti-diarrheal, and gut protectant); Mineral oil (for treatment of intestinal compaction); Nutritive supplements, injectable; Propylene glycol (for treatment of ketosis); Acidified sodium chlorite (teat dip) Zinc sulfate (hoof and foot treatment)
 - **Handling materials:**
 - Agar-agar; Animal enzymes; Calcium sulfate; Carrageenan; Glucono delta-lactone; Tartaric acid; Cellulose (for use in regenerative casings, powdered cellulose as an anti-caking agent (non-chlorine bleached) and filtering aid); Chlorine materials (Calcium hypochlorite, Chlorine dioxide,

Hypochlorous acid; Sodium hypochlorite – for disinfecting and sanitizing food contact surfaces, equipment and facilities, for use in water used in direct crop or food contact, and for use in water used as an ingredient in organic food handling); Potassium hydroxide; Silicon dioxide (defoamer); Potassium lactate (antimicrobial agent and pH regulator); Sodium lactate (antimicrobial agent and pH regulator)

- Whether the following materials should continue to be prohibited in organic production and handling:
 - **Crop materials:**
 - Calcium chlorine (except for use as a foliar spray to treat a physiological disorder associated with calcium uptake); Rotenone

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](#)

- **Crop topics:**
 - Ammonia extract – petitioned for the use of non-synthetic ammonia extract to be prohibited in organic crop production
 - Kasugamycin – petitioned for use as an approved active ingredient in organic crop production for the control of plant diseases
- **Handling topics:**
 - Zein (or corn protein) – petitioned for use as a nonorganic agricultural substance allowed in or on processed products labelled as organic
 - Fish oil annotation discussion
- **Other topics:**
 - Human Capital Management: Supporting the Work of the NOSB
 - NOSB Research Priorities 2021
 - Excluded Methods Spring 2021

Give Public Comments!

PCO will be commenting to the NOSB, 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 April 5, 2021. PCO can submit written comments on your behalf, so please contact Jen Berkebile (814-422-0251, jen@paorganic.org) for questions or assistance.

- **Written Comments**
 - Submit online via <https://tinyurl.com/jh9rcas>
- **Oral Comments (3 minute slots)**
 - Can be given on a computer or over the phone.
 - Register for webinar comments at <https://tinyurl.com/5mec4zcw>. Webinars are scheduled in two slots:
 - April 20, 2021, from 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. EST
 - April 22, 2021, from 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. EST

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

Best,

Jen Berkebile

Materials Program Manager

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