



106 School Street
Suite 201
Spring Mills, PA 16875

PHONE 814-422-0251
FAX 814-422-0255
paorganic.org

SEPTEMBER 2021

NOSB Meeting Notice!

Public comment deadline is September 30, 2021

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 Tuesday, October 19, through Thursday, October 21. The agenda for this upcoming meeting includes the items listed below. The NOSB will accept written comments on these items until September 30, 2021, and oral comments via webinars on October 13 and 14. 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/58mrvzay>).

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

- A proposed Letter to Secretary re: Climate Change initiatives
- Whether Chitosan, Biochar, Ammonia Extract, Kasugamycin, Hydronium, Carbon Dioxide, Lithothamnion, and sodium nitrate should be allowed for use in organic crop production
- A change to the annotation for Biodegradable biobased mulch film
- Whether Zein should be allowed for use in organic handling
- A change to the annotation for Fish oil
- A proposal on Research Priorities 2021
- 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, antidiarrheal, 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)

o **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:

o **Crop materials:**

§ Calcium chlorine (except for use as a foliar spray to treat a physiological disorder associated with calcium uptake); Rotenone

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

- Oversight improvements to deter fraud: Modernization of organic traceability infrastructure
- Excluded methods fall 2021
- Public comment process

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 September 30, 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**

- o Submit online via <https://www.regulations.gov/document/AMS-NOP-21-0038-0001>

- **Oral Comments (3 minute slots)**

- o Can be given on a computer or over the phone.
- o Register for webinar comments at <https://tinyurl.com/58mrzay>. Webinars are scheduled in two slots:
 - October 13, 2021, from 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. EST
 - October 14, 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
jen@paorganic.org