

September 2022

NOSB Meeting Notice!

Public comment deadline is September 29, 2022

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

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 25, through Thursday, October 27, from 9:00AM – 5:00 p.m. PST. Please refer to the NOSB meeting website (<https://bit.ly/NOSB22PCO>) 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 and oral comment sign up on these items until September 29, 2022 at 11:59PM EST. Any comments or signups after this day may not be considered. To access the meeting materials, contact PCO or visit the NOSB website.

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

- **Crop topics:**
 - Whether Carbon dioxide should be newly allowed as a
 - Whether Potassium hydroxide should be newly allowed as a

- **Handling topics:**
 - Whether Peroxylactic acid should be newly allowed as a
 - Whether Phosphoric acid should be newly allowed as a
 - Whether Ion exchange filtration – recharge materials should be required to be listed on the National List

- **Material topics:**
 - Research priorities 2022

- **Other topics:**
 - Oversight improvements to deter fraud: Acreage Reporting Requirements.
 - NOP Risk Mitigation Table review.
 - Human Capital Management: NOSB technical support

- Whether the following 2024 Sunset Materials should continue to be allowed in organic production and handling:
 - **Crop materials:**
 - Whether Herbicides, soap-based should be allowed in organic crop production as an herbicide, weed barrier, as applicable.
 - Whether Biodegradable biobased mulch film should be allowed in organic crop production as an herbicide, weed barriers, as applicable and mulches.
 - Whether Boric acid should be allowed in organic crop production as an insecticide (including mite control) and structural pest control (no direct contact with organic food or crops).
 - Whether Sticky traps/barriers should be allowed in organic crop production as an insecticide (including mite control).
 - Whether Elemental sulfur should be allowed in organic crop production as slug or snail bait.
 - Whether Coppers, fixed should be allowed in organic crop production as a plant disease control.
 - Whether Copper sulfate should be allowed in organic crop production as a plant disease control.
 - Whether Polyoxin D zinc salt should be allowed in organic crop production as a plant disease control.
 - Whether Humic acids should be allowed in organic crop production as a plant or soil amendments.
 - Whether Micronutrients: soluble boron products should be allowed in organic crop production as a plant or soil amendments.
 - Whether Micronutrients: sulfates, carbonates, oxides, or silicates of zinc, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, selenium, and cobalt should be allowed in organic crop production as a plant or soil amendments.
 - Whether Vitamins C and E should be allowed in organic crop production as a plant or soil amendments.
 - Whether Squid byproducts should be allowed in organic crop production as a plant or soil amendments.
 - Whether Lead salts should continue to be prohibited in organic crop production as a plant or soil amendments.
 - Whether Tobacco dust (nicotine sulfate) should continue to be prohibited in organic crop production as a plant or soil amendments.
 - **Livestock materials:**
 - Whether Chlorhexidine should be allowed for use in organic livestock production as a disinfectant, sanitizer and medical treatment as applicable.
 - Whether Glucose should be allowed for use in organic livestock production as a disinfectant, sanitizer and medical treatment as applicable.
 - Whether Tolazoline should be allowed for use in organic livestock production as a disinfectant, sanitizer and medical treatment as applicable.
 - Whether Copper Sulfate should be allowed for use in organic livestock production as a topical treatment, external parasiticide or local anesthetic as applicable.
 - Whether Elemental Sulfur should be allowed for use in organic livestock production as a topical treatment, external parasiticide or local anesthetic as applicable.
 - Whether Lidocaine should be allowed for use in organic livestock production as a topical treatment, external parasiticide or local anesthetic as applicable.

- **Processing materials:**
 - Whether the following Nonagricultural substances should continue to be allowed as ingredients in or on processed products labeled as “organic” or “made with organic” (specified ingredients or food group(s)):
 - Attapulgite.
 - Bentonite.
 - Diatomaceous earth.
 - Magnesium chloride.
 - Nitrogen.
 - Sodium carbonate.
 - Acidified sodium chlorite.
 - Carbon dioxide.
 - Sodium phosphates.
 - Whether the following Nonorganically produced agricultural products should continue to be allowed as ingredient in or on processed products labeled as “organic”:
 - Casings.
 - Pectin.
 - Potassium acid tartrate.

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:

- **Other topics:**
 - Oversight improvements to deter fraud: Minimum reporting requirements
 - Whether record keeping documents used for traceback and mass balance audits should become standardized.
 - Organic and Climate-Smart Agriculture.
 - Whether organic agriculture should be classified as “climate-smart”.
 - Ion exchange filtration – Resins
 - Whether resins used in ion exchange filtration should be required to be listed on the National List

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 September 29, 2022. PCO can submit written comments on your behalf, so please contact Hector Nunez C. at hnunez@paorganic.org or (814) 422-0251 Ext. 284 for questions or assistance.

- **Written Comments**
 - Submit online via <https://bit.ly/NOSB22PCOcomment>

- **Oral Comments (3 minute slots)**
 - Register for oral comments at <https://bit.ly/NOSB22PCO>. Webinars are scheduled in two slots:
 - Tuesday, October 18 from 12:00pm – 5:00pm Eastern
 - Thursday, October 20 from 12:00pm – 5:00pm Eastern

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

Best,

Hector Nunez C.

Materials Program Assistant Manager

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(814) 422-0251 Ext. 284