

Note: Subcommittee notes may include preliminary discussions regarding substances considered for addition to or removal from the National List. They do not represent official National Organic Program (NOP) policy/regulations or NOSB recommendations. Proposals must be voted on by the full Board, to become recommendations to the USDA. Please see the NOP website for official NOP policy, regulations, and status of substances used in organic production and handling.

**Executive Committee (EC) Meeting Notes and
Summary of National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) Subcommittee Activities
Tuesday, March 19, 2024 4:00 pm ET**

Present: Kyla Smith, NOSB Chair; Amy Bruch (ADB), NOSB Vice Chair & CACS Chair; Nate Lewis (NL), NOSB Secretary & PDS Chair; Brian Caldwell (BC), Livestock Chair; Allison Johnson (AJ), Handling Chair; Franklin Quarcoo (FQ), Materials Chair; Jerry D'Amore (JD) - observer; Kim Huseman (KH) - observer; Wood Turner (WT) - observer

Absent: Jennifer Tucker (JT); Erin Healy (EH); Logan Petrey (LP), Crops Chair

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA); Jared Clark (JC); Heather Kumar (HK); Esu Obu (EO)

Agenda

- **Review February 20, 2024 notes**
- **Chairs Report (KS)**
 - NOSB meeting agenda overview (see attached)
 - Oral comment webinars, in-person comments, compost panel
 - 2027 sunset reviews/annotation change info
 - Compost panel.
 - Field Trip Invitation
 - Expertise/gaps in membership
- **NOP news and updates (JC)**
 - Rulemaking updates. Strengthening Organic Enforcement (SOE), Market Development (mushrooms, pet food).
- **Food Technologist update (JC)**
- **Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)**
 - Spring meeting prep: Binders, COIs, Travel, comments
 - Nominations timeline/outreach
- **Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)**
 - Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (FQ)
 - Policy Development (PDS) (NL)
 - Livestock (LS) (BC)
 - Crops (CS) (ADB for LP)
 - Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACS) (ADB)
 - Handling (HS) (AJ)
- **Additional Items**
- **Adjourn**

Discussion

- **February 20, 2024 notes** were approved as written.
- **Chairs Report (KS)**
 - NOSB meeting agenda overview
 - Oral comment webinars, in-person comments (will discuss process during the practice sessions for webinars)
 - Compost panel. NOP is currently coordinating with panelists for the Spring meeting. One invitee could not participate so Crops is seeking a person who could speak to manufacturing.
 - 2027 Sunset reviews. The Subcommittees are assessing the 2027 sunsets for TRs and plan to complete that by May.

- Field Trip Invitation. The NOSB was invited to take a field trip to a farm near Milwaukee either before or after the meeting. NOP will not sponsor the field trip but will set up a poll to gauge interest and availability.
- Call for nominations. The NOSB Chair asked members to send in a list of potential gaps in expertise, such as livestock, grain handling, or perhaps expertise related to upcoming work.
- **NOP news and updates (JC)**
 - The Strengthening Organic Enforcement (SOE) rule implementation day is this week. NOP has conducted lots of outreach and presentations, and is working closely with the Accredited Certifiers Association (ACA) to make sure certifiers are prepared and supported. NOP is collating questions to create a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page.
 - Market Development Proposed Rule (pet food and mushrooms). The rule is open for comment and closes May 10, 2024. The group discussed how the rule aligns with what the NOSB recommended. The NOP noted that any variations may be highlighted in the preamble of the rule. For example, with regard to mushrooms, the NOSB recommendation required that agricultural products used as substrate be organic.
 - The NOP has developed consumer education tools for use in retail establishments and will send an Insider notice soon announcing that initiative.
 - The group discussed various grant funding opportunities and sharing those announcements with stakeholders.
- **Food Technologist update (JC)**
 - Working on inerts spreadsheet. This phase of the projects involves grouping inerts into functional groups.
 - Working on a request for research/literature search on parasiticides in livestock.
 - Ideas for additional work? The Food techs are already working on populating information in the 2027 sunset and might assist in posting written comments.
 - 2027 sunset templates. In addition to populating the international information, the Food Techs have been tasked with listing any sunsets that could be potential candidates for annotation changes/updates.
 - The NOSB has asked for assistance with written public comment.
- **Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)**
 - Spring meeting prep: The meeting binders were sent to board members last week. The NOP is compiling the Declarations of Interest ahead of the NOSB meeting, and travel planning is underway.
 - Nominations timeline. Once the announcement is published, applications will be accepted for 60 days. NOP hopes to post the notice this month.
- **Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)**
 - Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (FQ). The MS is discussing inert ingredients, and may invite speakers to future MS calls to provide additional information about use, manufacture, and research. The MS also entertained the thought of inviting someone(s) from EPA/USDA to provide a legal perspective. The MS asked if NOP could connect them with someone at the EPA.
 - Policy Development (PDS) (NL). The PDS completed a proposal for updates to the PPM, and is discussing ways to incorporate diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility aspects (DEIA) into future Board work. The PDS will also look at ways to facilitate communication between the NOSB, NOP, and the Food Technologists, and may offer to be the vehicle for future work requests, rather than having the NOSB Chair take on that role.
 - Livestock (LS) (BC). The Livestock Subcommittee received a petition for meloxicam, which the LS Chair noted was submitted by a group of veterinarians rather than a manufacturer or pharmaceutical company. The LS will discuss petition sufficiency on its next call.

- Crops (CS) (ADB for LP). The CS will send feedback to NOP about the TR for ferric phosphate. The Subcommittee emphasized the need for independent information rather than relying on manufacturers data. Crops is also working on planning for the compost panel, as well as sunset reviews.
- Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACCS) (ADB). The CACS discussed several topics on its last call, including scoping questions and timing for a work agenda item; Future scheduling; the need for a USDA Organic Policy Advisor; and the technical support process and possible improvements. The CACS will propose a new work agenda item on the next Executive call, looking at climate smart agriculture for livestock. The goal would be to create educational materials about this topic.
- Handling (HS) (AJ). Handling has a busy work agenda. It is reviewing a couple of new petitions, awaiting a TR for one 2026 sunset, and assessing TR needs for 24 2027-sunset substances.
- **Additional Items.** None.
- **The meeting was adjourned**

[Previous ES Notes](#)

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March 19, 2024

April 16, 2024

May 21, 2024

June 18, 2024

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December 17, 2024

[NOSB Work Agenda](#)

Milestones

Spring 2024 Milestones	Target dates (tentative)	Weeks PTM (prior to meeting)
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Spring 2024 NOSB meeting - Milwaukee, WI	Apr 29 - May 1, 2024	0

Final recommendations due	May 29, 2024	30 days post meeting
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Fall 2024 Milestones	Target dates (tentative)	Weeks PTM (prior to meeting)
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Summary of National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) Subcommittee Activities
Tuesday, February 20, 2024 4:00 pm ET**

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Absent: Nate Lewis (NL), NOSB Secretary & PDS Chair; Franklin Quarcoo (FQ), Materials Chair

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA); Erin Healy (EH); Jared Clark (JC); Heather Kumar (HK); Esu Obu (EO)

Agenda

- **Review January 16, 2024 notes**
- **Chairs Report (KS)**
 - Compost Panel
 - Draft NOSB meeting agenda
 - Proposal submission deadline and process
- **NOP news and updates (EH)**
 - NOP participation on Subcomm calls
 - Rulemaking updates
- **Food Technologist update (JC)**
- **Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)**
 - Upcoming deadlines (see tables below)
 - Spring meeting prep: Travel
 - Nominations timeline
 - May 7 Subcomm calls, June 11 calls (NOP all hands)
- **Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)**
 - Handling (HS) (AJ)
 - Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (FQ)
 - Policy Development (PDS) (NL)
 - Livestock (LS) (BC)
 - Crops (CS) (LP)
 - Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACS) (ADB)
- **Additional Items**
- **Adjourn**

Discussion

- **January 16, 2024** were approved as written.
- **Chairs Report (KS)**
 - Compost Panel. The NOSB will invite a fourth panelist from either academia or Government.
 - Draft NOSB meeting agenda. The Spring agenda will include time for in-person comments, TOPP presentations, and a panel on compost.
 - Proposal submission deadline and process. The NOSB Chair thanked members for submitting their Spring documents on time, and early in some cases. The NOSB officers plan to talk about best practices and ways to improve the process to make it smoother. Please feel free to submit ideas for ways to improve the workflow during the “in-between times” (between the time proposals are due and the meeting).
- **NOP news and updates (EH)**

- Rulemaking updates. The Market Development rule is in clearance.
- The NOSB Chair encouraged the NOP to speak up on calls to provide feedback to help guide members during the proposal development process. She thanked the CACS representative for assisting with CACS documents.
- **Food Technologist update (JC).**
 - There are approximately 3 or 4 petitions in the queue, in varying stages of review by the NOP. The Food Technologists are assisting with petition review as a training opportunity, in between work projects for the NOSB, and it is not interfering with their NOSB work.
 - The NOP Food Technologists sent phase 2 of the inerts spreadsheet (synthetic/nonsynthetic determination) to the Materials Subcommittee, and are working on Phase 3, which will encompass functional groups.
 - The NOSB sent a request for a literature review on parasiticides in Livestock. NOP is currently working on scoping that project.
- **Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)**
 - Upcoming deadlines (see tables below)
 - Spring meeting prep: Travel planning is on hold until after March 1, which is the expiration date for the Continuing resolution.
 - Nominations timeline. The nominations will be announced this Spring, likely in March, and will be open for 60 days.
 - May 7 Subcommittee calls. Given these are the week immediately after the spring meeting, the Chairs may want to cancel or reschedule.
 - June 11 calls. NOP is hosting an all-hands meeting this week and will work with the Subcommittee Chairs to reschedule calls.
 - The NOP set a self-imposed deadline of March 19 to send the sunset lists to the HS, CS, and LS.
- **Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)**
 - Handling (HS) (AJ). The HS completed all its sunsets and have a couple of outstanding TRs to review. On its last call, the HS discussed the limited scope TR on yeast, microorganisms, and enzymes, which was focused on excluded methods. Members also discussed the idea of inviting speakers to Subcommittee calls and inviting stakeholder feedback on fermentation.
 - Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (WD for FQ). The MS completed the discussion documents on Research Priorities and Inerts, and the proposal on the TR template updates.
 - Policy Development (PDS) (ADB for NL). The Subcommittee completed a proposal on PPM updates, which consist of minor changes.
 - Livestock (LS) (BC). The LS completed its sunset reviews for the Spring meeting and cancelled today's call. The Subcommittee has one TR to review and may have a petition to review soon.
 - Crops (CS) (LP). The Crops Subcommittee did not have a call today. The CS has completed its sunset reviews for the Spring meeting and have discussed adding a fourth panelist to the compost panel, possibly someone from academia.
 - Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACS) (ADB). The CACS is working on several large, complex topics that are not black and white. For the Spring meeting, they will present 3 discussion documents (Residue Testing for a Global Supply Chain, Climate Induced Farming Risk and Crop Insurance, and Organic Food System Capacity and Constraints), and one proposal on transition to organic. The CACS is looking forward to public comments on its work.
- **Additional Items.**
 - The USDA appointed a new Chief diversity officer. The NOSB has been discussing invitations to have someone speak at the NOSB meeting on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) and the new chief diversity officer may be available to speak or may recommend someone in her office. The NOSB is interested in hearing from folks outside of USDA that perhaps consult

with USDA. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2023/03/02/usda-announces-first-permanent-chief-diversity-and-inclusion>

- Oral comment period sign up. The NOP explained the sign-up procedure for the oral comment sessions.
- A member asked about changes in roles with regard to the Executive call, and whether the Deputy Administrator would continue to attend the calls.
- **The meeting was adjourned**

[Previous ES Notes](#)

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[NOSB Work Agenda](#)

Milestones

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Absent:

Staff: Jennifer Tucker (JT); Michelle Arsenault (MA); Erin Healy (EH); Jared Clark (JC); Heather Kumar (HK); Esu Obu (EO)

Agenda

- **Review December 19, 2023 notes**
- **Chairs Report (KS)**
 - Draft NOSB meeting agenda: Compost Panel. In person oral comments. Equity Speaker.
 - Proposal submission deadline and process
 - NOSB members at ACA in San Antonio
- **NOP news and updates (JC for EH)**
 - Response to CACS work agenda request
 - Market Development Rule (Proposed Rule) (mushrooms, pet food)
 - SOE rollout update
 - Food Technologist work requests
- **Food Technologist update (JC)**
- **Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)**
 - Upcoming deadlines (see tables below)
 - Spring meeting prep: Travel
 - Nominations timeline
- **Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)**
 - Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACS) (ADB)
 - Handling (HS) (AJ)
 - Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (FQ)
 - Policy Development (PDS) (NL)
 - Livestock (LS) (BC)
 - Crops (CS) (LP)
- **Additional Items**
- **Adjourn**

Discussion

- **December 19, 2023 notes** were approved with no changes.
- **Chairs Report (KS)**
 - The Chair shared ideas for the Spring meeting agenda and asked for feedback. The NOSB is thinking about hosting a panel on compost, a speaker on equity, and setting aside time for in-person oral comments. The group discussed blocking time and will move ahead with all three suggestions.

- The proposal submission deadline is February 15 in order to get something on the agenda for the Spring meeting, and the Chair reminded Subcommittee Chairs to send documents to the NOP as soon as they are finalized.
- The January 2 Subcommittee calls were moved to January 23, (HS, CS, LS, CACS). There is also a 5th Tuesday in January in case Subcommittees need extra time.
- Several NOSB members will be attending the Accredited Certifiers Association (ACA) training in San Antonio at end of January. There is a listening session on NOSB topics.
- **NOP news and updates (JC for EH)**
 - Market Development Rule (Proposed Rule) (mushrooms, pet food). In clearance at USDA. Under the new guidance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the proposed rule was designated non-significant, so does not have to go to OMB.
 - Strengthening Organic Enforcement (SOE) final rule implementation update. The rule published one year ago, and the implementation deadline is in March 2024. The NOP has been focused on outreach about the rule and technology work (i.e. trade modules and export certificates). Additional components, such as the recommendation from the Board about GPS location identification, will be deferred for now, until the technology work is done. NOP noted that it is discussing the GPS recommendations and ways to incorporate it.
 - The NOP provided a verbal approval of the CACS work agenda request on “Organic Food System Capacity and Constraints” and will follow up with written approval.
 - Preparation for the ACA training is underway. Many NOP staff will be participating.
 - The Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) is thriving. The mentors/mentees component is growing and working well. A member asked about other metrics to measure success. Metrics include such things as number of events, people engaged, number of mentors and mentees, number of certified ops, outcomes, acreage added, attrition, number of organic system plans (OSPs) that get completed, etc. The NOP is launching a transitional producer plan (TPP) to help producers document their organic practices and materials use during transition. This will be announced and posted on the AMS website soon. The group also discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and its role in the TOPP program.
 - The NOP is preparing the next call for nominations for the NOSB. There will be 5 seats open as of January 24, 2025. The Board members flagged potential gaps in skillsets, as two of the members rotating off have expertise in livestock.
 - The NOP response to the Fall 2023 NOSB recommendations should be sent soon.
 - The Board expressed appreciation to the Food Technologists and their work gathering the information on international standards for the sunset reviews.
 - Technical Report (TR) template updates/Excluded methods. NOP addressed several aspects of this project that it finds challenging, and the group discussed issues and solutions. NOP offered several alternatives such as adding questions to the petition template instead of the TR template and noted the need to follow standard processes for requesting public comments through the proposal process; the process should be the same as when the PPM is updated. While members don’t want to see this delayed, they supported another public comment collection. Given that this is already on the work agenda, and the MS presented a discussion document at a previous meeting, the Subcommittee will move ahead with a proposal for the Spring 2024 meeting. The group supported this solution.
- **Food Technologist update (JC).** The work on international standards was completed and returned to the NOSB and the Food Technologists are now working on the inerts work request.
- **Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)**
 - Upcoming deadlines (see tables below)

- Spring meeting prep. The NOP is prepping various items for the Spring meeting, including the draft meeting agenda and travel. The NOP will send guidance about making travel arrangements after March 1, which is when the next Continuing Resolution expires.
- Nominations timeline. The call for applications will be published in the Spring - March or April - and will be open for 60 days. The NOP will send outreach materials to Board members to use for outreach to their stakeholders.
- **Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)**
 - Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACs) (ADB). The Chair thanked the program for approving the work agenda request on Organic Food System Capacity and Constraints, and thanked the lead for developing the well thought out request. The CACS is working on several documents for the Spring meeting and has begun hosting guest speakers on its calls.
 - Handling (HS) (AJ). The HS has been reviewing an extensive list of sunset reviews, as well as three petitions. The Subcommittee voted to not add rye pollen extracts, magnesium carbonate, or magnesium carbonate hydroxide to the National List, and will bring the proposals and discussions to the full Board for a vote.
 - Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (FQ). The Food Technologists are working on the Inerts work request from the Board. The TR template update was discussed above.
 - Policy Development (PDS) (NL). The PDS continues to refine updates to the Policy and Procedures Manual (PPM) which will be presented at the Spring meeting. The group completed conversations about outgoing member interviews.
 - Livestock (LS) (BC). The LS is working on several sunset reviews and is on track to complete them prior to the Spring meeting.
 - Crops (CS) (LP). The Crops Subcommittee is working on completing its sunset reviews, research priorities, and one petition on carbon dioxide.
- **Additional Items.** None.
- **The meeting was adjourned**

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