

**NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD
PROCESSING AND HANDLING COMMITTEE
Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland
September 10, 1992
MEETING SUMMARY**

Prepared by: Ted Rogers

Attendees: Richard Theuer (Chair), Margaret Clark, Merrill Clark, Donald Kinsman, Craig Weakley, Eugene Kahn; Ted Rogers, Harold Ricker, Julie Anton, USDA staff.

This meeting generally concerned pertinent issues brought forward by the response to a mailing of Processing Committee (PC) position papers dated July 17, 1992. These papers had generated 42 written comments. The comments had stimulated discussion and reevaluation. A revised labeling draft dated September 8, 1992 was the first result of this process.

Because of the intense interest in the subject of wine made from organic grapes, presentations from two experts in the wine field had been requested. Mr. Jim Hunt, a wine specialist with the Bureau of Alcohol Firearms and Tobacco (BATF) discussed BATF's role in the wine industry and the sulfite issue, as related to wine quality and label requirements. Mr. Paul Chartrand, of Chartrand Imports, discussed a method for sulfiting of wine based on burning of sulfur (rather than adding synthetic sulfites) and addressed the quality issue. The Committee took these comments under advisement for future discussion and consideration.

The Committee reviewed the position papers with respect to the percentage organic declaration for foods with liquid ingredients and food containing "water of reconstitution." during this discussion the Committee moved to include "air" with "water" and "salt" as items to be excluded from the calculations of the percentage organic.

There was also a discussion of the percentage organic calculation for foods with inherently variable ingredient percentages. An example was pickles in brine, where size variation causes percentage differences.

A discussion of the certification requirements for foods with less than 50% organic ingredients resulted in a minority/majority position. The minority held that such foods required only the verification of an accredited certifier. The majority held that such product could be produced only by a certified processor.

At the prior invitation of the Committee, Mr. Dane Bernard, of the Food Processing Institute, did a presentation on HACCP

(Hazard Analysis/Critical Control Points). HACCP lends itself to protecting the organic integrity of foods and has applications to the Organic Handling Plan.

The Committee discussed the aspects of the PC position paper dealing with allowable ingredients in organic food. It was agreed that the use of the word "organic" must be consistent and that the use of confusing terms should be augmented with clear definitions or avoided all together.

The Committee received public input during this meeting and at a public input session following.

**NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD
LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE
Sheraton Harbor Inn, Baltimore, Maryland
September 11, 1992
MEETING SUMMARY**

Prepared By: Merrill Clark/Julie Anton

Attendees: Merrill Clark (Chair), William J. Friedman, Don Kinsman; NOSB Livestock Committee; George Siemon, Technical Expert; Julie Anton, Ted Rogers, Harold Ricker, USDA.

Chair Merrill Clark described the previous work of the Committee and the various working drafts and position papers in progress for distribution to the public for comment.

Opening discussion centered on the issue of whether an organic livestock operation could be a "mixed" operation, involving both conventional and organic production, or whether organic livestock operations should be moving toward all-organic operations by a certain period of time. Views on both sides of the issue were voiced.

A five-year transition time was suggested, and concerns that conventional production was often necessary on organic farms in order to keep such farms economic were brought out. Others felt the possible cross-contamination of feed, equipment, buildings, etc. would jeopardize organic integrity and consumer confidence in organic production practices.

The Committee concluded that livestock production of the same species with the same product should be required to be entirely organic within five years. However, under other circumstances, the entire farm would not be required to be an 100% organic operation.

Discussion of the certified organic feed standard included the controversy over grazing land versus farm-raised feed crops and discussion of Section 2105(2) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA) that appears to exempt grazing land for livestock from the requirement for a three-year absence of prohibited substance use. USDA research on the legislative history of that section is to be furthered. Many were concerned that organic standards for livestock production would be compromised if cattle were allowed to graze pesticide-treated land.

The Livestock Committee noted that it will need to respond to emergency spray exemptions and other issues for which the NOSB Crops Committee has prepared a position.

Resulting from a discussion of the Livestock Committee draft

on materials that are "questionable" for use in organic livestock production, alcohol and hydrogen peroxide were moved to the "allowed" list with restriction to topical antiseptic use and wound cleanser use respectively. Oxytocin was added to the "questionable list." Criteria by which livestock materials are considered "allowed" or "prohibited" was briefly reviewed.

Dr. Edgar Schaefer of the Clark Veterinary Clinic in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, gave a presentation on homeopathic veterinary medicine. He discussed how homeopathic are prepared and how they are used. He stressed the importance of providing individualized treatment to animals and observing closely all symptoms and responses to medications.

Homeopathic medicines involve the use of dilute forms of toxins from nature to build up, rather than repress, the animal's immune system. Dr. Schaefer mentioned that FDA approval for animal homeopathic remedies did not yet exist. Members of the audience questioned Dr. Schaefer about the efficacy of the procedures.

The Livestock Committee husbandry working draft was discussed; several in the audience expressed support for the objectives described in the document.

The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m. The next meeting of the Livestock Committee was set for September 29, 1992 in August, Maine.