

Livestock Recommendations -- 1995

NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD FINAL RECOMMENDATION ADDENDUM NUMBER 20 TAP REVIEW OF ANTIBIOTICS AND PARASITICIDES IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

Date adopted: October 31, 1995
Location: Austin, Texas

Introduction:

The Committee has determined that the use of antibiotics and parasiticides has been thoroughly described in the NOSB Standards for Organic Livestock Production passed in June, 1994. The Committee believes that the recommendations should be amended to take the practicalities of implementation into consideration. Specifically two issues need to be evaluated: 1) the amount of time necessary to conduct Technical Advisory Panel reviews for each possible material and 2) the concern that materials needed to help restore the health of animals would not be available in time for program implementation. Because FDA already reviews these materials for safety, the committee decided to recommend a means of prioritizing antibiotics and parasiticides for TAP review and to allow the substitution of non-reviewed antibiotics and parasiticides when TAP reviewed materials are not available.

The Committee recognizes that the Board may wish to review information about the creation and production of the antibiotics and parasiticides and about the persistence of the materials in the bodies of the animals after administration.

Statement of Principle:

The Committee recognizes that the FDA already reviews antibiotics and parasiticides for safety. Based upon this recognition and because the NOSB Recommendations already greatly limit the use of medications and parasiticides, the Committee suggests that the following basis be established for the TAP review of antibiotics and parasiticides: The committee should rely on knowledgeable technical advisors to rank antibiotics and parasiticides by likelihood of satisfying the Section 219 (m) criteria under the statutory requirement for establishing the materials list. The materials should then be reviewed by the Technical Advisory Panel for consideration by the NOSB for placement on the National List. The technical advisors' prioritized list of information would be made available to producers through USDA National Organic Program policy, thus providing producers an opportunity to choose antibiotics and parasiticides in keeping with the organic principles.

The following additions are to be inserted in the Organic Livestock Production section, as indicated, of the NOSB Final Recommendations adopted June 1-4, 1994 in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Add at line 378, page 14:

If an antibiotic is necessary to fulfill the intent of section 2, the first choice of the producer should be a material that is included on the National List; however, if a suitable antibiotic is not on the National List, the producer may use an antibiotic that has not been reviewed. This policy is to be reevaluated within 2 years.

Add at line 462, page 17:

If a parasiticide is necessary in case of a health care emergency in permitted situations, the first choice of the producer should be a material that is included on the National List; however, if a suitable parasiticide is not on the National List, the producer may use a parasiticide that has not been reviewed. This policy is to be reevaluated within 2 years.