

National Organic Standards Board Meeting, May 13-14, 2003, Austin, Texas

**Livestock Committee Recommendation: Atropine**

5-8-03

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**Introduction:** The NOSB received a petition to consider Atropine as an antidote for poisoning in organic livestock production.

**Background:** All three reviewers and the Committee agree that Atropine is a synthetic. In September 2002 the NOSB voted to delay a decision on Atropine on the grounds that the TAP contained insufficient information, particularly regarding Atropine's effectiveness as an antidote for poisoning by natural materials such as Larkspur as well as for treatment of eye infections.

Committee agreed that the supplemental TAP was adequate to answer concerns regarding uses, manufacture and environmental impact. Discussion included question if there was a required FDA with hold time for Atropine. Based on the information contained in the TAP, there appears to be justification for the use of Atropine to treat eye infections.

**Significant Sideline Issues:**

Atropine is used to treat animals that have been poisoned by Organophosphates or toxic plants. Although the CURE is not reason to disqualify from an organic herd the POISON is. A producer must remove an animal from organic production if the need for atropine results from an exposure to an organophosphate or other synthetic acetylcholinesterase inhibitor. If the acetylcholinesterase poisoning is a results from ingestion of a non-synthetic material, e.g., a plant, then administration of atropine seems appropriate within an organic system.

**Recommendation:**

Add to 205.603 (a) without annotation

**Committee Vote:**

Approve-5  
Disapprove-0  
Recuse-0  
Absent-1  
Abstain-0

**Minority Opinion:** None

**Conclusion:** In rare emergency cases Atropine is a safe medication compatible with a system of organic livestock production

2002 NOSB Livestock Committee: George Siemon, Chair, Nancy Ostiguy, Vice-Chair, Dave Carter, Rebecca Goldberg, Michael Lacy, Jim Riddle