

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

Livestock Committee Recommendation: Furosemide 5-8-03

Introduction: The NOSB received a petition to consider Furosemide for medicinal livestock treatment, as a diuretic used for the treatment of udder edema and pulmonary edema, which is associated with conjunctive heart failure.

Background: All three reviewers and the Committee agree that Furosemide is a synthetic.

In September 2002 the NOSB voted to defer decision on Furosemide pending further TAP information including method of manufacture, environmental impact, alternatives, organic precedent, residual properties and the seven OFPA criteria. Committee agreed that the supplemental TAP adequately addressed their concerns. Discussion included the relative lack of suitable alternatives. The fact that this material is very safe, use is infrequent but typically emergency in nature. There is an FDA mandated 48 hour with hold time for meat and milk following use of Furosemide in order to reduce residual levels by 90%. The committee felt that 10% residual was still too much for organic systems and so endorsed a double with hold time annotation. JK

Recommendation:

The Livestock Committee recommends that Furosemide be added to 205.603(a) with the annotation; "With hold time shall be double the FDA requirement". A

Committee Vote:

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

Minority Opinion:

Conclusion: In rare emergency cases Furosemide is a safe medication. However in order to be compatible with a system of organic livestock production with holding time should be double the FDA requirement.