

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

Crops Committee Recommendation: Phosphoric Acid

Introduction: The NOSB received a petition to consider Phosphoric Acid as a synthetic substance allowed in crops to be used to adjust the pH for aquatic plant extracts.

Background: TAP reviews for phosphoric acid used for processing and livestock were provided. The petitioner also pointed out that phosphoric acid is allowed for pH adjustment with liquid fish products. The Crops Committee unanimously found the material to be synthetic. The Committee found the reviews for livestock and processing to be inadequate for this review. Major concerns were raised regarding the use of phosphoric acid to boost phosphorus availability rather than for its stated use to adjust the pH. Moreover questions concerning soil reactions which are critical to this decision were lacking. Possible alternatives were not adequately addressed in the petition (use of citric and lactic acids). The Committee also felt that the approved use in liquid fish formulations was also questionable, and is subject to review in light of the sunset provisions.

Recommendation:

The Crops Committee recommends that the decision involving phosphoric acid be deferred pending a TAP review for the intended use. That review should also re-assess its use in liquid fish products.

Committee Vote:

Approve-4
Disapprove-0
Recuse-0
Absent-1
Abstain-0