

# THE NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD

THE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD was required as part of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990. The Board was established to help develop standards for production and processing of agricultural products to be marketed as "organic."

Appointees to the Board were selected by Secretary of Agriculture Edward Merrigan from 112 candidates. As required under the Act, the Board is comprised of fourteen members: four farmers/growers, two handlers/processors, one retailer, one scientist, three consumer/public interest advocates and three environmentalists.

The Board's task is to make recommendations to the USDA on 1) crop production standards, 2) livestock and dairy production standards, 3) manufacturing, processing, packaging and labeling standards, 4) a materials list of permitted and prohibited substances (referred to as the National List), 5) procedures governing the certification process, and 6) standards and procedures for imported organic products and ingredients.

Other responsibilities specifically mentioned in the Act include the convening of technical advisory panels to provide scientific evaluation of materials to be included in the National List and special reviews of botanical pesticides, product residue testing and emergency spray programs.



## THE NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD: BACKGROUND AND KEY DATES

**November 1989:** The first version of the Organic Foods Production Act is introduced by Senator Leahy of Vermont.

**September 1990:** The House and Senate reach agreement on the 1990 Farm Bill, including the Organic Foods Production Act.

**November 1990:** President Bush signs the Farm Bill.

**October 3, 1991:** Conference Committee of Senate and House representatives approve \$120,000 appropriation for the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB).

**January 24, 1992:** Secretary of Agriculture Edward Merrigan announces the NOSB appointments.

**March 23-25, 1992:** First NOSB meeting, Washington, DC. Officers are selected and six committees formed to develop standards in the following areas: Livestock; Crop Standards; Materials; Manufacturing & Processing; Accreditation; and International Issues.

**April 30-May 2, 1992:** Public meetings of the International Issues Committee and the Accreditation Committee, Washington, DC.

**May 4-6, 1992:** Public meetings of Crop Standards; Manufacturing & Processing;

Materials; and Livestock Committees, Minneapolis, MN.

**June 27-28, 1992:** Public meeting of the Accreditation Committee, San Francisco, CA.

**July 7-10, 1992:** Full board meeting, including public sessions, Fort Collins, CO.

**September 10-11, 1992:** Public meetings of the Manufacturing & Processing and Livestock Committees, Baltimore, MD.

**September 17, 1992:** Public meetings of the Crops Standards and Materials Committees, Sacramento, CA.

**September 27-30, 1992:** Full Board meeting, including public sessions, Augusta, ME.

**September 30, 1992:** USDA staff announce NOSB FY93 allocation of \$15,646.

**March 3, 1993:** NOSB members meet with key USDA staff members in Washington, DC to establish a working relationship with the Clinton administration.

**May 15-20, 1993:** Full Board meeting, including public sessions, to be held at the Rodale Institute, Emmaus, PA.

**October 1, 1993:** Proposed date for implementation of the Organic Foods Production Act.



# WHO'S WHO ON THE NATIONAL ORGANIC

## NOSB OFFICERS

Chair: Michael Sligh  
Vice-Chair: Margaret Clark  
Treasurer: Eugene Kahn  
Secretary: W. Jay Friedman IV

## NOSB COMMITTEES

### Livestock Standards

Chair: Merrill Clark  
W. Jay Friedman IV  
Gary Osweiler  
Don Kinsman

### Crop Standards

Chair: Eugene Kahn  
Dean Eppley  
Robert Quinn  
Craig Weakley  
Esper K. Chandler

### Materials

Chair: Nancy Taylor  
Dean Eppley  
Thomas Stoneback  
Gary Osweiler  
Esper K. Chandler  
Richard Theuer

### Manufacturing and Processing

Chair: Richard Theuer  
Craig Weakley  
Eugene Kahn  
Don Kinsman  
Merrill Clark  
Margaret Clark

### Accreditation

Chair: Margaret Clark  
Michael Sligh  
W. Jay Friedman IV  
Nancy Taylor  
Robert Quinn  
Richard Theuer

### International Issues

Chair: W. Jay Friedman IV  
Thomas Stoneback  
Michael Sligh  
Nancy Taylor

## FARMERS/GROWERS (4 appointees)

**Leroy D. Eppley:** Wabash, Indiana. Owner/operator of Pleasant Home Farm, Inc. for the past 34 years. Farm consists of 2,000 acres, mostly in corn/soybean rotation. 90 acres are certified organic with another 100 in transition (vinton, azuki and soybeans). Member Indiana Sustainable Agriculture Association; President, Indiana Corn Growers Association; Director, National Corn Growers Association; Supervisor, Wabash Soil and Water Conservation District for 27 years to 1990; and Past President and Member, Indiana Farm Bureau.

**Gary D. Osweiler:** Boone, Iowa. Owns and lives on 200 acre farm, which is divided with 60 acres in timber, 30 acres in alfalfa, and 100 acres in crops. He is a Professor of Veterinary Pathology at Iowa State University.

**\*Robert M. Quinn:** Big Sands, Montana. Owns and operates family farm of 2,400 acres, mostly small grains and cattle. Some fields have been organic since 1984, and 100% of the farm since 1989. Owns Montana Flour and Grain, and Quigar Laboratory, Woodland, CA (a biological testing and manufacturing company). Member, Farm Bureau-13 years; Montana Grain Growers-6 years; Montana Stock Growers-6 years; and Chapter President, Organic Crop Improvement Association for the past 5 years.

**Nancy A. Taylor:** Potlatch, Idaho. Owner and partner in family farm consisting of 830 acres of wheat, barley, oats, and alfalfa. Laboratory and Program Coordinator, Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute, Co-chairperson, Idaho Organic Food Council; Advisory Board, 4-State Low Input Sustainable Agriculture-Dryland Cereals Project; and Tri-State Sustainable Agriculture Committee.

## HANDLERS/PROCESSORS (2 appointees)

**\*Eugene B. Kahn:** Rockport, Washington. President/CEO Cascadian Farm, Inc. Contract production with more than 30 certified organic farms for 2,000 acres of production that are sold through the company's retail store and Fresh and Grocery Divisions. Board Member, Northwest Organic Foods Producers; Organic Advisory Committee; Washington State Department of Agriculture 1987-1990; Board of Directors and Executive Committee, Organic Foods Production Association of North America; Member, Farm Bureau 1985 to present.

**Richard C. Theuer:** Chesterfield, Missouri. Vice President, Research and Development/Quality Assurance, Ralston Purina Company, CEO Beech-Nut Nutrition (1986-89); Vice President, Research and Development, Beech-Nut Nutrition Corporation (1983-86); Member, Technical Advisory Group, Committee on Nutrition, American Academy of Pediatrics (1984-present); Chairman, International Nutritional Anemia, Consultative Group (1991 to present); Member, League for International Food Education, Board of Directors (1983-87); and member, American Institute of Nutrition (1971 to present).

## RETAILER (1 appointee)

**\*Margaret A. Clark:** Bainbridge Island, Washington. Manager, Organic Produce Department, Town and Country Markets, Inc. 1986 to present. Supervises staff of 4 and has responsibility for merchandising, training, pricing, scheduling and promotions and direct buying. Owner GAEA Farm Nursery-1 acre intensive salad greens and herbs. Chairperson, Organic Advisory Board, Washington Department of Agriculture; Board Member, Washington Tilth.

## CONSUMER/PUBLIC INTEREST (3 appointees)

**Merrill A. Clark:** Cassopolis, Michigan. Co-owner, Roseland Farms and Roseland Organic Market-12 years. Environmental Issues Instructor, Southwestern Michigan College (1984-86); Founder and present Chair, Citizens for Environmental Protection, Niles, MI; Business and Professional Women of Dowagiack, MI; Agricultural Director, League of Women Voters of Michigan (past Natural Resources Director).



# STANDARDS BOARD

**Donald M. Kinsman:** Storrs, Connecticut. Professor Emeritus, University of Connecticut; Director and Regional President, American Society of Animal Science; National President, American Meat Science Association; and Council for Agricultural Science and Technology.

**\*J. Michael Sligh:** Greenville, South Carolina. Director, Sustainable Agriculture Program for Rural Advancement Fund, International, 1990 to present; Field Director, Public Policy Analyst, and Rural Educator for the Rural Advancement Fund (1984-89); Organic Certification Inspector for CFSA (1989); and SE-LISA grant proposal evaluator (1989-90); Member, National Family Farm Coalition (1985-present); Board Member, Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (1989 to present); and member, United Farmers Organization (1985 to present).

## ENVIRONMENTALISTS (3 appointees)

**William J. Friedman, IV:** Albuquerque, New Mexico. Attorney at Law; Appointment, House Memorial 50 Task Force on Sustainable Agriculture, 1991; Selected New Mexico's Agricultural "Lay Leader" by NM Cooperative Extension Service, 1991; Appointment, New Mexico Organic Commodity Commission (1990 to present).

**Thomas A. Stoneback:** Allentown, Pennsylvania. Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer, Rodale Press (1977 to present), publishes *Organic Gardening* magazine; Ph.D. in Microbiology; Past President, Wildlands Conservancy; Commissioner, Delaware and Lehigh Navigation Canal National Heritage Corridor, (Dept. of Interior appointment).

**\*Craig V. Weakley:** Yuba City, California. Director of Organic Production, Muir Glen, and Director of Integrated Pest Management, San Tomo Group (1989 to present); B.S., Environmental Toxicology; M.S., Plant Protection and Pest Management; Member, California Certified Organic Farmers (1989 to present); member, Organic Foods Production Association of North America (1991); member, California Agricultural Production Consultants Association (1989 to present).

## SCIENTIST (1 appointee)

**Esper K. Chandler:** Edinburg, Texas. Owner/operator of Texas Plant and Soil Lab, Inc. (1971 to present); M.S. Agronomy, Soils; Owns and operates 813 acre farm and leases 1,000 acres, mostly cattle with some row crops; Member, Farm Bureau (1957 to present); Member, American & Texas Forage & Grassland Council; Soil and Water Conservation Society; and National Cattlemen's Association.

\* Asterisks indicate appointees recommended to the USDA by the organic industry.

## USDA STAFF MEMBERS

**NOSB Staff Director:** Harold Ricker

**Coordinator:** Ted Rogers  
(Manufacturing & Processing, Accreditation, and Materials Committees)

**Coordinator:** Julie Anton  
(Livestock, International Issues, and Crop Standards Committees)

## TECHNICAL ADVISORS TO NOSB COMMITTEES

### Accreditation:

**Dr. Charles Benbrook**  
Private consultant. Formerly Agricultural Policy Analyst for the President's Council on Environmental Quality (1979-1981) and Executive Director of the National Research Council's Board on Agriculture (1984-1990).

### Crop Standards:

**Lynn S. Coody**  
Private consultant. Member of the Oregon Department of Agriculture Advisory Committee on Organics, author of A Conceptual Model for Evaluating the Materials and Practices of the Organic Foods Industry (1990).

**Zea Sonnabend**  
Organic farm inspector, chair of CCOF Materials Subcommittee and OFPANA Materials Committee.

## NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD EXPENSES

### NOSB FY92 Expenses

|                 |                  |  |
|-----------------|------------------|--|
| Travel          | \$27,000         |  |
| Lodging         | 24,000           |  |
| Per diem        | 11,000           |  |
| Meeting Rooms   | 7,000            |  |
| <b>Subtotal</b> | <b>\$69,000</b>  |  |
| Contracts       | \$10,000         | Technical advisors   |
| Phone/fax       | 8,000            | NOSB members from home/office  |
| <b>Subtotal</b> | <b>\$87,000</b>  |  |
| Equipment       | \$33,000         | 2 computers, printer, fax and 2 laptop computers for <u>USDA staff</u> |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>\$120,000</b> |  |

### Projected for FY93

|              |                 |                                |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Phone/fax    | \$10,000        | NOSB members from home/office* |
| Meeting      | 6,000           |                                |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$16,000</b> |                                |

\* Two NOSB members do not have fax machines and must rent the use of a fax at extraordinary costs. The \$10,000 phone/fax expense in FY93 is allocated at \$714 per person for the year. Board members who have a greater need will be funded through a pool of funds contributed by Board members who can cover their own expenses.

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

National Organic Standards Board members and USDA staff welcome public input. Committee and full board meetings include public sessions, and Committee Position Papers are beginning to be available for circulation to the public.

**•To Get On A NOSB Mailing List**

Mailing list categories include Press Releases, Full-Board and Committee Meeting Summaries, and Committee Position Papers. You may request to receive information from one or a number of categories. Write to: *National Organic Standards Program, USDA/AMS/TMD, Room 2510-South, PO Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456.*

**•To Make A Scheduled Oral Presentation**

Address request to *Dr. Harold Ricker, NOSB Staff Director, USDA/AMS/TMD, Room 4006-South, PO Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456.* Request should be postmarked no later than 7 days prior to scheduled meeting date. Requests must indicate whether you wish to speak to the full

Board or a specific Committee and specify your topic; a written summary is "highly recommended." If not sent with request, bring 16 copies of a written summary to meeting.

**•To Make An Unscheduled Oral Presentation**

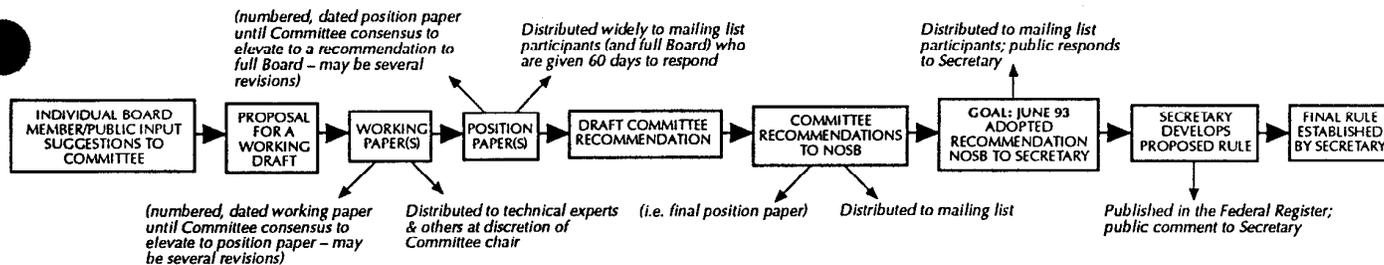
Seek out a USDA staff member at the meeting site to be placed on a first-come, first-served list of presenters. Allotted time will be determined by the number of presenters. Bring 16 copies of a written summary of your presentation.

**•To Submit Letters And/Or Papers**

Address written correspondence to the NOSB or pertinent Committee c/o Harold Ricker (address above). All documents become part of the public record. Telephone calls are not encouraged.

## NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD

### Document Procedure



## NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD COMMITTEE POSITION PAPERS

available through the USDA (address above) or by returning this form to the OFPANA office

**Crop Standards Committee**

- Organic Farm Plan*, February 1993, Position Paper #1
- Residue Testing*, December 30, 1992, Position Paper #1
- Inputs for Organic Crop Production*, December 18, 1992, Position Paper #1

**Livestock Committee**

- Comprehensive Livestock Production Standards Document*, March 15, 1993, Position Paper #1

**Processing & Handling**

- Organic Food Labeling*, July 17, 1992, Position Paper #1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Number of publications requested x \$3.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a check or money order (to cover the costs of copying) made payable to "OFPANA." Thank you!