

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

Livestock Committee Recommendation: Moxidectin 5-8-03

Introduction: The NOSB received a petition to consider Moxidectin for medicinal livestock treatment, as a topically applied broad spectrum parasiticide effective against both internal and external parasites.

Background: All three reviewers and the Committee agree that Moxidectin is a synthetic. None of the reviewers endorsed the use of Moxidectin without annotation. Two of the three reviewers endorsed the use of Moxidectin with annotations. One felt that Moxidectin should remain prohibited.

Committee discussion was extensive. Review of Moxidectin was on its own merit not only as compared to Ivermectin, which is the only parasiticide on the National List. Endorsements included facts that Moxidectin appears to be less problematic than Ivermectin, it is allowed in dairy animals (Ivermectin is not), and there is no withdrawal requirement for meat or milk.

Concerns discussed include Moxidectin's long half life (up to six months), its systemic nature (traveling through the lymph system) and ability to affect ectoparasites, which are manageable by natural means, its ability to bind to soil, its fat solubility without a withdrawal requirement. Moxidectin has macrolytic antibiotic properties. While it is not used or licensed for use as an antibiotic it does effect the natural flora of the animals treated. These concerns compromise the compatibility of an organic system according to # 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the seven OEPA criteria.

Also discussed was the fact that 205.238(b) prohibits the use of parasiticides on slaughter stock, and to change this requirement would require a rule change.

Recommendation:

* The Livestock Committee recommends that Moxidectin be deferred pending verification of supplemental information provided by the petitioner. Specifically whether Moxidectin behaves as a Macrolytic Antibiotic, about the residual properties in milk and fat, and the impact on nontarget species and the environment.

Committee Vote:

Approve-6
Disapprove-0
Recuse-0
Absent-0
Abstain-0

Minority Opinion:

Conclusion: Moxidectin appears to have potential for use in a system of organic livestock management. The Livestock committee wishes to explore this potential further.