

Note: Subcommittee notes may include preliminary discussions regarding substances considered for addition to or removal from the National List. They do not represent official National Organic Program (NOP) policy or regulations. Please see the NOP website for official NOP policy, regulations, and status of substances used in organic production and handling.

**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Compliance, Accreditation & Certification Subcommittee (CACS) Notes
Tuesday January 12, 2016, 4:30 pm ET**

Attending: Carmela Beck (CB), Chair; Jean Richardson (JR); Tom Chapman (TC); Jennifer Taylor (JT); A-dae Romero-Briones (AR); Ashley Swaffar (AS)

Absent: Scott Rice (SR); Nick Maravell (NM)

Staff: Emily Brown Rosen (EBR), Michelle Arsenault (MA)

Work Agenda

| Project | Contact | Status | Vote | Meeting |
|---|---------|---------|------|---------|
| Assessment of Soil Conservation Practices | CBe/LD | On hold | NA | TBD |

| Future Potential Projects | Contact | Status | Vote | Meeting |
|---------------------------|---------|--------|------|---------|
| | | | | |

Agenda

- Approve notes of August 11, 2015
- Assessment of Soil Conservation Practices (CBe)
- Worker welfare (JT)
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **The notes from August 11, 2015** were approved with no changes
- **Assessment of Soil Conservation Practices.** The group discussed the status of this document and how to move it forward. Both the CACS and NOP feel this is an important topic, but at this time the NOP suggests delaying further work until it can provide more guidance and resources to the CACS. An alternative approach is for the NOP to work on this project in collaboration with the NRCS and to not have the CACS work on it. NOP suggested that the group consult with one of the new NOSB members as she has experience in this area and with the NRCS. The CACS will continue this discussion on the next call.
- **Worker welfare (JT).** The group discussed the potential of adding to the work agenda a project on addressing organic farm worker health and welfare. Several members acknowledged that this is a weakness of the organic standards, but felt that it does not fit under OFPA and therefore the USDA does not have authority to regulate this. The member suggested that the group develop a way to address the health of organic farm workers, perhaps in terms of food safety or contamination. Members felt that this was addressed elsewhere and by other agencies. Another

CACS member suggested a discussion document or position statement so the community knows that it is a topic of interest for the NOSB.

- **Calculating % organic in multi-ingredient products.** A member asked about the status of the document that was sent to the NOP on April 11, 2013. The Subcommittee members urged the NOP to move this forward as they constantly receive feedback from stakeholders regarding this topic. The NOP indicated that the draft guidance should be sent back to the CACS soon. Additionally, the following documents are also near completion: Post harvest handling, biodiversity guidance, and classification of materials.
- **The meeting was adjourned**

[Previous CACS Notes](#)

Future Call Schedule (2nd Tuesday 3:00 ET)

December 8, 2015 3:00 ET - cancelled

January 12, 2016

February 9, 2016

Assessment of Soil Conservation Practices. Discuss status of document

March 8, 2016

April 12, 2016

May 10, 2016

June 14, 2016

July 12 2016

August 9, 2016

September 13, 2016

October 11, 2016

November 8, 2016

December 13, 2016

| Spring 2016 Milestones | Target date |
|---|-------------------|
| New NOSB member orientation | Feb 4, 2016 |
| NOP - Complete Spring 2016 NOSB meeting tentative agenda | Feb 10, 2016 |
| NOSB - Spring 2016 proposals due to NOP | Feb 26, 2016 |
| NOP - Post proposals, Publish FRN, Open public comment | Mar 8, 2016 |
| Discuss work agendas on ES call | Mar 11, 2016 |
| Public comment webinars | ?? |
| Public comment closes | Apr 6, 2016 |
| Work agendas finalized on ES call (last call before fall meeting) | Apr 8, 2016 |
| NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB | Apr 11, 2016 |
| Spring 2016 NOSB meeting – Washington, DC | Apr 25 - 27, 2016 |

