

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/regulations or NOSB recommendations. Proposals must be voted on by the full Board, to become recommendations to the USDA. Please see the NOP website for official NOP policy, regulations, and status of substances used in organic production and handling.

**Executive Committee (EC) Meeting Notes and
Summary of National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) Subcommittee Activities
Tuesday, June 16, 2026 4:00 pm ET**

Present: Amanda Felder (AF) - NOSB Vice Chair & PDS Chair; Andrea Hatziyannis (AH) - NOSB Secretary, Handling Chair & Materials Chair; Franklin Quarcoo (FQ), Crops Chair; Nate Lewis (NL), Livestock Chair; Kathryn Deschenes (KD), CACS Chair

Absent: Allison Johnson (AJ), NOSB Chair

Staff: Erin Healy (EH); Michelle Arsenault (MA); Jared Clark (JC); Heather Kumar (HK)

Agenda

- Approve April 21, 2026 notes
- Chairs Report (AH for AJ)
 - Summer schedules, coverage
 - Deadlines for Fall meeting. Proposals due August 20.
 - Projects/requests for Food Technologist
- NOSB questions for NOP (AH for AJ)
 - Appointments.
 - Petitions mentioned at Spring meeting - anticipated receipt date?
- NOP news and updates (EH/JC)
 - National List rule.
 - Organic data.
 - Common OSP <https://www.ams.usda.gov/reports/organic-system-plan-template> available.
 - Work agenda items.
 - October dates for Board meeting.
 - General updates
- Food Technologist update (JC/HK).
- Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)
 - Final recommendations
- Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)
 - Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACS) (KD).
 - Handling (HS) (AH).
 - Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (AH).
 - Policy Development (PDS) (AF).
 - Livestock (LS) (NL).
 - Crops (CS) (FQ).
- Additional Items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **The April 17, 2026 notes** were accepted as written.
- **Chairs Report (AH for AJ)**
 - Summer schedules, coverage. If anyone has vacation scheduled, please make sure to mention that in Subcommittee as we schedule dates to finish the documents for the Fall meeting.
 - Deadlines for Fall meeting. Fall proposals are due to NOP August 20.
 - Projects/requests for Food Technologist. The Subcommittee Chairs will send any requests to the NOSB Chair, who will then send them to the NOP. The Chair asked that members send her new ideas.

- A member noted that her federal representative is planning to write a letter to the Secretary of Agriculture asking about NOSB appointments.
- **NOSB questions for NOP (AH for AJ)**
 - Board Appointments. There is no update at this time.
 - Petitions mentioned at Spring meeting. The NOP has a handful of petitions under review, and once they are complete, NOP will send them to the Board for review.
- **NOP news and updates (EH/JC)**
 - National List rule. The sunset renewal notice, which contains about 50 substances due to sunset in 2027, should be submitted into clearance soon.
 - Organic data. The NOP asked Board members to share the Organic rules landing page <https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/organic> with stakeholders, and to pass along contacts to the NOP of anyone who might be able to speak to specialty crops. NOP staff will be meeting with stakeholders to get feedback about possible data gaps.
 - Common OSP is available: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/reports/organic-system-plan-template> and the NOP asked that Board members please spread the word and share the link.
 - Work agenda items. The NOP asked that the Board align its work agenda items with work for the Food Technologist.
 - October dates for Board meeting. The last week of October works well for Board members and NOP. The meeting will be virtual.
- **Food Technologist update (JC/HK).** The Food Technologist is finalizing the 2029 sunset templates and is reviewing several petitions. The NOSB Chair sent a new work request to update the templates for proposals and discussion documents. The NOP will reach out to the Chair to clarify the request.
- **Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)**
 - Final recommendations. The Spring 2026 final recommendations were due June 14. The NOP thanked the Board members for being responsive to the deadline and will get them posted to the website soon.
- **Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)**
 - **Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACS) (KD).** During the last call, the CACS discussed next steps for the residue testing proposal and the seed use discussion document. Both topics are slated for the Fall 2026 meeting.
 - **Handling (HS) (AH).** The Handling Subcommittee scheduled discussion dates for the 2029 sunsets and two petitions (sea silt and potassium polyaspartate). The HS requested TRs for both petitions. The HS requested a work agenda item to add a classification for agar agar. Currently it's listed as non-synthetic, however, there are also synthetic versions in use. There were no questions, concerns, or objections from the Executive Team. The NOSB Chair will forward the request to the NOP.
 - **Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (AH).** The Materials Subcommittee will present discussion documents for induced mutagenesis and the 2027 research priorities at the Fall NOSB meeting.
 - **Policy Development (PDS) (AF).** The final recommendation on the Policy and Procedures Manual (PPM) update was completed. The PDS will continue its discussions about the exit interview process, as well as ways to simplify challenges and remove barriers for future members.
 - **Livestock (LS) (NL).** The LS completed its work on the 2029 sunsets and finalized five of the 2028 sunsets. The LS Chair noted that the Subcommittee has been discussing inviting speakers to a call in September to talk more about swine production. In a recent conversation he had with stakeholders they talked about restrictions related to amino acids that are important to swine. The LS also has a research priority on swine. The NOP recommended revisiting the Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards (OLPS) and offered to collect and send the public comments from that rulemaking related to swine to help inform their discussion.

- **Crops (CS) (FQ).** The CS has completed TR determinations on its 2029 sunsets. On today's call, the CS reviewed two of its 2028 sunsets: EPA list 3 and copper sulfate. While there are environmental issues with copper sulfate, there aren't viable alternatives, so the Subcommittee is proposing to keep it on the list.
- **Additional Items.** None.
- **The meeting was adjourned.**

[Previous ES Notes](#)

Future call schedule (3rd Tuesday 4:00 PM ET | 1:00 PM PT, except where noted)

May 19, 2026 - cancelled

June 16, 2026

July 21, 2026

August 18, 2026

September 15, 2026

October 20, 2026

November 17, 2026

December 15, 2026

[NOSB Work Agenda](#)

Milestones

Fall 2026 Milestones	Target dates (tentative)	Weeks PTM (prior to meeting)
NOP - Publish FRN, Open public comment	~May 21, 2026	24
NOP - Draft Fall 2026 NOSB meeting agenda	Aug 11, 2026	~11
NOSB - Fall 2026 proposals due to NOP	Aug 20, 2026	~9
NOP - Post proposals/Open comment period	Aug 31, 2026	~8
Public comment closes	Oct 1, 2026	~4
NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	Oct 7, 2026	~3
Public comment webinars	Oct 20 & 22, 2026	1
Fall 2026 NOSB meeting - Location Virtual	Oct 27 - 29, 2026	0
Final recommendations due	Nov 28, 2026	~30 days post-meeting

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**Executive Committee (EC) Meeting Notes and
Summary of National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) Subcommittee Activities
Tuesday, April 21, 2026 4:00 pm ET**

Present: Allison Johnson (AJ), NOSB Chair; Amanda Felder (AF) - NOSB Vice Chair & PDS Chair; Andrea Hatziyannis (AH) - NOSB Secretary, Handling Chair & Materials Chair; Franklin Quarcoo (FQ), Crops Chair;
Absent: Nate Lewis (NL), Livestock Chair; Kathryn Deschenes (KD), CACS Chair; Heather Kumar (HK)
Staff: Erin Healy (EH); Michelle Arsenault (MA); Jared Clark (JC)

Agenda

- Approve March 17, 2026 notes
- Chairs Report (AJ)
 - Seed/IM panel at Spring 2026 meeting, questions for panelists
 - NOSB Chair's Office hours
 - Mined mineral report update
 - 2029 sunsets - assigned? TR requests due by June
- NOSB questions for NOP (AJ)
 - Appointments/Nominations?
- NOP news and updates (EH/JC)
- Food Technologist update (JC/HK)
- Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)
 - Meeting prep (Practice comment webinars, comment webinars, admin meeting, conflicts of interest (COI/DOI), travel, quorum)
- Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)
 - Crops (CS) (FQ)
 - Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACS) (KD)
 - Handling (HS) (AH)
 - Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (AH)
 - Policy Development (PDS) (AF)
 - Livestock (LS) (NL)
- Additional Items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **The March 17, 2026 notes** were accepted as written.
- **Chairs Report (AJ)**
 - Seed/Induced Mutagenesis panel at the Spring 2026 meeting. Three panelists from Academia confirmed their participation. The Chair is seeking questions from board members for the panelists. The NOSB Chair will introduce the panelists, then each will give a short presentation, and then there will be a Q and A session with the Board members.
 - NOSB Chair's office hours. The Chair is hosting open office hours once a month on the 4th Tuesday. Please join and come with any questions you may have.
 - Mined mineral report update. The Food Technologist shared her report and gave a presentation to the Board. The report will be used as reference when reviewing substances. The Chair praised the Food Technologist for this work.
 - 2029 sunsets. The Subcommittees are working towards determining the needs for TR reports for the 2029 sunsets and plan to finish the lists by June 2.
- **NOSB questions for NOP (AJ)**

- **Appointments/Nominations?** There are no updates at this time and given the late date, it's unlikely that new Board members would be appointed in time to attend the Spring meeting in Omaha.
- **NOP news and updates (EH/JC).**
 - The National List Rule that contains carbon dioxide, methionine, and sodium nitrate is open for comment until May 22, 2026.
 - The Meeting notice announcing the Spring 2026 meeting and opening public comment closes May 4, 2026.
- **Food Technologist update (JC/HK).**
 - The Food Technologist presented her report on mined minerals last week to the Materials Subcommittee.
 - Working on written public comments. NOP asked the Board Chair to please send a request for this. The bundle will be sent to the Board members as soon as possible, and likely not until after the first comment webinar.
- **Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)**
 - Meeting prep. There is a practice comment webinar scheduled for April 27.
 - The comment webinars are May 5 & 7. Registration closes April 27. So far there are 40 commenters signed up for the webinars and 20 for in-person.
 - The pre-meeting admin meeting is scheduled for May 11.
 - Declarations of Interest are due to NOP by May 1.
 - Travel planning is underway.
- **Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)**
 - **Crops (CS) (AH for FQ).** The Crops Subcommittee completed assignments for lead authors for the 2029 sunsets, and will schedule sunset discussions in the summer. They are also working on scheduling other work agenda items.
 - **Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACS) (KD).** The CACS discussed the seed panel during the last call, and is looking to develop a proposal for Fall meeting. They also discussed the residue testing proposal and the written comments they received about downstream notification.
 - **Handling (HS) (AH).** The Handling Subcommittee met today and assigned leads to the 2029 sunsets. The HS will determine the need for new TRs in May and early June.
 - **Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (AH).** The MS met this month and had a presentation on mined minerals. The members expressed their appreciation to the Food Technologist for preparing this resource as they review future sunsets. The MS is preparing a draft proposal on induced mutagenesis for the Fall 2026 meeting.
 - **Policy Development (PDS) (AF).** The PDS canceled its April meeting, and plan to discuss exit interviews at its next meeting.
 - **Livestock (LS) (NL).** The LS does not have a busy agenda this semester, and will meet again May 19 to complete the TR determinations for the 2029 sunsets.
- **Additional Items.** None.
- **The meeting was adjourned.**

[Previous ES Notes](#)

Future call schedule (3rd Tuesday 4:00 PM ET | 1:00 PM PT, except where noted)

April 21, 2026

May 19, 2026

June 16, 2026

July 21, 2026

August 18, 2026

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[NOSB Work Agenda](#)

Milestones

Spring 2026 Milestones	Target dates (tentative)	Weeks PTM (prior to meeting)
NOP - Publish FRN, Open public comment	~Jan 24, 2026	16 -20
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NOSB - Spring 2026 proposals due to NOP	Feb 26, 2026	~ 9
NOP - Post proposals/Open comment period	Mar 16, 2026	7.5
Public comment closes	Apr 16, 2026	3.5
NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	Apr 22, 2026	3
Public comment webinars	May 5 & 7, 2026	1
Spring 2026 NOSB meeting - Omaha, NE	May 12 - 14, 2026	0
Final recommendations due	Jun 14, 2026	30 days post meeting

Fall 2026 Milestones	Target dates (tentative)	Weeks PTM (prior to meeting)
NOP - Publish FRN, Open public comment	~May 21, 2026	24
NOP - Draft Fall 2026 NOSB meeting agenda	Aug 11, 2026	~11
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Fall 2026 NOSB meeting - Location Virtual	TBD Oct 27 - 29, 2026	0
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**Executive Committee (EC) Meeting Notes and
Summary of National Organic Standards Board Subcommittee Activities
Tuesday, March 17, 2026 4:00 pm**

Present: Allison Johnson (AJ), NOSB Chair; Amanda Felder (AF) - NOSB Vice Chair & PDS Chair; Andrea Hatziyannis (AH) - NOSB Secretary, Handling Chair & Materials Chair; Nate Lewis (NL), Livestock Chair; Dilip Nandwani (DN) - observer

Absent: Franklin Quarcoo (FQ), Crops Chair; Kathryn Deschenes (KD), CACS Chair

Staff: Erin Healy (EH); Michelle Arsenault (MA); Jared Clark (JC); Heather Kumar (HK)

Agenda

- Approve February 17, 2026 notes
- Chairs Report (AJ)
 - Spring meeting update
 - Seed/IM panel at Spring 2026 meeting.
 - Board service accessibility. 2/3 capacity at the moment.
 - Meeting Materials/Binder Request
 - NOSB Chair's Office hours
- NOSB questions for NOP (AJ)
 - Updates: Nominations, Spring meeting
 - TRs posted? Chitosan, Chlorine Materials
- NOP news and updates (EH/JC)
- Food Technologist update (JC/HK)
- Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)
- Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)
 - Livestock (LS) (NL)
 - Crops (CS) (AF for FQ)
 - Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACS) (AJ for KD)
 - Handling (HS) (AH)
 - Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (AH)
 - Policy Development (PDS) (AF)
- Additional Items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **The February 17, 2026 notes** were accepted as written.
- **Chairs Report (AJ)**
 - **Spring meeting.** No update yet.
 - **Seed/Induced Mutagenesis (IM) panel at Spring 2026 meeting.** The NOSB Chair drafted the request for a panel and is awaiting confirmation about the meeting. The goal for the panel is to aid the NOSB in filling in technical gaps, discuss what it would take to increase seed use, and identify barriers. The NOP reminded the Board to align any subsequent recommendations with the work agenda request.
Members discussed ideas such as guidance about a time horizon for sourcing, which could be practical and effective for growers to add to their practices. A member added "Proper implementation of commercial availability must be informed by realities of the current state of organic seed breeding." He also noted that he is "intrigued by a continuous improvement facet of commercial availability".

As for the panel, a member suggested a cotton-seed breeder and will send the information to the Board Chair. The panel might have to be virtual even if the meeting is in person.

- **Board service accessibility.**
 - The Chair noted the challenges due to the five unfilled vacancies.
 - Document flow. The Officers are proposing to return to the old document flow using email attachments, noting that Sharepoint has added confusion and decreased efficiency. During the last few months there have been a number of access issues as well as confusion over where to find documents. She also noted that Sharepoint isn't ideal for members who are using their phone or are on the move, which is a common occurrence. One member added his support for Sharepoint. NOP will work with the Board members to make the process more efficient.
 - Training refresher/Sunset document flow. The NOP and Board members will review the sunset document flow at a meeting later this month.
 - Sunset template preparation. The Advisory Committee Specialist added the 2029 sunset substances to the Subcommittee notes and will build the new templates soon. The Board asked if NOP could assist by adding more information to the sunset templates at the start. For example, updating the background section, and adding info from new TRs, which consists of cutting and pasting. NOP asked that the NOSB Chair send a project request for the Food Technologist.
 - The Board is still implementing the buddy system with regard to writing and reviewing documents. It's difficult with 2/3 of the Board, but they are still using it.
 - Meeting Materials/Binder Request. The Chair asked if the Board can receive binders.
 - Chair's Office hours. The Chair has offered to hold office hours once a month on the 4th Tuesday of the month.
- **NOP news and updates, Questions for NOP (EH/JC)**
 - Updates: Nominations, Spring meeting. There has been no change since the last call.
 - The NOP is continuing to work on National List rules, as well as the rule on inerts.
 - The NOP recently posted TRs for chitosan and chlorine materials.
 - NOP finished reviewing the spring proposals and discussion documents.
- **Food Technologist update (JC/HK)**
 - The mining project is almost complete. The Food Technologist will circulate a written document prior to the next Materials call (April 14). She was scheduled to present it to the Subcommittee last week, but it was deferred due to time.
- **Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)**
 - As noted above, the list of 2029 sunsets are now in the Subcommittee notes, and NOP will send the Crops and Livestock notes after this call.
- **Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)**
 - **Livestock (LS) (NL).** The LS cancelled the last couple of meetings because they have a light work agenda. The LS Chair will assign new leads to 3 sunset reviews later this afternoon. The LS will have a proposal for the Spring meeting on the chlorine materials petition.
 - **Crops (CS) (AF for FQ).** Crops is working on two petitioned proposals on Chitosan for the Fall 2026 meeting. They chose not to request a new TR, and instead will rely on the 2020 TR, the 2026 Limited Scope Handling TR, and public comments. For the Spring 2026 meeting the CS is presenting a proposal on pear ester, which was petitioned, as well as 11 sunset reviews.
 - **Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACS) (AJ for KD).** The CACS hosted members from the Organic Trade Association (OTA) seed task force this month, who presented a summary of their work to date. The CACS will work on a document for the fall, most likely a discussion document, that may address such things as continuous improvement keeping in mind that it should result in a recommendation the NOP can implement.

- **Handling (HS) (AH).** The HS met today and worked on petitioned proposals. The chitosan and sodium bicarbonate reclassification proposals are ready for the Spring meeting. The HS has 2 other petitions on its work agenda and will begin reviewing the 2029 sunsets.
- **Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (AH).** The Materials Subcommittee will talk more about induced mutagenesis (IM) on its next call. The MS will present a verbal update on IM at the Spring meeting and may have a document for the Fall meeting. The Food Technologist will present an update on mined minerals during the next call. All members are invited to attend to hear the update.
- **Policy Development (PDS) (AF).** The PDS met last week and continued the conversation about how to make things more accommodating for members who may have less time to contribute to Board work.
- **Additional Items**
 - The Board Chair added that it is beneficial at this time to slow down, and manage workloads, given that they are operating with only 2/3 of the membership.
 - With that in mind, she invited members to send her a message with other topics that they may be interested in working on.
- **The meeting was adjourned.**

[Previous ES Notes](#)

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April 21, 2026

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June 16, 2026

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[NOSB Work Agenda](#)

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Absent: Erin Healy (EH)

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA); Jared Clark (JC); Heather Kumar (HK)

Agenda

- Approve January 20, 2026 notes
 - Chairs Report (AJ)
 - Deadline for Spring 2026 meeting materials
 - Invitation to join materials call to hear about mined substances
 - CACS new call schedule - second Tuesdays only
 - NOSB questions for NOP (AJ)
 - Nominations?
 - Annotation change for methionine (MET) update?
 - Spring meeting updates?
 - NOP news and updates (EH/JC)
 - Member Training
 - Food Technologist update (JC/HK)
 - Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)
 - Workflow for Subcommittee calls
 - Fall 2025 recommendations update
 - Updated milestones (see table below)
 - Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)
 - Policy Development (PDS) (AF)
 - Livestock (LS) (NL)
 - Crops (CS) (FQ)
 - Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACS) (KD)
 - Handling (HS) (AH)
 - Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (AH)
 - Additional Items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **The January 20, 2026 notes were approved as written.**
- **Chairs Report, NOSB questions for NOP (AJ)**
 - Deadline for Spring 2026 meeting materials. The due date to submit the documents for the Spring 2026 meeting is February 26, 2026. Many of the documents are complete. Members can either save them on the NOSB Sharepoint site or email them to the Advisory Committee Specialist.
 - The Chair extended an invitation to members to join the March 10 Materials call to hear an update on mined substances.
 - CACS new call schedule. The CACS will meet once a month on the second Tuesdays, instead of twice a month, as its workload has lightened.

- Nominations? No update at this time.
- Rulemaking? The latest round of sunset renewals was just published.
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/02/09/2026-02548/national-organic-program-2026-sunset-review-and-substance-renewals>
- The National List proposed rule containing the methionine annotation is in clearance.
- Spring meeting update. The meeting notice is in clearance.
- **NOP news and updates (JC)**
 - The NOP and NOSB discussed a possible training session for Board members prior to the NOSB meeting. One member expressed challenges with participation, and the Board is trying to think of ‘non-traditional’ alternative ways in which appointees could participate.
- **Food Technologist update (JC/HK).**
 - The background research on mined substances is nearly complete, and the Food Technologist will present a summary on the next Materials call (March 10).
 - The Spring 2026 proposals and discussion documents are under review by NOP staff, including the Food Technologist.
 - Sanitizers. The new Handling Subcommittee Chair will work with the Food Technologist to get up to speed on the sanitizer project.
- **Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)**
 - **Workflow for Subcommittee calls.** Now that we have new Subcommittee chairs, and because the Board is still short-staffed, the Chair emphasized the importance of prepping for the Subcommittee calls (e.g., sending the agenda and any reading materials at least a week ahead of time) so members have time to prepare.
 - **Fall 2025 recommendations update.** The final Fall 2025 recommendations are complete and should be posted on the NOSB meeting webpage soon. The NOP thanked the Board members for submitting the documents early. The meeting transcripts are posted and the last piece will be the NOP’s response to recommendations.
 - **Updated milestones.** See table below.
- **Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)**
 - **Policy Development (PDS) (AF).**
 - On the last call, the PDS talked about the proposal on PPM updates, and the discussion document on the sunset efficiency process. Both documents were posted for the Fall 2025 meeting, but not presented at the rescheduled meeting held in January. The PDS didn’t make any changes in the interim and will post the same two versions for the Spring 2026 meeting.
 - A member has rejoined the Subcommittee calls and was assigned to the PDS. The Board leadership will assign a mentor to assist him in getting up to speed.
 - The NOSB Chair mentioned the exit interview questions and will send them to the new PDS Chair as they consider future updates to the member guide.
 - **Livestock (LS) (NL).** The LS will present a proposal at the Spring 2026 meeting on chlorine materials for livestock drinking water, which was petitioned. The LS has also completed all of its sunset reviews for the Spring meeting.
 - **Crops (CS) (FQ).** The Crops Subcommittee found the petition for chitosan sufficient and will make the final decision about requesting a TR in the next couple of weeks. The CS completed all of its sunset reviews for the Spring meeting.
 - **Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACS) (KD).** The CACS currently has a shorter work agenda and decided to meet once a month instead of twice. The CACS finalized two documents for the Spring meeting: Residue Testing and e-Commerce Labeling. A member noted that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has indicated that they are exploring labeling for online shopping and the NOSB is observing its progress, as it is broader in scope. Several members of the OTA seed task force will join the March 10 CACS call to provide an update.

- **Handling (HS) (AH).** On its last call, the HS finished the 2028 sunset reviews and discussed the chitosan petition proposal for the Spring meeting.
- **Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (AH).** The MS discussed induced mutagenesis, which will be presented at the Fall 2026 meeting. The Subcommittee completed the research priorities proposal for the Spring meeting.
- **Additional Items.**
 - On the last Executive call the NOP asked the NOSB about its big-picture goals for the year. The Board is thinking of ideas about how best to work without a full slate of members while it waits for new appointments and how to reintegrate a returning member. The group will talk more about what's working, or what isn't working, and be nimble to adjust as needed.
- **The meeting was adjourned.**

[Previous ES Notes](#)

Future call schedule (3rd Tuesday 4:00 PM ET | 1:00 PM PT, except where noted)

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December 15, 2026

Milestones

Spring 2026 Milestones	Target dates (tentative)	Weeks PTM (prior to meeting)
NOP - Publish FRN, Open public comment	~Jan 24, 2026	16 -20
NOP - Draft Spring 2026 NOSB meeting tentative agenda	Feb 19, 2026	~ 10
NOSB - Spring 2026 proposals due to NOP	Feb 26, 2026	~ 9
NOP - Post proposals/Open comment period	Mar 16, 2026	7.5
Public comment closes	Apr 16, 2026	3.5
NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	Apr 22, 2026	3
Public comment webinars	May 5 & 7, 2026	1
Spring 2026 NOSB meeting TENTATIVE	May 12 - 14, 2026	0
Final recommendations due	Jun 14, 2026	30 days post meeting

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/regulations or NOSB recommendations. Proposals must be voted on by the full Board, to become recommendations to the USDA. Please see the NOP website for official NOP policy, regulations, and status of substances used in organic production and handling.

**Executive Committee (EC) Meeting Notes and
Summary of National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) Subcommittee Activities
Tuesday, January 20, 2026 4:00 pm ET**

Present: Allison Johnson (AJ), NOSB Chair & Handling Chair; Amanda Felder (AF) - NOSB Vice Chair; Andrea Hatziyannis (AH) - NOSB Secretary; Kyla Smith, CACS Chair; Nate Lewis (NL), PDS Chair; Brian Caldwell (BC), Livestock Chair; Amy Bruch (ADB), NOSB Chair Emeritus; Kathryn Deschenes (KD) - observer; Corie Pierce (CP) - observer

Absent: Logan Petrey (LP), Crops Chair; Franklin Quarcoo (FQ), Materials Chair

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA); Erin Healy (EH); Jared Clark (JC); Heather Kumar (HK)

Agenda

- Approve December 16, 2025 notes
- Chairs Report/Questions for NOP (AJ)
 - Post Meeting debrief
 - Fall 2025 recommendation deadline - February 13 (or January 23), 2026
 - New Subcommittee rosters
 - Spring NOSB meeting prep
- NOP news and updates (EH/JC)
 - 2026 Goals
 - USDA Updates
 - National List Rules
- Food Technologist update (JC/HK)
- Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)
 - Updated milestones (see table below)
- Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)
 - Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (FQ)
 - Policy Development (PDS) (NL)
 - Livestock (LS) (BC)
 - Crops (CS) (NL for LP)
 - Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACS) (KS)
 - Handling (HS) (AJ)
- Additional Items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **The December 16 notes** were accepted as written.
- **Chairs Report/Questions for NOP (AJ)**
 - **Post Meeting debrief.** The group shared positive feedback about the rescheduled Fall 2025 meeting, which occurred in January 2026. Members expressed gratitude that they were able to reschedule the meeting so they could complete several important projects before 5 current members conclude their Board service.
 - **Leadership transitions.** The NOSB Chair praised outgoing members for their leadership and mentorship, and invited current members to reach out to them before they leave.
 - **Fall 2025 recommendation deadline.** The deadline for submitting the Fall recommendations is February 13 (or sooner for those who are leaving). The Chair acknowledged the timing of the

rescheduled meeting and the resulting overlap in work to finalize the Fall meeting while preparing for the Spring. Members were encouraged to reach out with any questions.

- The new NOSB Officers will meet soon to talk about bigger goals. The Board has several projects in the queue including seed, induced mutagenesis, and some governance documents for the PPM.
- **Spring documents due Feb 26, 2026.** The Subcommittees have until February 26 to complete any documents for the Spring meeting. Given the short turnaround time, the board will have flexibility to defer projects to the Fall meeting.
 - **New Subcommittee rosters.** The group previewed the new Subcommittee rosters, which will be modified once the new members are seated.
 - **Spring NOSB meeting prep.** The NOSB Chair is working with the new Subcommittee Chairs as they transition and prep for the Spring meeting.
- **NOP news and updates (EH/JC).**
 - The Spring 2026 NOSB meeting notice is in clearance.
 - There are no updates on the current nominations.
- **National List Rules.** A National List rule that includes various NOSB recommendations such as carbon dioxide, meloxicam, methionine, and sodium nitrate, is in clearance. A notice to renew sunset substances is also in clearance. NOP is also working on a proposed rule for inerts based on the Boards recommendations.
- **Food Technologist update (JC/HK)**
 - Mining methods is the main project underway, as well as preparation for Spring meeting.
- **Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)**
 - **Updated milestones.** See table below.
 - **Sunset Templates.** The NOP will send the next round of sunset templates in the spring. These will include substances due to sunset in 2029.
- **Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)**
 - **Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (BC for FQ).** The MS is moving ahead with a document on induced mutagenesis, which may take the form of another discussion document. The MS is also assembling the list of Research Priorities from the other Subcommittees for the Spring meeting. Usually, the Board votes on the Research Priorities at the Fall meeting, but because the Fall meeting was postponed, and they deferred the vote, they will reverse the normal schedule and vote in spring. The MS Vice Chair thanked members for their hard work on the induced mutagenesis topic, and expressed his confidence in them as he transitions off the Board and passes along this project to others.
 - **Policy Development (PDS) (NL).** The PDS didn't meet this month due to rescheduled NOSB meeting. At the February meeting, the PDS will transition leadership. Amanda Felder will be PDS Chair and will complete the PPM updates at the Spring meeting.
 - **Livestock (LS) (BC).** The LS met earlier today and discussed the TR for injectable vitamins, which they found sufficient. The LS also had a robust discussion about the path forward on the agroforestry project. The LS Research Priorities are ready to go to the MS for the Spring meeting. Nate Lewis will be the new Livestock Chair.
 - **Crops (CS) (NL for LP).** The Crops Subcommittee is working on sunset reviews for the Spring meeting. The pear ester proposal was not presented at the Fall meeting, as the CS received public comment that led them to make revisions. The proposal will be presented at the Spring 2026 meeting with an annotation.
 - **Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACS) (KS).** The CACS is meeting this week to finalize its new proposal on Residue Testing. The leads are intent on trying to finish writing the document before they rotate off the Board in a few days. The CACS is scheduled to meet later

this week to discuss and vote on the proposal. The CACS will continue work on the seed project, as well as eCommerce. It's likely the seed project will not be ready for the Spring meeting.

- **Handling (HS) (AJ).** Handling has a full work agenda, with several petitions, including sea silt and potassium polyaspartate, a reclassification of sodium bicarbonate, and many sunsets. Today during its call, the HS requested a TR for sea silt.
- **Additional Items.** The Board mentioned needing to right-size its work to capacity and expertise given that they will be operating without full Board membership for an unknown period of time.
- **The meeting was adjourned.**

[Previous ES Notes](#)

Future call schedule (3rd Tuesday 4:00 PM ET | 1:00 PM PT, except where noted)

December 16, 2025

January 20, 2026

February 17, 2026

March 17, 2026

April 21, 2026

May 19, 2026

June 16, 2026

July 21, 2026

August 18, 2026

September 15, 2026

October 20, 2026

November 17, 2026

December 15, 2026

[NOSB Work Agenda](#)

Milestones

Fall 2025 Milestones	Target dates (tentative)	Weeks PTM (prior to meeting)
NOP - Publish FRN, Open public comment	~May 15, 2025	24
NOP - Draft Fall 2025 NOSB meeting agenda	Aug 8, 2025	~11
NOSB - Fall 2025 proposals due to NOP	Aug 20, 2025	~9
NOP - Post proposals	Sept 9, 2025	~8
Public comment closes	Oct 8, 2025	~4
NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	Oct 14, 2025	~3
Public comment webinars	Cancelled	1
Rescheduled public comment closes	Dec 30, 2025	2
Rescheduled Fall 2025 NOSB meeting - Virtual	Jan 13 & 14, 2026	0
Final recommendations due	Feb 13, 2026	~30 days post

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