

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, March 18, 2025 4:00 pm ET**

Present: Allison Johnson (AJ), NOSB Vice Chair & Handling Chair; Nate Lewis (NL), NOSB Secretary & PDS Chair; Brian Caldwell (BC), Livestock Chair; Franklin Quarcoo (FQ), Materials Chair; Logan Petrey (LP), Crops Chair; Kyla Smith, CACS Chair; Carolyn Dimitri (CD) - observer; Amanda Felder (AF) - observer; Kathryn Deschenes (KD) - observer

Absent: Amy Bruch (ADB), NOSB Chair

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

Agenda

- Review February 18, 2025 notes
- Chairs Report/Questions for NOP (AJ for ADB)
 - Recap/updates about NOSB meeting?
 - Status of FACA Boards in general?
 - Spring/summer workplan for NOSB
- NOP news and updates (EH/JC)
 - NOP Program updates: Spring meeting, rules, etc.
 - TR contract status?
- Food Technologist update (JC/HK)
- Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)
 - Sunset templates (Fall 2027, and 2028)
- Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)
 - Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (FQ)
 - Policy Development (PDS) (NL)
 - Livestock (LS) (BC)
 - Crops (CS) (LP)
 - Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACS) (KS)
 - Handling (HS) (AJ)
- Additional Items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **February 18, 2025 notes** were accepted as written
- **Chairs Report/Questions for NOP (AJ for ADB)**
 - **Recap/updates about NOSB meeting?** The Federal Register Notice was sent into legal clearance, and NOP is hoping to get it published by March 24 which would allow for 30 days of comment.
 - Status of FACA Boards in general? NOP is unsure if other Boards have rescheduled meetings yet. Many things are paused until appointees are in place.
 - Spring/summer workplan for NOSB. Moving ahead with work agendas while waiting to hear about new meeting dates for the Spring meeting.
 - A member asked about contingency plans in case the meeting notice doesn't get published in time.
- **NOP news and updates (EH/JC)**
 - **NOP Program updates.**

- The NOP tentatively approved the Livestock/Crops Integration (agroforestry) work agenda request, pending minor edits. The Livestock Chair will submit a revised request.
 - Standards is continuing work on a National List rule, which includes several substances and recommendations from the Board (meloxicam, methionine, CO₂). Inerts is a more complex topic and will be done separately.
 - TR contract status? The current TR cooperative agreement with the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) ends April 30, and the NOP is seeking to develop the new one so as to minimize any gaps in service. One outstanding TR – compostables – should be returned to NOP by end of month.
 - Seed. NOP is getting a lot of questions about seed. The NOP is expecting a report from the International Fresh Produce Association (IFPA) who conducted a survey on seed.
- **Food Technologist update (JC/HK).** There are two active NOSB requests in progress. The Food technologist is also prepping to work on public comments with a Standards Division contractor, and will be working on the International use Section in the 2028 sunset templates. NOP expects a work request from the NOSB for the public comment analysis. The Food technologist is also reviewing a couple of new petitions that may get forwarded to the NOSB.
- **Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)**
 - **Timeline table (see below).** Will update the Board as we know more.
 - **Sunset templates (Fall 2027, and 2028).** In progress. The ACS created the lists and templates for the 2028 sunset substances (42 in all), and will pass them to the Food Technologist, so she can add the International Section. The 2027 sunset templates for the Fall meeting (containing the 2027 sunset substances) will be written and distributed soon as well.
- **Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)**
 - **Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (FQ).** The MS had a short meeting this month to talk about updates and future projects.
 - **Policy Development (PDS) (NL).** On the last call, the PDS talked generally about the NOSB's role and duties as assigned in OFPA. The group acknowledge that the comments may include feedback about the comment period.
 - **Livestock (LS) (BC).** On today's call, the LS divvied up the 2028 sunset substances for review, and reassigned four 2027 sunsets from those members who rotated off in January. The Chair noted that the LS is excited to get started on the new work agenda request on agroforestry, now that it has been approved. He will submit the requested revisions ASAP.
 - **Crops (CS) (LP).** The CS assigned leads to the 2028 sunsets so they can determine the need for TRs. The Subcommittee is looking forward to receiving the TR for compostables, so they can get the proposal done quickly.
 - **Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACS) (KS).** The CACS talked about the commercial availability work agenda request that it is now rethinking, as they reevaluate the need. Most of the last call was devoted to the topic of seed and what to do with this behemoth of a topic. The group discussed dividing the topic into smaller components so they can proceed more easily, and produce the best outcomes for the many stakeholders.
 - **Handling (HS) (AJ).** The Handling Subcommittee received a new petition on chitosan, and is conducting its sufficiency review. On today's call, the HS assigned leads to the 2028 sunsets and will start determining the need for TRs.
- **Additional Items.** None
- **The meeting was adjourned**

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NOSB Work Agenda**Milestones**

Spring 2025 Milestones	Target dates (tentative)	Weeks PTM (prior to meeting)
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Public comment closes	April 28, 2025	3.5
NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	April 29, 2025	3
Public comment webinars	Apr 22 & 24, 2025	1
Spring 2025 NOSB meeting - Virtual	Apr 29 - May 1, 2025	0
Final recommendations due	May 29, 2025	30 days post meeting

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**Executive Committee (EC) Meeting Notes and
Summary of National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) Subcommittee Activities
Tuesday, February 18, 2025 4:00 pm ET**

Present: Amy Bruch (ADB), NOSB Chair; Allison Johnson (AJ), NOSB Vice Chair & Handling Chair; Nate Lewis (NL), NOSB Secretary & PDS Chair; Brian Caldwell (BC), Livestock Chair; Franklin Quarcoo (FQ), Materials Chair; Logan Petrey (LP), Crops Chair; Carolyn Dimitri (CD); Amanda Felder (AF); Corie Pierce (CP); Dilip Nandwani (DN); cat McCluskey (CM);

Absent: Kyla Smith, CACS Chair

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

Agenda

- Welcome new NOP Deputy Administrator Chris Purdy
- Review January 21, 2025 notes
- Chairs Report/Questions for NOP (ADB)
 - Welcome new members
 - New member training and support
 - Thank board members for meeting proposal deadlines
 - Sunset efficiency process
 - Updates about support for organic?
- NOP news and updates (EH/JC)
 - NOP Program updates: Spring meeting, rules, etc.
- Food Technologist update (JC/HK)
- Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)
 - Notice for Spring meeting
 - Spring proposals update (if any)
- Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)
 - Handling (HS) (AJ)
 - Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (FQ)
 - Policy Development (PDS) (NL)
 - Livestock (LS) (BC)
 - Crops (CS) (LP)
 - Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACS) (KS)
- Additional Items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **Welcome new NOP Deputy Administrator Chris Purdy.** The group welcomed Chris to the call. He introduced himself and thanked the members for their dedication and volunteering. Chris has been with the Agricultural Marketing Service for 17-18 years, mostly with Specialty Crops.
- **January 21, 2025 notes** were approved with a minor change.
- **Chairs Report/Questions for NOP (ADB)**
 - **Welcome new members.** The Board members are looking forward to working with the new members. The NOSB Chair reminded the Subcommittee Chairs to transition sunset reviews to new folks.
 - **Forecast for 30-45 days.** The Chair noted that the period of time immediately after the proposal submission deadline is a good time for Subcommittees to brainstorm new work agenda items.

She also summarized the process for the Spring documents that is underway: The documents are under review by NOP, and will then be published on the AMS website for public comment. Public comment will be open for 30 days and, at the close, comments will be aggregated and summarized for review by NOSB.

- **New member training and support.** The NOSB Chair briefly reviewed the training topics, and encouraged people to attend or watch the recordings. She also encouraged folks to observe best practices for subject lines in email.
- **Spring proposals.** The Chair thanked Board members for meeting the proposal deadline for the Spring meeting. There are 60 agenda items, and the Board is looking forward to public comment.
- **Sunset efficiency process.** The PDS will present a brief discussion document at the Spring meeting with the next iteration of the sunset efficiency process. The Board views this as a trial project and will refine as needed. The process will be as follows: 1. Complete Spring review in Subcommittee; 2. Lead will present topic and flag if a substance is a candidate for the consent agenda; 3. During discussions in the Summer, each Subcommittee will compile a list of consent agenda items (i.e., those that have unanimous vote and no new info); and 4. If new info comes in during public comment, any member can request to have a substance come off the consent agenda. The NOSB plans to trial this at the Spring meeting, and then again during the Fall meeting before incorporating it into its work.
- **Updates about support for organic and priorities of new administration?** The Deputy Administrator (DA) has been through many transitions. He shared that the Secretary was just sworn in, and other leadership will be on board soon, and once that happens, we should know more about priorities. While this is a lot of change and uncertainty at the moment, the goal is to be as transparent as possible.
- **NOP news and updates (EH/JC)**
 - **Spring meeting.** The NOP and NOSB leadership discussed the Spring meeting, and felt that the best scenario for the Spring would be to hold the meeting virtually. The Board emphasized the value in having in-person meetings, but also acknowledged that given the transition and pause in contracts, travel, funding, etc., it would be simpler to meet virtually. Members asked about reaching out to stakeholders to let them know. NOP should have a definitive decision by the end of this week, and will let the Board know. The group also discussed the comment docket timeline, which is uncertain at this time.
 - **Speaker for NOSB Meeting?** The Board discussed two ideas for speakers at the Spring meeting: Risk management/enforcement, and/or organic seed. A member suggested compostables (stickers and glue). Neither topic (compostables or seed) will have a document for the Spring meeting, but will likely be on the Fall meeting agenda. The NOP noted that Robert Yang, Director of the NOP Accreditation Division, is available to speak about risk-based oversight. NOSB members will discuss and get back to NOP.
 - **Retailer Whole Foods.** The NOP was alerted to a change at Whole Foods Market regarding an additional label, and the NOP wanted to relay to the NOSB in case they received questions about it
 - **Agroforestry and Livestock integration.** The NOP asked that the Subcommittee make a small change to its work agenda request to include what OFPA says about a minimum 60-days to harvest after raw manure application. Additionally, NOP can't change OFPA, but can change regulations. This work straddles both crops and livestock, so both Subcommittees will collaborate. The Executive Committee approved the request with the addition of the language about OFPA.
- **Food Technologist update (JC/HK).**
 - The project on mined minerals is nearing completion.

- Public comment summaries. The NOP anticipates a request from the Board soon around summarizing public comments for the upcoming meeting. The Board is thinking through what the deliverable could look like.
- The TR for potassium hypochlorite have been received and NOP will send to the Subcommittee.
- **Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)**
 - **Notice for Spring meeting.** Pending.
 - **Spring proposals update.** The ACS thanked the Board for submitting docs on time, and in most cases, early. Review is underway, and NOP will send back any documents that might need edits.
- **Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)**
 - **Handling (HS) (AJ).** The HS completed the proposal on the ethylene annotation change, and the reclassification of L-Malic Acid. The HS is looking forward to discussion at the Spring meeting.
 - **Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (FQ).** The MS discussed induced mutagenesis (IM) and will have a discussion document for the Fall 2025 meeting. Based on the arrival of new members and their expertise, the MS chose to delay this project so they could contribute. Also, the MS wanted to explore whether or not IM is considered an excluded method or a traditional breeding method.
 - **Policy Development (PDS) (NL).** The PDS will present a discussion document on sunset voting efficiency at the Spring meeting. The Subcommittee will also be updating the Policy and Procedures Manual (PPM), with an eye to having a proposal for the Fall 2025 meeting.
 - **Livestock (LS) (BC).** LS finished all its sunsets and discussed the previous chlorine TR. The LS asked if the NOP had the capacity to order a new TR. The current TR contract expires April 30, and NOP will provide a status update to the NOSB soon.
 - **Crops (CS) (NL for LP).** All the CS sunsets were completed. They had some interesting and complex substances. The CS will also present three documents at the Spring meeting: One on compost; a second document on compostable polymers; and lastly, a pear ester petition proposal.
 - **Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACS) (AJ for KS).** The CACS will have three documents for the Spring meeting: Two documents on residue testing for a global supply chain, and a risk management document. Additionally, the CACS will also be working on a work agenda request for commercial availability.
- **Additional Items.** No additional items.
- **The meeting was adjourned**

[Previous ES Notes](#)

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Absent: None

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

Agenda

- Review December 17, 2024 notes
- Chairs Report/Questions for NOP (ADB)
 - Farewell to outgoing members
 - New members! New member training, guides, training options
 - Sharepoint questions, training (current and new members)
 - Deadline reminder - Final docs for Spring - Feb 13
 - NOSB response to Fall 2024 recommendations
 - Speakers/Panels? (Seed, Enforcement/Testing, other)
- NOP news and updates (JT/EH/JC)
 - NOP Program Updates.
- Food Technologist update (JC/HK)
- Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)
 - FRN for Spring meeting. Drafted. On hold
 - Submit proposals as they are completed.
- Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)
 - Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACS) (KS)
 - Handling (HS) (AJ)
 - Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (FQ)
 - Policy Development (PDS) (NL)
 - Livestock (LS) (BC)
 - Crops (CS) (LP)
- Additional Items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **December 17, 2024 notes** were approved with no changes.
- **Chairs Report/Questions for NOP (ADB)**
 - Farewell to outgoing members. The NOSB Chair thanked outgoing members, Mindee, Wood, Jerry, Kim, and Nate. The Chair opened the floor to members to express thoughts and gratitude to the “super senior” members who are rotating off.
 - New members. New member training, guides, and training options. New members were invited to shadow Subcommittee calls prior to their start date of January 24. The NOSB is excited to meet and work with the new members, and new members are looking forward to getting started. There will be opportunities for all Board members to join and participate in the new member training.

- The Chair reached out to the 5 new members about possible training dates. It has been challenging to get everyone in DC at once, so NOP is looking to schedule a virtual training. NOP will follow up with the NOSB Officers about possible dates in February.
- Sharepoint questions, training (current and new members). In various stages of progress. Some have access, some don't, and the new members will be invited soon.
- Deadline reminder - final docs for Spring are due February 13. Please turn in docs as they are completed. Several sunsets will be transferred from outgoing to incoming members.
- NOSB response to Fall 2024 recommendations sent to NOSB members January 8. Based on additional feedback, the Crops Subcommittee added a second document on compostables, in response to the NOPs memo to the Board, to clarify the outcome and recommendation.
- Speakers/Panels? (Seed, Enforcement/Testing, other). Would like to solidify this idea for the Spring 2025 meeting in Tempe Arizona. The NOSB Chair reiterated the criteria for choosing to host a panel – need, what problem are they trying to solve?, who would they invite?
- NOP news and updates (JT/EH/JC)
 - The NOP Deputy Administrator shared updates regarding the new administration and upcoming changes to her role as Deputy Administrator. Members shared thoughts and praise for her leadership and guidance, and thanked her for fostering an open collaborative, supportive relationship with Board members.
 - It's likely that all recent and pending recent regulations, such as the Market Development Rule, will be frozen until the new administration is in place. This might affect the effective date.
 - Sharepoint update. Most members have access to Sharepoint, but not all.
 - Andrea will be out on sick leave, and will not be available for Sharepoint questions, so please try to follow the written guidance.
- Members asked about the possible effects of the proposed tariffs. There is no update at the moment.
- Food Technologist update (JC/HK).
 - The research into mining methods is nearing completion, and the Food Technologist is on track to deliver the work by end of month. The Food Technologist and the Livestock Subcommittee Chair will chat about the current status on the parasiticide review progress.
- Advisory Committee Specialist (ACS) update (MA)
 - FRN for Spring meeting. The notice is drafted, but on hold. March 3 is the proposed publication date.
 - Please submit final documents as they are completed. Due date February 13.
- Subcommittee Reports/Updates (5 minutes each)
 - Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification (CACS) (KS). The CACS has two more calls before the Spring meeting deadline. They are advancing three documents: two on residue testing and another doc on Risk-Based Certification which they will vote on after the ACA training in case they have additional info to add.
 - Handling (HS) (AJ). The Handling Subcommittee is nearly done finalizing its projects for the Spring meeting. The HS is looking forward to seeing the work from the Food Technologist on mined materials.
 - Materials/GMO ad hoc (MS/GMO) (FQ). The MS is working on a discussion document on induced mutagenesis, and will complete the research priorities discussion document for the Spring meeting.
 - Policy Development (PDS) (NL). The PDS has updated and finalized the member guide updates. And will work on several PPM updates. Updates include the abbreviated sunset review process, and minor technical updates.
 - Livestock (LS) (BC). At a call two weeks ago, the LS was joined by three staff members from FDA who talked about aspirin and pain management medications. The Subcommittee found the collaboration valuable and looks forward to keeping the communication channels open. The LS

also worked on the sunset reviews for List 4 inerts and excipients. The LS will continue the conversation on excipients.

- Crops (CS) (LP). The Crops Subcommittee is working on a new proposal on compostables for the Spring meeting, aimed at clarifying the previous recommendation. The CS also has two other proposals (one a petition for pear ester and one a discussion document on compost feedstocks) and several sunsets to complete.
- Additional Items. None.
- **The meeting was adjourned**

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