

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

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