

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.

Handling Subcommittee (HS) Notes

Tuesday, August 4, 2026 1:00 pm ET

Present: Andrea Hatziyannis (AH), Chair; Vice Chair; Amanda Felder (AF); Kathryn Deschenes (KD); Allison Johnson (AJ)

Absent: Heather Kumar (HK)

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA); Jo Mirenda (JM)

Agenda

- Review July 21, 2026 notes
- 2028 Sunset: Potassium hydroxide (AF)
- 2028 Sunset: Agar-agar (AJ) - discuss/vote
- 2028 Sunset: Tartaric acid (AJ) - discuss/vote
- 2028 Sunset: Silicon dioxide (AJ) - discuss/vote
- Agar-agar reclassification discussion document (AJ) - discuss/vote
- Additional items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **July 21, 2026 notes**
- **2028 Sunset: Potassium hydroxide (AF).** The lead summarized the uses of potassium hydroxide, as well as the Spring 2026 public comments regarding the annotation. Two commenters noted their preference of listing uses rather than restrictions. The HS felt that changing the annotation may not be practical, as there are many allowed uses. The HS supports relisting potassium hydroxide at this time, and moved to a vote. The lead will finalize the document and submit it to the NOP.

Motion to remove potassium hydroxide from the National List at 205.605(b)(26)

Motion by: AF

Seconded by: AH

Yes: 0 No: 4 Abstain: 0 Recuse: 0 Absent: 0

- **2028 Sunset: Agar-agar (AJ).** The lead summarized the manufacture and uses of agar-agar. The process of producing agar-agar renders some varieties synthetic, and therefore the HS requested to work on an additional classification at 205.605(b). The members had a robust conversation about and are cognizant of not making it more complicated for certifiers and producers/handlers. The HS voted on the sunset listing then talked about the potential annotation change discussion document.

Motion to remove agar-agar from the National List at 205.605(a)(2)

Motion by: AJ

Seconded by: AH

Yes: 0 No: 4 Abstain: 0 Recuse: 0 Absent: 0

- **2028 Sunset: Tartaric acid (AJ).** Tartaric acid is a product of the winemaking process, and has many uses such as an acidulant, pH control agent, preservative, emulsifier, chelating agent, flavor enhancer and modifier, stabilizer, anti-caking agent, and firming agent. At the spring meeting the HS received feedback on its questions to stakeholders about the increased availability and use of tartaric acid. The lead incorporated that feedback into the current document. Given its wide use and low impacts on human health and the environment, the HS supports relisting.

Motion to remove tartaric acid from the National List at 205.605(a)(28)

Motion by: AJ

Seconded by: KD

Yes: 0 No: 4 Abstain: 0 Recuse: 0 Absent: 0

- **2028 Sunset: Silicon dioxide (AJ).** The lead summarized the review of silicon dioxide and highlighted its use as a defoamer, although it has many uses. There are two sources for silicon dioxide. Synthetic amorphous silica (SAS), the most common form of the chemical compound silicon dioxide used commercially, is used as a food additive for various functions. The group discussed the annotation - allowed for other uses when organic rice hulls are not commercially available - and whether it is a useful annotation, or if they should consider a change. The HS added questions to stakeholders to glean more information about rice hulls. Spring 2026 comments suggested that the listing be restricted to a specific source, however, based on feedback about the efficacy of rice hulls, the HS supports relisting.

Motion to remove silicon dioxide from the National List at 205.605(b)(29)

Motion by: AJ

Seconded by: AF

Yes: 0 No: 4 Abstain: 0 Recuse: 0 Absent: 0

- **Agar-agar reclassification discussion document (AJ).** The new TR for agar-agar clarified that a synthetic process is used for certain forms, but currently only the nonsynthetic version is on the National List. The HS is proposing to add the synthetic version to 205.605(b). A previous Subcommittee (in 2011) proposed this change, but commenters suggested they wait until the classification of materials guidance was completed. It is now complete, and the Subcommittee would like to present a discussion document at the Fall 2026 meeting.

Motion to accept the discussion document on agar-agar

Motion by: AJ

Seconded by: AF

Yes: 4 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Recuse: 0 Absent: 0

- **Additional items.** None.
- **The meeting was adjourned.**

[Previous HS Notes](#)

Future call schedule (1st and 3rd Tuesdays 1:00 PM ET | 10:00 AM PT, except where noted)

July 21, 2026

Research Priorities (All) - discuss list, forward to MS

2028 Sunset: Chlorine Materials: Calcium hypochlorite, Chlorine dioxide, Hypochlorous acid, Sodium hypochlorite (KD) - discuss/vote

2028 Sunset: Calcium sulfate - mined (AF) - discuss/vote

2028 Sunset: Cellulose (AF) - discuss/vote

2028 Sunset: Potassium hydroxide (AF) - discuss/vote

August 4, 2026

2028 Sunset: Agar-agar (AJ) - discuss/vote

2028 Sunset: Tartaric acid (AJ) - discuss/vote

2028 Sunset: Silicon dioxide (AJ) - discuss/vote

August 18, 2026 (Amanda out)

2028 Sunset: Animal enzymes (KD) - discuss/vote

2028 Sunset: Carrageenan (KD) - discuss/vote
 Potassium polyaspartate (KD) - TR sufficiency
 Sea silt (AF) - TR sufficiency

September 1, 2026
 September 15, 2026
 October 6, 2026
 October 20, 2026
 November 3, 2026
 November 17, 2026
 December 1, 2026
 December 15, 2026

Work Agenda

*Highlight indicates discussion. *Highlight indicates action needed. *Highlight indicates review completion and/or vote.

Petitioned Substances

Substance	National List	Contact	Doc Type	Notes*	Schedule/status	Target meeting
Potassium polyaspartate	205.605	KD	Discussion document	Petition sent to HS 12.9.25. Petition suff. due 2.7.25. HS found the petition sufficient and requested a TR 2.3.26. Draft TR due 6.30.26. Draft TR sent to HS 6.30.26. Suff due: 8.29.26	12.16.25 2.3.26 4.7.26 8.18.26	Spr 2027
Sea silt	205.605	AF	Discussion document	Petition sent to HS 12.9.25. Petition suff. due 2.7.25. Petition found sufficient 1.20.26. HS requested TR 1.20.26. Draft TR due 6.30.26. Draft TR sent to HS 6.30.26. Suff due: 8.29.26	12.16.25 1.20.26 3.17.26 8.18.26	Spr 2027

Other Projects

Project	Contact	Notes*	Scheduled/status	Target meeting
Research Priorities	AH	Fall 2026 list due to MS July 24, 2026.	7.21.26	Fall 2026
Agar-agar reclassification (add to 205.605(b) discussion document	AJ	Work agenda request approved by NOP 7.17.26.	8.4.26	Fall 2026

2028 Sunset Review

TR Requests (June 2025), Summary (Spr 2026), Review (Fall 2026)

Previous Sunset Recommendations: [2021/Fall - Rec to Renew](#)

Previous Rule/Renewals: [04/14/2023, 88 FR 22893](#)

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Agar-agar	205.605(a)(2)	AJ	Y - Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 05/29/2028 2026 TR 2011 TR 1995 TAP Draft TR due late Dec 2025. TR sent to HS 12.12.25. Suff due 2.10.26. TR found sufficient 1.6.26.	8.4.26	Summary: Spr 2026 Review: Fall 2026
Animal enzymes	205.605(a)(3)	KD	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2024 Lmt'd Scope TR (enzymes, microorganisms, yeast) 2015 TR (enzymes) 2011 TR (enzymes) 2000 TAP	8.18.26	" "
Calcium sulfate - mined	205.605(a)(8)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2001 TAP 1996 TAP	7.21.26	" "
Carrageenan	205.605(a)(9)	KD	Y - Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 TR 2016 Lmt'd Scope TR 2011 TR 1995 TAP TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found not sufficient. Returned to NOP for edits 12.16.25. Revised TR sent to HS 2.3.26. TR found sufficient 2.17.26.	8.18.26	" "
Glucono delta- lactone	205.605(a)(14)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2002 TAP	7.7.26	" "
Tartaric acid - made from grape wine	205.605(a)(28)	AJ	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2011 TR	8.4.26	" "
Cellulose	205.605(b)(11)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2001 TAP	7.21.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Calcium hypochlorite	205.605(b)(12) (i)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 Lmt'd Scope TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	7.7.26 7.21.26	" "

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Chlorine Materials: Chlorine dioxide	205.605(b)(12) (ii)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 Lmt'd Scope TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	7.7.26 7.21.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Hypochlorous acid - generated from electrolyzed water	205.605(b)(12) (iii)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 Lmt'd Scope TR 2015 TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	7.7.26 7.21.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Sodium hypochlorite	205.605(b)(12) (iv)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 Lmt'd Scope TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	7.7.26 7.21.26	" "
Potassium hydroxide	205.605(b)(26)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2001 TAP	8.4.26	" "
Potassium lactate	205.605(b)(27)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR (lactic acid, sodium lactate, potassium lactate)	7.7.26	" "
Silicon dioxide	205.605(b)(29)	AJ	Y	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 TR 2010 TR 1996 TAP 1995 TAP (colloidal silica) TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found sufficient 12.16.26.	8.4.26	" "
Sodium lactate	205.605(b)(33)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR (lactic acid, sodium lactate, potassium lactate)	7.7.26	" "

2029 Sunset Review

TR Requests (June 2026), Summary (Spr 2027), Review (Fall 2027)

Previous Sunset Recommendations: [2022/Fall - Rec to Renew \(2024 HS Sunsets\)](#)

Previous Rule/Renewals: [04/14/2023, 88 FR 22893](#)

Substance	National List	Lead	TR Request?	Notes*	Schedule/ Status	Target meeting
Attapulgit	205.605(a)(4)	AJ	No	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2010 TR	4.21.26 5.19.26	Summary: Spr 2027 Review: Fall 2027
Bentonite	205.605(a)(5)	AJ	Maybe - if light on requests	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Diatomaceous earth	205.605(a)(10)	AJ	Maybe - if light on requests	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Magnesium chloride	205.605(a)(17)	AF	No	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2016 TR 1999 TAP 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Nitrogen	205.605(a)(20)	AF	No	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Sodium carbonate	205.605(a)(27)	AF	Lmt'd scope based on TR for sodium bicarb	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Acidified sodium chlorite	205.605(b)(1)	KD	No	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2013 TR (livestock) 2008 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Carbon dioxide	205.605(b)(10)	KD	No	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2006 TR 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Sodium phosphates	205.605(b)(34)	AH	Yes - Lmt'd scope	2016 TR (Phosphates) 2001 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Casings, from processed intestines	205.606(b)	AH	No	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2019 TR (collagen gel, gelatin, and casings)	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Pectin	205.606(o)	AH	No	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2015 limited scope TR 2010 limited scope TR 2009 TR 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Potassium acid tartrate	205.606(p)	KD	No	Sunset date: 01/28/2029 2017 TR 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "

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 - Virtual	Oct 27 - 29, 2026	0
Final recommendations due	Nov 28, 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.

Handling Subcommittee (HS) Notes

Tuesday, July 7, 2026 1:00 pm ET

Present: Andrea Hatziyannis (AH), Chair; Vice Chair; Amanda Felder (AF); Kathryn Deschenes (KD); Allison Johnson (AJ)

Absent: None

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA); Jo Mirenda (JM); Heather Kumar (HK)

Agenda

- May 19, 2026 notes
- 2028 Sunset: Glucono delta-lactone (AH) - discuss/vote
- 2028 Sunset: Chlorine Materials: Calcium hypochlorite, Chlorine dioxide, Hypochlorous acid, Sodium hypochlorite (KD) - discuss/vote
- 2028 Sunset: Potassium lactate, Sodium lactate (AH) - discuss/vote
- Additional items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **May 19, 2026 notes** were approved via email May 22, 2026
2028 Sunset: Glucono delta-lactone (GDL) (AH). The lead summarized the public comments, which were mainly focused on the prohibited production method in the annotation. Comments were overwhelmingly in favor of relisting, and the lead indicated that GDL continues to satisfy the OFPA criteria. The HS will add an additional question to stakeholders regarding production methods, and supports relisting GDL this time. The lead will finalize the document and submit it to the NOP.

Motion to remove glucono delta-lactone from the National List at 205.605(a)(14)

Motion by: AH

Seconded by: AF

Yes: 0 No: 4 Abstain: 0 Recuse: 0 Absent: 0

- **2028 Sunset: Chlorine Materials: Calcium hypochlorite, Chlorine dioxide, Hypochlorous acid, Sodium hypochlorite (KD).** The full discussion and votes were deferred to next call.
The group discussed a question about forms of chlorine materials. i.e., aqueous vs. gaseous. The 2026 limited scope TR briefly mentioned gaseous forms, although it is not clear if it's in use. The HS will add a question to stakeholders in its Fall review. There are three questions to keep in mind: Does the listing at 205.605(b) include gas or liquid, or both; is it in direct food contact or not; and is it used as a rinse or not? The NOP will provide additional information to the HS, and the group will discuss and vote on the next call.
- **2028 Sunset: Potassium lactate, Sodium lactate (AH).** The lead summarized the uses and public comment from the Spring meeting. Both potassium and sodium lactates are used in curing meats, and while they have similar uses, commenters emphasized the need for both. The lead also noted that sodium lactate is used more predominately than potassium lactate. Celery seed is an alternative but is not available in quantity or quality to replace the lactates. Public commenters suggested an update to the annotation to highlight uses rather than restrictions, however, it doesn't appear that it is causing an issue that needs to be addressed. There is support for listing both substances at this time, and the HS moved to a vote on each.

Motion to remove potassium lactate from the National List at 205.605(b)(27)

Motion by: AH
Seconded by: AJ
Yes: 0 No: 4 Abstain: 0 Recuse: 0 Absent: 0

Motion to remove sodium lactate from the National List at 205.605(b)(33)

Motion by: AH
Seconded by: KD
Yes: 0 No: 4 Abstain: 0 Recuse: 0 Absent: 0

- **Additional items.** The HS rearranged the schedule for the next few calls. See below.
- **The meeting was adjourned.**

[Previous HS Notes](#)

Future call schedule (1st and 3rd Tuesdays 1:00 PM ET | 10:00 AM PT, except where noted)

June 16, 2026 - cancelled

July 7, 2026

2028 Sunset: Glucono delta-lactone (AH) - discuss/vote

2028 Sunset: Potassium lactate, Sodium lactate (AH) - discuss/vote

July 21, 2026

Research Priorities (All) - discuss list, forward to MS

2028 Sunset: Chlorine Materials: Calcium hypochlorite, Chlorine dioxide, Hypochlorous acid, Sodium hypochlorite (KD) - discuss/vote

2028 Sunset: Calcium sulfate - mined (AF) - discuss/vote

2028 Sunset: Cellulose (AF) - discuss/vote

2028 Sunset: Potassium hydroxide (AF) - discuss/vote

August 4, 2026

2028 Sunset: Agar-agar (AJ) - discuss/vote

2028 Sunset: Tartaric acid (AJ) - discuss/vote

2028 Sunset: Silicon dioxide (AJ) - discuss/vote

Potassium polyaspartate (KD) - discuss petitioned discussion document/TR sufficiency

Sea silt (AF) - discuss petitioned discussion document/TR sufficiency

August 18, 2026 (Amanda out)

2028 Sunset: Animal enzymes (KD) - discuss/vote

2028 Sunset: Carrageenan (KD) - discuss/vote

September 1, 2026

September 15, 2026

October 6, 2026

October 20, 2026

November 3, 2026

November 17, 2026

December 1, 2026

December 15, 2026

Work Agenda

*Highlight indicates discussion. *Highlight indicates action needed. *Highlight indicates review completion and/or vote.

Petitioned Substances

Substance	National List	Contact	Doc Type	Notes*	Schedule/status	Target meeting
Potassium polyaspartate	205.605	KD	Discussion document	Petition sent to HS 12.9.25. Petition suff. due 2.7.25. HS found the petition sufficient and requested a TR 2.3.26. Draft TR due 6.30.26. Draft TR sent to HS 6.30.26. Suff due: 8.29.26	12.16.25 2.3.26 4.7.26 8.4.26	Fall 2026
Sea silt	205.605	AF	Discussion document	Petition sent to HS 12.9.25. Petition suff. due 2.7.25. Petition found sufficient 1.20.26. HS requested TR 1.20.26. Draft TR due 6.30.26. Draft TR sent to HS 6.30.26. Suff due: 8.29.26	12.16.25 1.20.26 3.17.26 8.4.26	Fall 2026

Other Projects

Project	Contact	Notes*	Scheduled/status	Target meeting
Research Priorities	AH	Fall 2026 list due to MS July 24, 2026.	7.21.26	Fall 2026

2028 Sunset Review

TR Requests (June 2025), Summary (Spr 2026), Review (Fall 2026)

Previous Sunset Recommendations: [2021/Fall - Rec to Renew](#)

Previous Rule/Renewals: [04/14/2023, 88 FR 22893](#)

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/status	Target meeting
Agar-agar	205.605(a)(2)	AJ	Y - Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 05/29/2028 2026 TR 2011 TR 1995 TAP Draft TR due late Dec 2025. TR sent to HS 12.12.25. Suff due 2.10.26. TR found sufficient 1.6.26.	8.4.26	Summary: Spr 2026 Review: Fall 2026
Animal enzymes	205.605(a)(3)	KD	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2024 Lmt'd Scope TR (enzymes, microorganisms, yeast) 2015 TR (enzymes) 2011 TR (enzymes) 2000 TAP	8.18.26	" "
Calcium sulfate - mined	205.605(a)(8)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2001 TAP 1996 TAP	7.21.26	" "

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Carrageenan	205.605(a)(9)	KD	Y - Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 TR 2016 Lmt'd Scope TR 2011 TR 1995 TAP TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found not sufficient. Returned to NOP for edits 12.16.25. Revised TR sent to HS 2.3.26. TR found sufficient 2.17.26.	8.18.26	" "
Glucono delta-lactone	205.605(a)(14)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2002 TAP	7.7.26	" "
Tartaric acid - made from grape wine	205.605(a)(28)	AJ	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2011 TR	8.4.26	" "
Cellulose	205.605(b)(11)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2001 TAP	7.21.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Calcium hypochlorite	205.605(b)(12) (i)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 Lmt'd Scope TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	7.7.26 7.21.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Chlorine dioxide	205.605(b)(12) (ii)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 Lmt'd Scope TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	7.7.26 7.21.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Hypochlorous acid - generated from electrolyzed water	205.605(b)(12) (iii)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 Lmt'd Scope TR 2015 TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	7.7.26 7.21.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Sodium hypochlorite	205.605(b)(12) (iv)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 Lmt'd Scope TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	7.7.26 7.21.26	" "

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Potassium hydroxide	205.605(b)(26)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2001 TAP	7.21.26	" "
Potassium lactate	205.605(b)(27)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR (lactic acid, sodium lactate, potassium lactate)	7.7.26	" "
Silicon dioxide	205.605(b)(29)	AJ	Y	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 TR 2010 TR 1996 TAP 1995 TAP (colloidal silica) TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found sufficient 12.16.26.	8.4.26	" "
Sodium lactate	205.605(b)(33)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR (lactic acid, sodium lactate, potassium lactate)	7.7.26	" "

2029 Sunset Review

TR Requests (June 2026), Summary (Spr 2027), Review (Fall 2027)

Previous Sunset Recommendations: [2022/Fall - Rec to Renew \(2024 HS Sunsets\)](#)

Previous Rule/Renewals: [04/14/2023, 88 FR 22893](#)

Substance	National List	Lead	TR Request?	Notes*	Schedule/ Status	Target meeting
Attapulgite	205.605(a)(4)	AJ	No	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2010 TR	4.21.26 5.19.26	Summary: Spr 2027 Review: Fall 2027
Bentonite	205.605(a)(5)	AJ	Maybe - if light on requests	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Diatomaceous earth	205.605(a)(10)	AJ	Maybe - if light on requests	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Magnesium chloride	205.605(a)(17)	AF	No	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2016 TR 1999 TAP 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Nitrogen	205.605(a)(20)	AF	No	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Sodium carbonate	205.605(a)(27)	AF	Lmt'd scope based on TR for sodium bicarb	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "

Substance	National List	Lead	TR Request?	Notes*	Schedule/ Status	Target meeting
Acidified sodium chlorite	205.605(b)(1)	KD	No	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2013 TR (livestock) 2008 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Carbon dioxide	205.605(b)(10)	KD	No	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2006 TR 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Sodium phosphates	205.605(b)(34)	AH	Yes - Lmt'd scope	2016 TR (Phosphates) 2001 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Casings, from processed intestines	205.606(b)	AH	No	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2019 TR (collagen gel, gelatin, and casings)	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Pectin	205.606(o)	AH	No	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2015 limited scope TR 2010 limited scope TR 2009 TR 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Potassium acid tartrate	205.606(p)	KD	No	Sunset date: 01/28/2029 2017 TR 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "

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 - Virtual	Oct 27 - 29, 2026	0
Final recommendations due	Nov 28, 2026	~30 days post meeting

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Handling Subcommittee (HS) Notes

Tuesday, May 19, 2026 1:00 pm ET

Present: Andrea Hatziyannis (AH), Chair; Vice Chair; Amanda Felder (AF); Kathryn Deschenes (KD); Allison Johnson (AJ)

Absent: None

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA); Jo Mirenda (JM); Heather Kumar (HK)

Agenda

- April 21, 2026 notes
- Post-meeting debrief
- Determine TR needs for 2029 sunsets
- Additional items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **April 21, 2026 notes** were accepted as written.
- **Post-meeting debrief.** The group talked about their experiences at the in-person meeting, the first in-person meeting for most of the current Board members. A member thought it went well and noted that everyone did a great job. Another member mentioned how valuable in-person meetings are for camaraderie and exchange of ideas, and contrasted that with meeting online. The NOSB Chair mentioned the decision by NOP to meet once a year in person in the Spring and once a year virtually in the Fall.
- **Determine TR needs for 2029 sunsets.** The HS determined needs for TRs for the 2029 sunsets. See table below.
- **Additional items.**
 - Agar agar (AJ). The lead remarked that based on the conversation at the Spring meeting, the HS would like to move ahead with a request to reclassify agar agar. In earlier sunset reviews the Board mentioned waiting on the completion of the decision tree before moving ahead. AJ will write a request to send to the Executive Committee for the June 16 call.
 - The research priorities are due to the Materials Subcommittee before the August 11 call, so they can vote on them. Each of the Subcommittees will finalize the lists on the July 21 calls, and forward them to the MS shortly after.
 - The HS cancelled both June calls.
- **The meeting was adjourned.**

[Previous HS Notes](#)

Future call schedule (1st and 3rd Tuesdays 1:00 PM ET | 10:00 AM PT, except where noted)

May 5, 2026 - cancelled. Conflicts with comment webinar.

May 19, 2026

Post-meeting debrief

Determine TR needs for 2029 sunsets

June 2, 2026 - cancelled

June 16, 2026 - cancelled

July 7, 2026

2028 Sunset: Glucono delta-lactone (AH) - discuss/vote

2028 Sunset: Chlorine Materials: Calcium hypochlorite, Chlorine dioxide, Hypochlorous acid, Sodium hypochlorite (KD) - discuss/vote

2028 Sunset: Potassium lactate, Sodium lactate (AH) - discuss/vote

July 21, 2026

Potassium polyaspartate (KD) - discuss draft proposal

Sea silt (AF) - discuss draft proposal

Research Priorities (All) - discuss list, forward to MS

2028 Sunset: Calcium sulfate - mined (AF) - discuss/vote

2028 Sunset: Cellulose (AF) - discuss/vote

2028 Sunset: Potassium hydroxide (AF) - discuss/vote

August 4, 2026

2028 Sunset: Agar-agar (AJ) - discuss/vote

2028 Sunset: Tartaric acid (AJ) - discuss/vote

2028 Sunset: Silicon dioxide (AJ) - discuss/vote

August 18, 2026 (Amanda out)

2028 Sunset: Animal enzymes (KD) - discuss/vote

2028 Sunset: Carrageenan (KD) - discuss/vote

September 1, 2026

September 15, 2026

October 6, 2026

October 20, 2026

November 3, 2026

November 17, 2026

December 1, 2026

December 15, 2026

Work Agenda

*Highlight indicates discussion. *Highlight indicates action needed. *Highlight indicates review completion and/or vote.

Petitioned Substances

Substance	National List	Contact	Doc Type	Notes*	Schedule/status	Target meeting
Potassium polyaspartate	205.605	KD	Discussion document	Petition sent to HS 12.9.25. Petition suff. due 2.7.25. HS found the petition sufficient and requested a TR 2.3.26. Draft TR due 6.30.26	12.16.25 2.3.26 4.7.26 7.21.26	Fall 2026
Sea silt	205.605	AF	Discussion document	Petition sent to HS 12.9.25. Petition suff. due 2.7.25. Petition found sufficient 1.20.26. HS requested TR 1.20.26. Draft TR due 6.30.26	12.16.25 1.20.26 3.17.26 7.21.26	Fall 2026

Other Projects

Project	Contact	Notes*	Scheduled/status	Target meeting
Research Priorities	AH	Fall 2026 list due to MS July 24, 2026.	7.21.26	Fall 2026

2028 Sunset Review

TR Requests (June 2025), Summary (Spr 2026), Review (Fall 2026)

Previous Sunset Recommendations: [2021/Fall - Rec to Renew](#)

Previous Rule/Renewals: [04/14/2023, 88 FR 22893](#)

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Agar-agar	205.605(a)(2)	AJ	Y - Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 05/29/2028 2026 TR 2011 TR 1995 TAP Draft TR due late Dec 2025. TR sent to HS 12.12.25. Suff due 2.10.26. TR found sufficient 1.6.26.	8.4.26	Summary: Spr 2026 Review: Fall 2026
Animal enzymes	205.605(a)(3)	KD	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2024 Lmt'd Scope TR (enzymes, microorganisms, yeast) 2015 TR (enzymes) 2011 TR (enzymes) 2000 TAP	8.18.26	" "
Calcium sulfate - mined	205.605(a)(8)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2001 TAP 1996 TAP	7.21.26	" "
Carrageenan	205.605(a)(9)	KD	Y - Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 TR 2016 Lmt'd Scope TR 2011 TR 1995 TAP TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found not sufficient. Returned to NOP for edits 12.16.25. Revised TR sent to HS 2.3.26. TR found sufficient 2.17.26.	8.18.26	" "
Glucono delta- lactone	205.605(a)(14)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2002 TAP	7.7.26	" "
Tartaric acid - made from grape wine	205.605(a)(28)	AJ	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2011 TR	8.4.26	" "
Cellulose	205.605(b)(11)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2001 TAP	7.21.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Calcium hypochlorite	205.605(b)(12) (i)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 Lmt'd Scope TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	7.7.26	" "

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Chlorine Materials: Chlorine dioxide	205.605(b)(12) (ii)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 Lmt'd Scope TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	7.7.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Hypochlorous acid - generated from electrolyzed water	205.605(b)(12) (iii)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 Lmt'd Scope TR 2015 TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	7.7.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Sodium hypochlorite	205.605(b)(12) (iv)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 Lmt'd Scope TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	7.7.26	" "
Potassium hydroxide	205.605(b)(26)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2001 TAP	7.21.26	" "
Potassium lactate	205.605(b)(27)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR (lactic acid, sodium lactate, potassium lactate)	7.7.26	" "
Silicon dioxide	205.605(b)(29)	AJ	Y	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 TR 2010 TR 1996 TAP 1995 TAP (colloidal silica) TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found sufficient 12.16.26.	8.4.26	" "
Sodium lactate	205.605(b)(33)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR (lactic acid, sodium lactate, potassium lactate)	7.7.26	" "

2029 Sunset Review

TR Requests (June 2026), Summary (Spr 2027), Review (Fall 2027)

Previous Sunset Recommendations: [2022/Fall - Rec to Renew \(2024 HS Sunsets\)](#)

Previous Rule/Renewals: [04/14/2023, 88 FR 22893](#)

Substance	National List	Lead	TR Request?	Notes*	Schedule/ Status	Target meeting
Attapulgit	205.605(a)(4)	AJ	No	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2010 TR	4.21.26 5.19.26	Summary: Spr 2027 Review: Fall 2027
Bentonite	205.605(a)(5)	AJ	Maybe - if light on requests	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Diatomaceous earth	205.605(a)(10)	AJ	Maybe - if light on requests	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Magnesium chloride	205.605(a)(17)	AF	No	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2016 TR 1999 TAP 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Nitrogen	205.605(a)(20)	AF	No	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Sodium carbonate	205.605(a)(27)	AF	Yes - Lmt'd scope based on TR for sodium bicarb	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Acidified sodium chlorite	205.605(b)(1)	KD	No	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2013 TR (livestock) 2008 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Carbon dioxide	205.605(b)(10)	KD	No	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2006 TR 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Sodium phosphates	205.605(b)(34)	AH	Yes - Lmt'd scope	2016 TR (Phosphates) 2001 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Casings, from processed intestines	205.606(b)	AH	No	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2019 TR (collagen gel, gelatin, and casings)	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Pectin	205.606(o)	AH	No	Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2015 limited scope TR 2010 limited scope TR 2009 TR 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Potassium acid tartrate	205.606(p)	KD	No	Sunset date: 01/28/2029 2017 TR 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "

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 - Omaha	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
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 - Virtual	TBD Oct 27 - 29, 2026	0
Final recommendations due	Nov 28, 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.

Handling Subcommittee (HS) Notes

Tuesday, April 21, 2026 1:00 pm ET

Present: Andrea Hatziyannis (AH), Chair; Vice Chair; Amanda Felder (AF); Kathryn Deschenes (KD); Allison Johnson (AJ)

Absent: Heather Kumar (HK)

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA); Jo Mirenda (JM)

Agenda

- Approve April 7, 2026 notes
- Assign 2029 sunsets
- Prep for Spring meeting
- Additional items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **April 7, 2026 notes** were accepted as written
- **Assign 2029 sunsets.** Members volunteered to lead the 2029 sunsets (see table below) in order to determine which ones might warrant a new TR. The group will complete the list on the May 19 call then transmit it to the NOP.
- **Prep for Spring meeting.** The group discussed various aspects of the in person meeting, including written and oral public comments, presentation practices, and room set up logistics.
- **Additional items.** None.
- **The meeting was adjourned.**

[Previous HS Notes](#)

Future call schedule (1st and 3rd Tuesdays 1:00 PM ET | 10:00 AM PT, except where noted)

April 7, 2026

Potassium polyaspartate (KD) – discuss

2029 sunset planning

April 21, 2026

Assign 2029 sunsets

Prep for Spring meeting

May 5, 2026 - cancelled. Conflicts with comment webinar.

May 19, 2026

Post-meeting debrief

Determine TR needs for 2029 sunsets

June 2, 2026 - cancelled (AJ, KD out)

June 16, 2026 (Allison out)

July 7, 2026

July 21, 2026

August 4, 2026

August 18, 2026

September 1, 2026

September 15, 2026

October 6, 2026

October 20, 2026

November 3, 2026

November 17, 2026
December 1, 2026
December 15, 2026

Work Agenda

*Highlight indicates discussion. *Highlight indicates action needed. *Highlight indicates review completion and/or vote.

Petitioned Substances

Substance	National List	Contact	Doc Type	Notes*	Schedule/status	Target meeting
Chitosan	205.605(b)	AH	Proposal	Petition sent to HS 3.5.25. 2026 TR (Handling) 2020 TR (Crops) 2020 Livestock petition . Petition suff. due 05.04.25. Petition found sufficient 4.1.25. HS requested a TR 4.8.25. TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found sufficient 12.16.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 12.16.25 1.6.26 2.17.26	Spr 2026
Potassium polyaspartate	205.605	KD	Discussion document	Petition sent to HS 12.9.25. Petition suff. due 2.7.25. HS found the petition sufficient and requested a TR 2.3.26. Draft TR due 6.30	12.16.25 2.3.26 4.7.26	Fall 2026
Sea silt	205.605	AF	Discussion document	Petition sent to HS 12.9.25. Petition suff. due 2.7.25. Petition found sufficient 1.20.26. HS requested TR 1.20.26. Draft TR due 6.30	12.16.25 1.20.26 3.17.26	Fall 2026

Other Projects

Project	Contact	Notes*	Scheduled/status	Target meeting
Sodium bicarbonate reclassification	KD	Work agenda request approved by NOSB ExecComm 8.19.25. Approved by NOP 8.21.25	11.18.25	Spr 2026
Research Priorities	AH	Spring 2026 list due to MS Feb 4, 2026.	1.20.26	Spr 2026

2028 Sunset Review

TR Requests (June 2025), Summary (Spr 2026), Review (Fall 2026)

Previous Sunset Recommendations: [2021/Fall - Rec to Renew](#)

Previous Rule/Renewals: [04/14/2023, 88 FR 22893](#)

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/status	Target meeting
Agar-agar	205.605(a)(2)	AJ	Y - Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 05/29/2028 2026 TR 2011 TR 1995 TAP Draft TR due late Dec 2025. TR sent to HS 12.12.25. Suff due 2.10.26. TR found sufficient 1.6.26.	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26 2.3.26	Summary: Spr 2026 Review: Fall 2026

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Animal enzymes	205.605(a)(3)	KD	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2024 Lmt'd Scope TR (enzymes, microorganisms, yeast) 2015 TR (enzymes) 2011 TR (enzymes) 2000 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "
Calcium sulfate - mined	205.605(a)(8)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2001 TAP 1996 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 1.20.26	" "
Carrageenan	205.605(a)(9)	KD	Y - Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 TR 2016 Lmt'd Scope TR 2011 TR 1995 TAP TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found not sufficient. Returned to NOP for edits 12.16.25. Revised TR sent to HS 2.3.26. TR found sufficient 2.17.26.	3.18.25 4.1.25 12.16.25 2.3.26 2.17.26	" "
Glucono delta-lactone	205.605(a)(14)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2002 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "
Tartaric acid - made from grape wine	205.605(a)(28)	AJ	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2011 TR	3.18.25 4.15.25 11.18.25	" "
Cellulose	205.605(b)(11)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2001 TAP	3.18.25 4.1.25 11.18.25 12.16.25	" "
Chlorine Materials: Calcium hypochlorite	205.605(b)(12) (i)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 Lmt'd Scope TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Chlorine dioxide	205.605(b)(12) (ii)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 Lmt'd Scope TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Chlorine Materials: Hypochlorous acid - generated from electrolyzed water	205.605(b)(12) (iii)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 Lmt'd Scope TR 2015 TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Sodium hypochlorite	205.605(b)(12) (iv)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 Lmt'd Scope TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "
Potassium hydroxide	205.605(b)(26)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2001 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 1.20.26	" "
Potassium lactate	205.605(b)(27)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR (lactic acid, sodium lactate, potassium lactate)	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "
Silicon dioxide	205.605(b)(29)	AJ	Y	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 TR 2010 TR 1996 TAP 1995 TAP (colloidal silica) TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found sufficient 12.16.26.	3.18.25 4.15.25 12.2.25 12.16.25	" "
Sodium lactate	205.605(b)(33)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR (lactic acid, sodium lactate, potassium lactate)	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "

2029 Sunset Review

TR Requests (June 2026), Summary (Spr 2027), Review (Fall 2027)

Previous Sunset Recommendations: [2022/Fall - Rec to Renew \(2024 HS Sunsets\)](#)

Previous Rule/Renewals: [04/14/2023, 88 FR 22893](#)

Substance	National List	Lead	TR Request?	Notes*	Schedule/ Status	Target meeting
Attapulgit	205.605(a)(4)	AJ		Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2010 TR	4.21.26 5.19.26	Summary: Spr 2027 Review: Fall 2027
Bentonite	205.605(a)(5)	AJ		Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Diatomaceous earth	205.605(a)(10)	AJ		Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "

Substance	National List	Lead	TR Request?	Notes*	Schedule/ Status	Target meeting
Magnesium chloride	205.605(a)(17)	AF		Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2016 TR 1999 TAP 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Nitrogen	205.605(a)(20)	AF		Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Sodium carbonate	205.605(a)(27)	AF		Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Acidified sodium chlorite	205.605(b)(1)	KD		Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2013 TR (livestock) 2008 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Carbon dioxide	205.605(b)(10)	KD		Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2006 TR 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Sodium phosphates	205.605(b)(34)	AH		2016 TR (Phosphates) 2001 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Casings, from processed intestines	205.606(b)	AH		Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2019 TR (collagen gel, gelatin, and casings)	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Pectin	205.606(o)	AH		Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2015 limited scope TR 2010 limited scope TR 2009 TR 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "
Potassium acid tartrate	205.606(p)	KD		Sunset date: 01/28/2029 2017 TR 1995 TAP	4.21.26 5.19.26	" "

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 - Location TBD	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
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 TBD	TBD Oct 27 - 29, 2026	0
Final recommendations due	Nov 28, 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.

Handling Subcommittee (HS) Notes

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 1:00 pm ET

Present: Andrea Hatziyannis (AH), Chair; Vice Chair; Amanda Felder (AF); Kathryn Deschenes (KD)

Absent: Allison Johnson (AJ)

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA); Jo Mirenda (JM); Heather Kumar (HK)

Agenda

- Approve March 17, 2026 notes
- Potassium polyaspartate (KD) - discuss TR scope
- 2029 sunset planning
- Additional items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **March 17, 2026 notes** were approved with an update to the 2029 sunset table
- **Potassium polyaspartate (KD) - discuss TR scope.** The NOP asked the HS to clarify the scope of the TR request, and the HS noted that they want to limit the scope to Handling only. Potassium polyaspartate was petitioned as a non-agricultural, synthetic. The HS relayed this information to the NOP. Members discussed the next steps, and the lead will draft a discussion document while waiting for the TR.
- **2029 sunset planning.** Members reviewed the list of 2029 sunsets (see table below), and talked about the criteria for determining whether they should request a new TR. Criteria include such things as age of last TR, changes in use patterns, availability of organic alternatives, etc.
- **Additional items.** The NOP will invite the Handling Subcommittee members to the April 14 Materials call to hear the update from the Food Technologist on mined mineral update.
- **The meeting was adjourned.**

[Previous HS Notes](#)

Future call schedule (1st and 3rd Tuesdays 1:00 PM ET | 10:00 AM PT, except where noted)

March 17, 2026

Sea silt (AF) - discuss

April 7, 2026

Potassium polyaspartate (KD) – discuss

2029 sunset planning

April 21, 2026

Assign 2029 sunsets

Prep for Spring meeting

May 5, 2026 - cancelled. Conflicts with comment webinar.

May 19, 2026

Post-meeting - may cancel

June 2, 2026

Determine TR needs for 2029 sunsets

June 16, 2026

July 7, 2026

July 21, 2026

August 4, 2026

August 18, 2026

September 1, 2026

September 15, 2026
 October 6, 2026
 October 20, 2026
 November 3, 2026
 November 17, 2026
 December 1, 2026
 December 15, 2026

Work Agenda

*Highlight indicates discussion. *Highlight indicates action needed. *Highlight indicates review completion and/or vote.

Petitioned Substances

Substance	National List	Contact	Doc Type	Notes*	Schedule/status	Target meeting
Chitosan	205.605(b)	AH	Proposal	Petition sent to HS 3.5.25. 2026 TR (Handling) 2020 TR (Crops) 2020 Livestock petition . Petition suff. due 05.04.25. Petition found sufficient 4.1.25. HS requested a TR 4.8.25. TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found sufficient 12.16.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 12.16.25 1.6.26 2.17.26	Spr 2026
Potassium polyaspartate	205.605	KD	Discussion document	Petition sent to HS 12.9.25. Petition suff. due 2.7.25. HS found the petition sufficient and requested a TR 2.3.26. Draft TR due 6.30	12.16.25 2.3.26 4.7.26	Fall 2026
Sea silt	205.605	AF	Discussion document	Petition sent to HS 12.9.25. Petition suff. due 2.7.25. Petition found sufficient 1.20.26. HS requested TR 1.20.26. Draft TR due 6.30	12.16.25 1.20.26 3.17.26	Fall 2026

Other Projects

Project	Contact	Notes*	Scheduled/status	Target meeting
Sodium bicarbonate reclassification	KD	Work agenda request approved by NOSB ExecComm 8.19.25. Approved by NOP 8.21.25	11.18.25	Spr 2026
Research Priorities	AH	Spring 2026 list due to MS Feb 4, 2026.	1.20.26	Spr 2026

2028 Sunset Review

TR Requests (June 2025), Summary (Spr 2026), Review (Fall 2026)

Previous Sunset Recommendations: [2021/Fall - Rec to Renew](#)

Previous Rule/Renewals: [04/14/2023, 88 FR 22893](#)

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Agar-agar	205.605(a)(2)	DN -> AJ	Y - Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 05/29/2028 2026 TR 2011 TR 1995 TAP Draft TR due late Dec 2025. TR sent to HS 12.12.25. Suff due 2.10.26. TR found sufficient 1.6.26.	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26 2.3.26	Summary: Spr 2026 Review: Fall 2026
Animal enzymes	205.605(a)(3)	KD	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2024 Lmt'd Scope TR (enzymes, microorganisms, yeast) 2015 TR (enzymes) 2011 TR (enzymes) 2000 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "
Calcium sulfate - mined	205.605(a)(8)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2001 TAP 1996 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 1.20.26	" "
Carrageenan	205.605(a)(9)	KD	Y - Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 TR 2016 Lmt'd Scope TR 2011 TR 1995 TAP TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found not sufficient. Returned to NOP for edits 12.16.25. Revised TR sent to HS 2.3.26. TR found sufficient 2.17.26.	3.18.25 4.1.25 12.16.25 2.3.26 2.17.26	" "
Glucono delta- lactone	205.605(a)(14)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2002 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "
Tartaric acid - made from grape wine	205.605(a)(28)	AJ	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2011 TR	3.18.25 4.15.25 11.18.25	" "
Cellulose	205.605(b)(11)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2001 TAP	3.18.25 4.1.25 11.18.25 12.16.25	" "
Chlorine Materials: Calcium hypochlorite	205.605(b)(12) (i)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 Lmt'd Scope TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Chlorine Materials: Chlorine dioxide	205.605(b)(12) (ii)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 Lmt'd Scope TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Hypochlorous acid - generated from electrolyzed water	205.605(b)(12) (iii)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 Lmt'd Scope TR 2015 TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Sodium hypochlorite	205.605(b)(12) (iv)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 Lmt'd Scope TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "
Potassium hydroxide	205.605(b)(26)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2001 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 1.20.26	" "
Potassium lactate	205.605(b)(27)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR (lactic acid, sodium lactate, potassium lactate)	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "
Silicon dioxide	205.605(b)(29)	AJ	Y	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 TR 2010 TR 1996 TAP 1995 TAP (colloidal silica) TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found sufficient 12.16.26.	3.18.25 4.15.25 12.2.25 12.16.25	" "
Sodium lactate	205.605(b)(33)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR (lactic acid, sodium lactate, potassium lactate)	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "

2029 Sunset Review

TR Requests (June 2026), Summary (Spr 2027), Review (Fall 2027)

Previous Sunset Recommendations: [2022/Fall - Rec to Renew \(2024 HS Sunsets\)](#)

Previous Rule/Renewals: [04/14/2023, 88 FR 22893](#)

Substance	National List	Lead	TR Request?	Notes*	Schedule/ Status	Target meeting
Attapulgit	205.605(a)(4)			Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2010 TR	4.21.26	Summary: Spr 2027 Review: Fall 2027
Bentonite	205.605(a)(5)			Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP	4.21.26	" "
Diatomaceous earth	205.605(a)(10)			Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP	4.21.26	" "
Magnesium chloride	205.605(a)(17)			Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2016 TR 1999 TAP 1995 TAP	4.21.26	" "
Nitrogen	205.605(a)(20)			Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP	4.21.26	" "
Sodium carbonate	205.605(a)(27)			Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP	4.21.26	" "
Acidified sodium chlorite	205.605(b)(1)			Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2013 TR (livestock) 2008 TAP	4.21.26	" "
Carbon dioxide	205.605(b)(10)			Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2006 TR 1995 TAP	4.21.26	" "
Sodium phosphates	205.605(b)(34)			2016 TR (Phosphates) 2001 TAP	4.21.26	" "
Casings, from processed intestines	205.606(b)			Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2019 TR (collagen gel, gelatin, and casings)	4.21.26	" "
Pectin	205.606(o)			Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2015 limited scope TR 2010 limited scope TR 2009 TR 1995 TAP	4.21.26	" "
Potassium acid tartrate	205.606(p)			Sunset date: 01/28/2029 2017 TR 1995 TAP	4.21.26	" "

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 - Location TBD	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
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 TBD	TBD Oct 27 - 29, 2026	0
Final recommendations due	Nov 28, 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.

Handling Subcommittee (HS) Notes

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 1:00 pm ET

Present: Andrea Hatziyannis (AH), Chair; Vice Chair; Amanda Felder (AF); Allison Johnson (AJ)

Absent: Kathryn Deschenes (KD)

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA); Jo Mirenda (JM); Heather Kumar (HK)

Agenda

- Approve February 17, 2026 notes
- Sea silt (AF) - discuss
- Prep for Spring 2026 meeting
- Additional items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **February 17, 2026 notes** were approved as written
- **Sea silt (AF).** The lead summarized the petition for sea silt, which is being petitioned for a use in personal care products, not food. The petitioner wants to use the organic label, which is why they are seeking its addition to the list. The HS is awaiting a TR and will revisit this conversation at a later date.
- **Prep for Spring 2026 meeting.** The group briefly discussed preparation for the Spring meeting, which has not yet been announced.
- **Additional items.**
 - The NOP verified that the chitosan TR was sent for posting, and should be available on the NOP website soon.
 - The HS plans to develop discussion documents for the two new petitioned substances (sea silt and potassium polyaspartate), likely for the Fall 2026 meeting.
 - The NOSB Chair will not be available for the April 7 call.
 - The NOP added the list of 2029 sunsets below, and the HS will assign leads on the April 21 call.
- **The meeting was adjourned.**

Previous HS Notes

Future call schedule (1st and 3rd Tuesdays 1:00 PM ET | 10:00 AM PT, except where noted)

March 3, 2026 - cancelled

March 17, 2026

Sea silt (AF) - discuss

April 7, 2026

Potassium polyaspartate (KD) - discuss

April 21, 2026

Assign 2029 sunsets

May 5, 2026

Prep for Spring meeting

May 19, 2026

Post-meeting - may cancel

June 2, 2026

Determine TR needs for 2029 sunsets

June 16, 2026

July 7, 2026

July 21, 2026

August 4, 2026
 August 18, 2026
 September 1, 2026
 September 15, 2026
 October 6, 2026
 October 20, 2026
 November 3, 2026
 November 17, 2026
 December 1, 2026
 December 15, 2026

Work Agenda

*Highlight indicates discussion. *Highlight indicates action needed. *Highlight indicates review completion and/or vote.

Petitioned Substances

Substance	National List	Contact	Doc Type	Notes*	Schedule/status	Target meeting
Chitosan	205.605(b)	AH	Proposal	Petition sent to HS 3.5.25. 2026 TR (Handling). Pending 2020 TR Crops 2020 Livestock petition . Petition suff. due 05.04.25. Petition found sufficient 4.1.25. HS requested a TR 4.8.25. TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found sufficient 12.16.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 12.16.25 1.6.26 2.17.26	Spr 2026
Potassium polyaspartate	205.605	KD	Discussion document	Petition sent to HS 12.9.25. Petition suff. due 2.7.25. HS found the petition sufficient and requested a TR 2.3.26. Draft TR due 6.30	12.16.25 2.3.26 4.7.26	Fall 2026
Sea silt	205.605	AF	Discussion document	Petition sent to HS 12.9.25. Petition suff. due 2.7.25. Petition found sufficient 1.20.26. HS requested TR 1.20.26. Draft TR due 6.30	12.16.25 1.20.26 3.17.26	Fall 2026

Other Projects

Project	Contact	Notes*	Scheduled/status	Target meeting
Sodium bicarbonate reclassification	KD	Work agenda request approved by NOSB ExecComm 8.19.25. Approved by NOP 8.21.25	11.18.25	Spr 2026
Research Priorities	AH	Spring 2026 list due to MS Feb 4, 2026.	1.20.26	Spr 2026

2028 Sunset Review

TR Requests (June 2025), Summary (Spr 2026), Review (Fall 2026)

Previous Sunset Recommendations: [2021/Fall - Rec to Renew](#)

Previous Rule/Renewals: [04/14/2023, 88 FR 22893](#)

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Agar-agar	205.605(a)(2)	DN -> AJ	Y - Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 05/29/2028 2026 TR 2011 TR 1995 TAP Draft TR due late Dec 2025. TR sent to HS 12.12.25. Suff due 2.10.26. TR found sufficient 1.6.26.	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26 2.3.26	Summary: Spr 2026 Review: Fall 2026
Animal enzymes	205.605(a)(3)	KD	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2024 Lmt'd Scope TR (enzymes, microorganisms, yeast) 2015 TR (enzymes) 2011 TR (enzymes) 2000 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "
Calcium sulfate - mined	205.605(a)(8)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2001 TAP 1996 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 1.20.26	" "
Carrageenan	205.605(a)(9)	KD	Y - Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 TR 2016 Lmt'd Scope TR 2011 TR 1995 TAP TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found not sufficient. Returned to NOP for edits 12.16.25. Revised TR sent to HS 2.3.26. TR found sufficient 2.17.26.	3.18.25 4.1.25 12.16.25 2.3.26 2.17.26	" "
Glucono delta- lactone	205.605(a)(14)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2002 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "
Tartaric acid - made from grape wine	205.605(a)(28)	AJ	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2011 TR	3.18.25 4.15.25 11.18.25	" "
Cellulose	205.605(b)(11)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2001 TAP	3.18.25 4.1.25 11.18.25 12.16.25	" "
Chlorine Materials: Calcium hypochlorite	205.605(b)(12) (i)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Chlorine dioxide	205.605(b)(12) (ii)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Chlorine Materials: Hypochlorous acid - generated from electrolyzed water	205.605(b)(12) (iii)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Sodium hypochlorite	205.605(b)(12) (iv)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "
Potassium hydroxide	205.605(b)(26)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2001 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 1.20.26	" "
Potassium lactate	205.605(b)(27)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR (lactic acid, sodium lactate, potassium lactate)	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "
Silicon dioxide	205.605(b)(29)	AJ	Y	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2026 TR 2010 TR 1996 TAP 1995 TAP (colloidal silica) TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found sufficient 12.16.26.	3.18.25 4.15.25 12.2.25 12.16.25	" "
Sodium lactate	205.605(b)(33)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR (lactic acid, sodium lactate, potassium lactate)	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "

2029 Sunset Review

TR Requests (June 2026), Summary (Spr 2027), Review (Fall 2027)

Previous Sunset Recommendations: [2022/Fall - Rec to Renew \(2024 HS Sunsets\)](#)

Previous Rule/Renewals: [04/14/2023, 88 FR 22893](#)

Substance	National List	Lead	TR Request?	Notes*	Schedule/ Status	Target meeting
Attapulgate	205.605(a)(4)			Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2010 TR		Summary: Spr 2027 Review: Fall 2027
Bentonite	205.605(a)(5)			Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP		" "
Diatomaceous earth	205.605(a)(10)			Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP		" "

Substance	National List	Lead	TR Request?	Notes*	Schedule/ Status	Target meeting
Magnesium chloride	205.605(a)(17)			Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2016 TR 1999 TAP 1995 TAP		" "
Nitrogen	205.605(a)(20)			Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP		" "
Sodium carbonate	205.605(a)(27)			Sunset date: 10/30/2029 1995 TAP		" "
Acidified sodium chlorite	205.605(b)(1)			Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2013 TR (livestock) 2008 TAP		" "
Carbon dioxide	205.605(b)(10)			Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2006 TR 1995 TAP		" "
Sodium phosphates	205.605(b)(34)			2016 TR (Phosphates) 2001 TAP		" "
Casings, from processed intestines	205.606(b)			Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2019 TR (collagen gel, gelatin, and casings)		" "
Pectin	205.606(o)			Sunset date: 10/30/2029 2015 limited scope TR 2010 limited scope TR 2009 TR 1995 TAP		" "
Potassium acid tartrate	205.606(p)			Sunset date: 01/28/2029 2017 TR 1995 TAP		" "

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
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NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	Apr 22, 2026	3
Public comment webinars	May 5 & 7, 2026	1
Spring 2026 NOSB meeting - Location TBD	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
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 TBD	TBD Oct 27 - 29, 2026	0
Final recommendations due	Nov 28, 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.

Handling Subcommittee (HS) Notes Tuesday, February 17, 2026 1:00 pm ET

Present: Andrea Hatziyannis (AH), Chair; Kathryn Deschenes (KD), Vice Chair; Amanda Felder (AF); Allison Johnson (AJ)

Absent: None

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA); Jo Mirenda (JM); Heather Kumar (HK)

Agenda

- Approve February 3, 2026 notes
- Chitosan - petitioned (AH) - discuss proposal/vote
- 2028 Sunset: Carrageenan (KD) - finalize
- Additional items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **February 3, 2026 notes** were approved as written.
- **Chitosan - petitioned proposal (AH).** The lead summarized the draft proposal for chitosan, highlighting previous petitions, processing methods, and sources. i.e., fungal sources vs. crustacean sources. Based on the TR, the HS has determined that the extraction process renders chitosan as synthetic, regardless of the source material. Members provided suggestions for modifications to the document, and once the lead updates the document, she will submit it to the NOP for the Spring 2026 meeting.

Motion to classify chitosan as petitioned as synthetic

Motion by: AH

Seconded by: AJ

Yes: 4 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Recuse: 0 Absent: 0

Motion to add chitosan as petitioned to the NL at § 205.605(b)

Motion by: AH

Seconded by: AF

Yes: 0 No: 4 Abstain: 0 Recuse: 0 Absent: 0

- **2028 Sunset: Carrageenan (KD).** The lead reviewed the draft sunset, highlighting the newly added information from the TR. Members discussed the previous reviews and concerns with carrageenan. There was limited information in the TR about human health issues, as the science is not definitive. The HS looks forward to public comments and a robust discussion at the Spring and Fall meetings.
- **Additional items.** None.
- **The meeting was adjourned.**

[Previous HS Notes](#)

Future call schedule (1st and 3rd Tuesdays 1:00 PM ET | 10:00 AM PT, except where noted).

February 3, 2026

2028 Sunset: Animal enzymes (KD) - discuss/finalize

Potassium polyaspartate (KD) - petition sufficiency/TR need

2028 Sunset: Agar-agar (AJ) - finalize

2028 Sunset: Carrageenan (KD) - discuss

2028 Sunset: Glucono delta-lactone (AH) - discuss

2028 Sunset: Sodium lactate (AH) - discuss

2028 Sunset: Potassium lactate (AH) - discuss

February 17, 2026

Chitosan - petitioned (AH) - discuss proposal

2028 Sunset: Carrageenan (KD) - finalize

March 3, 2026

March 17, 2026

April 7, 2026

April 21, 2026

May 5, 2026

May 19, 2026

June 2, 2026

June 16, 2026

July 7, 2026

July 21, 2026

August 4, 2026

August 18, 2026

September 1, 2026

September 15, 2026

October 6, 2026

October 20, 2026

November 3, 2026

November 17, 2026

December 1, 2026

December 15, 2026

Work Agenda

*Highlight indicates discussion. *Highlight indicates action needed. *Highlight indicates review completion and/or vote.

Petitioned Substances

Substance	National List	Cont act	Doc Type	Notes*	Schedule/ status	Target meeting
Chitosan	205.605(b)	AH	Proposal	Petition sent to HS 3.5.25. 2026 TR (Handling). Pending 2020 TR Crops 2020 Livestock petition . Petition suff. due 05.04.25. Petition found sufficient 4.1.25. HS requested a TR 4.8.25. TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found sufficient 12.16.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 12.16.25 1.6.26 2.17.26	Spr 2026
Potassium polyaspartate	205.605	KD	TBD	Petition sent to HS 12.9.25. Petition suff. due 2.7.25. HS found the petition sufficient and requested a TR 2.3.26.	12.16.25 2.3.26	TBD
Sea silt	205.605	AF	TBD	Petition sent to HS 12.9.25. Petition suff. due 2.7.25. Petition found sufficient 1.20.26. HS requested TR 1.20.26	12.16.25 1.20.26	TBD

Other Projects

Project	Contact	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Sodium bicarbonate reclassification	KD	Work agenda request approved by NOSB ExecComm 8.19.25. Approved by NOP 8.21.25	11.18.25	Spr 2026
Research Priorities	AH	Spring 2026 list due to MS Feb 4, 2026.	1.20.26	Spr 2026

2028 Sunset Review

TR Requests (June 2025), Summary (Spr 2026), Review (Fall 2026)

Previous Sunset Recommendations: [2021/Fall - Rec to Renew](#)

Previous Rule/Renewals: [04/14/2023, 88 FR 22893](#)

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Agar-agar	205.605(a)(2)	DN -> AJ	Y - Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 05/29/2028 2011 TR 1995 TAP Draft TR due late Dec 2025. TR sent to HS 12.12.25. Suff due 2.10.26. TR found sufficient 1.6.26.	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26 2.3.26	Summary: Spr 2026 Review: Fall 2026
Animal enzymes	205.605(a)(3)	KD	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2024 Lmt'd Scope TR (enzymes, microorganisms, yeast) 2015 TR (enzymes) 2011 TR (enzymes) 2000 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "
Calcium sulfate - mined	205.605(a)(8)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2001 TAP 1996 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 1.20.26	" "
Carrageenan	205.605(a)(9)	KD	Y - Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 Lmt'd Scope TR 2011 TR 1995 TAP TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found not sufficient. Returned to NOP for edits 12.16.25. Revised TR sent to HS 2.3.26. TR found sufficient 2.17.26.	3.18.25 4.1.25 12.16.25 2.3.26 2.17.26	" "
Glucono delta-lactone	205.605(a)(14)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2002 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "
Tartaric acid - made from grape wine	205.605(a)(28)	AJ	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2011 TR	3.18.25 4.15.25 11.18.25	" "

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Cellulose	205.605(b)(11)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2001 TAP	3.18.25 4.1.25 11.18.25 12.16.25	" "
Chlorine Materials: Calcium hypochlorite	205.605(b)(12) (i)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Chlorine dioxide	205.605(b)(12) (ii)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Hypochlorous acid - generated from electrolyzed water	205.605(b)(12) (iii)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Sodium hypochlorite	205.605(b)(12) (iv)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "
Potassium hydroxide	205.605(b)(26)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2001 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 1.20.26	" "
Potassium lactate	205.605(b)(27)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR (lactic acid, sodium lactate, potassium lactate)	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "
Silicon dioxide	205.605(b)(29)	AJ	Y	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2010 TR 1996 TAP 1995 TAP (colloidal silica) TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found sufficient 12.16.26.	3.18.25 4.15.25 12.2.25 12.16.25	" "
Sodium lactate	205.605(b)(33)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR (lactic acid, sodium lactate, potassium lactate)	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "

Spring 2026 Milestones	Target dates (tentative)	Weeks PTM (prior to meeting)
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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.

Handling Subcommittee (HS) Notes

Tuesday, February 3, 2026 1:00 pm ET

Present: Andrea Hatziyannis (AH), Chair; Kathryn Deschenes (KD), Vice Chair; Amanda Felder (AF); Allison Johnson (AJ)

Absent: None

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA); Jo Mirenda (JM); Heather Kumar (HK)

Agenda

- Approve January 20, 2026 notes
- 2028 Sunset: Animal enzymes (KD) - discuss
- Potassium polyaspartate (KD) - petition sufficiency/TR need
- 2028 Sunset: Agar-agar (AJ) - finalize
- 2028 Sunset: Carrageenan (KD) - finalize current draft
- Additional items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **January 20, 2026 notes** were approved as written.
- **2028 Sunset: Animal enzymes (KD).** The lead summarized the review for animal enzymes and highlighted the questions to stakeholders. Animal enzymes are important in cheesemaking and dairy production, and have no alternatives. Most animal enzymes are sourced non-organically. The HS included a question about the feasibility of sourcing organic. The lead will submit the document for the Spring meeting.
- **Potassium polyaspartate (KD) - petition sufficiency/TR need.** The lead reviewed the petition and found it sufficient, and recommended requesting a TR. Potassium polyaspartate is primarily used as a stabilizer in the wine industry. Its main function is to prevent tartrate crystal precipitation, which helps to maintain the clarity and stability of wine during storage and transportation. The TR noted that other similar salts have applications in other industries such as food, cosmetics, and water treatment. The HS will await the TR before writing a proposal.
- **2028 Sunset: Agar-agar (AJ).** The lead summarized the uses and previous NOSB reviews of agar-agar. It has many uses such as a stabilizer, thickener, gelling agent, texturizer, moisturizer, and emulsifier. She noted the classification at 205.605(a) - nonsynthetic, and based on the extraction process, wondered if it was classified correctly. The group suggested some information to add to the review about a possible annotation, and will seek public comment regarding that. The HS will send the review to NOP for the Spring meeting.
- **2028 Sunset: Carrageenan (KD).** The lead gave a brief overview of the current iteration of the document, and noted that the HS received the updated TR today. At a previous sunset review, the NOSB voted to remove carrageenan, but NOP did not remove it at that time, based on further public comment. At its last review the Board voted to renew it. There has been controversy about this substance due to concerns about human health issues, although a member noted there isn't much science to support wide-spread, deleterious, human health effects. The HS reviewed the questions to stakeholders. The HS will finish this conversation on the next call once the lead writer has had a chance to review the TR.
- **2028 Sunset: Glucono delta-lactone (GDL) (AH).** The lead summarized GDL, including uses and production methods. The HS will submit the review to the NOP for the spring meeting.
- **2028 Sunset: Sodium lactate, Potassium lactate (AH).** The lead summarized both lactates - sodium and potassium. These substances are produced from fermentation. The group discussed the international

use, or specifically, the fact that they are not mentioned in international regulations. The HS had no specific questions for stakeholders.

- **Additional items.** None.
- **The meeting was adjourned.**

[Previous HS Notes](#)

Future call schedule (1st and 3rd Tuesdays 1:00 PM ET | 10:00 AM PT, except where noted).

January 20, 2026

2028 Sunset: Chlorine materials (KD) - discuss/finalize

2028 Sunset: Agar-agar (DN) - discuss/finalize

2028 Sunset: Calcium sulfate - mined (AF) - discuss

2028 Sunset: Potassium hydroxide (AF) - discuss

Research Priorities - discuss

Sea Silt (AF) - petition sufficiency/TR need

February 3, 2026

2028 Sunset: Animal enzymes (KD) - discuss/finalize

Potassium polyaspartate (KD) - petition sufficiency/TR need

2028 Sunset: Agar-agar (AJ) - finalize

2028 Sunset: Carrageenan (KD) - discuss

2028 Sunset: Glucono delta-lactone (AH) - discuss

2028 Sunset: Sodium lactate (AH) - discuss

2028 Sunset: Potassium lactate (AH) - discuss

February 17, 2026

Chitosan - petitioned (AH) - discuss proposal

2028 Sunset: Carrageenan (KD) - finalize

March 3, 2026

March 17, 2026

April 7, 2026

April 21, 2026

May 5, 2026

May 19, 2026

June 2, 2026

June 16, 2026

July 7, 2026

July 21, 2026

August 4, 2026

August 18, 2026

September 1, 2026

September 15, 2026

October 6, 2026

October 20, 2026

November 3, 2026

November 17, 2026

December 1, 2026

December 15, 2026

Work Agenda

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Petitioned Substances

Substance	National List	Cont act	Doc Type	Notes*	Schedule/ status	Target meeting
Chitosan	205.605(b)	AH	Proposal	Petition sent to HS 3.5.25. 2020 TR Crops 2020 Livestock petition . Petition suff. due 05.04.25. Petition found sufficient 4.1.25. HS requested a TR 4.8.25. TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found sufficient 12.16.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 12.16.25 1.6.26 2.17.26	Spr 2026
Potassium polyaspartate	205.605	KD	TBD	Petition sent to HS 12.9.25. Petition suff. due 2.7.25. HS found the petition sufficient and requested a TR 2.3.26.	12.16.25 2.3.26	TBD
Sea silt	205.605	AF	TBD	Petition sent to HS 12.9.25. Petition suff. due 2.7.25. Petition found sufficient 1.20.26. HS requested TR 1.20.26	12.16.25 1.20.26	TBD

Other Projects

Project	Conta ct	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Sodium bicarbonate reclassification	KS/KD	Work agenda request approved by NOSB ExecComm 8.19.25. Approved by NOP 8.21.25	11.18.25	Spr 2026
Research Priorities	AH	Spring 2026 list due to MS Feb 4, 2026.	1.20.26	Spr 2026

2028 Sunset Review

TR Requests (June 2025), Summary (Spr 2026), Review (Fall 2026)

Previous Sunset Recommendations: [2021/Fall - Rec to Renew](#)

Previous Rule/Renewals: [04/14/2023, 88 FR 22893](#)

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Agar-agar	205.605(a)(2)	DN -> AJ	Y - Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 05/29/2028 2011 TR 1995 TAP Draft TR due late Dec 2025. TR sent to HS 12.12.25. Suff due 2.10.26. TR found sufficient 1.6.26.	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26 2.3.26	Summary: Spr 2026 Review: Fall 2026
Animal enzymes	205.605(a)(3)	KD	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2024 Lmt'd Scope TR (enzymes, microorganisms, yeast) 2015 TR (enzymes) 2011 TR (enzymes) 2000 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Calcium sulfate - mined	205.605(a)(8)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2001 TAP 1996 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 1.20.26	" "
Carrageenan	205.605(a)(9)	KD	Y - Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 Lmt'd Scope TR 2011 TR 1995 TAP TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found not sufficient. Returned to NOP for edits 12.16.25	3.18.25 4.1.25 12.16.25 2.3.26 2.17.26	" "
Glucono delta-lactone	205.605(a)(14)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2002 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "
Tartaric acid - made from grape wine	205.605(a)(28)	AJ	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2011 TR	3.18.25 4.15.25 11.18.25	" "
Cellulose	205.605(b)(11)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2001 TAP	3.18.25 4.1.25 11.18.25 12.16.25	" "
Chlorine Materials: Calcium hypochlorite	205.605(b)(12) (i)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Chlorine dioxide	205.605(b)(12) (ii)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Hypochlorous acid - generated from electrolyzed water	205.605(b)(12) (iii)	KD	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26. TR found sufficient 1.20.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "
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Potassium hydroxide	205.605(b)(26)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2001 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 1.20.26	" "

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Potassium lactate	205.605(b)(27)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR (lactic acid, sodium lactate, potassium lactate)	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "
Silicon dioxide	205.605(b)(29)	AJ	Y	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2010 TR 1996 TAP 1995 TAP (colloidal silica) TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found sufficient 12.16.26.	3.18.25 4.15.25 12.2.25 12.16.25	" "
Sodium lactate	205.605(b)(33)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR (lactic acid, sodium lactate, potassium lactate)	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "

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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.

Handling Subcommittee (HS) Notes

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 1:00 pm ET

Present: Allison Johnson (AJ), Chair; Kathryn Deschenes (KD); Dilip Nandwani (DN); Amanda Felder (AF); Franklin Quarcoo - observer

Absent: Kyla Smith (KS), Vice Chair; Andrea Hatziyannis (AH); Carolyn Dimitri (CD); Logan Petrey (LP)

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA); Jo Mirenda (JM); Heather Kumar (HK)

Agenda

- Approve January 6, 2026 notes
- Sea Silt (AF) - petition sufficiency/TR need
- Research Priorities (DN) - discuss/vote
- 2028 Sunset: Chlorine materials (KD) - discuss/finalize
- 2028 Sunset: Agar-agar (DN) - discuss/finalize
- 2028 Sunset: Calcium sulfate - mined (AF) - discuss
- 2028 Sunset: Potassium hydroxide (AF) - discuss
- Additional items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **January 6, 2026 notes** were approved as written.
- **Sea Silt (AF) - petition sufficiency/TR need.** The lead summarized the petition, which was found sufficient. Sea silt is being petitioned for use as a personal care product. It is harvested in the Pacific Northwest from glacial deposits, and may have other source locations as well. The HS will request a TR.
- **Research Priorities (DN).** The HS briefly reviewed Handling's list of research priorities, and will forward it to the Materials Subcommittee for the Spring meeting.
- **2028 Sunset: Chlorine materials (KD).** Based on the previous discussion of chlorine materials, the lead added a couple of questions to the review regarding alternatives and ancillary ingredients. She also consulted with the leads for Crops and Handling about the TR sufficiency, as chlorine materials are being reviewed under all three scopes. Handling finds the TR sufficient and will relay that to the NOP.
- **2028 Sunset: Agar-agar (DN).** The lead summarized the review and members provided feedback. The current lead is transitioning off the Handling Subcommittee, and will transfer this sunset to the Handling Chair, who will capture the feedback and present the review at the next meeting.
- **2028 Sunset: Calcium sulfate - mined (AF).** The lead summarized the uses of calcium sulfate, noting it is mined from gypsum, and used in tofu production. The HS will submit the review to the NOP for the Spring meeting.
- **2028 Sunset: Potassium hydroxide (AF).** The lead summarized potassium hydroxide and the group had a brief discussion. Potassium hydroxide is an antimicrobial, used in poultry chill water. It is annotated to prohibit use in-lye peeling of peaches. The lead highlighted the questions to stakeholders, and will submit the review to the NOP for the Spring 2026 meeting.
- **Additional items.** None.
- **The meeting was adjourned.**

[Previous HS Notes](#)

Future call schedule (1st and 3rd Tuesdays 1:00 PM ET | 10:00 AM PT, except where noted).

January 6, 2026

2028 Sunset: Agar-agar (DN) - discuss TR sufficiency

2028 Sunset: Calcium hypochlorite (KD) - discuss

2028 Sunset: Chlorine dioxide (KD) - discuss
 2028 Sunset: Hypochlorous acid - generated from electrolyzed water (KD) - discuss
 2028 Sunset: Sodium hypochlorite (KD) - discuss
 Chitosan - petitioned (AH) - discuss

January 20, 2026

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February 3, 2026

2028 Sunset: Animal enzymes (KD) - discuss
 Potassium polyaspartate (KD) - petition sufficiency/TR need
 2028 Sunset: Agar-agar (AJ) - finalize

February 17, 2026

Chitosan - petitioned (AH) - discuss proposal
 2028 Sunset: Potassium hydroxide (AF) - discuss
 2028 Sunset: Glucono delta-lactone (AH) - discuss
 2028 Sunset: Sodium lactate (AH) - discuss
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Potassium hydroxide	205.605(b)(26)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2001 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 1.20.26	" "
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Tuesday, January 6, 2026 1:00 pm ET

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Absent: Amanda Felder (AF); Heather Kumar (HK); Carolyn Dimitri (CD); Logan Petrey (LP)

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA); Jo Mirenda (JM)

Agenda

- Approve December 16, 2025 notes
- 2028 Sunset: Agar-agar (DN) - discuss
- 2028 Sunset: Calcium hypochlorite (KD) - discuss
- 2028 Sunset: Chlorine dioxide (KD) - discuss
- 2028 Sunset: Hypochlorous acid - generated from electrolyzed water (KD) - discuss
- 2028 Sunset: Sodium hypochlorite (KD) - discuss
- Chitosan - petitioned (AH) - discuss Chitosan - petitioned (AH) - TR Sufficiency
- Additional items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **December 16, 2025 notes** were accepted as written.
- **Review of Fall meeting prep and reminders.**
 - The Fall 2025 NOSB meeting was rescheduled to next week - January 13 & 14. The group discussed how to present sunset reviews for efficiency. The goal is to be brief, highlight important issues, and summarize public comments.
 - Questions for NOP due to NOSB Officers by Thursday afternoon at 3:00 pm ET. The NOSB Chair will send an email reminding folks.
- **2028 Sunset: Agar-agar (DN).** The lead summarized agar agar and focused specifically on the information from the new TR. The TR was found sufficient, and the Chair will relay that to the NOP. A member commented that it would be helpful to include a discussion of the classification of agar agar in the sunset review. The HS will finalize the document on the January 20 call.
- **2028 Sunsets: Chlorine Materials (Calcium hypochlorite, chlorine dioxide, hypochlorous acid, sodium hypochlorite) (KD).** The lead noted the new limited scope TR for chlorine materials. The TR covers multiple scopes, and Handling asked one specific question about environmental concerns. The lead is waiting for feedback from another NOSB member before deeming the TR sufficient. Chlorine materials are vital to the industry and to satisfy Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) requirements. The lead is still working on ancillary substances, and the HS will revisit the review at a future call. The HS also discussed stakeholder questions about usage, and sanitizers as a broader category.
- **Chitosan - petitioned (AH).** The lead highlighted the differences between the current and previous petitions for chitosan. The previous petition sought the addition of chitosan derived from crustaceans, while this current petition is for chitosan derived from a fungal source. Both are natural sources, however, based on the new TR, both undergo a chemical change during extraction, and therefore are considered synthetic. The petition indicates that chitin extraction from fungal sources uses minimal chemical inputs, unlike that for crustacean-derived chitosan. The HS may develop a proposal for the Spring meeting, rather than starting with a discussion document.
- **Additional items.**
 - The NOSB Chair noted the timelines for the next few weeks given the overlap of the rescheduled Fall meeting and the submission deadlines for the Spring meeting.

- New membership and leads for Subcommittees. The Board has been considering new Subcommittee Chairs and rosters, and will make those changes after the Board meeting and once the new NOSB Officers have been elected.
- **The meeting was adjourned.**

[Previous HS Notes](#)

Future call schedule (1st and 3rd Tuesdays 1:00 PM ET | 10:00 AM PT, except where noted).

December 16, 2025

2028 Sunset: Cellulose (CD) - discuss
 2028 Sunset: Carrageenan (CD) - discuss TR Sufficiency
 2028 Sunset: Silicon dioxide (KS) - TR Sufficiency
 Chitosan - petitioned (AH) - TR Sufficiency

January 6, 2026

2028 Sunset: Agar-agar (DN) - discuss TR sufficiency
 2028 Sunset: Calcium hypochlorite (KD) - discuss
 2028 Sunset: Chlorine dioxide (KD) - discuss
 2028 Sunset: Hypochlorous acid - generated from electrolyzed water (KD) - discuss
 2028 Sunset: Sodium hypochlorite (KD) - discuss
 Chitosan - petitioned (AH) - discuss

January 20, 2026

2028 Sunset: Chlorine materials (KD) - discuss/finalize
 2028 Sunset: Agar-agar (DN) - discuss/finalize
 2028 Sunset: Glucono delta-lactone (AH) - discuss
 2028 Sunset: Potassium lactate (AH) - discuss
 2028 Sunset: Sodium lactate (AH) - discuss
 Research Priorities - discuss/vote

February 3, 2026

2028 Sunset: Potassium hydroxide (AF) - discuss
 2028 Sunset: Animal enzymes (KD) - discuss
 2028 Sunset: Calcium sulfate - mined (AF) – discuss
 Potassium polyaspartate (KD) - petition sufficiency/TR need
 Sea Silt (AF) - petition sufficiency/TR need

February 17, 2026

Chitosan - petitioned (AH) – discuss proposal

Work Agenda

*Highlight indicates discussion. *Highlight indicates action needed. *Highlight indicates review completion and/or vote.

Petitioned Substances

Substance	National List	Contact	Doc Type	Notes*	Schedule/status	Target meeting
Chitosan	205.605(b)	AH, CD	Proposal	Petition sent to HS 3.5.25. 2020 TR Crops 2020 Livestock petition . Petition suff. due 05.04.25. Petition found sufficient 4.1.25. HS requested a TR 4.8.25. TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found sufficient 12.16.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 12.16.25 1.6.26 2.17.26	Spr 2026
Potassium polyaspartate	205.605	KD	TBD	Petition sent to HS 12.9.25. Petition suff. due 2.7.25.	12.16.25 2.3.26	TBD
Sea silt	205.605	AF	TBD	Petition sent to HS 12.9.25. Petition suff. due 2.7.25.	12.16.25 2.3.26	TBD

Other Projects

Project	Contact	Notes*	Scheduled/status	Target meeting
L-Malic acid reclassification proposal	AJ, NL	Work agenda request 5.13.19. Sent to NOP 7.3.19. Approved by NOP 8.6.19. 2019 TR	6.3.25 6.17.25	Fall 2025
Sodium bicarbonate reclassification	KS/KD	Work agenda request approved by NOSB ExecComm 8.19.25. Approved by NOP 8.21.25	11.18.25	Spr 2026
Research Priorities	DN	Fall 2025 list due to MS by July 8, 2025 Spring 2026 list due to MS Feb 4	7.1.25 1.20.26	Spr 2026

2027 Sunset Review

TR Requests (May 2024), Summary (Spr 2025), Review (Fall 2025)

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/status	Target meeting
Kaolin	205.605(a)(15)	KD	Y - Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TAP: 1995 (Kaolin, Bentonite) TR: 2025 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 08/03/2021 86 FR 41699 TR due mid Dec 2024. TR sent to HS 12.18.24. Sufficiency due 2.16.25. TR found sufficient 1.21.25.	7.1.25	Summary: Spr 2025 Review: Fall 2025

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Sodium bicarbonate	205.605(a)(26)	KS	Y - Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TAP: 1995 (Baking powder, aluminum-free) TAP: 1995 (Sodium carbonates) TR: NA 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 08/03/2021 86 FR 41699 TR due late Dec 2024. TR sent to HS 12.18.24. Sufficiency due 2.16.25. The TR was found sufficient 1.7.25.	8.5.25	" "
Waxes-nonsynthetic (wood rosin)	205.605(a)(29)	LP -> KD	N	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TAP: 1996 (Fruit waxes) TR: 2014 (Wood rosin) 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew Tech correction: 11/14/2022 87 FR 68021	8.5.25	" "
Ammonium bicarbonate	205.605(b)(4)	DN	Y - Lmt'd Scope (w/ Ammonium bicarbonate, and Ammonium carbonate)	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TAP: 1995 (Ammonium bicarbonate, Ammonium carbonate) TR: NA 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 08/03/2021 86 FR 41699 TR due late Sep 2024. TR sent to HS 10.3.24. Suff due 12.2.24. TR found sufficient 11.19.24.	6.3.25	" "
Ammonium carbonate	205.605(b)(5)	DN	Y - Lmt'd Scope (w/ Ammonium bicarbonate, and Ammonium carbonate)	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TAP: 1995 (Ammonium bicarbonate, Ammonium carbonate) TR: NA 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 08/03/2021 86 FR 41699 TR due late Sep 2024. TR sent to HS 10.3.24. Suff due 12.2.24. TR found sufficient 11.19.24.	6.3.25	" "
Calcium phosphates (monobasic, dibasic, and tribasic)	205.605(b)(9)	AH	N	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TAP: 1995 TR: 2016 (Phosphates: calcium, potassium, sodium) 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 08/03/2021 86 FR 41699	7.15.25 8.5.25	" "
Low-acyl gellan gum	205.605(b)(18)	KS	N	Sunset date: 12/14/2027 TR: 2018 (Gums) 2020/Fall - Rec to ADD 11/14/2022 87 FR 68021	6.3.25	" "

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Ozone	205.605(b)(21)	AF	Y	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TAP: 1995 TR: NA 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 08/03/2021 86 FR 41699 TR due late Feb 2025. TR sent to HS 12.18.24. Sufficiency due 2.16.25. TR found sufficient 1.21.25	7.15.25	" "
Sodium hydroxide	205.605(b)(32)	AF	N	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TAP: 1995 TR: 2020 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 08/03/2021 86 FR 41699	7.15.25	" "
Carnauba wax	205.606(a)	LP -> KD	N	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TAP: 1996 (Fruit waxes) TR: 2014 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 08/03/2021 86 FR 41699	8.5.25	" "
Beet juice extract color	205.606(d)(1)	AJ	N	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TR: 2015 (Colors) 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 08/03/2021 86 FR 41699	6.17.25	" "
Beta-carotene extract color	205.606(d)(2)	AJ	N	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TR: 2011 (β-Carotene) TR: 2015 (Colors) 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 04/14/2023 88 FR 22893	6.17.25	" "
Black/purple carrot juice color	205.606(d)(3)	AJ	N	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TR: 2015 (Colors) 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 08/03/2021 86 FR 41699	6.17.25	" "
Chokeberry, aronia juice color	205.606(d)(4)	AJ	N	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TR: 2015 (Colors) 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 08/03/2021 86 FR 41699	6.17.25	" "
Elderberry juice color	205.606(d)(5)	AJ	N	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TR: 2015 (Colors) 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 08/03/2021 86 FR 41699	6.17.25	" "
Grape skin extract color	205.606(d)(6)	AJ	N	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TR: 2015 (Colors) 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 08/03/2021 86 FR 41699	6.17.25	" "
Purple sweet potato juice color	205.606(d)(7)	AJ	N	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TR: 2015 (Colors) 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 08/03/2021 86 FR 41699	6.17.25	" "
Red cabbage extract color	205.606(d)(8)	AJ	N	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TR: 2015 (Colors) 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 08/03/2021 86 FR 41699	6.17.25	" "

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Red radish extract color	205.606(d)(9)	AJ	N	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TR: 2015 (Colors) 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 08/03/2021 86 FR 41699	6.17.25	" "
Saffron extract color	205.606(d)(10)	AJ	N	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TR: 2015 (Colors) 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 08/03/2021 86 FR 41699	6.17.25	" "
Cornstarch (native)	205.606(e)	CD	Y	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TAP: 1995 TR: NA 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 08/03/2021 86 FR 41699 TR due early Nov 2024. TR sent to HS 12.6.24. TR suff due 2.4.25. TR found insufficient 12.17.24. HS sent additional questions to TR writer. Response sent to HS. TR found sufficient 2.18.25	5.20.25	" "
Glycerin	205.606(i)	CD	N	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TAP: 1995 TR: 2013 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 08/03/2021 86 FR 41699	5.20.25	" "
Inulin- oligofructose enriched	205.606(k)	CD	N	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TR: 2015 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 08/03/2021 86 FR 41699	5.20.25 6.3.25	" "
Orange shellac	205.606(n)	KS	N	Sunset date: 03/15/2027 TAP: 1999 (Waxes) TAP: 2002 TR: 2014 2020/Fall - Rec to Renew 08/03/2021 86 FR 41699	6.3.25	" "

Fall 2025 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

Fall 2025 Milestones	Target dates (tentative)	Weeks PTM (prior to meeting)
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

2028 Sunset Review

TR Requests (June 2025), Summary (Spr 2026), Review (Fall 2026)

Previous Sunset Recommendations: [2021/Fall - Rec to Renew](#)

Previous Rule/Renewals: [04/14/2023, 88 FR 22893](#)

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Agar-agar	205.605(a)(2)	DN	Y - Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 05/29/2028 2011 TR 1995 TAP Draft TR due late Dec 2025. TR sent to HS 12.12.25. Suff due 2.10.26. TR found sufficient 1.6.26.	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	Summary: Spr 2026 Review: Fall 2026
Animal enzymes	205.605(a)(3)	KD	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2024 Lmt'd Scope TR (enzymes, microorganisms, yeast) 2015 TR (enzymes) 2011 TR (enzymes) 2000 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "
Calcium sulfate - mined	205.605(a)(8)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2001 TAP 1996 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "
Carrageenan	205.605(a)(9)	CD	Y - Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 Lmt'd Scope TR 2011 TR 1995 TAP TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found not sufficient. Returned to NOP for edits 12.16.25	3.18.25 4.1.25 12.16.25	" "
Glucono delta- lactone	205.605(a)(14)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2002 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 1.20.26	" "
Tartaric acid - made from grape wine	205.605(a)(28)	AJ	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2011 TR	3.18.25 4.15.25 11.18.25	" "
Cellulose	205.605(b)(11)	CD	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2001 TAP	3.18.25 4.1.25 11.18.25 12.16.25	" "

Substance	National List	Contact	TR Request?	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target meeting
Chlorine Materials: Calcium hypochlorite	205.605(b)(12) (i)	KD/LP	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Chlorine dioxide	205.605(b)(12) (ii)	KD/LP	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Hypochlorous acid - generated from electrolyzed water	205.605(b)(12) (iii)	KD/LP	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "
Chlorine Materials: Sodium hypochlorite	205.605(b)(12) (iv)	KD/LP	Y Lmt'd Scope	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2006 TR (Chlorine/Bleach) Draft TR due Nov 2025. TR sent to HS 12.10.25. TR Suff due 2.7.26	3.18.25 4.1.25 1.6.26 1.20.26	" "
Potassium hydroxide	205.605(b)(26)	AF	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2016 TR 2001 TAP	3.18.25 4.15.25 2.3.26	" "
Potassium lactate	205.605(b)(27)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR (lactic acid, sodium lactate, potassium lactate)	3.18.25 4.15.25 1.20.26	" "
Silicon dioxide	205.605(b)(29)	KS	Y	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2010 TR 1996 TAP 1995 TAP (colloidal silica) TR sent to HS 11.14.25. Suff due 1.13.26. TR found sufficient 12.16.26.	3.18.25 4.15.25 12.2.25 12.16.25	" "
Sodium lactate	205.605(b)(33)	AH	N	Sunset date: 5/29/2028 2015 TR (lactic acid, sodium lactate, potassium lactate)	3.18.25 4.15.25 1.20.26	" "