

Livestock Recommendations -- 1995

NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD FINAL RECOMMENDATION ADDENDUM NUMBER 18 TAP REVIEW OF SYNTHETIC VITAMINS AND MINERALS IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

Date adopted: October 31, 1995
Location: Austin, Texas

Introduction:

The Committee has determined that a policy on the TAP review of vitamins and minerals as described in the NOSB Standards for Organic Livestock Production passed in June, 1994, should be developed. Discussions with authorities from two universities revealed two specific issues with regard to the TAP review of synthetic vitamins and minerals: 1) non-synthetic vitamins for use as supplements are difficult to obtain, and 2) there are hundreds of combinations of mineral supplements available on the market. The FDA already reviews synthetic vitamins and minerals used in livestock production, and the National Research Councils and the Association of American Feed Control Officials, Inc. provide recommendations specific to use of these supplements for each species. Therefore, Committee decided technical advisors should be recruited in the future to review synthetic vitamins and minerals and to alert the committee to call for a TAP review of any substance which may conflict with the organic principles. This information would be made available to producers and certifiers by the National Organic Standards Board through incorporation into the USDA National Organic Program policy.

Statement of Principle:

Producers often may not be able to control the quantity of vitamins and minerals naturally occurring in feedstuffs. Non-synthetic vitamins or minerals should be used if available, but synthetics are allowed. However, the quantity, kind, and dates that the synthetic vitamins and minerals are added to feed must be documented in the producer records and reviewed by the certifier. Guidelines for preferred vitamin and mineral feed additives will be developed by the NOSB Livestock Committee. The producer's farm plan should reflect attempts to follow the guidelines and to decrease or eliminate use of feed additives when possible. Synthetic vitamins and minerals should be used in keeping with the recommendations of the National Research Council and the Association of American Feed Control Officials, Inc. specific to each species.

Recommendation:

The use of vitamins and minerals as feed additives is permitted. The Livestock Committee recommends deferring initial TAP review of synthetic vitamins and minerals except in the case that the technical advisor calls for a TAP review of a substance which may appear to conflict with the organic principles. This policy is to be reevaluated within 2 years.