

National Organic Standards Board Meeting, May 13-14, 2003, Austin, Texas

Livestock Committee Recommendation: Mineral Oil 5-8-03

Introduction: The NOSB received a petition to consider Mineral Oil as an internal treatment for compaction and for use as a dust suppressant ingredient in organic livestock feed production.

Background: Two of three reviewers and all Committee members agree that Mineral Oil is a synthetic. All three reviewers endorsed the use of Mineral Oil for both medicinal and dust suppressant uses

In September 2002 the NOSB voted to add Mineral Oil to 205.603(a) for use as internal treatment of compaction. The NOSB voted to delay a decision on Mineral Oil for use as a dust suppressant on the grounds that the TAP contained insufficient information, particularly regarding alternative dust suppressant materials. Committee agreed that the supplemental TAP was adequate to answer concerns regarding manufacture and alternatives. TAP pointed out significant health concerns for humans exposed to Mineral Oil and that the EU Organic standards do not allow Mineral Oil in Livestock Feed. The use of mineral oil as a dust suppressant is currently not allowed. Committee investigation discovered potential alternatives including from the Soy Bio Industry and other oils such as grapeseed, citrus, and vegetable oils not prone to rancidity.

Recommendation:

The Livestock Committee recommends that Mineral Oil not be allowed to be used as a dust suppressant in the formulation of livestock vitamin/mineral supplements. ✕

Committee Vote:

Approve-1 (George)

Disapprove-4

Recuse-0

Absent-1

Abstain-0

Minority Opinion: George feels that the TAP information on the adverse health effects of Mineral Oil were over emphasized and irrelevant to this application. Mineral Oil is already approved for use on Organic Livestock. Organic Livestock producers are struggling to stay in compliance. There are many interpretive challenges leading to reformulations. To add this further restriction is an unnecessary burden to the industry.

Conclusion: Although Mineral Oil has appropriate uses in organic livestock production systems there are more suitable alternatives to Mineral Oil as a Dust Suppressant used in the manufacture of organic livestock feed.