

NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS INDICES



To facilitate public awareness of the status of recommendations made by the [National Organic Standards Board](#) (NOSB), the [National Organic Program](#) (NOP) is pleased to present indices of NOSB recommendations.

The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) is a Federal Advisory Board, made up of 15 dedicated public volunteers from the organic community, which considers and makes recommendations to the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) on a wide range of issues involving the standards for production, handling, and processing of organic products. AMS considers recommendations from the NOSB and guides the NOP on subsequent rulemaking, guidance and other actions. The NOP is the regulatory program within AMS that has the authority to set and enforce standards for the production of agricultural products sold as organic within the United States.

Since the NOSB was established in 1992, it has made 599 recommendations regarding organic production practice standards and materials allowed or prohibited for use in the production and processing of organic foods. Of the 599 recommendations made by the NOSB, 179 were regarding practice standards, 287 regarding the [National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances](#) (National List), and 133 regarding the [Sunset Review Process](#). Approximately 86 percent or 518 of all recommendations have been addressed by the NOP. As of June, 2016, NOP is in the process of addressing 54 recommendations. Thus a total of 27 recommendations are outstanding. Of the 27 outstanding recommendations, the majority are related to changes to the National List which are anticipated to be addressed by 2017.

The indices, which highlight all NOSB recommendations since the board was established, are valuable tools for facilitating public awareness of the status of recommendations. The three indices are:

[NOSB Practice Standards Recommendations](#)

[NOSB National List Recommendations](#)

[NOSB Sunset Recommendations](#)

Each index shows the date the recommendation was made; the action associated with the recommendation (rulemaking, guidance, etc.); the status of the action (outstanding, in process, or complete); and any relevant notes.

The indices of NOSB recommendations are living documents that will be updated on a regular basis. Questions, comments, or corrections related to the indices can be submitted to the NOP via nop.guidance@ams.usda.gov.