



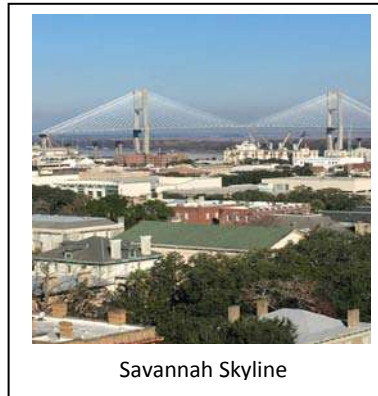
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ACA Training Recap

The 2016 ACA Annual Training, held in conjunction with the USDA National Organic Program Certifier Training, was attended by more certification agency staff than any other Training. 118 participants from the US, Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Mexico, Peru & Switzerland attended. The Training was held in Savannah, GA, January 14 – 15, 2016.

55 Program Evaluation forms were returned – providing valuable feedback for planning of future ACA Training Programs. Comments indicated support of concurrent sessions and reports from our Working Groups.



Savannah Skyline

The Sharing Our Perspectives session once again was very popular, & productive – with many suggestions for actions and/or working groups derived from this session, including topics identified as “high priority” and topics identified as “medium priority.” The ACA Board has begun working on addressing issues, and Working Groups are in the

process of being identified for initiation. We will provide updates as our work progresses through the year.

ACA would like to thank all of our panel participants, presenters and our attendees for making our program successful again.

ACA Annual Meeting

The ACA Annual Meeting was held during the ACA Training. Scott Rice, ACA Chair, and Pat Kane, ACA Coordinator, reviewed the work done by ACA during the past year, and gave a brief Membership and Financial Report. All members received the complete 2015 Annual Report in February.

The results of the ACA Board Election were announced: Connie Karr, OTCO;

Kyla Smith, PCO; Duncan Cox, Baystate Organic and Brett Bakker, New Mexico Department of Agriculture were elected to a 2-year term on the Board, beginning in April 2016. Officers will be elected at the April Board Meeting. Current Board Member Amy Stafford, of the Colorado Department of Agriculture, will be stepping off the Board in April. Thank you Amy for your work on the Board.

ACA Board Activities

The ACA Board:

- Initiated a Request for Proposals for Training Development services; this was not successful as there was not sufficient interest in the position;
- Continues to meet with the NOP Staff every other month; a summary of the discussion is sent to the members;
- Will initiate a review of the ACA financial records to be conducted this year;
- Developed a Discount Policy for attendance at the ACA Training - member certification agencies to receive a 10% discount on the ACA Training Registration fees when sending a minimum of 8 registrants from the same agency to the ACA Training in a given year.
- Elected the following Officers: Scott Rice, Chair; Kyla Smith, Vice Chair; Jackie DeMinter, Secretary – Treasurer.

NOSB Meeting Report

The USDA [National Organic Standards Board](#) met for its Spring Meeting April 25 – 27, 2016 in Washington, DC. The Agenda was packed full with many presentations including the: [NOP Update](#), [USDA’s Organic Working Group Update](#), [National List Materials Update](#), and the [Hydroponics Task Force Update](#), and an Emerging Technologies Panel, along with Public Comments from nearly 100 attendees, and discussions of Board Proposals and Sunset Materials.

The Hydroponics Task Force Update explained that the Task Force has two subcommittees: the Hydroponics and Aquaponics Subcommittee and the Soils Subcommittee. Each Subcommittee prepared a short report (link above). A full report on the Task Force will be provided for the Fall 2016 NOSB Meeting in St. Louis.

This meeting was the 1st meeting for 6 new NOSB Members –

Scott Rice, Certifier Representative

Harriet Behar, Environmentalist Representative;

Jesse Buie, Producer Representative

Dan Seitz, Consumer Representative, and

Emily Oakley, Producer Representative

A-dae Romero-Briones, Consumer Representative

The results of Board discussions and voting are [here](#).

Members of the NOSB, 2016



Back Row (L to R): Tom Chapman, Emily Oakley, Scott Rice, Dan Seitz, A-dae Romero-Briones, Harold Austin, Francis Thicke, Jesse Buie, Tracy Favre

Front Row (L to R): Zea Sonnabend, Lisa Delima, Harriet Behar, Michelle Arsenault (NOP), Jean Richardson, Ashley Swaffar, Carmela Beck

National Organic Standards Board Voting Results

Motions amending the National List are “decisive votes” and as such require a 2/3 majority. 15 members of the NOSB were present at this meeting. 10 votes are considered the decisive majority.

Topic	Motion/Comments	Vote
Materials Subcommittee		
Proposal: Excluded methods terminology	Many positive comments were submitted for this work. Motion to send back to committee for some additional refinements.	Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0
Policy Development Subcommittee		
Proposal: Policy and procedure manual (PPM) revisions	There was much discussion regarding whether to return the PPM to the subcommittee for additional work. Public comments were not decidedly different from 1 st version to 2 nd version. It was noted that the current version of the PPM does not reflect the actual process currently being used. It was noted that the document is a living document that has historically been amended frequently. Motion: The NOSB moves to adopt the February 23, 2016 drafted version of the Policy and Procedures Manual.	Yes: 11 No: 2 Abstain: 2 The PPM as revised will be adopted.
Livestock Subcommittee		
Petitioned Material: Hypochlorous acid	Motion is to add hypochlorous acid, <u>generated via electrolyzed water</u> classified as synthetic, to the National List at §205.603. The original motion was amended (in red). The motion passed; material will be added to National List.	Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0
Proposal: Annotation changes for lidocaine and procaine	Motion is that the deleted language be removed and underlined language added at: 205.603(b) As topical treatment, external parasiticide or local anesthetic as applicable. (4) Lidocaine—as a local anesthetic. Use requires a withdrawal period of 90 days <u>8 days</u> after administering to livestock intended for slaughter and 7 days <u>6 days</u> after administering to dairy animals (7) Procaine —as a local anesthetic. Use requires a withdrawal period of 90 days <u>8 days</u> after administering to livestock intended for slaughter and 7 days <u>6 days</u> after administering to dairy animals.	Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Two motions were voted on; both passed 15 yes to 0 No.

NOSB Voting Results (cont.)

Material	Motion/Comments	Vote
Livestock Subcommittee (cont.)		
<p>Proposal: Annotation change for parasiticides</p>	<p>Notes on discussion: There were 5 separate motions to accomplish the annotation changes. The listing for Ivermectin is not changing at this time, although procedurally, there was need to add Ivermectin back to list since §205.603(a)(18) was removed (Motion # 4). A separate petition to remove Ivermectin will be developed. A definition for <i>emergency use</i> will be developed.</p> <p>This proposal recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That parasiticides continue to be prohibited in slaughter stock. • That the milk withholding period after treatment with fenbendazole or moxidectin be changed from 90 days to 2 days for dairy cows, and 36 days for goats and sheep. • That the listing for ivermectin remains as presently listed, with a 90 day withdrawal period. • That moxidectin be allowed for both internal and external use. • That fleece and wool from fiber bearing animals be allowed to be certified organic even if use of parasiticides was necessary at some time in the animal’s life. • That fenbendazole be allowed without written order of a veterinarian. <p>All motions passed.</p>	
	<p>Motion # 1: That the strikethrough language be removed, and the underlined language be added at: Section 205.238(b)(2) Dairy <u>animals, stock when used a minimum of 90 days prior to the production of milk or milk products that are to be sold, labeled, or represented as organic, as allowed under 205.603.</u> AND 205.603(a)(18) ...Milk or milk products from a treated animal cannot be labeled as provided for in subpart D of this part for 90 days following treatment.</p>	<p>Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0</p>
	<p>Motion # 2: 2. That the underlined language be added at: §205.238(b)(3) <u>Fiber bearing animals, as allowed under §205.603.</u> AND §205.603(a)(18) ... <u>Allowed for fiber bearing animals when used a minimum of 90 days prior to production harvest of fleece or wool that is to be sold, labeled or represented as organic.</u> The §205.603(a)(18) section of this motion was amended to clarify that “production” meant the harvest of fleece.</p>	<p>Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0</p>

NOSB Voting Results (cont.)

Livestock Subcommittee (cont.)		
Material	Motion/Comments	Vote
Proposal: Annotation change for parasiticides (cont.)	<p>Motion # 3 That the strike through language be removed and the underlined language added at:</p> <p>205.603(a)(18)(i) Fenbendazole (CAS #43210-67-9)—only for use by or on the lawful written order of a licensed veterinarian. <u>Milk or milk products from a treated animal cannot be labeled as provided for in subpart D of this part for: 2 days following treatment of cattle; 36 days following treatment of goats, sheep and other dairy species.</u></p>	Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0
	<p>Motion # 4: That the underlined language added at:</p> <p>205.603(a)(18) (ii) Ivermectin (CAS #70288-86-7)—<u>Milk or milk products from a treated animal cannot be labeled as provided for in subpart D of this part for 90 days following treatment.</u></p>	Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0
	<p>Motion # 5: That the strike through language be removed and the underlined language added at:</p> <p>205.603(a)(18) (iii) Moxidectin (CAS #113507-06-5)—for control of internal parasites only <u>Milk or milk products from a treated animal cannot be labeled as provided for in subpart D of this part for: 2 days following treatment of cattle; 36 days following treatment of goats, sheep and other animals.</u></p>	Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0
Handling Subcommittee		
Sunset 2018 Materials		
<p>Note: This is the initial posting & discussion of the 2018 Sunset Materials. Voting will take place at the time of 2nd posting – the Fall 2016 NOSB Meeting.</p>		
Material	Comments	Vote
Agar-agar	§205.605(a) Commenters generally in favor of relisting; subcommittee generally supportive of relisting	NA
Animal enzymes	§205.605(a) Commenters generally in favor of relisting; subcommittee generally supportive of relisting; Currently there are no organic enzymes.	NA
Calcium sulfate-mined	§205.605(a) Subcommittee generally supportive of relisting	NA

NOSB Voting Results (cont.)

Handling Subcommittee (cont.)		
Sunset 2018 Materials (cont.)		
Material	Comments	Vote
Carageenan	§205.605(a) Over 800 pages of comments received; subcommittee has not decided how to vote. There is a question on the classification – synthetic or nonsynthetic; a limited scope Technical Report was commissioned; this report focused on the effects of the substance on human health: Evaluation Question #10. There is much conflicting information in peer reviewed journals and replicated scientific studies are few.	NA
Glucono delta-lactone	§205.605(a) No indication of how subcommittee is leaning.	NA
Tartaric acid	§205.605(a) No indication of how subcommittee is leaning.	NA
Cellulose	§205.605(b) Commenters are on both sides. Subcommittee in favor of retaining this material. During the last Sunset Review cycle at the Spring 2012 NOSB meeting it was discussed and voted on by the board to add the word “powdered” as part of the annotation. When the NOP did the 2013 Sunset Docket they were not able to make the change to the cellulose annotation voted on by the NOSB due to the lack of time needed to add changes, inform the public, and the need to determine/estimate the impact that this more restrictive annotation might have on organic stakeholders currently using this material. So it remains un-clarified at this time if the word “powdered” should be added to the annotation as a means by which to limit the type of cellulose allowed for these particular uses or not. The NOP noted that the annotation recommendation is under consideration, and will be included in upcoming revision.	NA
Potassium hydroxide	§205.605(b) Limited number of commenters.	NA
Silicon dioxide	§205.605(b) Commenters supportive of retaining on National List.	NA
Colors: Beta-carotene extract	§205.606 Public comment was limited; asking for more info to be submitted.	NA

NOSB Voting Results (cont.)

Handling Subcommittee (cont.)			
Petitioned Materials			
Material	Discussion	Classification	Vote to List
Sodium & Potassium lactate	<p>Motion # 1: Move to classify both sodium lactate and potassium lactate as synthetic</p> <p>Motion # 2: list Sodium Lactate and Potassium Lactate at §205.605(b) of the National List with the following annotation:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">for use as an antimicrobial agent and pH regulator only.</p>	Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0	Yes: 12 No: 1 Abstain: 2 Materials will be added to the National List.
Oat beta-glucan - petitioned	<p>Motion # 1: Move to classify Oat Beta Glucan as agricultural.</p> <p>Motion # 2: Move to list Oat Beta Glucan at §205.606 of the National List</p> <p>Motion # 1 passes; classified as agricultural.</p> <p>Motion #2 to list, fails.</p> <p>Production with organic materials could be done. Essentiality and availability were not met.</p>	Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0	Yes: 0 No: 15 Abstain: 0 Material will not be added to the National List.
Hypochlorous acid	<p>Motion # 1: Move to classify Hypochlorous acid as synthetic.</p> <p>Motion # 2: List Hypochlorous acid <u>generated via electrolyzed water</u> at §205.605(b), chlorine materials.</p> <p>The original motion was amended (in red).</p>	Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0	Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Material will be added to the National List.
Sodium dodecylbenzene sulfonate (SDBS)	<p>Move to list sodium dodecylbenzene sulfonate at §205.605 of the National List.</p> <p>This is being petitioned for use as an active ingredient (1 of 2 active ingredients, the other is lactic acid) in an antimicrobial formulation, for use in treating fruits & vegetables in the premises of organic food retail establishments.</p> <p>The Board felt there was a need for additional information. They voted to return the material to the subcommittee for further discussion. There was no vote on classification.</p>	NA	NA

NOSB Voting Results (cont.)

Handling Subcommittee (cont.)			
Topic	Discussion	Classification	Vote
Ancillary Substances Procedure Proposal	Motion to adopt the proposal as stated for the definition, criteria for compliance, and procedure for the review of ancillary substances.	NA	Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0
Nutrient Vitamins and Minerals §205.605(b) Annotation Change - Discussion Document	This document presented several options for an annotation change for Nutrient Vitamins and Minerals listed at §205.605(b). The Subcommittee will continue work on this topic. No action was taken.		
Crops Subcommittee			
Sunset Materials 2018			
Material	Discussion	Classification	Vote
Copper sulfate	§205.601(a)(3) §205.601(e)(4) Extensively reviewed. Subcommittee believes it should stay on list.	NA	NA
Ozone gas	§205.601(a)(5) Used by a number of producers; they supported relisting.	NA	NA
Peracetic acid	§205.601(a)(6) §205.601(i)(8) Received several written comments. Commenters also called for a full TR for all sanitizers. The Board will be looking at a review of all sanitizers.	NA	NA
EPA List 3 - Inerts of unknown toxicity	§205.601(m)(2) inerts of unknown toxicity—for use only in passive pheromone dispensers. A revision of the annotation was proposed in 2012. The Sunset process is continuing in the event that rulemaking is not completed on the revised annotation.	NA	NA
Calcium chloride	§205.602 Subcommittee supports relisting.	NA	NA

NOSB Voting Results (cont.)

Crops Subcommittee (cont.)			
Petitioned Materials			
Material	Discussion	Classification	Vote to List
Ash from manure burning	<p>There is no classification vote, as the material is already on the National List at §205.602(a)</p> <p>Motion to list at §205.602(a) with the following annotation: “except where the combustion reaction does not involve the use of synthetic additives and is controlled to separate and preserve nutrients.”</p> <p>Commenters supported proposal to reject the petition. The listing Motion failed. The material fails the OFPA criteria.</p>	NA	Yes: 0 No: 15 Abstain: 0 Material will not be added to the National List.
Squid and squid byproducts	<p>Motion # 1: Move to classify Squid and squid by products as synthetic - <u>can be pH adjusted with sulfuric, citric or phosphoric acid.</u></p> <p>Motion # 2: Squid and Squid Byproducts at §205.601(j) of the National List – with the annotation – can be pH adjusted with sulfuric, citric or phosphoric acid. The amount of acid used shall not exceed the minimum needed to lower the pH to 3.5.</p> <p>Motion # 1 was amended (red).</p> <p>Motion #2 was amended to remove <i>and squid</i> to reflect that there should not be encouragement for the use of whole squid only byproducts.</p>	Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0	Yes: 0 No: 15 Abstain: 0 Material will be added to the National List.
Hypochlorous acid	<p>Motion # 1: Move to classify Hypochlorous acid as synthetic.</p> <p>Motion # 2: list Hypochlorous acid <u>generated via electrolyzed water</u> at §205.601(a), chlorine materials. The original motion was amended (in red).</p>	Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0	Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Material will be added to the National List.
Soy wax	<p>Motion #1: Motion to classify soy wax as synthetic (due to being hydrogenated).</p> <p>Motion # 2: List at §205.601(o) of the National List -As production aids. Soy wax (CAS # 8016-70-4) - for use in log grown mushroom production. Must be made from non-GMO soybeans.</p> <p>There was discussion regarding the deletion of <i>must be made from non-gmo soybeans</i> as that is not the correct terminology. In the end the Subcommittee voted to send the material back to the committee for additional review.</p>	Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0	NA

NOSB Voting Results (cont.)

Crops Subcommittee (cont.)			
Petitioned Materials			
Material	Discussion	Classification	Vote to List
EPA List 4 on §205.601(m) Annotation Change – Discussion Document	A Technical Report on these materials indicated they were not suitable for organic production. Not many comments were received on these materials. These materials are not included in the EPA’s Safer Choice List. The Subcommittee is beginning to collect information on the reformulation process. A formal Proposal will be published, then a Board recommendation which will contain a suggested time line, then rule making. The clock starts ticking at the time the Rule is published.	NA	NA

NOSB Work Plan

Crops Subcommittee	Petitioned Materials – poultry litter products, anerobic digestate Sunset Materials 2018 Contamination issues in farm inputs Prohibition of NPEs in inerts Marine materials (marine algae & extracts) Newspaper possible annotation change Strengthening the NOP Guidance on seed and planting stock (NOP 5029)	Biodegradable biobased mulch Hydroponics – report at Fall NOSB
Materials/ GMO ad hoc	Petition and TR Tracking Seed Purity Excluded methods terminology proposal and discussion document Five Year report to the Secretary on GMO issues in organic production	Research Priorities Proposal
Livestock Subcommittee	Petitioned materials – poultry litter amendments Possibility of Organic Poultry Working Group/Task Force Marine Materials Emergency Use definition Petition to remove Ivermectin	
Compliance, Accreditation & Certification Subcommittee	Review of NOP 2027 Personnel Evaluation Elimination of the incentive for conversion of native ecosystems to organic crop production (possible)	
Handling Subcommittee	Petitioned Materials Sunset 2018 SDBS referred back Xanthan gum reclassification Magnesium chloride reclassification Nutrient Vitamin & Mineral annotation change Packaging substances used in organic food handing – including BPA	Tocopherols reclassification Marine Materials Phosphates annotation change
Policy Development Subcommittee	Sunset reorganization – proposal Update to member guide PPM Updates	

A Reminder: The Sunset Process Timeline

The Timeline for Sunset Discussions is below, as well as the link to the Federal Register Notice regarding the revised Sunset Process and the NOP Memo regarding the Timeline for Sunset Review.

Sunset Review Discussion Timeline (from NOP Memo linked below)

NOSB Meeting Date	Substances with 2018 Sunset Dates	Substances with 2019 Sunset Dates
Spring 2016	1 st Public Meeting	
Fall 2016	2 nd Public Meeting	
Spring 2017		1 st Public Meeting
Fall 2017		2 nd Public Meeting

1st Public Meeting – Public comment solicited; Board discussion; no voting.

2nd Public Meeting – Recommendation discussed; additional public comment solicited; Board vote.

Federal Register Notice regarding revision of the Sunset Process

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5105103>



~ Thank You ~
to the following New & Renewing Members

A Bee Organic	Organic Materials Review Institute
Americert International	Organic Services GmbH
Australian Certified Organic	Organic Trade Association
CCOF Certification Services	Organic Valley
EcoCert SA	Organically Grown Company
Idaho Department of Agriculture	Pacific Agricultural Laboratory
IMOSwiss AG	PrimusLabs
International Certification Services	Pro-Cert Organic Systems Ltd.
Iowa Department of Agriculture	Quality Assurance International
Kiwa BCS Öko-Garantie GmbH	Texas Department of Agriculture
Marin Organic Certified Agriculture	Utah Department of Agriculture
Maryland Department of Agriculture	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Montana Department of Agriculture	White Wave Foods
Monterey County Certified Organic	Wolf, DiMatteo & Associates
OCIA International	Yolo Certified Organic Agriculture
Oregon Tilth Certified Organic	

Active ACA Working Groups

- The Consistency in Label Review WG has completed work. The Best Practices for Developing Consistency in the Product Label Review Process document has been posted to the ACA Discussion Group, and is also posted on the [ACA Website](#).
- The Wholesale Distributor WG has finalized its document. It is continuing to meet in order to draft a request to NOP for clarification of labeling requirements.
- The Settlement Agreements Working Group is continuing to meet and is in the process of developing a Q & A resource document.
- The Accreditation Audit Noncompliances group has developed a survey to gather information on the types of noncompliances members are receiving.
- The Working Group to develop comments on the NOP Livestock /Poultry Practices Proposed Rule has begun meeting.

2016 Sharing Our Perspectives Topics Summary

Suggested Working Groups

(high and medium priority)

- ~ Develop guidelines for a “process analysis” for a certification agency to assess efficiencies in the certification process to include:
 - How to determine the hang-ups in the certification process; What can be expected from personnel in the areas of client ratios and balance of workload; Are contract inspectors or staff inspectors more cost effective and efficient; Identifying staff retention techniques
- ~ Develop best practices for training inspectors to agency requirements or for basic organic training when IOIA training is not available. Share agency training modules or a resource document with each other. This training would be helpful to International inspectors and Spanish speaking inspectors.
- ~ Share noncompliances of certifiers for all to learn from.
- ~ Outline different types of change of ownership and what models require application as a new applicant and inspection.
- ~ Certifiers need guidance regarding how to implement commercial availability for flavors. Develop best practices on evaluating commercial availability of flavors, vs. asking NOP for instructions
- ~ Develop GMO Sampling Guidance to include the process to be followed if positive sample is found.
- ~ Comment on NOSB GMO Contamination document; identify how certifiers can participate by gathering data and informing the NOSB on farmer perspective.
- ~ Encourage IOIA to maintain a list of inspectors looking for work. Alternatively, ACA could initiate a list which inspectors could post to.
- ~ Develop a resource list of information for ACAs of best practices for crop rotation and other cover practices with recognition of geographical differences.
- ~ Develop Best Practices for conducting inspections for multiple certification programs – organic, gap, food safety, etc.
- ~ Develop Best Practices document for taking residue samples of soil and water when crops are not available for testing.
- ~ Develop best practices regarding requirements for identifying and tracking animals, particularly when sold.
- ~ Develop best practices for evaluating feed supplements containing agricultural ingredients or request clarification from NOP regarding 5030.
- ~ Develop best practices to facilitate consistent materials review. Include timelines, depth of review, what documentation to accept.
- ~ Develop best practices regarding material review training and qualifications for material reviewers and ensure training is offered at ACA trainings.