

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Organic Standards Board

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Agriculture

2. Fiscal Year

2024

3. Committee or Subcommittee

National Organic Standards Board

3b. GSA Committee No.

1303

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

07/07/2022 07/07/2024

6. Expected Renewal Date

07/07/2024

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

7 U.S.C. 6501-6522

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

7 U.S.C. 6501-6522

13. Effective Date

11/28/1990 Continuing

14. Committee Type

No

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

National Policy Issue Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a.

Open

0

17b. Closed

0

17c. Partially Closed

0

Other Activities

0

17d. Total

0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

Current Next

FY

FY

18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The NOSB was created through the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA). Section 2119 (7 U.S.C. 6518 (a)) of the OFPA establishes that the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) shall assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and advise the Secretary on any other aspects of the implementation of OFPA. Section 2119 (7 U.S.C. 6518 (a-o)) also delineates the Board's responsibilities that include, but are not limited to (1) developing the proposed National List or proposed amendments to the National List for submission to the Secretary and (2) convening technical advisory panels to provide scientific evaluation of materials for inclusion on the

National List. The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) was established to provide recommendations to the Secretary on implementing the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA), which authorizes a national organic program for the production and handling of organically produced foods. NOSB also assists in the development of standards, review of substances to be used in organic production, and advises the Secretary on any other aspects of program implementation. (OFPA 6518(a)). In addition to recommending standards for the production, handling, and labeling of organically produced agricultural products, the NOSB assists in establishing and implementing a program for certifying products as organically produced, through the use of USDA accredited organic certifying agents.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

As called for in the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA), the NOSB is composed of 15 members: four individuals who own or operate an organic farming operation or employees of such individuals; two individuals who own or operate an organic handling operation or employees of such individuals; one individual who owns or operates a retail establishment with significant trade in organic products or employees of such individuals; three individuals with expertise in areas of environmental protection and resource conservation; three individuals who represent public interest or consumer interest groups; one individual with expertise in the fields of toxicology, ecology, or biochemistry; and one individual who is a certifying agent. Committee members serve 5-year terms.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The NOSB meets twice each Fiscal Year in a public forum to complete its statutorily required five-year sunset review of substances on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. The Board may also discuss and vote on other proposals, including petitions it received from the organic industry, and other work projects related to organic production and processing. If passed by a 2/3 majority vote, proposals become recommendations to the USDA. During the meetings, the Board approves minutes from its previous meeting, receives an update from the USDA/National Organic Program, hears oral comments from stakeholders, receives updates from each NOSB Subcommittee, hosts expert panels, discusses and votes on proposals, elects new officers, and plans future activities of the Board. At the close of each meeting the NOSB forwards its recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The NOSB's continuing role is required by OFPA. OFPA grants sole statutory authority to the NOSB to make additions or deletions from the National List.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

All NOSB meetings are open to the public.

21. Remarks

The NOSB's six subcommittees are: Crops; Livestock; Handling; Materials/GMOs; Policy Development; and Compliance, Accreditation and Certification. Subcommittees meet between public

meetings via conference call to develop proposals for the full NOSB's consideration. Beginning in 2012, as per a recommendation from the NOSB, the notes from the Subcommittee conference calls have been posted online at the following address: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/nosb/subcommittees>

The Subcommittee proposals that the NOSB will discuss and vote on are published in the following location for public inspection and comment. <http://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/nosb/meetings>

Designated Federal Officer

Michelle Arsenault Advisory Committee Specialist

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Bruch, Amy	01/24/2021	01/23/2026	Farmer	Representative Member
Caldwell, Brian	01/24/2021	01/23/2026	Hemlock Grove Farm	Representative Member
D'Amore, Gerald	01/24/2020	01/23/2025	Handler	Representative Member
Dimitri, Carolyn	01/24/2021	01/23/2026	New York University	Representative Member
Graznak, Liz	01/24/2022	01/23/2027	Environmental/Resource Conservation	Representative Member
Huseman, Kim	01/24/2020	01/23/2025	Handler	Representative Member
Jeffery, Mindee	01/24/2020	01/23/2025	Retailer	Representative Member
Johnson, Allison	01/24/2022	01/23/2027	Natural Resources Defense Council	Representative Member
Lewis, Nathaniel	03/07/2023	01/23/2028	Farmer, Environmental & Resource Conservation	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Nandwani, Dilip	01/24/2022	01/23/2027	Tennessee State University	Representative Member
Petrey, Logan	01/24/2021	01/23/2026	Grimmway Farms	Representative Member
Powell-Palm, Nate	01/24/2020	01/23/2025	Organic Producer	Representative Member
Quarcoo, Franklin	03/07/2023	01/23/2028	Professor, Environmental & Resource Conservation Rep	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Smith, Kyla	01/24/2021	01/23/2026	Pennsylvania Certified Organic	Representative Member

Turner, Wood 01/24/2020 01/23/2025 Environmentalist

Representative
Member

Zamora, 01/24/2022 01/23/2027 Organic Producer
Javier

Representative
Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 16

Narrative Description

The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) assists in the development of the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations, and maintains sole jurisdiction over the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. The NOSB reviews substances to be used in organic production, including a sunset review every 5 years of substances currently on the National List, and makes recommendations and provides advice to the Secretary on various aspects of implementing the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) and the NOP.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

Not Applicable

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None ☐

Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

Not Applicable

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

699

Number of Recommendations Comments

As of August 2023, the NOSB has made a total of 699 recommendations to the USDA: 218 on organic practice standards, 327 National list materials, and 154 sunset reviews.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

91%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

As of August 2023, a large percentage (91%) of the NOSB's recommendations have been fully implemented by NOP, as many of them are for Sunset Materials on the National List, and other National List changes. According to the NOSB Policy and Procedures Manual, these materials take priority and must be considered by the Board and the NOP. Additionally, the NOSB has sole authority over the National List of Approved and Prohibited substances and therefore is responsible for making sure the recommendations for materials entering sunset are reviewed every 5 years.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

6%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

As of August 2023, approximately 6% (42) of the NOSB recommendations are either in

process or are on hold. Organic Standards, guidance documents, and various materials' recommended by the NOSB sometimes require additional review and refinement by the NOP and often times are lengthy, longer-term projects, and therefore have been partially implemented, are in process, or are on-hold until NOP determines how to proceed. Approximately 2.9% (20) of NOSB recommendations were not implemented by the NOP for various reasons, i.e., recommendation may have been outside of the USDA's authority, or found to have economic impacts for the industry.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The Agency provides feedback in the form of new regulations, a post-recommendation response letter to the NOSB, and guidance to certifying agents and certified operations.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Online Committee Web Site



Online GSA FACA Web Site



Publications



Other



Access Comments

Organic Insider Newsletter