

NOSB Fall 2014 Subcommittee Proposals and Discussion Documents

[All proposals and discussion documents \(PDF\)](#)

AT-A-GLANCE SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS AND DISCUSSION DOCUMENTS

- [Petition to remove Glycerin \(PDF\)](#) from the National List as an allowed synthetic in organic processed food.

- The Subcommittee proposal is to remove the allowed synthetic form from § 205.605(b) of the National List and add the agricultural form (produced by fermentation) to § 205.606 as an allowed non-organic ingredient when organic forms are not commercially available. Under this proposal, only “organic” and “agricultural” forms of glycerin would be allowed in NOP certified products. NOSB is specifically requesting comments on how this would impact the production and use of natural flavors in NOP certified products. *(Subcommittee Vote: 7 in favor; 0 against)*

- [Petition to add Whole Algal Flour \(PDF\)](#) to the National List as an allowed non-OG agricultural ingredient when organic forms are not available.

The Subcommittee proposal is to **not add** Whole Algal Flour to the National List. This ingredient would continue to be prohibited in organic products. The Handling Subcommittee made its decision due to its understanding that alternatives are available, and they could not determine whether the ingredient was synthetic or non-synthetic based on the lack of information provided. A large amount of Confidential Business Information was redacted. *(Subcommittee Vote: 0 in favor; 6 against)*

- [Proposal on Vaccines from Excluded Methods \(GMO Vaccines\) \(PDF\)](#)

- The Subcommittee proposal requests that NOP review the work of NOSB in compiling background and stakeholder input regarding vaccines made with excluded methods (GMOs) and provide guidance to NOSB, Accredited Certifiers, and Material Review Organizations on the use of GMO Vaccines in organic livestock production. *(Subcommittee Vote: 6 in favor; 0 against)*

- [Proposal on Fall 2014 Research Priorities \(PDF\)](#)

- The Subcommittee proposal is to adopt several new research topics as NOSB priorities to help inspire appropriate research. Topics of particular interest to OTA include but are not limited to “Plant Disease Management (citrus greening),” “Seed Purity from GMOs,” “Risk Reduction from Off-Target Exposure to Prohibited Materials,” “Soil Building Practices,” and “Use of BPA in Packaging of Organic Products.” *(Subcommittee Vote: 7 in favor; 0 against)*

➤ [Discussion Document: Terminology for Excluded Methods \(PDF\)](#)

- The Subcommittee discussion document is seeking response from organic stakeholders on issues related to NOP's regulatory definition of "excluded methods." The discussion document intends to untangle and update/improve the current definition in light of new methods that have emerged since the NOP definition was adopted in 1995. Public comments from the previous discussion are summarized and new questions are asked. The goal is to have concrete determinations for NOP, Accredited Certifying Agencies, and organic producers to use in keeping GMOs out of organic food and farms.

➤ [Discussion Document on Assessment of Soil Conservation Practices \(PDF\)](#)

- The Subcommittee discussion document requests input on the proper tools and methods for assessing soil conservation practices on organic farms. The subcommittee acknowledges that maintaining and improving soil quality are a founding principle of organic production, and hopes to generate meaningful dialogue within the organic sector to identify and evaluate opportunities for improving soil and water practices on organic farms.

➤ [Discussion Document on Contamination Issues in Farm Inputs Literature Review \(PDF\)](#)

- The subcommittee discussion document solicits stakeholder feedback on contamination of farm inputs used on organic farms. Specifically, the discussion document highlights contamination issues from heavy metals, pathogens, pesticides, and GMOs that can impact the integrity of organic crops, and calls for experts to assist the subcommittee in its goal of ultimately proposing a process for addressing contamination of inputs that may be brought onto the farm.