



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 205

[Document Number AMS-NOP-19-0095-NOP-19-06]

Meeting of the National Organic Standards Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is announcing a meeting of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). The NOSB assists the USDA in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and advises the Secretary of Agriculture on any other aspects of the implementation of the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA).

DATES: An in-person meeting will be held April 29 – May 1, 2020, from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The Board will hear oral public comments via webinars on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 and Thursday, April 23, 2020, from 1:00 p.m. to approximately 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time, and at the in-person meeting on Wednesday, April 29, 2019 and Thursday, April 30, 2020. The deadline to submit written comments and/or sign up for oral comment at either the webinar or in-person meeting is 11:59 p.m. ET, April 3, 2020.

ADDRESSES: The webinars are virtual and will be accessed via the internet and/or phone. Access information will be available on the AMS website prior to the webinars. The in-person meeting will take place at the Westin Crystal City, 1800 Richmond Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202, United States. Detailed information pertaining to the webinars and in-person meeting can be found at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/event/national-organic-standards->

board-nosb-meeting-crystal-city-va

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Michelle Arsenault, Advisory

Committee Specialist, National Organic Standards Board, USDA-AMS-NOP, 1400

Independence Ave. SW., Room 2642-S, Mail Stop 0268, Washington, DC 20250-0268; Phone: (202) 720-3252; Email: nosb@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NOSB makes recommendations to the USDA about whether substances should be allowed or prohibited in organic production and/or handling, assists in the development of standards for organic production, and advises the Secretary on other aspects of the implementation of the OFPA. The NOSB is holding a public meeting to discuss and vote on proposed recommendations to the USDA, to receive updates from the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) on issues pertaining to organic agriculture, and to receive comments from the organic community. The meeting and webinars are open to the public. No registration is required except to sign up for oral comments. All meeting documents and instructions for participating will be available on the AMS website at

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/event/national-organic-standards-board-nosb-meeting-crystal-city-va>

Please check the website periodically for updates. Meeting topics will encompass a wide range of issues, including substances petitioned for addition to or removal from the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List), substances on the National List that are under sunset review, and guidance on organic policies. Participants and attendees may take photos and video at the meeting, but not in a manner that disturbs the proceedings.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Comments should address specific topics noted on the meeting agenda.

Written comments: Written public comments will be accepted on or before 11:59 p.m. ET on April 3, 2020, via <http://www.regulations.gov>; Docket #AMS-NOP-19-0095. Comments

submitted after this date will be provided to the NOSB, but Board members may not have adequate time to consider those comments prior to making recommendations. The NOP strongly prefers comments be submitted electronically. However, written comments may also be submitted (i.e. postmarked) via mail to the person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT by or before the deadline.

Oral Comments: The NOSB is offering the public multiple dates and opportunities to provide oral comments and will accommodate as many individuals and organizations as time permits. Persons or organizations wishing to make oral comments must pre-register by 11:59 p.m. ET, April 3, 2020, and can register for only one speaking slot: either during the webinars scheduled for April 21 & 23, or at the in-person meeting, scheduled for April 29 - May 1, 2020. Due to the limited time allotted for in-person public comments during the in-person meeting, commenters are strongly encouraged to comment during the webinar(s). Instructions for registering and participating in the webinar can be found at www.ams.usda.gov/NOSBMeetings.

Meeting Accommodations:

The meeting hotel is Americans with Disabilities Act compliant, and the USDA provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this public meeting, please notify the person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT. Determinations for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Dated: December 4, 2019

Bruce Summers
Administrator
Agricultural Marketing Service

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