

National Organic Standards Board (NOSB): Vision, Mission, and Duties

(From the NOSB Policy Manual adopted October 19, 2002; revised May 14, 2003)

NOSB VISION STATEMENT

The NOSB's vision is an agricultural community rooted in organic principles and values that instills trust among consumers, producers, processors, retailers, and other stakeholders. Consistent and sustainable organic standards guard and advance the integrity of organic products and practices.

NOSB MISSION STATEMENT

To achieve its vision, the NOSB provides effective and constructive advice, clarification, and guidance concerning the National Organic Program to the Secretary of Agriculture, seeking to represent a consensus of the organic community. In carrying out the mission, key activities of the Board are:

- Assisting in the development and maintenance of organic standards and regulations;
- Conducting public meetings and listening to public comments;
- Maintaining a National List of Allowed and Prohibited Materials;
- Communicating with, supporting, and coordinating with the NOP staff;
- Communicating with the organic community;
- Providing information and education on the National Organic Program.

DUTIES OF THE NOSB

According to the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA), the responsibilities of the NOSB are to:

- Provide recommendations to USDA regarding implementation of OFPA;
- Develop the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Materials;
- Convene Technical Advisory Panels (TAPs) to provide scientific evaluation of materials;
- Advise the USDA concerning the testing of organic products for residues of prohibited materials; and
- Advise the USDA concerning the impact of emergency spray programs on certified organic farms.

Organic Farming Compliance Handbook: A Resource Guide for Western Region Agricultural Professionals was developed with funding from the Western Region USDA SARE program. Online version of the resource guide available at <http://www.sarep.ucdavis.edu/organic/complianceguide/>