

**Minutes of NOSB Livestock Committee Conference Call  
May 29, 2001**

**Members:** Eric Sideman (chair), Bill Welsh, Becky Goldberg, George Siemon, Willy Lockeretz, and Dave Carter

**OMRI representative** (for TAP review discussion): Emily Brown Rosen

**NOP representative:** Mark Keating

The meeting began with a discussion of the TAP review on Methionine that the NOSB will address at its meeting in La Crosse. Emily Brown Rosen of OMRI answered questions from the Committee on the preparation and content of the TAP review. Committee members expressed a variety of opinions in favor of and opposed to allowing synthetic methionine in organic poultry production. Members discussed the feed practices currently used by organic poultry producers, the feasibility of developing alternative rations, and the suitability and availability of specific feed ingredients. Members also discussed the feed requirements of different breeds of poultry and the potential effects of deficient diets.

The Committee resumed its discussion on differentiating between natural and synthetic forms of vitamins and minerals. The Committee agreed to give this issue further consideration before developing a recommendation.

The Committee discussed developing guidance on agricultural products used as carriers in livestock feed and health care products. It was agreed that under the final rule, carriers that are agricultural substances must be organically produced. The Committee will seek input from product formulators and certifying agents in developing a recommendation on this matter. In discussing the potential for products of excluded methods to turn up in agricultural carriers, the Committee decided that the full NOSB should establish an excluded methods task force for a comprehensive review on the subject.

The Committee discussed the status of fish meal and fish oil under the final rule. The Committee determined that, as written, the final rule requires fish meal and fish oil used for livestock feed to be organically produced. The Committee agreed that there are no such certified products currently available and that the uncertainty surrounding future certification of aquatic animal production made future availability questionable. The Committee also expressed concern that the requirement that all agricultural products used for livestock feed to be organically produced would create significant supply problems. The Committee cited kelp as one feed ingredient that would not be generally available should certified product be required. The Committee discussed whether creating an allowance for certain types or limited quantities of nonorganically produced agricultural feed ingredients would be feasible. The Committee discussed and modified the recommendation on pasture and agreed to present it to the full Board in La Crosse. The discussion addressed the need to develop guidance applicable to range land as well as pasture.

The Committee discussed a recommendation to allow antibiotics (antimicrobials) used as preservatives in vaccines and artificial insemination products. The Committee agreed that such uses of antibiotics should be allowed since the antibiotic was not being used to treat livestock but to assist in the delivery of an otherwise allowed medicine or practice. The Committee agreed to submit a recommendation to the full Board to allow the use of antibiotics (antimicrobials) in vaccines and artificial insemination products. The Committee discussed developing a more detailed recommendation on excipients in livestock medication in the future.