

**Minutes of NOSB Crops Committee Conference Call
May 25, 2001**

Members participating: Owusu Bandele (chair), Marvin Hollen, Bill Welsh, Becky Goldberg, and Eric Sideman.

OMRI representative (for TAP discussion): Emily Brown Rosen

NOP representative: Mark Keating

The meeting began with a discussion of the TAP review on triple superphosphate. Emily Brown Rosen of OMRI worked on the petition and provided a summary. Dr. Bandele stated that he would circulate a ballot to Committee members and requested that they notify him of their vote by June 1. The full NOSB will review triple superphosphate at its meeting in La Crosse. The Committee also discussed developing guidance on contaminant levels in mined materials.

Dr. Bandele stated that he would provide the NOSB with information at the La Crosse meeting on the subject of compost tea. The subject of a recommendation on vermicomposting was postponed for future consideration.

The Committee discussed the draft NOP standards for greenhouse, mushroom, and hydroponic production systems. The Committee agreed to provide the NOP with recommendations for improvements at the La Crosse meeting.

Dr. Bandele discussed labeling standards for operations that are in transition to organic production. He stated that Louisiana state organic standards allow transitional labeling and that such a provision in the federal program would be beneficial. Mark Keating stated that the NOP has not made progress in developing comparable provisions. The Committee briefly discussed the feasibility of approaching transitional labeling standards as an additional requirement under a state organic program.

Mark Keating circulated a list of a draft list of natural (non-synthetic) substances for use in organic crop production modeled on guidance from the NOSB in 1995. The draft list does not include materials related to animal manure that will be reviewed separately in future considerations on compost and raw manure. Mark requested that the Committee review the draft, discuss at during its meeting in La Crosse, and invite public input. The intent is to develop a non-conclusive list of natural substances that are allowed in organic crop production that producers and certifying agents could refer to in the development of organic system plans.

The Committee briefly discussed the EPA's proposal for labeling of pesticide products allowed in organic production that will be discussed in La Crosse.

The meeting was adjourned.