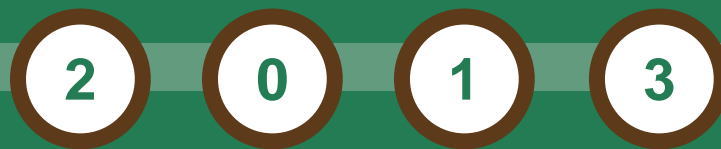


National Organic Standards Board

New Member Guide



Adopted: March 29, 2007 | Updated November 30, 2007 | Updated: May 22, 2008
Updated: November 19, 2008 | Updated: May 6, 2009 | Updated: October 28, 2010 |
Updated: January 23, 2012 | February 1, 2013



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Welcome New NOSB Members

Congratulations and welcome to the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)! We look forward to working with you over the next five years to advance organic regulations as defined by the Organic Food Production Act (OFPA) and the USDA National Organic Program (NOP). This guide provides guidance and resources to new members to ease their transition to the NOSB.

Soon after joining the NOSB, you need to read and be familiar with the following materials:

- Organic Food Production Act of 1990 (OFPA)**
- USDA Organic Regulations at 7 CFR 205 Final Rule**
- NOSB Policy and Procedure Manual (PPM)**
- NOP Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) Training Power Point**

The first three documents listed are available at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOP>; brief summaries are provided below. The NOP FACA Training Power Point will be sent to all NOSB members as reference following the annual January FACA training session for NOSB members.

Questions?

Count on it. The Board Chairperson will assign you an NOSB mentor prior to your first official meeting to help you transition onto the Board. Your NOSB mentor will be available to you by phone or email to answer questions as they arise. The NOSB Chairperson or the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) can also be reached at any point to assist you. Contact information can be found at the end of this document or by contacting Michelle Arsenault at Michelle.Arsenault@ams.usda.gov.

Federal Organic Regulations & Entities: A Primer

Organic Food Production Act (OFPA)

Title XXI of the 1990 Farm Bill, known as the OFPA, established the NOP within the Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) of the USDA. It also established the NOSB, an advisory body to the NOP.

Federal Register Final Rule Establishes the NOP

The December 21, 2000 final rule established the NOP within the AMS, an arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). NOP facilitates domestic and international marketing of fresh and processed food that is organically produced and assures consumers that such products meet consistent, uniform standards. NOP is required to establish national standards for the production and handling of organically produced products, including a National List of substances approved for and prohibited from use in organic production and handling. The final rule also established a national-level accreditation program, labeling requirements, and foreign organic program equivalency requirements.



National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)

OFPA authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to appoint a 15-member National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). The NOSB has the sole authority granted through OFPA to recommend additions to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. Further, the NOSB drafts recommendations based on needs of the industry with public and industry input. The Board's main mission is to make recommendations about whether a substance should be allowed or prohibited in organic production or handling, to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production, and to advise the Secretary on other aspects of OFPA implementation. Members come from all four U.S. regions.

The first NOSB was appointed by then Secretary Edward Madigan in January, 1992. Members of the initial board served staggered terms of 3, 4, or 5 years; all subsequent board appointees serve 5-year terms. Per OFPA, the board must consist of 15 members:

- Four farmers/growers
- Two handlers/processors
- One retailer
- Three environmentalists / resource conservationists
- Three consumer/public interest advocates
- One scientist (toxicology, ecology, or biochemistry)
- One USDA accredited certifying agent.

National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances

Through OFPA, the NOSB has the sole authority to recommend adding materials to or removing materials from the National List. The Secretary of Agriculture has limited authority with regard to NOSB recommendations for additions to the National List; the Secretary of Agriculture may deny the listing of a material, but may not add a material that was not previously recommended by the Board.

Technical Information

To help NOSB members assess whether materials should be added or removed from the National List, the NOSB is authorized to request technical information on materials from internal and external sources. See The Final Rule Subpart G 205.600 and the NOSB Policy and Procedures Manual, Section VIII Materials Review Process, for additional information.

NOSB Policy and Procedure Manual (PPM)

The PPM outlines all general procedures followed by members of the NOSB. The manual is designed to assist the Board in its responsibilities and is considered mandatory reading for all members. The PPM covers many important issues such as the NOSB Vision Statement, Duties of the Board and Officers, NOSB job descriptions, NOSB Principals to Production and Handling, Materials Review Process, Technical Advisory Panel (TAP), Sunset Review Process, and other critical information. Policies and revisions are incorporated periodically, and since the PPM guides you on how to craft your documents and recommendations, it is essential to refer to it to make sure you are following the process.



Additional Helpful Reading

NOSB Website | www.ams.usda.gov/nosb

The website includes access to NOSB meeting transcripts, NOSB executive subcommittee notes, and previous NOSB recommendations.

NOP Website | www.ams.usda.gov/nop

The website includes access to NOP Newsroom, organic regulations, and resources for various stakeholder groups.

From the Margins to the Mainstream, Advancing Organic Agriculture in the United States:

National Organic Action Plan | <http://www.rafiusa.org/docs/noap.pdf>

The website provides a portal to access a document on the growth of organic agriculture in the United States.

Selecting NOSB Subcommittees

You will work with the NOSB chairperson to select 2-4 standing Subcommittees from the following on which to participate

1. Compliance, Accreditation, & Certification Subcommittee
2. Crops Subcommittee
3. Handling Subcommittee
4. Livestock Subcommittee
5. Materials Subcommittee
6. Policy Development Subcommittee

New members may also have the option to join a currently-existing ad hoc subcommittee. Additional information on the different Subcommittees is available in the PPM. Generally, it is best to select a Subcommittee for which you have experience. New members are also encouraged to seek guidance from the NOSB Chairperson or the Advisory Board Specialist to best utilize your skills and experience. Subcommittee Chairpersons can update you on current topics under consideration and provide you with recent meeting notes.



Demystifying the Federal Register

The Federal Register is the official daily publication for rules, proposed rules, and notices of federal agencies and organizations, as well as executive orders and other presidential documents. The Federal Register has format and public notice rules that have to be followed.

Public comment periods are generally a minimum of 30 days, but since the organic community believes strongly in collaboration and public comment, NOP strives to allow 45 days for public comment on their notices. "If you intend to bind the public, you have to provide actual and timely notice." Several types of Federal Register notices are used at different rulemaking stages:

Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule (ANPR)

Optional – Involves proposing an idea and formally asking for public comment *before* you draft the proposed rule. This is strictly an idea and data collecting process that discourages back-room idea and data collection.

Notice of Proposed Rule (NPR)

Required – Provides Background, Intent, Objectives via the Preamble, Proposes specific rule language, and is Open to Public Comment.

Interim Final Rule (IFR)

Optional – Very similar to the Final Rule – still open to some public comment, used primarily when issues are controversial and some tweaking of the final rule language may be required.

Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rule (SNPR)

Optional – open to public comment on an newly proposed areas that came up during NPR that were not foreseen, but also includes some areas that are more decided and not as open to comment.

Direct Final Rule (DFR)

Special Circumstances – usually not a controversial issue and requires immediate action (good cause criteria have to be met), risky because if one commenter objects, then they have to resubmit as an NPR which costs money – and allow public comment. i.e. the banning of dangerous toys for small children.

Final Rule: 30 days before effective date

Required – Provides Background, Intent, and Objectives via the Preamble, Proposes specific rule language, and is not open to Public Comment as all public commenting time periods have either been met through the above required and optional steps, *with the exception of rules being modified to respond to court actions and deadlines.*



Any further changes to these regulations would be made through petition: “Petition for Reconsideration”, and would essentially be re-run through the Federal Register process as described above.

Rulemaking 101

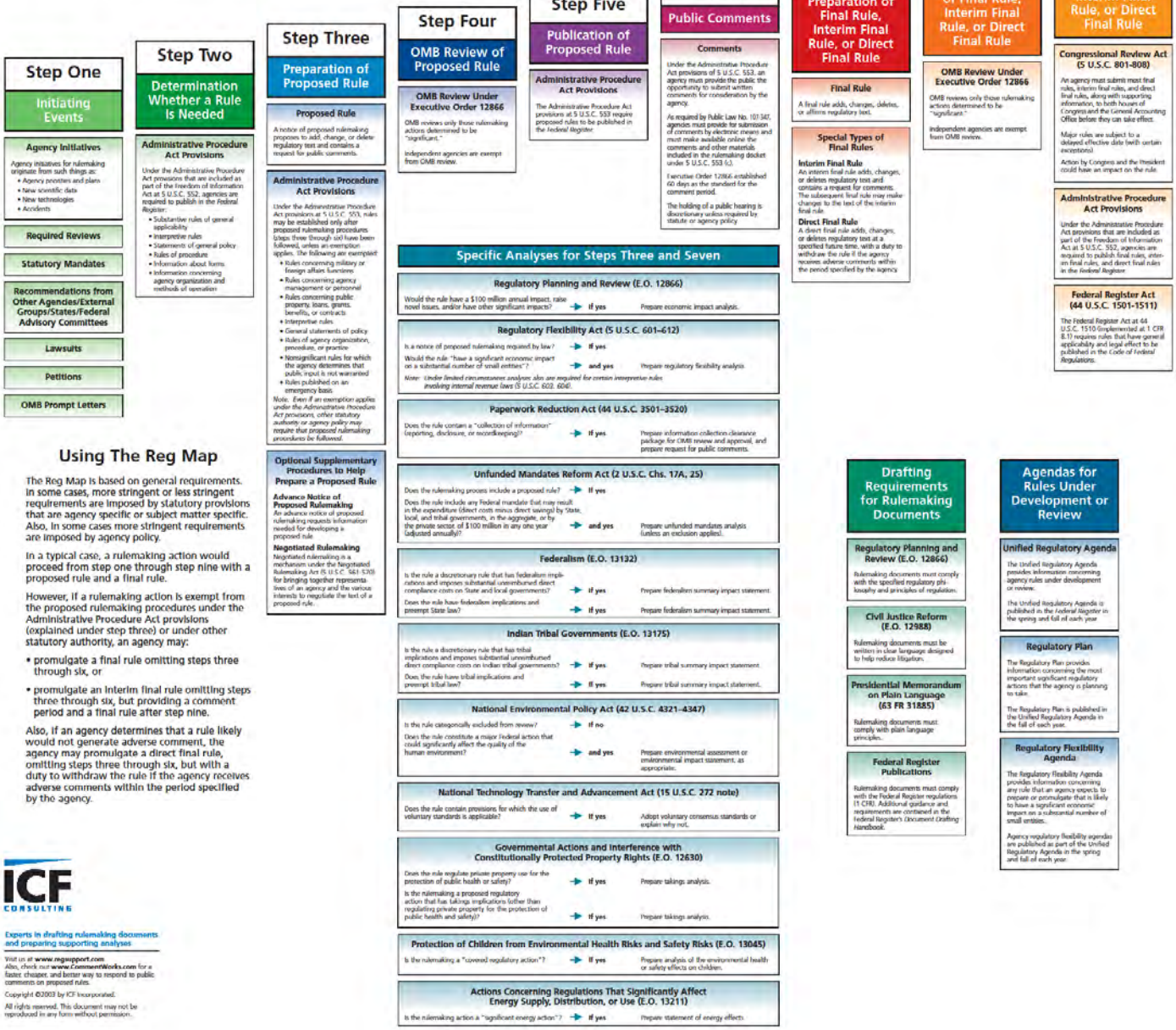
Commonly, laws do not contain a level of detail for their practical implementation. Rather, agencies of the Executive branch have to establish rules, or regulations, to serve as guides in the implementation of laws. The rule development process can be described in five steps:

- 1. Framework for establishing rulemaking authority**
In NOSB’s case, per OFPA
- 2. Publish proposed rule with request for public comments**
Rule is subject to Office of Management and Budget review
- 3. Publish final rule addressing public comments; set effective date**
Rule is subject to Office of Management and Budget review
- 4. Congressional review**
Congress or the Government Accountability Office has the ability to nullify rules
- 5. Effective date**
Rules go into effect after a 30-day minimum; 60-days for major rules. Agencies may delay or withdraw rules before they become effective

The diagram below provides additional details on the rulemaking process; this resource is also available at <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/reginfo/Regmap/index.jsp>.

The Reg Map

Informal Rulemaking



Using The Reg Map

The Reg Map is based on general requirements. In some cases, more stringent or less stringent requirements are imposed by statutory provisions that are agency specific or subject matter specific. Also, in some cases more stringent requirements are imposed by agency policy.

In a typical case, a rulemaking action would proceed from step one through step nine with a proposed rule and a final rule.

However, if a rulemaking action is exempt from the proposed rulemaking procedures under the Administrative Procedure Act provisions (explained under step three) or under other statutory authority, an agency may:

- promulgate a final rule omitting steps three through six, or
- promulgate an Interim Final Rule omitting steps three through six, but providing a comment period and a final rule after step nine.

Also, if an agency determines that a rule likely would not generate adverse comment, the agency may promulgate a direct final rule, omitting steps three through six, but with a duty to withdraw the rule if the agency receives adverse comments within the period specified by the agency.



Experts in drafting rulemaking documents and preparing supporting analyses

Visit us at www.regsupport.com. Also, check our www.CommentWorks.com for a faster, cheaper, and better way to respond to public comments on proposed rules.

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Public Comment

Refer to the PPM for detailed policy & procedures on the public comment process.

NOSB's Unique Role

Organic stakeholders are extremely engaged in the activities of both the NOP and the NOSB. Both groups receive an unprecedented amount of public input from farmers, businesses and consumers during every step of their decision-making process—from a draft NOSB discussion document or proposal, to a final rule. Refer to Section V of the PPM for writing a recommendation. After considering the recommendations of the NOSB, the NOP reviews public comments and industry analysis before proposing a final recommendation. However, the Secretary of Agriculture has final authority in determining all regulations.

NOSB members are in the unique position of not only representing their sector, but also representing the USDA and the public. It is therefore especially important for NOSB members to weigh public comments to help guide us towards what the public wants to see in organic regulations. The public comment process is in place to insure timely notice and to avoid back room decision-making; the NOSB process must be transparent per the Sunshine Act. The following activities require public comment:

- Approving/removing materials for use in the organic industry
- Evaluating a specific Rule
- Providing clarifications
- Discussion documents
- Proposals

Comment Mechanisms

NOP is responsible for receiving and posting all petitions and formal public comments related to NOSB meeting activities and rulemaking. On an informal level, NOSB members are encouraged to maintain and expand their contact base in order to maintain an open line of communication with the organic community. On a formal level, NOSB members request input from the public in two main ways: during formal NOSB meetings and in response to Federal Register notices, either electronically or via mail.

During Formal NOSB Meetings

The public is invited to sign up on a first-come, first-served basis to address the Board about identified topics during the public comment sessions. Commenters typically have 3-5 minutes, not including questions from Board members (NOSB members are encouraged to ask questions at the end). Refer to the PPM for additional details on public commenters' time allocation and process. Please remember to listen, let the speaker finish, and make eye contact as much as possible. The public deserves our respect and attention; they rely on NOSB members to consider their comments. When commenting during meetings remember to be respectful, professional, patient, informed, and concise. The public is encouraged to provide written testimony to facilitate NOSB's consideration.

In Response to Federal Register Notices

The NOP is responsible for publishing Federal Register notices, including those that identify the NOSB's draft recommendation proposals in advance of NOSB meetings. In these notices, the public is directed on how to submit public comments: either electronically (preferred) or via mail. NOP is responsible for reviewing and posting these comments for NOSB's (and the public's) review.

Incorporating Public Comments

The review and implementation of public input takes place at the Subcommittee level. Subcommittee members are expected to review all petitions and comments from the public before providing a recommendation to the Chairperson and members of the Board. Currently, a Subcommittee member is assigned to review, classify, and summarize all data received by NOP, but all Subcommittee members are expected to review the data individually before making a final recommendation.

Separation of Powers

As a member of the NOSB, you are working within the Executive Branch of government. In this capacity, you are not permitted to work in the other branches while on the NOSB because of the required separation of powers.

Confidentiality

While Board members are volunteer, private citizens, and not employed by the government, the Board itself is a government entity. As such, here are some points to be aware of in your communications on NOSB Topics:

- NOSB Subcommittee calls are not recorded or open to anyone besides the NOP and NOSB unless an expert is specifically invited to attend. However, summary notes are developed for each NOSB subcommittee call and are posted on the NOP website.
- Formal transcripts are recorded for NOSB public meetings – whatever you say at a public meeting is on the record.
- Any email or written communication you send that includes a government employee, or that gets forwarded to a government employee, may be releasable to a member of the public in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. (Example: Board members send emails to each other and cc the DFO. This email may be subject to FOIA if a specific request is received that includes that email's topic in its scope).

It is your duty to respect and follow a foundational level of trust and not share internal discussion and deliberative information until it is officially made public. As mentioned in the PPM, a Board member's loyalty is to the organic community and the public at large; however the information should be accurate and agreed upon before being shared with the public.

Best Practices to Optimize Productivity

Staying Organized

NOSB members receive a lot of materials, both electronically and in hard copy; staying organized can be a challenge. Members may want to create a file cabinet specifically for the NOSB, with files created yearly for each Subcommittee. Subcommittee Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons should save all versions and file them, while Subcommittee members can just save the final copy. Public comments that you receive at the meetings can be filed, or you can find them archived on the NOP web site.

Optimizing Conference Calls and Meetings

Because members are based in all regions of the country, a great deal of the work of the NOSB is conducted over the phone. Subcommittees are encouraged to develop the agenda together with key Subcommittee members, provide ample notice of the date and time of the meeting/conference calls, review the agenda and all documents related to agenda items, start and finish on time, and review action items. The DFO will take notes at all conference calls and will send out periodic updates to a master calendar of the scheduled Subcommittee conference calls with phone-in numbers and pass codes (required to access calls). Executive Subcommittee calls are scheduled the second Friday of each month and consist of only the NOSB officers, Subcommittee Chairpersons, and NOP personnel. NOSB members are welcome to listen in, but are not permitted to vote. All Subcommittee meeting notes are posted on the NOP website for public access.

Organizing Email

To help optimize NOSB productivity, it is important to consistently organize and respond to emails. You are encouraged to create specific folders for each Subcommittee and utilize a filing system that works for you, keeping in mind that you don't need to save every email you receive from NOP or NOSB members.

Tips for Success:

- Check your inbox on a daily basis.
- Use a clear subject line, noting NOSB and the appropriate Subcommittee
- Be concise and answer all questions within 24-48 hours.
- Do not attach unnecessary files.
- Do not overuse Reply to All.
- Try not to write with abbreviations.

Tracking Changes in Word Documents

Drafting and revising NOSB discussion documents and proposals require combining feedback from multiple people at multiple steps. The Microsoft Word track changes feature can help facilitate this, allowing you to merge all versions and view all edits at once. You are then able to accept or reject edits, resulting in a final version. A few tips are included below; a full demo is found in <http://office.microsoft.com/training>.

Turning on Track Changes

After opening your document:

Word 1997-2003:







- Go to Tools, select Track Changes.
- The review toolbar will appear at the top
- “TRK” will show on the status bar (bottom of the screen)
-

Word 2007 and 2010:

- Select the Review tab
- Click Track Changes

All edits will be shown in the document in colored font. If you find it distracting to view the edits, you can select to view “Final” instead of “Final Showing Markup”. If you no longer need to track changes, you can click on Track Changes to turn it off.

Reviewing Documents with Track Changes

To determine who proposed a given change, hold your cursor over the change. The review toolbars allow you to approve, reject, or edit in two simple steps. First, place your cursor over the edited text. Second, click the  button to accept the edit. This will delete the track change and restore your document without showing edits. To reject the change, click the  button. This will reject the suggested edit and return your document to its original state. The **Next**  and **Previous**  buttons allow you to navigate through the document quickly. Using the drop down list on the  and  buttons, allows you to accept or reject all changes in the document at once.

There are two features in TRK that help in the review process, the **Reviewing** and **Show** toolbars. The drop-down arrow in the **Reviewing** toolbar, allows you to view the document at different stages of editing. For example, the **Original Showing Markup** selection displays all edits from all contributors highlighted in different colors. The **Original** selection presents the document prior to any edits. The **Show** toolbar allows you to select edits by type such as comments, insertions and formats. This toolbar also allows you to isolate edits by reviewer name. To print a list of changes made in a document, select Print (Word 1997-2003: File, Print; Word 2007: Microsoft Office button (top left), Print); in the Print what box, click “List of markup; Word 2010: Microsoft Office button (top left), Print); Under Settings, click the Print what box, click “List of markup.”



Traveling to NOSB Meetings

Airline Reservations

The USDA Travel Coordinator will provide each person with an approved authorization number that will be provided to the USDA's Travel Service. The authorization will be sent to each Board member via email. USDA is responsible for paying all airline costs. However, members are responsible for arranging their own airline reservations. Each Board member must contact Michele Green or Kim Webster, at Boersman Travel 888-291-6705, and identify themselves as USDA/Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). The travel service is aware that they should obtain the best Federal government rate when possible; however, if your airline rate is over \$800, please contact the Advisory Board Specialist, National Organic Program (NOP), for approval. Boersman emergency assistance is provided outside of normal business hours by calling 866-648-7861.

After scheduling your airline reservations with Boersman, you will receive an email acknowledgement from Virtually There at www.virtuallythere.com detailing your reservations and flight information. If you reserve a refundable government ticket, you could receive your tickets approximately one week prior to travel. If you reserve a non-refundable restricted ticket, you will be ticketed within 48 hours.

Reminder: When traveling to attend an NOSB meeting, members are not authorized to use personal credit cards to pay for airline tickets or utilize another travel service on behalf of USDA/AMS. You will not be reimbursed. Please note that USDA is responsible for paying all airline costs.

It is important to notify your travel coordinator if you plan to arrive or depart outside of the intended travel dates authorized. Also, provide notification if you plan to combine personal or business travel to attend the NOSB meeting.

Personal Owned Vehicles (POV)

If you need to travel using your own POV, please notify the travel coordinator via email, and provide mileage to/from the meeting, and dates of arrival and departure to/from residence.

Rental Car and Train Reservations

If there are no flights to/from an airport or other modes of transportation available, and your only option is to use a rental car or train to/from a meeting, you must state why it would be advantageous to the Federal government. If the cost of a rental car (including gas), or a train ticket is less than the cost of an airline ticket this would be advantageous to the Federal government. USDA will reimburse you. However, if the rental car or train cost is more than the airline, then you are responsible for paying the difference.



To reserve a rental car or train, you must obtain prior approval at least two weeks before a meeting. Submit to the travel coordinator a written justification stating your need, and include a cost comparison for the rental car, train and airline outlay. You can either locate a local rental car or train service and make your own reservation or submit your request to Boersman Travel service. Members are not allowed to use a rental car for travel to/from hotel to obtain dinner. You will not be reimbursed.

Meeting Space and Lodging Accommodations

USDA/NOP is responsible for reserving and paying all expenses for the meeting space and lodging. Members should not make their own hotel reservations as we will have a special block reserved. However, if you plan to modify your arrival/departure travel dates for personal reasons, please contact the hotel and travel coordinator. To avoid “no show” charges, it’s important that the hotel is aware of travel date modifications. Personal travel is non-reimbursable.

Post-Travel Document

After each meeting, the travel coordinator will forward to all members a post-travel document that should be completed and signed as soon as possible. Submit all applicable receipts (with the exception of meals) to the travel coordinator for reimbursement. Travel documentation can be faxed, emailed or mailed to the attention of Travel Coordinator.

Travel reimbursement will include the following

- Rental Car or Train expense (if applicable)
- Location per diem (meals + incidentals)
- POV mileage to/from airport or meeting at the current GSA per diem rate
- Roundtrip tolls
- Airport parking
- Local Transportation: Taxi cab fares to/from airport to hotel, or residence; tips not to exceed 15% of the fare, Shuttle services to/from airport to hotel, or residence
- Airline baggage fees

Submit your travel voucher information to:

Special Assistant to the Board
USDA/National Organic Program
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250
(202) 720-3252, Fax: (202) 205-7808



What to Pack?

The dress code at NOSB meetings is business casual. It's suggested you bring some casual attire as well. Most of the hotels also have work-out rooms and pools. For the most part, dress is not too important as long as you are representing the NOSB professionally.

The agenda, proposals and any supporting documents will all be available prior to meetings at www.ams.usda.gov/nosb/meetings/meetings.html. Materials will be provided to you before or at the meetings in hard copy or on a thumb drive or CD. Other useful documents include a copy of OFPA and the Federal Register Regulation, which will be provided upon request and are also available electronically. If you have a travel mug, please bring it along. It doesn't make a very good impression if we are all using non-recyclable cups.

List of Common Technical Sources Used by NOSB Members

Very often during the review process and discussions, NOSB members need to consult various sources of information. The following is a general list of common technical sources.

Accredited Certification Agencies

The function of the Accredited Certification Agencies (ACAs) is to certify, on behalf of USDA, that producers and handlers comply with approved organic practices. An ACA is accredited by the NOP. They operate in all regions of the United States and selected countries, and include private companies, not-for-profit organizations and several state government agencies.

For a comprehensive list of ACAs: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOPACAs>

Federal Agencies

U.S. Department of Agriculture/Marketing Service

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/>

U.S. Department of Agriculture Research Service

<http://www.ars.usda.gov>

U.S. Department of Agriculture/Food and Nutrition Service

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/>

U.S. Department of Agriculture/Food Safety and Inspection Service

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

U.S. Department of Agriculture/National Agricultural Library Alternative Farming Systems Information Center

<http://www.nalusda.gov/afsic/ofp/susagrsch.htm>



U.S. Department of Agriculture/National Institute of Food and Agriculture
<http://www.csrees.usda.gov>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Integrated Risk Information System
<http://www.epa.gov/iris>

U.S. Department of Agriculture/National Organic Program
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>

U.S. Department of Agriculture/Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program
<http://www.sare.org/index.htm>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Inert Ingredients Permitted in Pesticide Products
<http://www.epa.gov/opprd001/inerts/lists.html>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Organic Agriculture Page
<http://www.epa.gov/oecaagct/torg.html#National%20Organic%20Standards>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Water
<http://www.epa.gov/ow/>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Water Science
<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/atsdrhome.html>

U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/list.html>

U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition - Food Ingredients and Packaging Terms
<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/opa-def.html>

U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition Indirect Additives Used in Food Contact Substances
<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/opa-indt.html>

U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition Inventory of Effective Food Contact Substance Notifications
<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/opa-fcn.html>



U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine
<http://www.fda.gov/cvm>

U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Food Safety Risk Analysis Clearinghouse
<http://www.foodriskclearinghouse.umd.edu/>

U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Numerical Listing of GRAS Notices
<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~rdb/opa-gras.html>

U.S. National Institute of Health's National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/centers/res-core/iowares2.htm>.

U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration
<http://www.osha.gov>

Other Sources

Appropriate Technology Transfer to Rural Areas
<http://www.attra.org>

Organic Materials Review Institute
<http://www.omri.org>

The National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service
<http://www.attra.org>

Glossary of Acronyms

ACA	Accredited Certifiers Association
AMS	Agricultural Marketing Service (home of NOP)
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FACA	Federal Advisory Committee Act
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
NOP	National Organic Program
OFPA	Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (Title XXI of the 1990 Farm Bill)
OMRI	Organic Materials Review Institute
TAP	Technical Advisory Panel
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture



National Organic Standards Board Subcommittees

NOSB Officers (2013)

Robert (Mac) Stone Chairperson
 John Foster Vice Chairperson
 C. Reuben (Calvin) Walker Secretary

Executive Subcommittee Representatives (2013)

Jay Feldman, Chairperson Crops
 Joe Dickson, Chairperson Compliance, Accreditation & Certification
 John Foster, Chairperson Handling
 Tracy Favre, Chairperson Livestock
 Zea Sonnabend, Chairperson Materials
 Colehour Bondera, Chairperson Policy Development
 Jennifer Taylor, Chairperson GMO ad hoc

CROPS

Jay Feldman, Chairperson
 Nick Maravell, Vice Chairperson
 Harold Austin
 Carmela Beck
 Colehour Bondera
 John Foster
 Zea Sonnabend
 Mac Stone (unofficial, non-voting)
 Francis Thicke

GMO ad hoc

Jennifer Taylor, Chairperson
 Zea Sonnabend, Vice Chairperson
 Colehour Bondera
 Jay Feldman
 Jean Richardson
 Mac Stone
 Francis Thicke
 C. Reuben (Calvin) Walker

COMPLIANCE, ACCREDITATION, CERTIFICATION

Joe Dickson, Chairperson
 Jean Richardson, Vice Chairperson
 Harold Austin
 Carmela Beck
 Tracy Favre
 John Foster
 Mac Stone
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 Wendy Fulwider, Vice Chairperson
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HANDLING

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MATERIALS

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 Jennifer Taylor, Vice Chairperson
 Joe Dickson
 Tracy Favre
 Jay Feldman
 Wendy Fulwider
 C. Reuben (Calvin) Walker



POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Colehour Bondera, Chairperson

C. Reuben (Calvin) Walker, Vice Chairperson

Jay Feldman

John Foster

Nick Maravell

Jennifer Taylor

INERTS WORKING GROUP

Jay Feldman

Zea Sonnabend

VACCINES MADE WITH EXCLUDED METHODS WORKING GROUP (Vaccines MWEM)

Jean Richardson

Nick Maravell

National Organic Program – Contact Information

This directory is updated fairly often, and can be found here:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5086703>