



Notice to Stakeholders and Interested Parties

To: Stakeholders and Interested Parties

From: Miles McEvoy, Deputy Administrator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Miles McEvoy", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Subject: Corn Steep Liquor

Date: January 31, 2011

The National Organic Program (NOP) is allowing the continued use of corn steep liquor to be used as a nonsynthetic input in organic crop production.

Corn steep liquor is a product of the corn wet milling process. For many years corn steep liquor has been considered nonsynthetic by the National Organic Program (NOP), the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI), and accredited certifying agents. In 2009 questions were raised of whether the addition of sulfur dioxide during the steeping portion of the wet milling process causes chemical changes and therefore classifies corn steep liquor as a synthetic substance.

The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) is authorized to review and approve substances used in organic production and handling. The NOSB reviewed the corn wet milling process during their fall 2010 meeting to determine whether corn steep liquor is nonsynthetic or synthetic. At this time the full board has yet to vote on a final recommendation. If the NOSB determines that corn steep liquor is synthetic, then future uses of the ingredient will be prohibited after a 24 month implementation period unless it is added to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. If the NOSB determines that corn steep liquor is nonsynthetic then it will continue to be allowed in organic crop production.

Document Control:

This document supersedes the National Organic Program Policy Notification on corn steep liquor dated November 10, 2009, which is now obsolete.