

Formal Recommendation
From: National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
To: the National Organic Program (NOP)

Date: April 21, 2017

Subject: NOSB Resolution on the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP) Rule

NOSB Chair: Tom Chapman

The NOSB hereby recommends to the NOP the following:

Rulemaking Action:

Guidance Statement:

Other: X

Statement of the Recommendation:

Be it resolved by unanimous vote, the National Organic Standards Board—as USDA’s Federal Advisory Board on organic issues and representing organic farmers, ranchers, processors, retailers and consumers—urges the Secretary to allow the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices rule to become effective on May 19th 2017 without further delay.

See below for full text of resolution

NOSB Vote:

Motion to accept the resolution on the OLPP Rule

Motion by: Ashley Swaffar

Seconded by: Harriet Behar

Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Recuse: 0

Motion Passed

The National Organic Standards Board recognizes that consumers' trust of the organic label and industry growth depends on the strength and consistent application of the organic regulations. NOSB has an integral role in advising USDA in its promulgation of these volunteer standards, and strives to seek consensus among organic stakeholders in its recommendations to USDA and the secretary. The recently finalized Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices rule was based on a unanimous NOSB recommendation to USDA in 2011. The NOSB recommendation was the product of a decade of public NOSB meetings, lengthy discussions, public comment periods and consultation from organic producers, processors, consumers, and the veterinary and scientific community. According to a survey by Organic Egg Farmers of America from 2014, the majority of organic egg producers representing the majority of organic egg production already adhere to the practices and standards set forth in the rule¹. A recent Consumer Reports survey found that 83% of consumers who frequently purchase organic products believe that organic eggs should come from hens that have access to the outdoors². Additionally, USDA APHIS has found no significant differences in mortality rates between organic and conventional laying hen operations³. Support for this rule has been expressed through public comment by major and growing organic brands⁴. The rule is supported by organic producers, consumers, the industry, and the NOSB. The NOSB stands ready to answer any additional questions the Secretary may have on the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices Rule.

Therefore be it resolved by unanimous vote, the National Organic Standards Board—as USDA’s Federal Advisory Board on organic issues and representing organic farmers, ranchers, processors, retailers and consumers—urges the Secretary to allow the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices rule to become effective on May 19th 2017 without further delay.