

Note: Subcommittee notes may include preliminary discussions regarding substances considered for addition to or removal from the National List. They do not represent official National Organic Program (NOP) policy/regulations or NOSB recommendations. Proposals must be voted on by the full Board, to become recommendations to the USDA. Please see the NOP website for official NOP policy, regulations, and status of substances used in organic production and handling.

Materials (MS) (GMO ad hoc) Subcommittee Notes

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 1:00 pm ET

Present: Andrea Hatziyannis (AH), Chair; Dilip Nandwani (DN), Vice Chair; Allison Johnson (AJ); Franklin Quarcoo (FQ); Amanda Felder – observer

Absent: Cat McCluskey (CM); Michelle Arsenault (MA)

Staff: Heather Kumar (HK); Jo Mirenda (JM)

Agenda

- March 10, 2026 notes
- Food technologist update - Mined substances (HK)
- Excluded Methods - Induced mutagenesis (CM, DN) - discuss
- TR Template Update (AJ)
- Additional Items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **March 10, 2026 notes** were approved.
- **Food technologist update - Mined substances (HK)**
 - HK presented findings from the research project on Mined Minerals in Organic Handling. This project was originally requested by the Board in April 2024 and includes technical information on the geographic regions, mining techniques, and environmental impacts for nonsynthetic materials at § 205.605(a) that are primarily sourced from mining. Research included TAPs and Technical Reports (TRs), reference books, and peer-reviewed research papers. Each handling material is identified as coming from one of two primary mining methods: surface mining or underground mining. The Handling Subcommittee will incorporate the information into its deliberations on sunset reviews and new petitions for materials that are sourced from mining. Board members thanked HK for the great work. If the Crops or Livestock Subcommittees want this type of information, they should submit a request for a new or amended project scope.
- **Excluded Methods - Induced mutagenesis (IM) (CM, DN).** Will revisit at the next Subcommittee meeting in June.
- **TR Template Update (AJ).** The lead presented updates to the Technical Report template to add details about various exposure pathways (farm workers, processing facility workers, other) to the question about impacts to human health. These edits would be considered clarifications for how the Board prefers information to be organized, rather than requesting new information, since technical reports already typically include this information. The Subcommittee chair will submit the updates to NOP.
- **Additional Items**
 - Spring 2026 Meeting prep
 - Confirmed presenters for each of the MS topics.
 - Seed Panel speakers have accepted invitations and are expected to share expertise and technical information about IM that will inform the work on the IM proposal.
- **The meeting was adjourned**

[Previous MS Notes](#)

Future call schedule (2nd Tuesday 1:00 PM ET | 10:00 AM PT, except where noted)

March 10, 2026

Excluded Methods - Induced mutagenesis (CM, DN) - discuss

April 14, 2026

Excluded Methods - Induced mutagenesis (CM, DN) - discuss

TR Update (AJ) - discuss

Mined substances update (Food Technologist)

May 12, 2026 - cancelled due to NOSB meeting

June 9, 2026.

Excluded Methods - Induced mutagenesis (CM, DN) - discuss draft IM doc

July 14, 2026.

Excluded Methods - Induced mutagenesis (CM, DN) - discuss/vote

August 11, 2026

Research Priorities - discuss/vote

September 8, 2026

October 13, 2026

November 10, 2026

December 8, 2026

Work Agenda

***Highlight** indicates discussion. ***Highlight** indicates action needed. ***Highlight** indicates review completion and/or vote.

Projects

Project	National List	Contact	Doc Type	Notes	Scheduled/status	Target meeting
Research Priorities (RPs)	N/A	FQ	Proposal	May 2012 Framework Proposal <u>Subcommittee reps to MS:</u> Handling (HS): DN Crops (CS): TBD Livestock (LS): TBD RPs due to MS from HS, CS, and LS by 2.4.26	2.10.26 8.11.26	Spr 2026
Excluded Methods - Induced mutagenesis (IM) - Fermentation (TBD)	N/A	CM, DN, AJ	Proposal	MS requested TR on induced mutagenesis 1.10.23. TR due to NOP end-June. TR sent to MS 7.6.23. TR sufficiency due 9.4.23. TR found sufficient 8.8.23.	2.10.26 3.10.26 4.14.26 6.9.26 7.14.26	Fall 2026

Project	National List	Contact	Doc Type	Notes	Scheduled/status	Target meeting
Tall oil, distilled	205.601 205.603	TBD	HOLD	2008 Petition (distilled tall oil). 2010 TR (tall oil). Petition sent to MS 9.4.20. Petition suff/TR request due 12.8.20. Petition found sufficient 12.8.20, and the MS requested a TR. TR due mid-Aug. TR sent to MS 8.13.21. TR suff due 10.12.21. TR found sufficient 10.12.21. Additional information from petitioner sent to MS 2.8.22 (see AMS-NOP-21-0087-0003). Returned to Subcomm at Spr 2022 meeting. On hold pending results from ANPR/guidance on inerts.	12.12.23	TBD

Spring 2026 Milestones	Target dates (tentative)	Weeks PTM (prior to meeting)
NOP - Publish FRN, Open public comment	~Jan 24, 2026	16 -20
NOP - Draft Spring 2026 NOSB meeting tentative agenda	Feb 19, 2026	~ 10
NOSB - Spring 2026 proposals due to NOP	Feb 26, 2026	~ 9
NOP - Post proposals/Open comment period	Mar 16, 2026	7.5
Public comment closes	Apr 16, 2026	3.5
NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	Apr 22, 2026	3
Public comment webinars	May 5 & 7, 2026	1
Spring 2026 NOSB meeting - Omaha, NE (Tentative)	May 12 - 14, 2026	0
Final recommendations due	Jun 14, 2026	30 days post meeting

Fall 2026 Milestones	Target dates (tentative)	Weeks PTM (prior to meeting)
NOP - Publish FRN, Open public comment	~May 21, 2026	24
NOP - Draft Fall 2026 NOSB meeting agenda	Aug 11, 2026	~11
NOSB - Fall 2026 proposals due to NOP	Aug 20, 2026	~9
NOP - Post proposals/Open comment period	Aug 31, 2026	~8
Public comment closes	Oct 1, 2026	~4

NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	Oct 7, 2026	~3
Public comment webinars	Oct 20 & 22, 2026	1
Fall 2026 NOSB meeting - Location TBD	TBD Oct 27 - 29, 2026	0
Final recommendations due	Nov 28, 2026	~30 days post

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Materials (MS) (GMO ad hoc) Subcommittee Notes

Tuesday, March 10, 2026 1:00 pm ET

Present: Dilip Nandwani (DN), Vice Chair; Allison Johnson (AJ); Cat McCluskey (CM); Franklin Quarcoo (FQ)

Absent: Andrea Hatziyannis (AH), Chair

Staff: Heather Kumar (HK); Michelle Arsenault (MA); Jo Mirenda (JM)

Agenda

- February 10, 2026 notes
- Excluded Methods - Induced mutagenesis (CM, DN) - discuss
- Food technologist update - Mined substances (HK)
- Additional Items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **February 10, 2026** were accepted as written.
- **Excluded Methods - Induced mutagenesis (IM) (CM, DN).** The MS had a robust discussion about the induced mutagenesis project, which they will present as a verbal update at the Spring NOSB meeting. Since this project was newly transferred from past Subcommittee members to current ones, they are still in the information gathering stage and anticipate having a discussion document for the Fall 2026 meeting, rather than a proposal. The Subcommittee previously presented a discussion document at the Fall 2025 meeting that identified three pathways the MS could take regarding the classification of induced mutagenesis as an excluded method. One of the co-leads compiled and circulated the public comments from the last document, highlighting that commenters were divided. Subcommittee members discussed various issues and challenges in determining which pathway to choose. The group also discussed the seed panel and panelists the CACS is proposing to host at the Spring NOSB meeting, and feels that the panel could also encompass a discussion on IM. One of the co-leads asked about specific questions that they would want to pose to an expert panel. The MS may also invite speakers to future Materials calls as they work on the next iteration of the document. Members discussed the TBD list from the previous proposal, and what items are still outstanding.
- **Food technologist update - Mined substances (HK).** Deferred to future call for lack of time.
- **Additional Items.**
 - **Seed panel.** The CACS has proposed a seed panel for the Spring 2026 meeting, and the MS feels that participants would also be able to address IM questions. The group discussed potential panelists, who represent various segments of the seed community, including a USDA researcher studying breeding techniques in both the organic and conventional space. It is not clear yet whether the meeting will be virtual or in person, but the Board is supportive of hosting a panel either way. The NOSB Chair will send an email to NOP describing the goals for the panel, with the proposed panelists.
- **The meeting was adjourned**

[Previous MS Notes](#)

Future call schedule (2nd Tuesday 1:00 PM ET | 10:00 AM PT, except where noted)

February 10, 2026

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Research Priorities (FQ) - discuss/vote

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Materials (MS) (GMO ad hoc) Subcommittee Notes
Tuesday, February 10, 2026 1:00 pm ET

Present: Andrea Hatziyannis (AH), Chair; Dilip Nandwani (DN), Vice Chair; Allison Johnson (AJ); Cat McCluskey (CM); Franklin Quarcoo (FQ)

Absent: None

Staff: Heather Kumar (HK); Michelle Arsenault (MA); Jo Mirenda (JM)

Agenda

- December 9, 2025 notes update
- Excluded Methods - Induced mutagenesis (CM, DN) - discuss
- Research Priorities (FQ) - discuss/vote
- Food technologist update (HK)
- Additional Items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **December 9, 2025 notes** were approved via email
- **Excluded Methods - Induced mutagenesis (CM, DN).** The group discussed the intention for this project. The MS will review the last round of public comments at the next meeting in March. The MS discussed inviting Board members outside of the Materials Subcommittee to contribute to the conversation. The MS also discussed inviting an expert to talk about induced mutagenesis in seed breeding as part of a seed panel at the Spring meeting. A member suggested being intentional about inviting panelists from different disciplines, so as to balance expertise.
- **Research Priorities (FQ).** The group discussed several sections of the current document, specifically ones that were updated from the Fall meeting, and moved to a vote. They also discuss formatting updates that would make the document easier to navigate without changing substantive content.

Motion to accept the 2026 Research Priorities proposal

Motion by: AH

Seconded by: CM

Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Recuse: 0 Absent: 0

- **Food technologist update (HK).**
 - The Food technologist has finished the document on mined substances and will present the results at the March call. Members are discussing whether to expand this to other scopes and not just focus on Handling materials.
 - HK is also working on sanitizers. She has a preliminary list from a previous NOSB member, and is seeking a new liaison. Andrea Hatziyannis volunteered.
 - There are no other new Board requests.
- **Additional Items.**
 - The MS discussed the idea of revising the TR template to add specific questions about farm worker health risks to make the section on human and environmental health more specific. AJ will draft a short paragraph to present to the MS at the April meeting. Members discussed the TRs in general. Topics included streamlining the TRs, making sure they are written in plain language and that the information is grounded in the OFPA criteria and scientific data, while not including policy discussions.
- **The meeting was adjourned**

[Previous MS Notes](#)

Future call schedule (2nd Tuesday 1:00 PM ET | 10:00 AM PT, except where noted)

January 13, 2026 - cancelled

January 20, 2026 @ 12:00 ET/9: AM PT - cancelled

February 10, 2026

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Research Priorities (FQ) - discuss/vote

March 10, 2026

Excluded Methods - Induced mutagenesis (CM, DN) - discuss

Mined substances update (Food Technologist)

April 14, 2026

Sanitizers - (Food Technologist/AH)

May 12, 2026

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