

HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS TO THE NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD



PEOPLE. POWER. PURPOSE.

The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) was created to provide independent oversight of the National Organic Program. They make recommendations on the production, handling, and processing of organic products.

The NOSB accepts comments from the organic community twice each year and your voice is important to maintain a strong organic program. When the NOSB hears directly from farmers, they listen.

Contact us if we can help! If you plan to submit a comment to the NOSB, let us know, so it can inform OEFFA's comments.

Find upcoming NOSB meetings:

ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/nosb

Read OEFFA's past NOSB comments:

action.oeffa.com/organic-agriculture

PROVIDING ORAL COMMENTS



THE BASICS

Oral comments are typically 3 minutes or less, offered in-person at the NOSB meeting, or over the phone or Zoom during pre-meeting virtual oral comment sessions.



REGISTER

You must register in advance. Visit the Meetings page on the NOSB website for the meeting-specific registration link. You can select which day(s) you are available.



SCHEDULE

A schedule will be sent out prior to the meeting with your approximate 3 minute time slot. OEFFA will have staff on the call, so if you are not able to listen the whole time, we can let you know when it's almost your turn.



PRACTICE

Practice your comments ahead of time to ensure you are comfortable and that they are less than 3 minutes.



PREPARE

The Board loves to ask questions of farmers, so be prepared to answer questions based on your experience. Let us know if we can help you prepare!

ORAL COMMENT TEMPLATE

Good afternoon.

My name is [NAME] from [FARM/BUSINESS] in [CITY/STATE]. We certify with [CERTIFIER]. I am an OEFFA member and a member of the [OEFFA CHAPTER OR WORK GROUP]. I work here together with my [FAMILY/PARTNER/TEAM] to do [TYPE OF PRODUCTION] on [ACRES/FACILITY].

I'm here today regarding [ORGANIC ISSUE] that is important to me and my operation.

[PROVIDE SOME BACKGROUND ON YOUR ISSUE OF CONCERN. GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF WHY THIS ORGANIC ISSUE IS NOT CURRENTLY WORKING]

[OFFER 1-2 SOLUTIONS FOR HOW THIS COULD WORK BETTER GOING FORWARD, OR YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON THE ORGANIC ISSUE]

I would be happy to talk further with you about this issue if I can be of help.

Thank you for your time and your service to the organic community.

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WRITTEN COMMENT TEMPLATE

Written comments can be as short or as long as you'd like, but succinct comments with concrete examples seem to be most effective. Use this template to write your comments to the NOSB and please let us know if we can help!

[DATE]

National Organic Standards Board
USDA-AMS
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250
[DOCKET NUMBER]

Dear National Organic Standards Board members,

My name is [NAME] from [FARM/BUSINESS] in [CITY/STATE]. We certify with [CERTIFIER]. I am an OEFFA member and a member of the [OEFFA CHAPTER OR WORK GROUP]. I work here together with my [FAMILY/PARTNER/TEAM] to do [TYPE OF PRODUCTION] on [ACRES/FACILITY].

I'm here today regarding [ORGANIC ISSUE] that is important to me and my operation.

[PROVIDE SOME BACKGROUND ON YOUR ISSUE OF CONCERN. GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF WHY THIS ORGANIC ISSUE IS NOT CURRENTLY WORKING]

[OFFER 1-2 SOLUTIONS FOR HOW THIS COULD WORK BETTER GOING FORWARD, OR YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON THE ORGANIC ISSUE]

Thank you for your time and your service to the organic community.

[NAME]
[FARM NAME]
[ADDRESS]



HOW TO USE REGULATIONS.GOV

All written comments to the NOSB are submitted online at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). A meeting-specific written comment link and docket number are available on the NOSB's Meeting page.



GETTING STARTED

Go to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). Enter the docket number into the search bar at the top of the page. Include all hyphens and capital letters. Look in the upper left corner of your screen, below the name of the document. Click on the blue comment box.



SUBMITTING COMMENTS

Prepare your written comments ahead of time. You can copy and paste them into the blue comment box, or you can attach them as a .pdf file. You can enter your email address to receive a tracking number and confirmation of your submission, but you are only required to submit your first and last name for contact information. Click the "I am not a robot" box. Click the "Submit comment" button.



TRACKING COMMENTS

Your comments will not appear immediately on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). After the agency has reviewed them for profanity and other inappropriate material, they will be posted publicly. If you supplied your email address, your tracking number will allow you to see where your comments are in the process.