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.
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.

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[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]