

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

**Date:** April 30, 2021

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

**NOSB Chair:** Steve Ela

**The NOSB hereby recommends to the NOP the following:**

Other: X

**Statement of the Recommendation:**

The NOSB supports the 2017 recommendation and the immediate implementation of the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices rule.

**NOSB Vote:**

Motion to accept the resolution on Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP)

Motion by: Nate Powell-Palm

Seconded by: Rick Greenwood

Yes: 13 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 1 Recuse: 0

Motion Passed

**Proposed resolution for 2021 NOSB Spring Meeting:**

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 the National Organic Standards Board unanimously voted to pass a resolution requesting the implementation of the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices rule.

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 voluntary standards and strives to seek consensus among organic stakeholders in its recommendations to USDA and the secretary. The Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices rule, finalized in 2017 and subsequently withdrawn in 2018, was based on a unanimous NOSB recommendation to USDA in 2011.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. Both the NOSB recommendation and the final rule issued by Secretary Vilsack in 2017 defined appropriate requirements for space, density and outdoor access in organic poultry production. Support for this rule has been expressed through public comment by major and growing organic brands. The rule is supported by organic producers, consumers, the industry, and the NOSB. The policy received over 120,000 supportive comments in the federal register representing over 99% of commenters. The NOSB stands by its 2011 recommendation to USDA on the organic livestock and poultry practices policy questions.

**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 re-issue as final the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices rule with policy considerations related to outdoor access and space requirements as established in 2017 without further delay.**

Though 4 years have passed since 2017, the board, and the organic community, remain unified in our call for the implementation of OLPP. Today we vote again, as a unified board, and ask for the immediate implementation of the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices rule.