

## Megan Purvis

I am in favor of adding low-acyl gellan gum to the national list. My reasoning for this is because high-acyl gellan gum is already on the list and low-acyl seems to be more stable in almost every environment. However, I do think low-acyl gellan gum should be considered synthetic because it does under-go some form of alteration in a chemical sense. I also think that allowing paper-based crop planting aids would be beneficially to the producers in the organics industry, but, I do not think they should be labeled as synthetic since after the cropping season they are incorporated into the soil adding valuable nutrients to the soil (organic matter) which will most likely lead to better crops in the future. Furthermore they do not undergo a chemical change like that of the low-acyl gellan gum. They simply bond together with strong adhesive. I would also like to add that “synthetic” things are not bad. This proposed rule makes it seem that any and everything that undergoes a “synthetic” change is awful for the environment or harmful to the people that consume it. Just because you alter the way things are does not mean it is for the worse or that it is then considered harmful. Some changes are beneficial.