

Harriet McCleary

TAKE ACTION: The National Organic Program Must Evaluate Undisclosed “Inert” Ingredients Used in Organic Production Comments are Due December 31, 2022 by 11:59 PM EST Dear Harriet, It is time for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to follow through on its duty to assess individual “inert” ingredients used in organic production. In creating the original regulations for the National Organic Program (NOP), USDA—based on the recommendation of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)—decided to postpone the evaluation of so-called “inert” ingredients until active materials had been reviewed for the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. In this context, “inert” is a misleading legal term since the ingredient may be chemically or biologically active, but not included for purposes of attacking a target organism.