



**National Organic Program**

U.S. Department of Agriculture

# Update NOSB-NOP-EPA Working Group on Inert Ingredients

National Organic Standards Board Meeting

November 29, 2011

Savannah, Georgia



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# Working Group on Inert Ingredients

- **NOP:** Emily Brown Rosen, Lisa Brines
- **EPA:** Chris Pfeifer (BPPD), Kerry Leifer (Registration Division, Inerts)
- **NOSB:** Jay Feldman, Tracy Miedema, Jeff Moyer (ex officio)



## Background

- OFPA permits synthetic inerts in pesticides that are “not classed by EPA as inerts of toxicological concern”
- NOP rule
  - Synthetic inert ingredients classified as List 4a and 4b by EPA are allowed in pesticides for organic use.
  - List 3 inerts are allowed in passive pheromone dispensers.



## Issue

- EPA revised system of assessment in 2006, no longer uses Lists 1-4
- NOP is operating with obsolete list of inerts, dated August 2004
- Manufacturers are petitioning for use of inerts that do not appear on the old Lists



# Goals

- WG recommend a proposal to NOSB
- NOSB develop a formal recommendation for NOP
- NOP complete rulemaking no later than October 2017, next sunset date for List 4

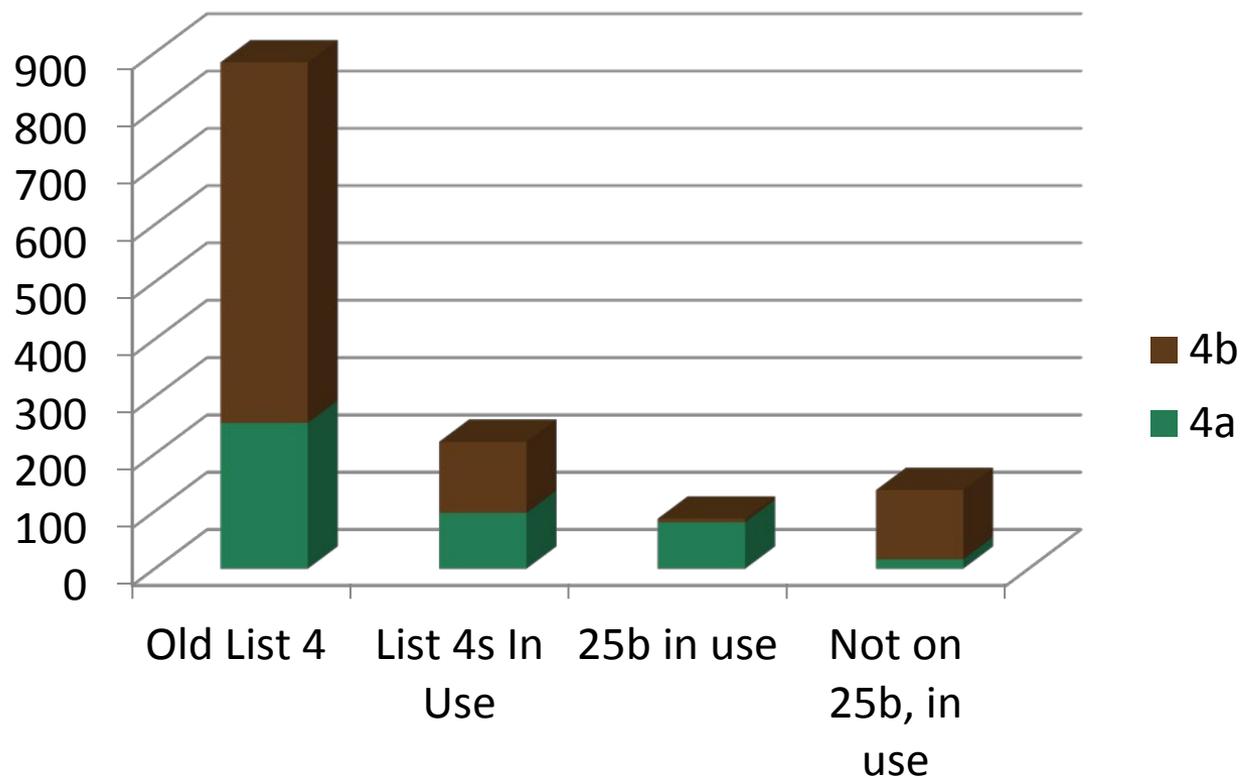


## EPA Now

- EPA currently lists tolerances or exemptions for pesticide residues and inert ingredients at 40 CFR Part 180
- EPA also classes some inerts as permitted for use in Minimal Risk products— FIFRA 25(b) (includes most former 4a's)



## Number of List 4 Inerts in Use





## Some options considered

- See Inerts Ingredients Discussion Document
  - Wide range of options
- Comments were submitted to Crops Committee



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### 205.601 (m)(2) EPA List 3 Inerts of unknown toxicity allowed: (ii) Inerts used in passive pheromone dispensers.

- The allowance for EPA List 3 inerts is scheduled to sunset in 2013
- NOSB to vote on EPA List 3 in spring 2012
- 9 substances on former List 3 known to be in use, including 4 synthetic
- Various options proposed



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### Next steps

- Working group to review comments and send proposal to Crops Committee
- Crops Committee develops proposal for full board
- Public comments



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### Next steps

- NOSB makes a final recommendation
- NOP initiates rulemaking
- More public comments
- Final rule published
- Implementation can be phased in to allow time for changes in products, petitions.