

Celebrating
20 Years!

The Inspectors' Report

Published by the
International Organic
Inspectors Association
Vol 20 N2 Spring 2011

IOIA & OMRI Debut Crop Inputs Webinar

IOIA and the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) will begin offering joint webinars with a focus on inputs used in organic production. The first webinar in the series, scheduled for **August 1**, will focus on crop inputs. The webinar will cover what farm inspectors should look for during inspections, and how OMRI reviews materials. Inspectors and certifiers who attend will gain skill in understanding input assessment, and in navigating the resources available on the OMRI website (www.omri.org). OMRI will provide the technical expertise of **Lindsay Fernandez-Salvador**, OMRI Program Director, as lead presenter. IOIA will manage registration through the IOIA webinar site and will ensure that the course is designed to meet the needs of inspectors and certifiers. Enrollment is limited to 20. Additional webinars will be scheduled as needed.

The course will include pre-course reading as well as in-class discussion and exercises, with opportunity for Q & A. Attendees will also receive an individual subscription to OMRI and a graded post-assessment. Joint IOIA and OMRI Certificates of Completion will be awarded to successful participants, and discounts are available for current OMRI subscribers and IOIA members. To register, see the IOIA registration page: <http://ioiaregistration.ganconference.com>

OMRI, formally recognized by the NOP as a reputable 3rd party material review organization (NOP Policy Memo 11-3), makes the ideal partner for this training effort. OMRI provides organic certifiers, growers, manufacturers, and suppliers an independent review of products intended for use in certified organic production, handling, and processing. Manufacturers submit product information and an application, and OMRI then reviews each product against the National Organic Standards. Acceptable products are OMRI Listed® on the OMRI Products List, and are allowed to display the OMRI Seal. OMRI also provides guidance to subscribers and certifiers on the acceptability of various material inputs in general under the National Organic Program.

Lindsay Fernandez-Salvador holds a B.S. from Oregon State University in Natural Resource Management and an M.S. from the University of Florida in Geography. She has over 8 years of work experience on both conventional and organic farms in Oregon. Her graduate research thesis examined market conditions that contribute to small organic farm success. Through this research she became familiar with organic standards and issues facing organic farmers. She also consults for organic producers and performs organic inspections. She has lived and worked in Latin America and is fluent in Spanish.

Over the past year, IOIA has expanded training offerings in the initial phase of development of the Training Institute. Live in-person training will continue to be the preferred format for delivering the basic '100 level' crop, livestock, and processing courses. IOIA will also continue to offer a variety of specialty or single-focus topics through both live advanced training and webinars. These '300 level' courses are of interest to inspectors who need specific skills or who are doing a specific type of inspection. Examples of webinars in this category could be aquaculture or maple syrup inspection. [see **OMRI**, p. 4]

Notes from the Chair by Michelle Sandy

While the AGM was only two months ago, it seems like ages. My husband and I, as well as our children, keep ourselves busy on our farm in the spring with calving and seasonal chores. Welcome to new BOD members Silke Fuchshoven, Ib Hagstrom, Deb Bunn & Helene Bouvier..... and thank you to the former BOD members Bob Durst, Dave Konrad, Julio Perez and Bob Howe - good luck in your future endeavors! The newly elected IOIA board is focusing its efforts on further development of the IOIA Training Institute; continuing the certifier dialog conference calls; developing a new senior staff position at IOIA; and a Board Retreat focusing on the development of a 5-year Business Plan. In April I attended the Organic Trade Association's 2011 Policy Conference and Hill Visit Days in DC and was reminded of the importance of their efforts in shaping [see **Notes**, page 4]

Inside:

Fumbling Part II
NOSB Report
GMO Lawsuits
BioFach
Training News
Oz Webinar
AGM Wrap Up

And More!!

Welcome New IOIA Staff

Kathy Bowers, IOIA's Office Manager, joined the IOIA staff with the New Year. She brings an education/extension degree, experience teaching computer science and home economics, and a



lifetime of cattle ranching experience. She is in charge of membership and works 4 days each week.

Danalynne Miller, USA Training Services, joined the IOIA staff in early March. She brings 30+ years of



paralegal experience. She now fills the role of bookkeeper and assists the ED and BOD as note-taker for BOD meetings, and is also working

4 days each week.

Fond farewells, thank you, and best wishes to **Teri Lindberg** and **Renee Higgins**.

Jobs at IOIA

IOIA Training Position: IOIA will be posting a job announcement for a second senior staff position. Primary responsibilities will focus on expansion and implementation of the IOIA Training Institute. If you would like more information, contact Bob Durst, Search Committee Chair at BobD@SimpleOrganicSolutions.com or check the IOIA website Job Board.

Grant Writer: Do you have experience and expertise in writing grant applications? Are you interested in contract work in this area, or are you willing and able to contribute your services to IOIA? If the answer is 'yes', please contact the IOIA office.

Membership Updates

Please make the following changes to your 2011 Membership Directory. Any changes are italicized. Other parts of the addresses remain the same unless noted. Any additions or corrections to information categories other than addresses and contact numbers will be listed in the 2011 Hardcopy Membership Directory or can be viewed in the 2011 Online Directory.

ADDRESS CHANGES:

INSPECTORS:

George Martin *redhawk60@hotmail.com*
Carlos Humberto Gonzalez
humberto.gonzalez@primuslabs.com
Erin Beard Wilson *curlywilly@gmail.com*
Kitri Falxa *kitrifalxa@gmail.com*

WELCOME RETURNING FORMER MEMBERS (NOT PRINTED IN THE 2011 DIRECTORY)

Inge Vogelmann ingev@iglide.net
Greg Awai greg@blacktomato.ca
Eugene Gergen inspect@grghelp.com

Welcome New Members

INSPECTORS:

Sabine Carey
veggies@fullcirclefarms.com
Alvaro Martinez Seminario
a.martinez.s@gmail.com
Amy Griner Stafford algriner@gmail.com
Joel Aitken joel.aitken@gmail.com
Judith Siddiqui
inspectorjudith@yahoo.com
Sung-Jun Park jun747@jejunu.ac.kr
Eunice Schlappi eunice.schlappi@ky.gov
Jeffery Stiles jstiles@co.marin.ca.us
Kimberly Hagen khagen@sover.net

WELCOME NEW SUPPORTING INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:

Laura Cohen
lauraleahcohen33@gmail.com
Ingrid Rooda ingridrooda@gmail.com
Vanessa Ramirez
vanessa.ramirez@berry.net
Steven H. Long slong2@clemsun.edu
Luella Porter egg lady0@gmail.com
Ted Richter
farmerted64@comcat.net
Joe Bocardy jbocardy@live.com
Brendan Kline
brendan.kline@wholefoods.com
Katherine Martin
kemartin1115@hotmail.com
Benjamin Caldwell
darthcaldwell@gmail.com
Jennifer Megyesi
fatroosterfarm@gmail.com

IOIA Anniversary Cookbook

A FUNdraising project celebrating 20 years of IOIA! We are looking for your favorites including simple, 'on the road' recipes, tips and other tidbits that will make this a very collectible book. Our goal is at least one recipe from every IOIA member.

To submit a recipe for the IOIA Cookbook, email mailto:lynell@rangeweb.net with the following information:

- 1.) Your full name as you want it printed. Inspection status (experience/years), social network info (optional)
- 2.) Category of dish (breakfast, lunch, dinner, dessert, drink, snack, etc)
- 3.) A few sentences explaining why this recipe should be included in the cookbook: Why did you choose to submit this one? Is this something that you are known for? Where did the original recipe come from? What makes it so special/delicious? Have you served it at any memorable occasions?
- 4.) The recipe, broken down into ingredients and steps. In WORD DOC only. Times New Roman, size 12 font is preferable, single spaced. No PDF, or other formatting, tables.
- 5.) A photo of you, your farm, or home. JPG only. Please send in the recipe and photo as separate attachments. Please do not embed photos into the recipe document. You may also want to submit a photo of the finished dish.
- 6.) Other tidbits, IOIA history bytes, humorous anecdotes, quotable quotes, or historical photos are very welcome.

IOIA Board of Directors

Michelle SandyChair
Jennifer CliffordVice Chair
Eric FeutzTreasurer
Helene BouvierSecretary
Debra BunnDirector at Large
Silke FuchshofenDirector
Ib HagstenDirector

The Inspectors' Report is the newsletter of the International Organic Inspectors Association. IOIA is a 501 (c)(3) educational organization, whose mission is to address issues and concerns relevant to organic inspectors, to provide quality inspector training and to promote integrity and consistency in the organic certification process. Editor: Diane Cooner, Box 1259, Guerneville, CA 95446 USA. 707-869-3017, fax 707-869-1478.

ioiaweb.ioia.net

Deadlines

are Feb 1, May 1,
Aug 1 & Nov 1.

Published quarterly
on recycled paper.



Training Schedule 2011

Waitsfield, Vermont – Livestock, June 6-10

IOIA will sponsor Basic Organic Livestock Inspector Training June 6-10. Trainings will be held at the Inn at Lareau Farm in Waitsfield. The course includes 4 days of instruction including a field trip to a certified organic dairy operation, plus ½ day for testing.

Webinar: IOIA/OMRI Crop Inputs Webinar August 1 See page 1 for more details.

Gyeonggi, Korea Crop Course, July 13-17

IOIA and KOIA will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Crop Inspection Training using the Korea Organic Regulation (EFAPA) as a reference. The course will be held in Anyang, Gyeonggi, Korea July 13-17. For enquiries, please contact Isidor Yu at Ph: +82-10-9133-5431 Fax: +82-2—2281-9239 e-mail: Isidor.yu@gmail.com

Japan, Farm & Processing Courses, September 14-17

IOIA and JOIA will cosponsor 4 day Basic Organic Farm and Processing Inspection Trainings using JAS Standards as a reference. The courses will be held in Akihabara, Tokyo, Japan, September 14-17 and run concurrently. The training language will be Japanese. Please contact Mutsumi Sakuyoshi at JOIA for more information about the courses. E-Mail: mmu-saku@cap.ocn.ne.jp 20%20 website: <http://www.joia.jp>

Namyangju City, Gyeonggi Province, Korea, October 2-5 – in conjunction with 17th IFOAM Organic World Congress

IOIA will sponsor advanced inspector training in conjunction with the 17th IFOAM Organic World Congress. The course will be delivered as three separate training segments. On October 2, **Han Jung Yeol**, will instruct a one-day soil assessment workshop for organic inspectors. Mr. Han is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Korea Organic Inspectors Association (KOIA). He has 15 years of experience in soil analysis and eight years of experience as an organic inspector. The language of the workshop will be Korean. On October 3, **Yutaka Maruyama** and **Mutsumi Sakuyoshi**, IOIA trainers from Japan, will present a Standards Workshop to address updates and key differences for EU, NOP, and JAS standards with assistance from **Isidor Yu**, IOIA Trainer from Korea, on the Korean standards. Language of this training will be English. On October 4-5, **Luis Brenes**, IOIA Trainer from Costa Rica, will provide two days of Grower Group inspection training in English language. Mr. Brenes has been training globally and inspecting organic operations, including grower groups, for more than 15 years. Translation will be available. Trainings will be held at the KOBACO Training Center in Namyangju City. A room block has been reserved. IOIA will host an inspector gathering on October 2 after the soils workshop ends. For application materials or more information about the trainings, contact the IOIA office.



Korea Training Planning Meeting, L to R: Sandeep Bhargava, Raymond Yang, IOIA ED Margaret Scoles, Dr. Leigh, and Mutsumi Sakuyoshi.



Brian Lee of the OWC organizing group, offering Korean delicacies during BioFach.

During the OWC and prior to the training, IOIA will deliver a workshop on October 1 entitled “Quality Organic Inspections: The New Organic Inspector”. Workshop presenters include **Sandeep Bhargava**, IOIA Inspector Member from India, on the topic of Grower Group inspection; **Margaret Scoles** on the IOIA Training Institute; **Yutaka Maruyama** (JOIA) and **Isidor Yu** (KOIA) on the formation of regional organic inspector groups. India is the only country to include grower group certification in their organic regulation. IOIA events focus around small holder inspection, in keeping with the theme of the OWC.

California and Midwestern USA, Fall and Early Winter 2011

Basic Crop Training is under development in the Midwestern USA for the fall. Basic Crop/Processing Inspection Training is under development for California, tentatively scheduled for December 5-9. For more information, watch the IOIA website Training Schedule or next newsletters.

Sacha Draine, Margaret Scoles and Dr. PVSM Gouri, Agriculture & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, (APEDA), India discuss future trainings in India at BioFach. Gouri is a candidate for the IFOAM World Board. →



Notes, from page 1

both the regulatory and market environment for organic products. It was an excellent week in DC for the organic industry.

Late April found me in Seattle as an observer at the NOSB meeting. Having never attended an NOSB meeting, I was not prepared for the public comments and heartfelt stories shared during the very brief allotted time. One of the comments from a certifier reminded the NOSB that unannounced inspections had been an action point and had not been followed through with, and should there not be consistency and non-bias in unannounced inspections, both random and with cause, throughout the industry? It was also suggested these unannounced inspections should be completed in conjunction with residue testing. The meeting also covered heavily mandated sunset reviews, which outcomes are covered in another article in this issue. I will not get into the details of the different materials here but found the outcome to be both fascinating and at times surprising. Work continues on animal welfare. Public comments referred to the pasture rule and the ongoing difficulties of implementation, including the lack of inspectors prepared for the inspections needed to verify organic systems to the new pasture rule.

In order to maintain the organic integrity, it is important to remind inspectors to only accept those inspections for which you are **truly qualified**. The animal welfare requirements would cause the producers to suffer under the weight of the documents and these documents do not necessarily guarantee better animal welfare.

I have returned home just in time for planting and farmers markets, although for just a short time, as I travel to Bio Fach China in May.



Have a wonderful spring! Michelle.

OMRI, from page 1

The IOIA/OMRI webinars are part of the new core intermediate or '200 level' courses that all inspectors in a given category need. For example, all inspectors of farms should have additional training beyond basic training in audit trail, natural resources, and crop inputs. All livestock inspectors should have additional training in feed audits and livestock materials.

These new core courses are most valuable to those already working as inspectors and certifiers, going beyond what can be done in a basic 4.5 day course. IOIA is building this new category of courses to develop the necessary skills for performing detailed inspections. IOIA's series of NOP Pasture Rule webinars over the past year represented the first IOIA '200 level' course. This new category will also become an essential component in a stronger inspector accreditation program. The webinar format makes these courses highly accessible, affordable, green, consistent, and reproducible.

This is the first step in the development of a series of IOIA/OMRI webinars that will include livestock inputs and processing inputs. Webinars focusing on inputs in relation to the Canadian standards are also under development. OMRI will continue to collaborate with IOIA on live in-person training of inspectors, as in the past (2007 and 2008), to ensure that adequate numbers of trained inspectors are available to do on-site inspections of input manufacturing operations.

South Africa Stops DuPont Acquisition of Major Seed Company

For the first time, a country in Africa has blocked the purchase of a seed company in order to regain a degree of control over the seed supply. DuPont's Pioneer Hi-Bred had sought to purchase South Africa's largest corn seed company, Pannar Seed Ltd. Activists opposed to the purchase of Pannar Seed Ltd are also pushing the government to reduce Monsanto's degree of control over genetically engineered seeds. Source:

www.Malaya.com, December 16, 2010

Minutes, from page 22

Report from Chair: Michelle attended the DC OTA Policy Conference meeting noting there were many doors open to IOIA. Michelle informed the BOD she intends to attend BioFach China as a representative of IOIA May 25-28 and requested \$1,500 to support her airfare (she noted she will personally be covering all additional costs). The money is expected to be transferred from the IFOAM Korea budget and Michelle indicated she may not attend or will reduce her trip to Korea to cover the budget shift. Other options were discussed as well as the need not to create more deficit. One thousand dollars were allotted to Michelle for airfare to BioFach China.

Conflict of Interest: COI – Margaret asked for verbal announcements of COI's. BOD members had none. It was noted that if in the future a BOD member had a conflict they would abstain from voting on that particular item. A motion was made to table the item of BOD COI Policy to our May meeting for further discussion.

Senior Staff Position Search Committee Update – The last committee meeting was Tampa. Margaret discussed the possible need for a BOD initiative to continue the effort.

Training Institute (TI): The Institute was born in 2007. It was taken up, visualized and created at the AZ BOD meeting in 2010. The Institute is not separate from IOIA, but a platform for all the diverse trainings we offer, create and are involved with. Margaret gave an overview of the TI asking us to keep this in mind while seeking the 2nd staff position.

BOD Retreat Business Plan – Margaret suggests we do a two day retreat or no longer than three days. Retreat dates will be forwarded to Michelle who will put together preliminary meeting dates. In May the BOD will work on defining dates and a location.

IOIA Logo: We would like to move on the logo. Michelle has submitted a new logo. Comments will be forwarded to Michelle who will forward them to the artist. The logo will be discussed again at the May BOD meeting.

IOIA BOD Conference Call May 10

Minutes pending approval.

Notes from the ED: Back to my German Roots

By Margaret Scoles

In February, I had the pleasure of participating for the first time in BioFach in Nuremberg, Germany with **Sacha Draine**, who heads up our International Training Services. Sacha's months of advance planning and multi-lingual gifts (German, Swiss-German, French, and Spanish) greatly enhanced our productivity. I'll journal some of the highlights here. We also attended the IFOAM Summit via webinar a day before we actually arrived in Nuremberg. The entire trip was a great success. One of the personal highlights of the trip was my first real chance to set foot on German soil. My maternal grandparents both immigrated from the Germany/Austria region.

Our very first meeting was with **Mutsumi Sakuyoshi**, IOIA Trainer, Japan, and **Sandeep Bhargava**, IOIA Inspector Member, India. We met to plan the Grower Group aspect of our inspection workshop session at Korea OWC October 1 and the Advanced training in conjunction with that event. Mutsumi is in charge of facilitating the session. We met with **Raymond Yang** and **Dr. Leigh** of Doalnara Institute regarding the same events. The IFOAM booth party followed shortly afterwards on Feb 17 (Organic Night). There was a heavy Asian influence there since Korea is hosting the 2011 OWC. I was glad to reconnect briefly there with **Mr. Lee** of NAQS in Korea. We'd met in Korea last March. We also attended the ECOCERT booth party the same night and confirmed **Michel Reynaud's** participation at the Florida training on the topic of EU regulations.

We had been invited to an IFOAM Leadership Training next morning, on Feb. 18. **Markus Arbenz** and **Anna Wissman**, IFOAM Advocacy Coordinator, led the session. Participants included **Peter Lustig** (Grolink) who has been the Lead Trainer for the Grolink trainings in the developing world over the past 10 years or so. **Ong Kung Wai**, also of Grolink, was there. He had worked with us in 2008 on the Grower Group trainings in India. Several participants represented India and Africa. **Dr. Phil Harris** of Coventry University in the

UK talked about a program in West Africa. We followed up later by visiting the Africa pavilion at his invitation and enjoyed a demonstration in chocolate making. We were descended upon by ICCOA (International Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture, India) after the meeting with requests for our fee schedules and training materials. During the meeting, we explained IOIA's Training

Institute initiative and how we thought the IFOAM Academy and the TI could be linked and mutually beneficial.

Thomas Cierpka, IFOAM Managing Director, gave us more than an hour of his time. We had scheduled a meeting with expectation of much less time. We discussed the concept of IFOAM North America with him, explained our Search Committee task for a second senior staff position, explored the need to update the IFOAM/IOIA International Organic Inspection Manual, discussed and reconfirmed that the current financial arrangements on the manual is working well for both of us, and explained as much about IOIA as we could.

We met with **Beate Huber**, FiBL, and **Bo van Elzakker**, IOAS President. Our discussion turned mostly to the Anti-Fraud Initiative in North America and the potential of training for inspectors. We visited with Organic Services (**Mike Sumner** and **Frank Gerriets**) about paperless inspection formats. They wanted to explore ways that IOIA could promote or make available paperless inspection documents based on the NOP standards. I explained that all certifiers are extremely attached to their own forms, that there is a huge obstacle of who would pay for it, and how IOIA is limited in what role we can play. Paperless certification really only works if it is mandatory and all-inclusive. Creating and maintaining the software for digital certification management is a big job and probably not feasible for individual certifiers or for IOIA.

On Feb 19, we met with **Dr. Gouri** of APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) to discuss further training in India. They are exploring Livestock inspection training to the Indian standards



Three Swiss in a Row: Sacha Draine, Peter Jossi-Silverstein, and Markus Arbenz, IFOAM ED, at the party. Peter was a contributor to the IFOAM/IOIA Int'l Organic Inspection Manual.

as a customized in-house training. This would be a follow-up to the IOIA/APEDA/Grolink Grower Group Inspection Trainings of 2008. We then rushed off to our final meeting -- with **Akiko Nicholls**, then ED of Australian Certified Organic, **Michael Baker** of ACO, and **Andy Monk** of Biological Farmers of Australia to confirm and plan the NOP Standards Webinar held on May 9-10. A few of the sessions we sandwiched between the meetings:

-An inspiring and motivational presentation *GMO's --what it takes to make it history.* (**Dr. John Fagan** and others.) Very interesting and well-done. **Christoph Fischer** described huge gains in Germany with GMO-free zones. **Benedikt Haerlin** gave some chilling updates on the inroads that GMO's are making in the EU. All panelists encouraged people who eat meat to eat only organic meat, explaining that the EU does not regulate the importation of GMO livestock feed.

-*The World of Organic Agriculture -- Statistics and Emerging Trends* (**Beate Huber**, FiBL; **Laura Batcha**, OTA, **Markus Arbenz**, IFOAM; **Dr. Helga Willer**, FiBL and several others) was very informational and well-done. IOIA came home with the newest edition of the hard copy book by the same name.

-*North American Organic Update* (**Michel Saumur**, CFIA; **Arthur Neal**, NOP; **Matt Holmes**, OTA Canada (and IFOAM World Board candidate; and others)

-*US Approaches to Global Organic Integrity: Identifying Best Practices* (**Ruihong Guo**, NOP; **John Foster**, NOSB; and **Jake Lewin**, CCOF, facilitated by **Bob Anderson**).

-An excellent session on *Importing to the EU* (**Jim Pierce**, OTCO, and **Beate Huber**, FiBL, and others).

USDA Alert: 2 Fake NOP Certificates in 2 months

USDA on Feb. 11 announced the circulation of a fraudulent National Organic Program (NOP) organic certificate produced by an uncertified operation. Reported to the NOP by an accredited certifying agent, the certificate falsely represented agricultural products as certified organic under the NOP regulations. The certificate claimed to be issued to the Fushan Hengchang Trade Co. Ltd of China. Six weeks later on March 24, USDA announced discovery of a second fraudulent certificate, this one issued to EMN Trading Ltd, of Johannesburg, South Africa.

"The NOP has not found evidence that any product was sold, labeled, or represented as organic using the fraudulent certificate," said Miles McEvoy, NOP deputy administrator, of both incidents. Although these violations may occur, McEvoy said the vigilance of the organic community will help abate them. "We are warning certifying agents and organic handlers to be on the lookout and to notify the NOP if anyone tries to sell organic products using fraudulent certificates."

The certifiers involved were Ecocert, France, and QAI. Both certifiers brought the certificates to the attention of NOP and were not responsible for their production.

Two Former Certifiers Lose Accreditation

USDA announced March 2 that two former organic certifiers, Certified Organic, Inc. (COI) and Guaranteed Organic Certification Agency (GOCA), are no longer accredited to the NOP.

As a result, the companies do not have authority to certify operations as meeting the USDA organic standards.

As both companies have surrendered their accreditation following the administrator's decision, they are no longer authorized to certify operations as organic. Operations formerly certified under COI or GOCA are being certified by other accredited certifying agents or have surrendered their certifications.

Records of appeals decisions are available in the NOP electronic Reading Room at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOPReadingRoomHome>

Calfo New ED at CCOF

CCOF has appointed former California Deputy State Treasurer **Cathy Calfo** as executive director. CCOF certifies 2,400 organic farmers, processors, retailers and private labelers.

Calfo served as Deputy State Treasurer between 1999 and 2004, leading strategic initiatives and overseeing the department's legislative and communications programs.

"I'm excited about leading CCOF as it enters its fourth decade as a key national force in supporting and promoting organic," said Calfo. "The organic industry is adding farms, creating jobs, furthering sustainable practices, and producing healthy food all while coming out of tough economic times. Our vision is to be the leading voice for organic as we certify products, educate consumers, and shape forward-thinking policies," she added.

"Cathy is a real catch for CCOF," said Will Daniels, CCOF board chair. "She brings with her years of proven, high-profile leadership in a variety of nonprofit settings. She has run a gubernatorial campaign, managed the California Treasurer's office, and won victories on a national stage for green jobs and clean energy. I'm confident that under Cathy's direction, the CCOF staff will grow from its already impressive scale of operation and effectiveness to even higher levels of achievement, prominence, and relevance for organic farming and food production."

USDA seeks nominations for five upcoming openings on NOSB

USDA is seeking nominations for five upcoming vacancies on the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). The five-year term openings are for an organic producer, an organic handler, a consumer/public interest representative, a scientist, and an environmentalist. Written nominations, with cover letters and resumes, must be postmarked on or before July 17. Send nominations to Katherine E. Benham, National Organic Program, USDA-AMS-TM-NOP, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Room 4004-S, Ag Stop 0268, Washington, D.C. 20250, or [contact Benham](#) directly (202-205-7806.

Interim Rule Extends Use of Methionine in Organic Poultry Production

USDA has adopted as final an interim rule that extends the use of synthetic methionine in organic poultry production until Oct. 1, 2012. The final rule establishes the following maximum levels of synthetic methionine per ton of feed: laying chickens, 4 pounds; broiler chickens, 5 pounds; turkeys and all other poultry, 6 pounds. The full document is available online at

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/pdf/2011-5716.pdf>

NOP Proposes Rule Requiring Periodic Residue Testing

The NOP is seeking comments on a proposed rule requiring that certifying agents conduct periodic residue testing of organically produced agricultural products. The rule, published in the April 29 *Federal Register* (docket number AMS-NOP-10-0102; NOP-10-10), proposes amending USDA organic regulations to make it clear that accredited certifying agents must conduct periodic residue testing of agricultural products represented as "100 percent organic," "organic," or "made with organic." The proposed rule would require that certifying agents conduct periodic residue testing for a minimum of five percent of the operations they certify annually in addition to pre-harvest or post-harvest testing when there is reason to suspect contamination with a prohibited substance. Further, applicable certifying agents would bear the additional costs for residue testing. All comments must be submitted by June 28, and can be submitted online.

USDA publishes guidance concerning compost and other issues

USDA on May 6 published guidance for the organic industry in the *Federal Register* concerning the issues of compost and vermicompost; wild crop harvesting; commingling and contamination prevention; and the use of chlorine materials in organic production and handling. The Final Guidance is posted on the National Organic Program website under the Program Handbook.

USDA Releases Notice on Ruminant Slaughter Stock Provisions

USDA on May 10 issued a *Federal Register* notice on the ruminant slaughter stock provision of the [access to pasture rule](#). It explains that NOP will not take any further action to amend the provision on ruminant slaughter stock under NOP regulations. In addition, operations certified as of Feb. 17, 2010, need to be in full compliance with the rule, including provisions on ruminant slaughter stock, by June 17, while new organic livestock operations must already be in full compliance.

JOIA Shook Up But Okay

The Japanese Organic Inspectors Association (JOIA) office did indeed get shaken up in the March 11 earthquake, a 9.0 event that devastated the country. But the office, the office staff, and IOIA's Japanese members (Mutsumi Sakuyoshi, Yoko Mizuno, Yutaka Maruyama, Ekuko Asano) are all OK. IOIA ED Margaret Scoles has communicated with each of them since the quake, and reports that they experienced serious inconvenience (power outages, train outages, etc) but not actual damage to their families or homes.

A couple thoughts from our ED on how we can support our sister organization:

"1. Yoko Mizuno is the only one of the 4 members in Japan who is actually on the Forum, so it might be better to send individual messages of encouragements to our members in Japan. Only Yoko is likely to see what comes through the Forum. Emails are listed in the Membership Directory.

"2. IOIA should continue our efforts to support the first IFOAM World Conference in Asia, scheduled for Korea in late September. Even though the conference is not in Japan, the disaster is one more factor that could discourage participation from around the world.

"3. I want to share the following excerpt that might be helpful. It's from 'The Blue Avocado', electronic newsletter Issue #64 March 14, I find this to be a great publication for non-profits, and it usually brings me a perspective I hadn't thought about:

"With what sadness and shock we view the terrible earthquake and tsunami in Japan, feelings that we know well from Katrina, Haiti, New Zealand, Chile, Indonesia. And many of us nonprofit folk have another feeling, too: internal turmoil about disaster giving. Mika Nakahara, a longtime nonprofit activist in Tokyo, commented in an interview that, "Japan is a developed country. We are not used to getting international aid; we are used to giving aid to other countries." But she added, "It is a new feeling to see that other countries care about us, even countries like Korea, China and Russia where we have political conflicts. Goodwill from abroad means a lot to us!"

"When we asked where people could give donations directly to Japanese nonprofits, she said ruefully that Japanese nonprofits don't usually raise money overseas, so their websites are usually only in Japanese and are not set up for international donations. She herself is giving to **Shanti Volunteer Association**, <http://www.sva.or.jp/global/> which has those characteristics.

"In the meantime, all disasters remind us of the power and spontaneous generosity of volunteers who in Japan are everywhere setting up aid and reconstruction stations of all kinds. Our hearts go out to the people suffering in so many places in the world, and to those among them who are finding the strength to help one another."

California Man Charged With Fraud in Organic Fertilizer Case

A federal grand jury returned an indictment on March 11 charging Kenneth Nelson, Jr., 57, of Bakersfield, with 28 counts of mail fraud relating to his alleged operation of a scheme to defraud customers of his organic fertilizer businesses, including distributors and organic farmers, by falsely representing his companies' fertilizers to be organic products when he knew that the fertilizers contained prohibited synthetic materials. Nelson manufactured and sold fertilizers through Port Organic Products Ltd. and various affiliated businesses that he owned and operated, including AgroMar Inc., Sail-On Ag Products Inc., Desert Organic Express Inc., Action Fertilizer, and Microbial Assisted Soil Health Inc. The indictment alleges that when federal

search warrants were executed at Nelson's businesses, it was found that between at least 2003 and January 2009, he had defrauded his distributors and organic-farmer customers by falsely representing that his companies' fertilizers were organic products suitable for use in organic agriculture.

The indictment charges that Nelson caused aqueous ammonia, ammonium sulfate, synthetic urea, and other nonorganic, synthetic substances to be included in his companies' fertilizers. By mixing in these cheaper ingredients, Nelson allegedly produced fertilizers at a lower cost than if he had used 100 percent organic ingredients, and thereby increased his profits. From 2003 through 2008, Nelson, through his companies, obtained profits in excess of \$9 million from the sale of purportedly organic fertilizers.

The Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) and the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) provide independent listing of fertilizers and other products that meet NOP requirements. Organic farmers, distributors, and others relied on WSDA and OMRI organic listings as indication that the products complied with NOP standards.

The indictment further alleges that Nelson obtained and maintained organic listings for his fertilizers from Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) and Washington State Dept. of Agriculture (WSDA) based on the submission of false applications and renewal applications to OMRI and WSDA in which he failed to disclose the true ingredients in the fertilizers. The indictment alleges that he did not disclose to OMRI or WSDA that he was using synthetic materials, and that if he had, OMRI and WSDA would not have listed the fertilizers as approved organic products.

If convicted, Nelson faces a maximum sentence for each count of 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and up to three years of supervised release.

This case is the second recent investigation in California involving the organic fertilizer industry that has resulted in federal criminal charges. In October 2010, Peter Townsley, the founder and former president of California Liquid Fertilizer, was arrested after being charged in a similar case in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. Townsley has pleaded not guilty in that case and is awaiting trial.

NOSB News

April 2011 National Organic Standards Board recommendations

Crops:

The following materials will be relisted, some with annotation changes as noted:

- ◆ Chlorine materials relisted with a new annotation: For pre-harvest use, residual chlorine level in the water in direct crop contact or as water from cleaning irrigation systems applied to soil should not exceed the maximum residual disinfectant limit under the Safe Drinking Water Act. For disinfection or sanitizing equipment or tools or in edible sprout production, chlorine products may be used up to maximum labeled rates.
- ◆ Copper (fixed coppers and copper sulfate)
- ◆ Ethylene gas for regulation of pineapple flowering
- ◆ Isopropanol and Ethanol
- ◆ Lignin sulfonate, with one listing for use as a chelating agent, dust suppressant and another for use as a flotation agent
- ◆ Magnesium sulfate
- ◆ Newspapers and plastic mulch
- ◆ Newspapers and recycled paper for compost
- ◆ Pheromones
- ◆ Sodium silicate for tree fruit and fiber processing
- ◆ Streptomycin and tetracycline were relisted with new annotations restricting use to apples and pears for fire blight control only until October 21, 2014
- ◆ Vitamin D

The following was not approved for use in organic crop production:

- Nickel as a micronutrient

These items will no longer be allowed for use in organic crop production:

- Sodium nitrate-no use of sodium nitrate after Oct, 21, 2012
- Sulfur dioxide (Smoke bombs), as of Oct. 21, 2012

No decision:

Corn steep liquor continues to be allowed. The board voted (six to five, with one abstaining and two recusals) that it was not a nonsynthetic, but it was noted by NOP that the vote does not mean corn steep liquor is considered synthetic. Corn steep liquor

will continue to be allowed for use as compost feedstock until such time as a decisive vote is taken at NOSB. Expect additional action about corn steep liquor at a future meeting.

Handling:

Petitioned materials that were approved for use in organic handling:

- Attapulgit as a non-synthetic processing aid in the handling of plant and animal oils

Petitioned material that was not approved:

- Calcium acid polyphosphate.
- Annotation change to expand use of Sodium acid polyphosphate as a sequestrant on cooked and uncooked produce.

Sunset decisions:

These items will continue to be allowed in organic handling:

- Enzymes
- Potassium iodide-the nonsynthetic form was relisted on § 205.605(a); the synthetic form was not relisted on § 205.605(b)
- Nutrient vitamins and minerals-NOSB voted to relist with current annotation but NOP to issue guidance on accessory nutrients but not before end of year; expect an annotation change proposal at the next NOSB meeting
- Tocopherols

Materials Classification Guidance Document:

The board voted to remove a sentence from the April 2010 recommendation on the definition of chemical change: leaving the definition as "An occurrence whereby the identity of a substance is modified, such that the resulting substance possesses a different distinct identity (see related definition of "substance")."

The NOSB failed to pass a motion to accept the update with the proposed guidance statement about significant level of a synthetic substance in the final material as a level exceeding any applicable regulatory limits, where in effect for the material being classified, and a level without any technical and functional effects in the final material.

NOSB Policy:

The board also made some recommendations about board policies and procedures, particularly the duties of the Vice Chair, the function of the Policy Development Committee, and the procedures for completing committee recommendations.

Excerpted from Wolf, DiMatteo and Associates News & Policy Updates for the Organic Industry, reprinted with permission. For the full report contact info@organicspecialists.com Report also available at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5090952&acct=nopgeninfo>

Canadian Update

By Kelly A. Monaghan

Funding Update

On February 11th a meeting was held in Ottawa to discuss the future of funding for organic standards maintenance and revision in Canada. Representatives from Agriculture & Agrifood Canada (AAFC), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Canada Organic Office met with Matthew Holmes of the Canada Organic Trade Association, Laura Telford of Canadian Organic Growers, Ted Zettel of the Organic Federation of Canada and myself representing the Organic Technical Committee (OTC).

The OTC received notice of funding for the work undertaken for the year ending March 31, 2011, however we were advised that no further funding will be forthcoming from the Canadian government. The Organic Federation of Canada will be working with industry and government to identify potential sources of funding for this critical work.

At the same meeting it was announced that the work of the Standards Interpretation Committee will become funded annually through the operating budget of the Canada Organic Office.

Standards and PSL Update

The latest revision of the Standard and PSL has been completed by the Canadian General Standards Board and has been dated April 2011. It is anticipated that the final review and signoff will be completed shortly and that the new amendment will be available for download before the end of May at

<http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ongc-cgsb/internet/bio-org/index-eng.html>

At present there are over 200 items on the Committee's work list and as per CGSB procedures the standard's first five-year review is scheduled to begin in 2011. Without funding it is unclear how this work will be completed and how the Standard and PSL will be maintained going forward.

Standards Interpretation Committee

The Standards Interpretation Committee added two more IOIA members to its ranks during a recent election. **Rochelle Eisen** and **Maureen Bostock** join fellow IOIA-members **Janine Gibson** and **Dag Falck** along with **Ted Zettel**, **Gérard Bouchard** and **Jean Duval** who collectively make up the seven member committee. These independent representatives are elected by members of the Organic Federation of Canada and all seven are also voting members of the OTC.

The 68 interpretations that the SIC has prepared to date in response to questions submitted are posted on the COO's website. The SIC is actively developing responses to an additional 30 questions which will be posted for comment as soon as possible.

Canada Organic Office

The industry is preparing for the impending end of the Stream of Commerce policy on June 30, 2011. The Canada Organic Office and industry groups have been communicating to ensure that all organic operators are aware of the changes that will take place on that date regarding enforcement and compliance activities. These may include:

- Detaining non-compliant products and/or removing them from store shelves
- Correcting non-compliant labelling
- Returning non-compliant imported products to the country of origin

We are advised that the COO website is being updated frequently and all interested parties are encouraged to visit often:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/orgbio/orgbioe.shtml>

A Certification Body working group is being established to help apply the COO's Operating Manual. As Joe Smillie might say, let's hope they don't name it the Canadian Accredited Certifier's Association.

Canadian International Negotiations

United States – The Canada Organic Office is preparing for its peer review this coming June which will take place during a visit by the NOP to the COO's offices in Ottawa.

The variances within the equivalency agreement are being discussed on both sides of the border. It is hoped that recent discussions on the use of sodium nitrate in the U.S. may result in that variance being eventually removed from the equivalency agreement. The U.S. has formally asked Canada to consider removing ruminants from the stocking density variance and the OTC has asked to wait until the outcome of the NOSB's recent meeting on that issue is known.

European Union – The COO is in ongoing communications with the EU, indicates that there are no significant disagreements between the two countries and that they hope that an arrangement will be finalized before June 30, 2011.



Honorary Canadian IOIA Member Patti Bursten Deutsch at the IOIA AGM Auction displaying some donated Canadian products

IOIA's Canadian Committee

The Canadian Committee hopes to begin an outreach program to inspectors working in Canada who are not currently members of IOIA. If you know somebody in this situation, please contact Bill Barkley at barkhm5@magma.ca so that we can send them information on the benefits of IOIA membership.

Kelly Monaghan is Chair of the Canadian General Standards Board's Organic Technical Committee. She also acts as IOIA's Membership Chairperson.
www.ashstreetorganics.com

IOIA Celebrates 20 Years of Service to the Organic Community!

Highlights of the AGM:

- Quorum was met. 36 voting members, 26 member proxies.
- Approval of 2010 AGM Minutes: The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.
- Ballot Committee was announced. Chair: Joyce Ford (Chair) members Brian Magaro and Janine Gibson were in attendance.
- Annual Report 2010 Overview: Bob Durst (Chair) presented the Annual Report.
- Treasurer's Report by Eric Feutz. The 2010 Balance Sheet, Trainings Revenue and Revenue and Expense Statements were reviewed. The 2011 Budget was presented. The 2011 budget overview 2nd senior staff position figure is under discussion. The budget deficit is expected to be reduced once the nominating committee finalizes the position's salary details. The financials were unanimously approved.
- Membership Committee: Chair, Kelly Monahan reported. The committee would like to continue to encourage potential BOD members from outside the US and would like to solicit candidates worldwide. A short discussion regarding accreditation ensued. The committee is discussing how best to retain members.
- Canadian Committee: Reporting for Bill Barkley (Chair) was Garry Lean: The Canadian inspector Forum is active. It was a very successful Advanced Training in Guelph January 2011. Ongoing issues and discussions: Regional differences, pay scales, British Columbia ACAs who are COABC accredited only hire IOIA Inspectors, insurance, trainings, Canadian ACA concerns, improving the Association.
- Misc Discussion: Should we require all trainees to become members of IOIA? We would like to keep trainees in touch with us in some capacity.
- Accreditation & ARP Committee: Bob Durst reported that the Committee needs a Chair. This committee will address IOIA accreditation in relation to the USDA/NOP.
- New Scholarship idea: Bob H. suggested we create a scholarship in Lance Christie's name. Lance passed away in 2010. He was a long time IOIA member, organic inspector and dedicated much of his life to environmental justice. Details will be left up to the Scholarship Committee. Bob shared a photo and a Moab newspaper article about Lance's tremendous accomplishments.
- Bylaws Committee: the Bylaws committee eliminated Alternates in 2010. The AGM is asked to approve the increase of the BOD to seven regular members. The motion was passed unanimously. It was suggested the BOD discuss large BOD exits and entrances so there are reasonable numbers of BOD members moving on or off at one time.
- Other Committee Reports: Joyce Ford, Ethics and Margaret Weigelt, Scholarship
- Thank you's: A hearty thanks to Rick Martinez for hosting IOIA's Anniversary party and field trip, Michelle Sandy for orchestrating the party, Bob Howe and family for finding the Mainsail, and Lynell Denson for organizing the AGM and training food. Thanks to all IOIA's past BOD members, many of whom were on hand and were recognized – Luis Brenes, Garry Lean, Jim Riddle, Brian Magaro, Patti Bursten Deutsch, Stanley Edwards, Janine Gibson, Elizabeth Franklin, Joyce Ford, Maarten Samsom. Diane Cooner, a responsible and vital part of IOIA, traveled to Costa Rica last fall. She had expected to be here in person but Skyped in instead.
- AGM location 2011: Vancouver, BC; Costa Rica; and Viroqua, WI were suggested. TBD by BOD.

Issues for discussion:

- Brian Magaro - ACAs are possibly willing to accept annual template inspector forms (confidentiality forms etc.) from IOIA.
- PPF GMO lawsuit – Bob Howe – Public Attending members, to a large degree, agreed the organization should advocate in the best interest of the organic industry. The straw poll indicated an overwhelming majority in favor of being part of the suit.



← 2011-2012 BOD, from left:

Margaret Scoles, ED;
Michelle Sandy, Chair;
Silke Fuchshofen, Facilitator;
Jennie Clifford, Vice-Chair;
Ib Hagsten; Director;
Eric Feutz, Treasurer; and
Deb Bunn, Executive-Member-at-Large
March 28 in Tampa
Not pictured: Helene Bouvier, Secretary.



The BOD surprised the ED with a slide show presentation. It was prepared in secret through collusion between Michelle Sandy and Kathy Bowers, IOIA Office Manager and presented at the AGM by founding BOD Chair Jim Riddle. A 20th anniversary plaque was presented 'to Margaret Scoles for 20 years 1991-2011 of Dedicated Service to the IOIA'. Scoles was a founding BOD member of the organization and a member of the steering committee along with Riddle. The slide show is available to members on the IOIA website (go to 'About IOIA' then 'Annual Report' link). Pictured are Jim Riddle, Margaret Scoles, Bob Durst, and Michelle Sandy. ←



Outgoing Chair **Bob Durst** accepts a gift from IOIA, the traditional handmade thank-you by Ardith Rost of Broadus of hand calligraphy and dried flowers. Durst served as Chair for the past 3 years and as Vice-Chair for 1 year. →



Michelle Sandy presents **Dave Konrad** a gift of appreciation from IOIA for his past 4 years of service on the BOD. ←



Fred Kirschenmann was back for an encore performance with IOIA. He spoke at the first Annual Meeting in Arkansas in 1993. That speech was titled, "*In Search of Objectivity, or How to Create a Credible Certification Program*". Slightly modified, that speech was included in his latest book, **Cultivating an Ecological Conscience: Essays from a Farmer Philosopher**. Kirschenmann donated an autographed copy to the IOIA Auction and gave the 2011 keynote address in Tampa, with "*The Farm, Food, Certification Connection: It's All About Relationships*". →



IOIA members on the veranda after an excellent meal of mostly organic ingredients, listening to Fred's keynote on real food, real food costs, and the future of food. ←



Faces at the AGM: Kevin O'Dare, inspector from Florida, and Janine Gibson, past BOD member. →

Something to Celebrate! 20 Years of IOIA – The AGM Party at Sweetwater Farm

The things that BOD members do for IOIA! Anything to get a few more dollars for an auction item -- Bob Durst, BOD chair, poses in a Wisconsin cheese hat and offers Wisconsin cheese to go with it. Former BOD Chair Brian Magaro served as auctioneer. Patti served as 'Vanna White' in a bright red dress and donated the cheese. And IOIA Treasurer Eric Feutz clerked for the auction, bought more items than anyone, and tried to keep track of the money in the dark. The Cheese hat went to Ontario with Kelly Monaghan's daughter Laura. The auction was a smashing success and raised \$2400.



The 20th anniversary cake, crafted by local caterers and served with delectable chocolate dipped strawberries after sumptuous evening snacks that served as a meal. Wine was donated by Frey Organic Vineyard and Whole Foods, plus contributions from the party-goers. Berries were in full season in Florida. Organic berries were donated by IOIA Inspector Member Ron Clark and wife Sherry (Jordan Farms) and used for desserts throughout the training, AGM, and party. Jordan Farms also hosted a field trip a few weeks later for the basic crop inspection course.



Jim Riddle and **Al Johnson** at the AGM party at Sweetwater Farm. Why are they laughing? Perhaps because of Al's challenge to all founding members of IOIA who were in attendance at the Baltimore meeting in 1991 where IOIA was formed. Of that small group of about 20 inspectors, only four were in attendance at the Tampa events-- Harriet Behar, Alan Johnson, Riddle, and Scoles. Harriet had left the party by the time Al grabbed the mike and issued the challenge -- who could list the most members in attendance at the historic meeting in Baltimore? Johnson won handily with 14. Riddle and Scoles tied a distant 2nd with 10 each. →



Auction Prize - Handmade Quilt by Sherry Clark went for \$330! ↓



In 2002, Harriet Behar was Chair of the IOIA BOD. She cajoled her fellow BOD members into helping her with a puppet show performance of the book *There's a Hair in my Dirt* by Gary Larson at the AGM. An audience member who applauded the performance was Miles McEvoy, then head of the Washington State Organic Program and the keynote speaker for the 2002 AGM. He and his wife Ami Greenberg were in Tampa for the training and the AGM party at Sweetwater Farm for the repeat performance. Harriet fortunately had stored the props and puppets for the past 9 years and brought them out of storage for IOIA. Janine Gibson narrated the performance, and Harriet Behar, Aaron Brin, and Joyce Ford gave life to the puppets. Thank you, Harriet!



Liz Hollister and her band were Awesome!

Ami Greenberg was surprised with a 'Friend of IOIA' Award for her years of service as the non-IOIA member on the IOIA Accreditation Review Panel. She served from the first ARP in 1995 until 2007. The award was a handmade award featuring calligraphy and dried flowers.



'Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain'....

Miles McEvoy was a successful bidder during the auction. He and Ami took home to Washington DC a basket made of a recycled team roper's lariat, handcrafted by IOIA's Office Manager Kathy Bowers. The basket was filled with organic jerky, organic Yellowstone Coffee Roasters coffee beans (sold at the IOIA office), and a Broadus centennial coffee cup showing the historic town square, including the building that now houses the IOIA office.

Advanced Training, Tampa

In keeping with the 20th anniversary celebration, IOIA presented an exceptional roster of speakers for 2 packed days of training that enticed a record number of members to participate.

The Mainsail Suites Hotel provided excellent lunches on the sunny veranda outside the meeting room. Thirty-six participants, most of whom attended both days, were joined by speakers and BOD members to match the largest previous AGM-associated advanced training. **Gwendolyn Wyard**, formerly of OTCO and now with OTA, kicked off the training with a marathon but top notch morning session on important processing topics. She addressed the use of flavors as ingredients in organic products including the

relevant NOSB actions; nutrient vitamins and minerals; and draft guidance on chlorine and MWO composition. Both drafts have since become final guidance. **Ken Bruce** of the Canada Organic Office joined with **Garry Lean** to give an update on the *Canadian-US Equivalency Agreement- What inspectors need to know for 2011*. **Fred Ehlert** presented *GOTS and Textile Inspection*. Last in the day, two options ran concurrently, **Kate Newkirk** facilitated a session on *How to Take Good Notes and Write Good Reports*, assisted by **Garry Lean** and **Stanley Edwards** on adapting technologies. **Harriet Behar** provided sessions at the end of Day 1 and Day 2 on *Navigating the Technical Service Provider (TSP) Process*. The NRCS hopes to expand the number of TSP's available to help farmers develop their transition plans. At the conclusion of Day 1, the participants enjoyed a bonus session with **Jake Lewin** (CCOF) and **John Foster** (Earthbound Farm and NOSB member). Lewin spoke on Unannounced Inspections. John Foster gave a brief NOSB update. The session included hearty discussion, organic pizza from Tampa's Pizza Fusion, salad, and lots of beverages, all courtesy of Earthbound Farm and CCOF.



Advanced Training Group, Speakers and BOD members, March 25-26.
Not pictured: Mary Wilson and Ely Battalen.



Ken Bruce, CFIA,

Day 2 began with a session on *Good Agricultural Practices Standard (GAP)* by **Luis Brenes**, followed by *Residue Sampling & Analysis* by Kate Newkirk of Maine and *Urban Organic Agriculture* by **Julia Govis**. **Michel Reynaud** of ECOCERT gave the *EU Regulation Update*. **Miles McEvoy** of the National Organic Program office presented the finale --an extensive NOP update with a highly interactive Q & A. He covered inspection quality, the recently released residue sampling procedures, enforcement actions, and a solid update of NOP activity. Participants expressed appreciation for his willingness to engage in frank and open exchange with inspectors, including the potential for a more meaningful inspector accreditation program. Day 2 ended with the anniversary party (see page 14).

Training evaluations were quite positive, largely due to the caliber of both the speakers and the participants. The considerable advance work of co-trainers **Patti Bursten Deutsch** and **Luis Brenes** was also a factor.

A question that usually gets asked after trainings like these is whether the materials can be available to all members. The answer

is not resolved. IOIA can and should extend the value of advanced training resources to other members. The value of web-based materials and handouts will never match the in-person networking experience. But it is not clear how the materials can best be shared while respecting those members who invest the time and money into travel to the in-person training.

No rest for the regulators and certifiers. Inspectors never run out of questions. Michel Reynaud, ECOCERT left of center, and Miles McEvoy, National Organic Program, right of center, on the sunny veranda outside the Mainsail Hotel meeting room. The weather was perfect, clear and sunny throughout the training and AGM. March 28, the day afterwards, the skies opened up and rain poured. By the end of the week, the Tampa area had experienced record rainfall, flooding, and several tornados. →



Back to Basics in Tampa

Luis Brenes (Costa Rica) and Garry Lean (Canada) taught the basic crop course April 11-15 at the Bethany Center in Lutz, Florida. Stanley Edwards taught the basic processing course next door concurrently. Bethany Center was declared by trainers and participants alike as one of the best training venues in IOIA history. Lunches were mostly organic ingredients, beautifully prepared. In keeping with the name, Bethany was truly a place of hospitality. The center was created 5 years ago from an area where gravel and soil was mined to build the nearby expressway, leaving two beautiful lakes. All classrooms and lodging rooms had lots of windows and a lake view that included wild turkeys, herons, cranes, ospreys, turtles, and the occasional alligator.

Twenty-one participants, most of whom stayed on-site, enjoyed the serene setting and opportunities beyond the classroom to network at meals, work together in cottage gathering rooms and on verandas while avoiding commutes or standard hotels.

Field trips were hosted by QCS-certified farms.



Jordan Farms (Ron and Cheri Clark) hosted Luis's group during berry season.



The 'Apple Twins' Luis Brenes and Stanley Edwards on the veranda sharing computer techniques.



Ken Der, left, of Big Bear Farms hosted Margaret's group during peak blueberry season. The primary crop was blueberries grown in containers.



Sweetwater Farm a CSA started by IOIA inspector member Rick Martinez, hosted Garry Lean's group. Angel Huerta and Owen Parker visited the Farmers' Market there on Sunday before the course started.



Luis Brenes



Garry Lean

Process Training in Tampa

By Stanley Edwards

All ready for the field trip, but no bus in sight. A black shiny stretch Hummer limo slithers in. Who would need such a vehicle at a Catholic Retreat Center, at 8:00 AM??? Black suit and tie clad, chauffeur waiting for these illusive passengers...still no bus...

Outside, Emily Scoles tells our disbelieving ears that the Stretch Hummer is for us and we need to get in or we will be late! I'm embarrassed by a vision of parading through Tampa in this gas-guzzling symbol of the greedy carefree. What will the field trip host think? My co-group leader Rick Martinez wishes for a stretch Prius...

Once the shock, elation and our bodies settle into the plush vehicle, we proceed to discuss the field trip OSP, face to face, as if gathered around a teak corporate boardroom table. How quickly one gets accustomed to this lifestyle; we do get lots done during the commute.

The stretch Hummer was just icing on the cake. This was a stellar venue, with good food, accommodations and a very bright group of students who patiently listened and asked pointed questions about more advanced topics than could be expected in a basic processing course. I like the new IOIA, and wouldn't a stretch Prius be the ideal field trip vehicle for us? P.S. Margaret did not splurge; it turns out that a limo can be cheaper than a passenger van...go figure.



IOIA Office Manager **Kathy Bowers** was charged with finding the least expensive transportation available for the Florida Basic trainings - and, no kidding, the best deal in town turned out to be the limo service! This is just one more reminder to all, especially as regards inspections - always investigate! Because things are **NOT** always as they seem....!



UDAF Processor Inspector Training, Feb 4 2011

by Stan Edwards

One side of the room faced the other in a typical classroom U; UDAF regulatory inspectors vs staff from Central Milling Company and two independent attendees from California. Within hours though, inspection scenarios forced the factions to commingle and pretty soon, the full immersion was underway, with lively conversations of regulations, inspection protocols and report requirements. Our field trip to a flour milling operation brought all of this information together and each group was able to find the staged contamination and commingling situations set up by our host. The course would not have been the same had it not been for Pam McKinstry's teaching expertise and her invaluable perspective as a full time independent inspector.



OZ, from page 17

NOP markets for Australian producers. Although the ACO and NOP standards are similar, the ACO standards tend to be a bit more similar to European and Canadian regulations. They include specialty crop standards and retailer standards and they are much more detailed, similar to the pre-NOP standards in the US.

Next task: IOIA will get recommendations for specs on audio technology for both ends to improve the quality of the communication. Webinar quality has generally been good using VOIP, speaker phone, beaming in speakers, or having webinars with a group of people all at their own remote locations as individuals. However, the move to a group of people in one room did bring up some new challenges.

Risk Assessment Writ Large in Canada

May 02-May 06, 2011 IOIA/ACC Organic Crop Inspector course
By Lisa Pierce

Day 1 of the IOIA/Assiniboine Community College Organic Crop Inspector course, the federal Conservative party wins a majority, the New Democratic Party makes history by becoming the official opposition and a Green party member is voted in for the first time in Canada. The political landscape polarizes and shifts and the waters rise. Elizabeth May of the Green Party says ‘amateurs built The Ark and professionals built the Titanic.’ And the waters continue to rise. Day 2 of the training, the field trip host informs me that ‘I hope everyone brought their rubber boots....’ And the waters, well – they stayed about the same. But the day after we left Brandon, Manitoba, travel in the city was restricted and a week later the hotel where we were staying was closed along with other local businesses.



In the evening after class, participants would walk on the bridge over the Assiniboine River and assess the rising water levels. The only evidence of the park along the river was the roof of a picnic shelter. The tops of road signs and lamp posts were just visible above the water. The roadway leading to the bridge and the bridge itself was barricaded with ‘prairie sized’ sand bags –a wall of one ton tote bags filled with sand.



But despite the politics and the floods, our group of eleven participants put in those intense IOIA training days and stayed focused. The 4.5 day course referenced the Canada National Standard and was followed by a 0.5 day workshop on the NOP standards. And, as luck would have it, the road leading to the host farm was cleared and the day was sunny for our field trip. Pat and Larry Pollock were exceptional hosts. In addition to experiencing the fundamental aspects of conducting an organic inspection, we were given the opportunity to learn about alfalfa leafcutter bees, the real life impacts of the introduction of GMO alfalfa and the qualities of an organic inspector that are valued from the perspective of a producer.

The participant group was awesome – everyone was attentive and engaging and contributed to the class in a unique way. We all learned a lot from each other.

In the ‘old days’, many Canadians attended IOIA trainings in the United States. Since the implementation of the Canada Organic Regime and the establishment of an equivalency agreement with the United States, however, it has become imperative that organic inspectors in Canada are trained to the Canada standards. This has created a training challenge in Canada. Assiniboine Community College of Brandon, Manitoba is the only co-sponsor to offer courses in Canada that reference the Canada Organic Standard on a consistent basis, and hopefully the success of this course will provide the momentum for the expansion of many more courses in the future.

A special thank you to **Mary Peterson** of Assiniboine Community College.

Happy inspecting from, - and, yes, I did take my bathing suit - Lisa



IOIA/JOAM Basic Crop Training May 2 - 6

A Basic Crop Inspection Training was held in Eltham Training Center, St Ann, Jamaica on May 2-6, 2011. Cosponsored by the Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement – JOAM – a long time cosponsor with IOIA, this is the fourth IOIA training organized in Jamaica since 2002.

Participants were selected from JOAM members and Rural Agricultural Development Authority – RADA – extension officers. Luis Brenes and Garry Lean shared with them through five days of intensive activities, including field trips to two mixed farms within the area.



IOIA/JOAM Basic Livestock Training May 9 – 13

It was a second week at the Eltham Training Centre for most of the 16 participants in the Livestock course. This was a first effort in organic livestock inspector training for JOAM as it prepares for the development of the organic sector. Process training is in the works. The participants included Island farmers and RADA (Rural Agriculture Development Authority) Extension Officers from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The course culminated in a trip to a goat dairy in Portland, Tamarind Hill Farm – a solid 2.5 hours away – but well worth the drive. Tamarind Hill Goat cheese is known across the Island for consistent quality and unique flavors.

This was not an organic farm but Joanna endeavors to do as many things as she can in a natural/ecological manner. The focus of the inspection was on what would have to be changed in order for the farm to achieve organic certification. It



was a first time experience for many of the participant to see a dairy goat operation in action.



Joanna Bulova milks Venus, the last goat of the morning milking.

Green Webinar Training for Oz

By Margaret Scoles

IOIA and Australian Certified Organic (ACO) cosponsored advanced training via 1.5 days of webinar May 10-11. The training was delivered in-house for ACO staff and inspectors. It focused on a review and update of the USDA National Organic Program standards. Fifteen participants

were together in a classroom in Queensland, Australia. Trainers were in the US. Margaret Scoles, IOIA ED, taught the segments on Crop and Livestock training from the IOIA office on Day 1, May 10. Stanley Edwards taught the 4-hour processing standards segment on Day 2 from Utah. They were assisted on-site by IOIA inspector member Raymond Yang, who distributed exercises, proctored the test, and collected evaluations. Yang had delivered Korean regulation training the day preceding the IOIA event, under separate arrangement with ACO. When the webinar was concluded, ACO continued on with another half-day training segment.



Michael Baker of ACO worked hard to manage the technology of the connection. Although there were a few hiccups in the audio quality at both ends, the NOP standards training was deemed a success by both IOIA and ACO. Participants were able to ask questions directly of the presenters; many of those were very difficult questions. Baker relayed those questions to the presenters. Skype and speaker phone were both tried; Skype was clearly the best option. This event was a major positive step for IOIA, as IOIA's first major webinar training delivered outside the US using VOIP technology. The content included a review of the NOP standards and recent NOP updates, plus introduction to how to use the NOP website and Program Handbook as resources, as well as stay current on rule changes. The webinar course included pre-course reading, exercises, and a post-assessment. Only in Australia have certifiers requested exams for advanced training participants. While on-site presentation is always better, there were huge cost and carbon savings with the webinar format. And somewhat to the surprise of the presenters, the class stayed very much awake, engaged, and attentive for the entire event.

The training was initiated through contact from Akiko Nicholls, then Managing Director of ACO, early this year. Scoles and Sacha Draine, IOIA International Training Services, visited with Nicholls in Germany at BioFach in February. They also met Michael Baker and former IOIA member Andy Monk of BFA there. Nicholls later left ACO and the training was further developed with Kellie Lewis and Michael Baker of ACO.

Most inspectors in the group had already done some NOP inspections. NOP is considered an add-on to the ACO certification, so many aspects where the ACO and NOP standards differ are not very important to inspectors. For example, sodium (Chilean) nitrate is prohibited in Australia, so none at all is used on the ACO-NOP certified farms. Beef and lamb are important [see OZ, page 15]

Fumbling Towards Complexity, Part II

By Tony Fleming

Note: This is the second in an occasional series examining the role of natural resources in the certification process, and exploring some of the practical and institutional challenges that hinder inspectors' ability to assess and interpret biodiversity management on NOP-certified farms.

Production practices ... must maintain or improve the natural resources of the operation, including soil and water quality. NOP 205.200

The NOP Rule Requires Producers To Maintain or Improve the Natural Resources of the Operation —

So What Measuring Stick Do Inspectors Use to Evaluate This Requirement?

As an organic inspector, you've made it a point to become well versed in agro-ecology and the topics that variously comprise "the natural resources of the operation". You've read all the books you can find on the subject, boned up on the latest research showing how native plants improve the efficacy of predatory and pollinator insects, and spent time learning about the natural history of the region you inspect in. You even went so far as to participate in the soil judging contest sponsored by the local 4-H organization. All this has enabled you to put together a useful list of indicators and observations to look for to help you quickly assess the quality of a farm's natural resources and how diligently they are being managed. But what to do with the results of your observations?

Into the Woods: Some Useful Sensory Indicators for Judging the Quality of Natural Resources

Soil: How moist does the soil feel about 3-4" below the surface (especially after a period of either limited rainfall or very heavy rainfall)? This is a telling indicator of organic matter content. If it feels like a damp sponge, this tells you there is a good organic matter management program. If it feels dry, or if it is clumpy and waterlogged, organic matter content is probably less than 2% (or tillage may be too aggressive, resulting in destruction of soil structure), and suggests you should look more closely at the soil management program.

Water: If there is a waterbody on the property, what does it look like? If it is turbid or has abundant algae and/or duckweed growing on the surface, there is a nutrient problem. Depending on the nature of the waterbody (i.e., stream vs. lake), you may need to see what it looks like where it enters the property in order to interpret the origin of the water quality problem.

Wetlands: Is there abundant evidence of a complex ecosystem in or around the wetland? Look and listen for different birds, insects (especially caddis- and dragonflies), amphibians, and a variety of native plants. Are areas along streams allowed to flood naturally? All of these things are signs of a healthy, functional wetland, though not all are present in every kind of wetland. Does the farmer avoid wheel traffic in the fringes of ephemeral wetlands?

Woodlands: Is there evidence of diversity? Trees of different sizes and ages? Standing dead trees for cavity nesting species? Does the understory contain a variety of native plants, or has it been allowed to become infested with non-native invasives? Are any economic uses of the woodland sustainable (sugarbush, small-scale firewood, selective harvest, mushrooms, etc)?

Wildlife: Are there obvious areas and corridors suited to wildlife cover and travel? Do non-cultivated areas contain a mix of high-wildlife-value native plant species? Are there water sources? Do you *hear* a variety of birds (most birds are seldom visible during the middle of the day when inspections occur)?

The answers aren't always obvious. While there are several references in the body of the rule to natural resources, virtually all of them specifically mention soil and/or water quality, and none mention the words "biodiversity", "wetlands", "woodlands", or "wildlife". Thus, in the absence of any other kind of guidance, a direct reading of the rule would tend to make one believe that soil and water quality are more important in the regulatory scheme of things than other natural resources, which is exactly how the first decade of farm inspections under the NOP has played out. Indeed, I believe it is safe to say that, until relatively recently, few organic system plans asked even a single question about any of these other natural resources (this statement may not be true of questionnaires for other certification programs outside of the NOP).

Which brings up a "Catch-22" for inspectors: no matter how well versed you are in a topic, if it does not appear on the OSP, it can be problematic to incorporate it into actionable inspection findings. I had more than one certifier tell me that findings like the bulldozing of a woodland, the infestation of field borders with invasive plants, or the drainage of a wetland were "interesting" but "outside the scope of the rule" or "not relevant", either because the OSP asked no questions about these resources or because the operator included no answers. I don't necessarily blame this on the certifiers (and certainly, some of the ones I worked for took biodiversity seriously), but it helped to perpetuate the dichotomy we see today, wherein some farms are showplaces of biodiversity, while others exhibit obvious cases of nature deficit disorder. As I pointed out in the first part of this series, we all had other things on our minds during the implementation of the NOP. But now that most of those other issues have been settled, the question is whether the rule affords certifiers and inspectors clear, unambiguous criteria by which to assess compliance and bring reality more in line with the expectations of most organic proponents and consumers.

We...have amended the definition of organic production to require that a producer must conserve biodiversity on his or her operation. The use of “conserve” establishes that the producer must initiate practices to support biodiversity and avoid, to the extent practicable, any activities that would diminish it. Compliance with the requirement to conserve biodiversity requires that a producer incorporate practices in his or her organic system plan that are beneficial to biodiversity on his or her operation. –NOP Preamble (4) Conservation of Biodiversity.

The preamble offers some insight into the intent of the rule’s framers, stating in a rather straightforward way that producers need to initiate practices to conserve biodiversity, and that compliance with this requirement is to be assessed via the OSP. But translating this into actionable findings is muddled by the qualifier “to the extent practicable”, by the seeming focus on soil and water resources to the exclusion of the others in the body of the rule, and by the ambiguities inherent in dealing with anything left to chance (i.e., not part of the OSP). As an inspector, one could accurately describe the situation surrounding natural resources as being shrouded in uncertainty. Which, as with other ambiguous topics like “access to pasture”, created a tendency on my part to parse the sometimes inscrutable language of the rule, just to be sure I wasn’t overlooking some hidden meaning associated with the contextual usage of words like “and”, “or”, “may”, and “is”.

This exercise proved to be a zero-sum game, for it raised as many questions as it answered. Does 205.200 mean that “improving the natural resources” is optional (as opposed to simply “maintaining” them)? What is the benchmark if the natural resources were severely degraded when an operation began transitioning to organic? Does “improving the natural resources” then apply chiefly, or only, to soil? Unlike, say, the BioSuisse standards, the NOP clearly does not require producers to maintain “nature reserves” on the farm, yet it does seem to require some form of active management in this realm. It’s not hard to come up with even more site-specific questions, as my inspection experience taught me.

Ultimately, it all comes back to the operator, who has to be an active participant in the process of maintaining or improving the natural resources of the operation. In many cases, the operator knows more than the inspector or certifier about this subject when it comes to their own farm, though they may not necessarily be able to articulate that knowledge in the same terms an inspector or naturalist might use. Nevertheless, unless the operator can communicate that knowledge, the process lacks a starting point. And the operator can’t effectively communicate their knowledge (or lack of it) if the OSP does not offer the opportunity to do so. On the other hand, a well-formulated OSP logically goes beyond a basic compliance tool and can serve as an educational portal into the diverse realm of natural resources, simply by naming practices or subjects the operator has never heard of. Some operators may only be vaguely aware of “invasive plants” or “riparian corridors”, but if they are asked about them every year on the OSP, they may become motivated to learn more.

Even when the operator has provided clear and comprehensive information in the OSP, however, assessing “compliance” can be problematic in many common situations involving natural resources. This is especially true in those cases where an element of “benign neglect” (a common cultural attitude towards nature, which might also be expressed as “let nature take its course”) is involved. To cite just one example, I frequently found buffer zones that were infested with alien invasive shrubs. Seldom could these shrubs be considered invaders of farm fields, however, though they almost always were a serious problem for natural lands managers in the region. But nowhere does the rule unequivocally say that such plants have to be removed from uncultivated areas, particularly if they are not reasonably considered a “crop weed” (cf., 205.206). The situation is further confounded by the fact that dense thickets of such noxious shrubs as autumn olive and Asian honeysuckle form nearly impenetrable barriers to drift, and thus comprise highly effective buffer zones.

One can come up with many situations regarding the management (or lack of it) of natural resources in which there is no single “right” or “wrong” answer or response. This is one area of the rule where the inspector often needs to apply what might best be described as “informed judgment”, much of which stems from perceptions of the operator’s attitude and how well the operator is actually following their OSP. For the most part, there is no bright white line that, once crossed, indicates that an operator needs to be more diligent in addressing issues of natural resources and biodiversity. In this way, the regulatory situation very much parallels the resources themselves, which consist of an essentially endless variety of environmental gradients. Stated a bit differently, except in extreme cases, it is usually far easier to recognize and acknowledge varying levels of compliance with the rule than it is to identify specific noncompliances. But the lack of a bright white line has its upside: if a potential issue is not perceived to rise to the level of a noncompliance (or does not even appear as a topic on the OSP), then it also cannot be construed as a “barrier to certification”. In which case, the well informed inspector can, without reservation, serve as a valuable educational resource by way of pointing out natural features on the farm, directing the farmer towards helpful programs and technical resources, and generally promoting greater awareness of the value of increased biodiversity conservation on organic farms. Now that’s a goal everyone agrees with.

Coming In Our Next Issue:
Is Organic Kelp Required in Livestock Feed?
By Wolf, DiMatteo and Associates

Monsanto Suit Seeks Preemptive Protection for Organic Farmers

On behalf of 60 family farmers, seed businesses and organic agricultural organizations, the Public Patent Foundation (PUBPAT) filed suit on March 29 against Monsanto Company to challenge the chemical giant's patents on genetically modified (GM) seed. The organic plaintiffs are suing preemptively to protect themselves from being accused of patent infringement should they ever become contaminated by Monsanto's GM seed, something Monsanto has done to others in the past.

The case, *Organic Seed Growers & Trade Association, et al. v. Monsanto*, was filed in federal district court in Manhattan and assigned to Judge Naomi Buchwald. Plaintiffs in the suit represent a broad array of family farmers, small businesses and organizations from within the organic agriculture community who are increasingly threatened by GM seed contamination despite using their best efforts to avoid it. The plaintiff organizations have over 270,000 members, including thousands of certified organic family farmers.

In the case, PUBPAT is asking Judge Buchwald to declare that if organic farmers are ever contaminated by Monsanto's GM seed, they need not fear also being accused of patent infringement. One reason justifying this result is that Monsanto's patents on GM seed are invalid because they don't meet the "usefulness" requirement of patent law, according to Dan Ravicher, PUBPAT's Executive Director and Lecturer of Law at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York, and the plaintiffs' lead attorney in the case. Evidence cited by PUBPAT in its opening filing proves that GM seed has negative economic and health effects, while the promised benefits of GM seed – increased production and decreased herbicide use – are false.

"This case asks whether Monsanto has the right to sue organic farmers for patent infringement if Monsanto's transgenic seed should land on their property," said Ravicher, "It seems quite perverse that an organic farmer contaminated by transgenic seed could be accused of patent

infringement, but Monsanto has made such accusations before and is notorious for having sued hundreds of farmers for patent infringement, so we had to act to protect the interests of our clients."

Once released into the environment, GM seed contaminates and destroys organic seed for the same crop. For example, soon after Monsanto introduced GM seed for canola, organic canola became virtually extinct as a result of contamination. Organic corn, soybeans, cotton, sugar beets and alfalfa now face the same fate, as Monsanto has released GM seed for each of those crops. GM contamination will limit anyone's ability to guarantee a GM-free product. Monsanto is developing GM seed for many other crops, thus putting the future of all food, and indeed all agriculture, at stake.

Monsanto can sue even if the crops were contaminated through natural cross pollination from neighboring GM crops or if GM seeds were spread by contaminated agricultural machinery, for example.

"Some say transgenic seed can coexist with organic seed, but history tells us that's not possible, and it's actually in Monsanto's financial interest to eliminate organic seed so that they can have a total monopoly over our food supply," said Ravicher. "Monsanto is the same chemical company that previously brought us Agent Orange, DDT, PCB's and other toxins, which they said were safe, but we know are not. Now Monsanto says transgenic seed is safe, but evidence clearly shows it is not."

This lawsuit questions Monsanto's very right to claim a patent. For a patent to apply it must prove its usefulness under law. Yet despite all the hype, the truth is that GM is a failing and increasingly costly technology. After billions of dollars of investment, many of the original claims and promises made by the GM industry over the years have either failed to materialize or have been exposed as nothing more than lies. There is no scientific consensus that GM crops have delivered a general, sustained or reliable increase in yield; there is no consensus that GM crops have offered a sustained reduction in costs to farmers adopting GM crops; nor is there any consensus that GM crops have resulted in a sustainable reduction in pesticide use. Indeed, the

amount of glyphosate usage in the U.S. has increased 15-fold since 1994. Despite claims that GM crops are safe, the biotech industry uses the very same intellectual property rights laws to prevent any independent scientific testing of its GM products. That's not to mention the increasing economic impact of GM contamination on organic and non-GM markets.

As a result, the organic community is taking a stand against the uncontrollable threat of GM contamination. And they are not alone - U.S. consumers are finally waking up to the harmful effects of GM crops on their environment and their health. Demand for organic and "GM-free" labeled food is growing exponentially – "GM-free" was the fastest growing retail label claim in 2009. But the disturbing fact is that unless GM farmers and the biotech industry are held accountable for polluting the environment, the opportunity to grow organically will be lost forever. The fact is that Monsanto doesn't want people to have the right to choose non-GM food on the supermarket shelves, and they are refusing to take any responsibility for the GM pollution they are causing out in the fields.

On the IOIA Forum, Margaret Scoles, ED for IOIA, commented, "This is a very exciting case with a good attorney and sound legal arguments. IOIA members might be interested to know how IOIA is and isn't involved in the suit. Especially for those who were at the AGM when this was discussed.

"IOIA has been involved in conference calls with the Public Patent Foundation since November 2010. Bob Howe participated most fully and reported to the BOD. I was also on a few of those calls. Although we all supported the action in principle, it was harder to see how IOIA as an organization actually fit as a plaintiff. Legal counsel also had questions about this.

"On March 27, at their morning BOD meeting, the BOD decided to present the issue of IOIA signing on as a plaintiff to the membership for discussion. Later that day, during the AGM, there was overwhelming (although not unanimous) support for IOIA to sign on as a plaintiff. "On March 28, several BOD members and I participated in the last pre-filing conference call for plaintiffs while we

were still in Florida. The Letter of Engagement with the Public Patent Foundation was signed by BOD Chair, Michelle Sandy, and Margaret Scoles, ED, on behalf of IOIA. We faxed it to PubPat in NY.

“Even though the letter was signed and IOIA intended to become a plaintiff, Dan Ravicher decided that IOIA might fit better as expert witness or *amici* to the case. We will also help with press about the event. So IOIA will continue to support the case but not as a plaintiff.”

About PubPat

The Public Patent Foundation (PUBPAT) is a not-for-profit legal services organization affiliated with the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. PUBPAT protects freedom in the patent system by representing the public interest against undeserved patents and unsound patent policy. More info on PUBPAT is available from www.pubpat.org.
<http://www.pubpat.org/assets/files/seed/OSGA-TA-v-Monsanto-Complaint.pdf>
<http://www.animalwelfareapproved.org/2011/04/01/awa-supports-public-patent-foundations-suit-against-monsanto/>

Farmers and Consumer Groups File Lawsuit Over GE Alfalfa Approval

On March 18, attorneys for the Center for Food Safety (CFS) and Earthjustice filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), arguing that the agency’s recent unrestricted approval of genetically engineered (GE), “Roundup Ready” Alfalfa was unlawful. The GE crop is engineered to be immune to the herbicide glyphosate, which Monsanto markets as Roundup. USDA data show that 93% of all the alfalfa planted by farmers in the U.S. is grown without the use of any herbicides. With the full deregulation of GE alfalfa, USDA estimates that up to 23 million more pounds of toxic herbicides will be released into the environment each year.

“USDA has once again failed to provide adequate oversight of a biotech crop,” said Andrew Kimbrell, Executive Director of the Center for Food Safety. “This reckless approval flies in the face of overwhelming evidence that GE alfalfa threatens the rights of farmers and consumers, as well as significant harm to the environment. APHIS has refused to apply and enforce the law and instead has chosen to bow to the wishes of the biotech industry.”

This is the second case challenging the legality of USDA’s handling of GE alfalfa. In 2007, in another case brought by CFS, a federal court ruled that the USDA’s approval of the engineered crop violated environmental laws by failing to analyze risks such as the contamination of conventional and organic alfalfa, the evolution of glyphosate-resistant weeds, and increased use of Roundup. The case resulted in USDA undertaking a court-ordered four-year study of GE alfalfa’s impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Remarkably, it marked the first time USDA had ever undertaken such a study, known as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), in over 15 years of approving GE crops for commercial production. While USDA worked on the EIS, GE alfalfa remained unlawful to plant or sell, a ban that remained in place despite Monsanto appealing the case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Earthjustice attorney Paul Achitoff commented: “We expect Monsanto to force-feed people genetically engineered crops—that’s its business model. We hoped for better from the USDA, which has much broader responsibilities. GE alfalfa will greatly increase use of toxic chemicals from coast to coast, threatens the organic dairy industry, and will have farmers going back to Monsanto every year to buy its patented seed and Roundup.”

The plaintiffs include a diverse coalition of conventional and organic farmers, dairies and agricultural associations, and environmental and consumer groups: CFS, Beyond Pesticides, Cornucopia Institute, California Farmers Union, Dakota Resources Council, Geertson Seed Farms, National Family Farm Coalition, Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance, Sierra Club, Trask Family Seeds and Western Organization of Resource Councils.

Known as the “queen of forages,” alfalfa is the key feedstock for the dairy industry. Organic dairies stand to lose their source of organic feed, a requirement for organic dairy, including milk and yogurt products. The organic sector is the most vibrant part of U.S. agriculture, now a 26 billion dollar a year industry and growing 20% annually.

“Approving the unrestricted planting of GE alfalfa is a blatant case of the USDA serving one form of agriculture at the expense of all others,” says plaintiff Ed Maltby, Executive Director of the Northeast Alliance of Organic Dairy Producers. “If this decision is not remedied, the result will be lost livelihoods for organic dairy farmers, loss of choice for farmers and consumers, and no transparency about GE contamination of our foods.”

Because alfalfa is pollinated by bees that can fly and cross-pollinate between fields and feral sources many miles apart, the engineered crop will contaminate natural alfalfa varieties. Roundup Ready alfalfa is the first engineered perennial crop, meaning it remains in the ground for 3-6 years and is widely prevalent in wild or feral form throughout America, further increasing the likelihood and extent of transgenic contamination.

Approval of Roundup Ready alfalfa will spur the glyphosate-resistant epidemic that is already regarded as one of the most serious challenges facing U.S. agriculture. Weeds evolve resistance to glyphosate just as bacteria evolve immunity to overused antibiotics. While other Roundup Ready crops spawned the epidemic, Roundup Ready alfalfa will exacerbate it by increasing the frequency and intensity of glyphosate use on millions of acres of cropland. Farmers respond to resistant weeds by applying more and more herbicides, soil-eroding tillage operations, and even hand-weeding on hundreds of thousands of acres. Such “superweeds” have expanded four-fold to infest over 10 million acres since just 2008, with some projecting 38 million acres by 2013. Alfalfa, the fourth most prevalent crop in the U.S., is grown on over 20 million acres, across every state.

“Alfalfa grows in dense stands that naturally suppress weeds, and so has traditionally been the one crop in farmers’ rotations that provides a much-needed break from the onslaught of toxic herbicides. Roundup Ready alfalfa will only foster still more resistant weeds, and thereby increase the pesticide dependence of U.S. agriculture beyond already unsustainable levels,” said Bill Freese, CFS Science Policy Analyst.

IOIA BOD Conference Call Minutes – January 18, 2011

Attendance: Bob Durst, Eric Feutz, Michelle Sandy, Bob Howe (Voting Alternate), Jennie Clifford, and Margaret Scoles, ED.

Absent: David Konrad and Alternate, Julio Perez. **Minute Taking:** Jennie Clifford

Preliminary Budget: The January 18th, 2011 Budget was accepted with approved emendations; Michelle moved, Jennie seconded.

2011 AGM: A hearty note of appreciation to the nominating committee for their diligence and hard work! A BOD meeting will be held Sunday morning 9-10 AM prior to the 2PM AGM meeting. All BOD candidates will be invited to the Sunday morning meeting. The BOD will meet in the evening of the 27th and Monday through the day. Bob D. offered to be present at the Monday morning BOD meeting. The incumbent BOD members gratefully accepted.

PubPat Lawsuit: Bob Howe will be part of two conference calls this week in support of Public Patent Foundation's efforts (regarding GMO seed patenting) as a formal representative of IOIA.

IOIA BOD Conference Call February 23

Attendance: Bob Durst, Eric Feutz, David Konrad, Michelle Sandy, Bob Howe (Alternate), Julio Perez (Alternate), Jennie Clifford, and Margaret Scoles, ED. **Minute Taking:** Jennie Clifford.

Senior Staff Position: The Search Committee met Jan. 19th for an informal discussion. They will meet again Feb. 25th and during the Tampa Trainings/AGM with intentions to complete the job description.

BioFach Report: It was a good but long trip. ED found personal meetings with Sacha Draine with organization representatives and international members highly successful.

Mischa Popoff: Mr. Popoff has written a book, which includes allegations and inaccuracies about IOIA and many of our members. The BOD has no intention of engaging with Mr. Popoff or formally responding to him. ED will develop a standard letter in response to queries regarding this subject. This response is intended to be forwarded, posted to the IOIA website and will be available via various on line search engines.

Bob Howe Public Patent Foundation Report: The Foundation is managing a class action lawsuit against Monsanto. They have offered to include IOIA. The BOD is considering a meeting w/a Foundation representative to discuss.

ACA-NASOP-NOP Meeting Report: Bob D. attended and reported.

IOIA BOD Meeting, Tampa, Florida March 28

Attendance: Deb Bunn, Bob Durst (past BOD Chair), Eric Feutz, Silke Fuchshofen, Ib Hagsten, Michelle Sandy, Jennie Clifford and Margaret Scoles - ED. **Absent:** Helene Bouvier. Bob chaired the meeting. **Minute Taking:** Jennie Clifford

Elect officers: Plan A: Michelle Sandy – Chair, Jennie Clifford – Vice Chair, Helene Bouvier – Secretary, Eric Feutz – Treasurer, Silke Fuchshofen – Facilitator. BOD duties were read as written in IOIA's bylaws. Michelle accepted the position of Chair and Eric accepted the Treasurer's position. We discussed adding the Facilitator position. Currently the Facilitator's role is to keep time and may be expanded over time. Jennie remained secretary and the Vice Chair position will remain open until confirmation from Helene is formalized which will be the next regular BOD meeting.

Decision Making and BOD meeting schedule: The BOD will make decisions by consensus. In the event a decision cannot be reached by consensus, a vote will be called. We discussed how our BOD meetings would proceed. The IOIA BOD will meet monthly for 2 hours on the second Tues. of each month from 9-11 EDT.

GMO Lawsuit with PPF: The BOD is signing on to the PPF lawsuit against Monsanto as a plaintiff. The Public Patent Foundation expects the wrongful patent suit against Monsanto will be a 3-5 year process. The discussion that ensued brought the question of IOIA's identity in relation to actions and issues in the organic community to the fore. This question was slated for discussion at the (expected) upcoming BOD retreat. Based on the overwhelming support of IOIA's members at the AGM for the organization to file as plaintiff in the suit, the BOD felt a quorum of our members had spoken. Michelle made a motion to sign PUBPAT's letter of engagement, Eric seconded. The BOD agreed with one abstention and one absent BOD member.

Facilitator's Role: Keeping BOD meetings on track, agenda and time. The facilitator will be in touch with the chair and ED prior to meetings to prepare.

Additional Staff Position Update: The Search Committee intends to have a press release out for the position in the next month. There was discussion of the history of this issue and setting plans, missions, and goals for the future of the organization. It was suggested the position and output is built as the person develops into the role. It was noted that the educational dimension of this position is the most poignant.

Note: Silke, Bob D., Margaret, Michelle and Jennie reconvened in the evening to attend a Pubpat conference call. This was the last call prior to the suit that was filed against Monsanto. IOIA sent the Letter of Engagement to join the PUBPAT suit after the call. Michelle as Chair and Margaret as ED both signed the document.

IOIA BOD Conference Call April 12

Attendance: Deb Bunn, Helene Bouvier, Jennie Clifford, Eric Feutz, Silke Fuchshofen, Ib Hagsten, Michelle Sandy, and Margaret Scoles - ED. **Minute Taking:** Jennie Clifford

Elect Officers and Clarify BOD Roles: Jennie accepted the Vice Chair position, Helene accepted the Secretary's position, Deb accepted the Executive Member at Large. [see **Minutes**, page 4]

Resources

GOTS Version 3.0 now available

The International Working Group on the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) has released Version 3.0 of its organic fiber processing standard. The document is available by visiting the [GOTS website www.global-standard.org](http://www.global-standard.org) and visiting the Info Centre.

Organic Seed Alliance releases State of Organic Seed report

The Organic Seed Alliance (OSA) has released a survey-based report, "State of Organic Seed: Advancing the Viability and Integrity of Organic Seed Systems," downloadable from the [Internet](http://www.organicseedalliance.org). The report is the first comprehensive analysis of the organic seed sector. It shows that although the National Organic Program requires the use of organic seeds when commercially available, the organic seed industry has not caught up to meet the increased demand for organic seed.

New Features on NOC site The National Organic Coalition now offers 3 new features on their website covering NOSB Decisions and Recommendations from 1992 through 2001. Follow these links or go to www.nationalorganiccoalition.org

[Toward Organic Integrity -- A Guide to the Development of U.S. Organic Standards, with NOSB Recommendations 1992-1997](#)

[Database on NOSB Recommendations for Materials Considered for Use in Organic Agricultural Production and Handling, 1994-2001](#)

[National Organic Standards Board Recommendations 1998 - 2000](#)

NanoNano A useful site on nanotechnology is www.nanotech-now.com, click the news link. Thanks to Luis Brenes for finding this site!

But you won't find this article on the Nanotech-Now site....

Nanoparticles Bioaccumulate Up the Food Chain

Scientists at the University of Kentucky found that gold nanoparticles are taken up from the soil by tobacco plants, and then bioaccumulate in caterpillars feeding on the tobacco plants.

Levels in the caterpillars were 10-fold higher than in the plants, the first evidence that nanoparticles can bioaccumulate up food chains.

Source: "Nanoparticles Accumulate in Food Chain," *Chemical and Engineering News*, December 20, 2010

NOP's target pesticide list for residue testing. It's in the NOP handbook at the end of the certification section. Go to: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5088987>
From the IOIA Forum

TOC Launches "Generations of Organic" Website To meet the growing needs for consumer friendly information about all things organic, The Organic Center has launched the new "Generations of Organic" website (www.generationsoforganic.org). It serves as a "sister" site to their existing website, www.organic-center.org. "Generations of Organic" provides insight, information, and inspiration for generations of health-conscious people seeking deeper understanding of how organic food and farming promotes human health and animal well being, while also enhancing our natural environment. Explore the site for news, easy-to-make recipes, organic food trends, interviews with organic luminaries, shopping tips, farmer profiles, and condensed information from the Center's technical reports on pesticide risks, nutrition, organic farming and the environment.

Durable work pants for women

Redantspants offers durable work pants that fit women's figures.
www.redantspants.com
Thanks to Margaret Weigelt for sharing!

Boots for Girls, too Thanks to Kelly Monaghan for sharing this link for steel toed boots and wow, they're PINK!
<http://www.safetygirl.com/safety-girl-boots.html>

News Bites

Global organic area continues to expand Land managed organically in 2009 totaled 37.2 million hectares, up 2 million hectares—six percent—from 2008, according to *The World of Organic Agriculture: Statistics & Emerging Trends 2011* released in February at BioFach. The global market for organic products in 2009 was estimated to have reached \$55 billion (40 billion euros), roughly five percent more than in 2008. The book is available for purchase from IFOAM, www.ifoam.org

Beyond Organic... U.S. trade policy undermining global food security US President Barack Obama's *Feed the Future* initiative pledges to support food production by small-scale farmers in developing countries. But U.S. trade policy aims to expand exports into developing countries, undercutting small-scale farmers. In a [new paper](#), Institute for Agriculture Trade Policy's Karen Hansen-Kuhn identifies much needed reforms for U.S. trade policy that better respond to global food insecurity and climate disruptions. Read the [entire paper](#) or learn more on IATP's [Think Forward blog](#). Go to: www.iatp.org

Prenatal OP Insecticide Exposure Impairs Attention Among Children A study of farm worker families in California has shown that by age 3.5, children born to mothers exposed to OP insecticides have lessened attention spans and are more vulnerable to attention deficit, hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Male children were more likely to be impacted.

Source: Marks, A.R., et al., "Organophosphate Pesticide Exposure and Attention in Young Mexican-American Children: The CHAMACOS Study," *Env't'l Health Perspectives*, Vol. 118, No. 12, December 2010

MSNBC Poll – Should GMO foods be labeled? As of March 22, 2011: Total of 45,584 votes -
96.1% Yes. It's an ethical issue -- consumers should be informed so they can make a choice. 43,818 votes
3.1% No. The U.S. government says they are safe and that's good enough for me. 1,403 votes
0.8% Not sure. It all tastes the same to me. 363 votes



PO Box 6
BROADUS, MT 59317 USA
(406) 436-2031
IOIA@IOIA.NET
WWW.IOIA.NET

Keep IOIA Strong - Lend Your Strength And Get Involved!

2011 Calendar

May 28-29 Heartland Festival: A Celebration of Food, Farming, & Healthy Living in the Central Valley. **Stevenson, California** <http://www.eco-farm.org/>

June 4 GrazeFest Minnesota, **Minneapolis, Minnesota** <http://www.sfa-mn.org/grazefest/>

June 9 - 12 Food and Agriculture Under the Big Sky Missoula, MT.
<http://www.cas.umt.edu/evst/foodconference>

June 13 Current Research in Organic Farming, WSU Mount Vernon. **Mt. Vernon, Washington.** The event is presented in Spanish and English.
<http://www.tilthproducers.org/programs/farm-walks-2/2010-farm-walks/>

June 16 - 17 Food for Thought: Food System Literacy in Classrooms, Cafeterias and Communities, Simsbury, CT
<https://www.nais.org/environmental/index.cfm?ItemNumber=153585&sn.ItemNumber=153587>

June 18 OEFFA Farm Tour: Hirzel Farms. **Luckey, Ohio.** This event is part of OEFFA's 2011 farm tour series. This fifth-generation family farm manages over 2,000 acres of land, 700 of which are

certified organic.
<http://www.oeffa.org/events.php?start=16&cn=>

June 18 Rotational Grazing and Fencing Field Day. **Jacksonville, Illinois.** Learn about the production of certified organic beef and poultry.
<http://cisfn.org/about/field-days/>

June 22 MOSES Field Day: Organic Dairy Pasture Walk. **Lansing, Iowa.** Hosted by Mark & Marcia Kruse, on their family's organic dairy farm. Topics covered will include cropland to pasture conversion, grazing management, manure management, organic herd health and organic certification.
<http://www.mosesorganic.org/events.html#june>

June 20-26 Pollinator Week. Pollinator Week has now grown to be an international celebration of the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats and beetles. A list of events in states across the country is posted online.
http://pollinator.org/pollinator_week_2011.htm

July 10 - 23 Annual International Agroecology Shortcourse

Annual International Agroecology Shortcourse Sustainable Living Center, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA
<http://www.agroecology.org>

July 17 - 20 Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) Annual Conference Washington, DC, DC.
http://www.swcs.org/en/conferences/2011_annual_conference/

August 4 - 5 The 4th National Conference on Facilitating Sustainable Agriculture, University of Kentucky – Lexington, KY.
<http://www.sustainableaged.org/>

September 26 – 29 5th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture
The conference will provide a forum for scientists and practitioners to discuss current and future developments in sustainable agriculture. Brisbane, Australia.
<http://www.wcca.org/index.htm>

October 3 – 5 IFOAM Organic World Conference, Gyeonggi Paldang, South Korea. www.ifoam.org

Nov 29 – Dec 2 Fall NOSB meeting, Hilton Savannah DeSoto, Savannah, GA.

*For a complete listing of upcoming IOIA trainings,
please see page 3 of this issue*