The
Inspectors' Report

Vol 5, Number 3, Summer 1996 Published by the Independent Organic Inspectors Association

NOTES FROM THE SADDLE

By Rick Martinez

I have just returned from a difficult inspection trip in Costa Rica, and as I write, the saddle sores keep me gingerly positioned at the keyboard. Sitting here, I am having a hard time finding material for my normal dry, factual, "Notes from the Chair" article. So I have decided to share some thoughts based more on feelings that I experience along the way and what for me, gives true importance to our work.

I find that in my travels, some of my most creative time is my travel time. In talking with other inspectors, they have shared the same feeling, whether it is behind the steering wheel, on a plane or just on foot. It is a time to prepare, ponder and create. It is a common thread between our many different inspection scenarios, which we all share as inspectors. During this particular trip, I found myself confronted and thinking about the roles we play which are not covered in our manual or the USDA program.

I have found this most recent particular inspection more and more challenging with each year. Hours of walking through the rain, crossing rivers, falling off horses and last but not least, the nightly routine of picking off the ticks. The blisters, the aching bones; getting old is a bitch. But there is a reward for this physical challenge. Walking along the trails,

(see **Notes, page 3**)

WAITING FOR THE OGC

The proposed rules for the National Organic Program failed to make an appearance at the end of May, as was expected by most major certifiers. After their latest visit to the USDA, Organic Trade Association (OTA) representatives report that the agency is now expecting to release the proposed rules to the Federal Register sometime between August and October. "It's been six years and a total expenditure of $1.8 million to date and we have seen nothing," remarks Katherine DiMatteo, executive director of the OTA. "Untold hours of public testimony and comment have been heard and all we have heard is one postponement after the other." She pointed out that the industry is moving ahead so rapidly that it has become the fastest growing segment of agriculture. "The lagging by the USDA is hurting our negotiations with other countries to standardize the international rules for labeling, for example. If our standards aren't in place, how can we expect our opinions to be heard? And, the economic implications to our industry will be enormous is the regs are delayed until next year. Even Congress is expressing concern." OTA issued a call to action in late May and letters have been flooding the offices of Lon Hatamiya, administrator of AMS/TMD at USDA and to the Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman, with copies going to local Congressional Representatives and Senators. At last report, the recommendations are hung up at the Office of General Counsel, and OTA's representative on the scene has high hopes that all will reach the Office of Management and Budget sometime in early September. Stay Tuned!

What's Inside

Plus lots more....

In Brief...

Membership Update

Thanks to all members who renewed their membership in 1996!

ATTRA Funding Faces Uncertain Future

The **Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture** is turning its full attention to the Senate's Agriculture Committee Appropriations effort underway this summer. It hopes to reverse some of the damage done by the House Ag Appropriations Subcommittee thru phone calls and letters to politicians. Of primary concern is the zero funding provided for ATTRA, a clearinghouse of alternative agriculture research and information designed for use by rural people. ATTRA's services are generally free and can be accessed through a toll-free number. The House subcommittee's press release cited ATTRA as an example of "wasteful spending."

While some conservation programs took big hits in the House markup, others, including the National Organic Program and the Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education program, were retained. For more current info, background, and names/addresses of key Senators, call Sean at OEFFA, 614.294.FOOD.

**OEFFA News, Vol XVI, No 3

Compost Maturity Test Eliminates Guesswork

Woods End Research Laboratory has devised a fast soil test that determines the maturity of a compost product by measuring its rate of biological activity. Results are available in four hours and no lab equipment is necessary. For into about the **Solvita** test, contact Woods End Research, Box 297, Mt. Vernon, ME 04352 or call 207.293.2457.

Bylaw Amendments Being Considered

By Jim Riddle

On July 27, 1996, the IOIA Executive Committee decided to recommend that the following changes be made to Sections 2.02 and 3.02 of IOIA's Bylaws:

Current Section 2.02 reads:

2.02 Dues and Fees: The annual dues payable by Inspector Members shall be $50.00. The annual dues payable by Inspector Apprentice members shall be $50.00. For Supporting individual members, the annual membership dues shall be $50.00. For Supporting organization and business members, the annual membership dues shall be $250.00. The annual dues for two IOIA members who share a mailing address would be assessed at $90.00 annually, instead of $50.00 each. Additional fees may be charged as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.

Amend Section 2.02 to read:

2.02 Dues and Fees: Annual membership dues and other fees deemed necessary are to be set by the Board of Directors.

This change would not alter our current dues structure in any way. It would simply remove the actual figures from the Bylaws. It is not customary to state an organization's dues in the bylaws. It is simply a housekeeping change. Any changes to the membership dues would be fully discussed in the newsletter and at an annual meeting before the Board would take action.

Current Section 3.02 reads:

3.02 Election of Directors; Terms of Office: Any Inspector or Inspector Apprentice member may serve as a Director if elected by majority vote of the membership. Each Director shall be elected for a two (2) year term by mail-in ballot, in a period of time not to exceed ninety (90) days after the annual membership meeting. One half of the presiding membership of the Board of Directors shall be re-elected each year. Additionally, three (3) Alternates shall be elected at the same time and serve two (2) year terms. A nominating committee shall solicit nominations from individual members, whether Inspector, Inspector Apprentice or Supporting, for Director and Alternate. Regional representation shall be a factor to be considered when determining slate of nominees. Nominations may also be received from the floor.

Amend Section 3.02 to read:

3.02 Election of Directors; Terms of Office: Any Inspector or Inspector Apprentice member may serve as a Director if elected by majority vote of the membership. Each Director shall be elected at the annual membership meeting. Terms of office are two (2) years. One half of the presiding membership of the Board of Directors shall be re-elected each year. Additionally, three (3) Alternates shall

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be elected at the same time and serve two (2) year terms. A nominating committee shall solicit nominations from members, whether Inspector, Inspector Apprentice or Supporting, for Directors and Alternates. Regional representation shall be a factor to be considered when determining the slate of nominees. Candidates for the Board of Directors must be nominated at least 60 days prior to the annual membership meeting. Candidates for Alternates may be nominated from the floor at the annual meeting.

If this change is passed, it would mean that nominations for the Board will no longer be accepted at an annual meeting. All nominations will have to be received at least 60 days prior to an annual meeting. By doing so, those voting from the floor will be choosing from the same slate of nominees as those voting by mail-in ballot. The Board election would occur at the annual meeting, and the new Board would be able to meet, elect officers and conduct business right after the annual meeting. Nominations for Alternates would be taken from the floor. This would allow candidates who were not elected to the Board to choose whether or not they would like to be nominated for an Alternate position.

The decision on these Bylaw amendments will be made by the Members using the mail-in ballot process. Ballots will be distributed this fall or early winter. We must receive a response rate totaling at least 30% of the Inspector and Apprentice Inspector Members in order for action to be taken.

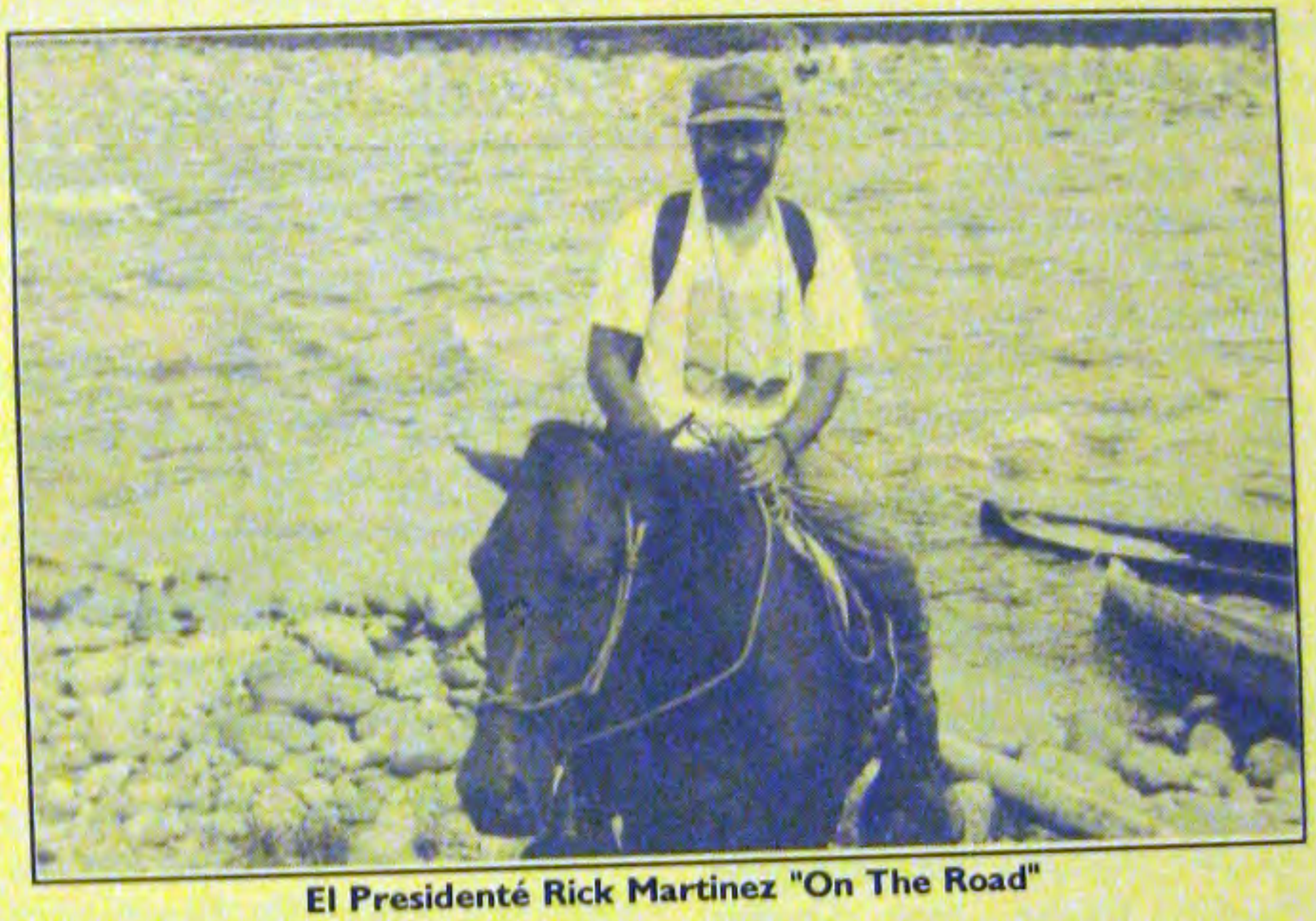
Notes, from page 1

when wondering if I could reach the next community without whimping out, you are met by a farmer, older than yourself, making the same walk, carrying a 50 pound bag of bananas for which he will receive $2.50, and still has to walk back, not to mention growing them. A very strong reality check. He stops and chats. He remembers last year's visit and refers to me as "Ingeniero" (Engineer) which is a title of respect. He says they are waiting for us. And when the village is reached, the entire community is waiting for the arrival of the "Ingeniero" as if I were a dignitary from another continent. Waiting for the chance to proudly show their parcels. Wanting a speech, asking questions. Wanting to show the dignitary a respectful welcome to their world. They give freely of their food, their drink, their customs, their time, their world. They live in open houses, made of materials of the forest; their lives are open. As open, as honest, as innocent as the crops they cultivate as part of the rainforest which is their domain. As far removed from the modern world as can be.

So much of what is the everyday part of our lives is a complete fantasy to them, something hard to believe, something unknown. Yet the common thread in our lives is some-thing they know and understand and have become very committed to; Organic Agriculture. It is that common thread that binds us all, be it the inspector on the road, the farmer on the great plains of North America or the peasant farmer of the rainforest of Central or South America. We are a truly worldwide, grassroots comm-unity, which is rapidly growing.

It is these humble farmers who have humbled this inspector back into the reality of the farmers for whom organic certification means so much. Who for me have brought renewed meaning to the importance of our work, and have given me the strength to push forward with a renewed commitment to fight through the hardships, the disappointments, the frustrations, the fatigue, the politics.

And through it all, during the many hours of walking and thinking, many of you are in my thoughts. IOIA is in my thoughts, the importance of our work. For we are truly ambassadors, messengers for this grassroots movement. Carrying an important message, setting an important example. In many ways we are the thread. To all of my fellow inspectors, keep the faith, keep up the good work, and happy inspecting!



El Presidenté Rick Martinez "On The Road"

OCIA Has New Policy on Inspector Payment

By Joyce Ford

In the Spring issue of The INSPECTORS' REPORT, IOIA asked inspectors to report problems with payment from any certification agency. A few people called in with specific problems concerning inspections for which they have not been paid in a timely way. I wrote letters to each agency involved to expedite payment to these inspectors. Each of the problems dealt with long term non-payment. In following up with this issue, I talked with one of the inspectors who said he has subsequently been paid or shortly will be paid. There were several non-payments from several agencies. Agencies contacted also indicated that payment has occurred to these inspectors.

OCIA was already in the process of evaluating their inspector payment policies. Betty Kananen, Executive Director of OCIA, when contacted by IOIA in August, stated that the Executive Committee of OCIA has now passed a specific policy that Associate Members being inspected will not receive their Organic Certificate until the inspector fees have been paid. In order to expedite the payment process, inspectors should use the following procedure:

1. After completion of the inspection, send an invoice for your services to OCIA and the inspected party. The invoice should be addressed to OCIA as they will be writing the check but you should clearly identify the name of the party inspected, your inspection fees and any expenses (if they are not included generically in the inspection fee). By sending a copy to the inspected party, they will have time to send in a check for the exact amount of your bill before your inspection report is sent in. Jim and I generally fax a copy of the bill to the inspected party immediately upon return home and send in a copy of the bill to OCIA when we mail in our report.

2. The OCIA member inspected by you should include on their check or electronic transfer (and any correspondence with OCIA for that matter) their Associate Member # and information that it is for the inspection fee, thereby insuring that the money is assigned to your inspection fee.

3. A written invoice from the inspector is necessary in order for you to be paid.

4. OCIA is currently working on an electronic transfer payment system to pay inspectors internationally as well as receive payments from their members.

If you have any questions concerning this policy or procedures, contact the OCIA, Int'l office.

Rutherford Scholarship Available for Organic Inspector Training

IOIA is once again taking applications for the annual Andrew Rutherford Scholarship Award which provides full tuition for an IOIA-sponsored organic inspector training course in 1997.

Both prospective and experienced inspectors are eligible to apply for the Rutherford Scholarship. It is awarded to an individual on the basis of financial need and potential as an inspector as judged by the IOIA Training Committee. The scholarship pays for tuition and room and board but does not cover transportation or other expenses.

The 1996 Andrew Rutherford Scholarship Award recipient was Marty Mesh, Gainesville Florida, who attended the 3-day advanced inspector training held in Santa Fe, New Mexico in March, 1996.

IOIA has not fully formulated its training schedule for 1997 but anticipates an advanced inspector training March 9-11, 1997 outside of Dubuque, Iowa and at least one basic farm/process inspector training in the United States. Other trainings may also be scheduled this fall.

The late Andrew Rutherford was a farmer and organic inspector from southern Saskatchewan. He served on IOIA's initial steering committee and then several years as a Founding Board Member.

For application materials and information on IOIA training programs, contact Joyce Ford/Jim Riddle, IOIA, Rt. 3 Box 162-C, Winona, Minnesota, 55987-9514, ph/fax: 507.454.8310, or Email: <jriddle@luminet.net>. The deadline for returning scholarship applications is November 1, 1996. The recipient of the 1997 Andrew Rutherford Scholarship Award will be notified December 1, 1996.

Updated Sustainable Ag Directory

The third edition of the **Sustainable Agriculture Directory of Expertise** contains 723 entries that identify and describe nearly 1,000 individuals and more than 200 organizations throughout the U.S. and two of its territories. It is a great tool for anyone seeking information about farming.

For further info on Directory content, contact Andy Clark at the National Ag Library, 301504.6425, FAX 301.504.6409, email <san@nal.usda.gov>. To order the Directory in paperback or 3.5 floppy disk, send $18.95 (postpaid) by check, money order or purchase order payable to: Sustainable Agriculture Publications, c/o Hills Building, Room 12, Univ. of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405-0082 USA.

Organic Market Overview 1995

New Hope Communications in Boulder, Colorado has just released its annual organic market overview in its publication, **Natural Foods Merchandiser** (NFM). The report shows record earnings of $2.8 billion for the organic industry in 1995, representing an increase of 21.7% or $500 million over 1994 sales.

Natural product stores sold $1.87 billion in organic products with mass market outlets ($210 million) and direct farm and export sales ($714.8 million combined) representing the balance of sales.

NFM reports that organic sales have increased by over 20% for six consecutive years. Industry watchers attribute steady growth to a broadened consumer base, aggressive retailer expansion, increasing organic farm acreage, and greater acceptance of organic products in the mainstream sector. Increased media attention over the past year on the virtues of buying organic is also believed to have contributed to strong growth in the organic industry. For example, several high circulation publications such as **National Geographic, US News and World Report,** and **Food and Wine** published favorable articles within the last year.

NFM's report states that "supermarkets seem to be slowly incorporating organic items into their product mix and are learning how to handle and market fresh organic produce...within the supermarket industry, organics has shifted away from being a trendy novelty to becoming a bona fide product category with a permanent place on supermarket shelves."

To receive a copy of the Organic Market Overview, contact New Hope Communications at 303.939.8440, FAX 303.939.9559.

Looking Back - Sy Weisman
July 19, 1929 - May 13, 1996

By Stuart Fishman and Friends of Sy Weisman

Sy Weisman died May 13, 1996 of cancer. He was 66 years old. His wife Shirley and daughter Jessica, as well as many friends, colleagues, and admirers, mourn his loss.

Sy was a college professor, a master small farmer, founder of the North Coast Chapter of California Certified Organic Farmers, and a real pain in the butt. He was one of those guys who gets under your skin "all the way to your heart" with his impish chuckle, his kindness, his integrity and his all-too-often irrefutable logic.

Sy did more than found a CCOF chapter. Without him, Barney Bricmont's monumental efforts in the 1970's to raise CCOF from the ashes of disinterest would have failed.

Sy's integrity set a lasting standard for CCOF and California's organic trade. For example, after discovering that he and four other CCOF North Coast Chapter farmers had unknowingly used a non-organic fertilizer, he led the group to publicly explain the problem. They set a benchmark for CCOF and a model for the California organic produce trade.

Sy was a leader and a visionary, able to interest and organize small farmers, and challenge and motivate them to work towards a common goal. He decried centralization and bureaucracy and wanted autonomy for chapters within CCOF. He was a warm and caring person, always concerned about his friends and their families.

Sy taught that true democracy was about how a decision would affect all members of the group and the importance of allowing ALL viewpoints to be heard, even when some people did not want to hear them. He ruffled some feathers and pushed some buttons but, in the long run, better policies resulted.

With organic food sales growing rapidly in the 1990's, this is a good time to look back at the ideas and activities of Sy and other early leaders of regional organic trade organizations in North America with the object of reviewing and reaffirming the basic concepts that established the appeal of organic foods.

Biofair '96 Returns to Costa Rica

Biofair '96, the world trade event focusing entirely on certified organic products, returns to Costa Rica this November 6-8. Filled with a great variety of exhibitions of organic commodities, Biofair offers an in-depth look at the world marketplace for organic products.

A major highlight is The Global Trade Forum for Certified Organic Products held in conjunction with the Fair, filling each morning with debates on topics extending from projections of international organic market success to the solid contributions organics can make to the global environmental movement. The theme of this year's Forum is "Financing Our Future, Sharing Our Knowledge, and Marketing Our Values." High ranking World Bank and international development bank representation, along with top international bankers, investors and venture capitalists, ensures organic product business prime access to financial information and contacts.

Biofair '96 is being organized by the Costa Rican Chamber of Commerce, and sponsored by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) and the Organic Trade Association (OTA).

For general information about Biofair '96, contact AgriSystems International at 610.863.6700, fax 610.863.4622.

IOIA Executive Committee Conference Call, July 27, 1996

By Janine Gibson

Joyce Ford/Jim Riddle (alternately), Rick Martinez, Chip Kraynyk, Gary Ulbrich and Janine Gibson, Regrets from John O'Malley Burns.

1. **Welcome:** Agenda and previous minutes approved.

John suggested we try an executive officers' report format, so here we go!

2. **President's Report:** Rick wants to improve the structure of our conference calls for greater efficiency, hence his Conference Call Policy Proposal.

i. We all agree that new agenda items be submitted in writing with background info to the office in time to make it into the mail before the conference calls.

ii. We believe the calls are valuable discussion opportunities and this point needs to be reworded to encourage discussion and consensus decision making. For a small group such as ours, concerns need complete discussion rather than being rushed to a vote.

iii. We agree the chair has the right to end discussion which is repetitive!

iv. We would like the term "live agenda" defined. The principal of topics remaining on the agenda until resolution is supported.

1997 AGM to be held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa along with board retreat, and possibly advance livestock training. Mexico training and AGM in '98?

3. **Vice President's Report:** Nothing to date.

4. **Secretary's Report:** Continuing to have software difficulties with fax, modem and word processing. A consultant has been identified who may help. Supportive as always! The president inquires if the problems are operator-based...Good chance as I'm a Luddite...dock my wages?

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Presented by Joyce. 501-c3 status obtained successfully! So we are exempt from paying income tax. Our expenses are minimal so the net income loss for the first 6 months of '96 is not serious. Checking balance $10,606.89 with $250.00 to deposit. IOIA has no material assets. All office equipment used is owned personally.

6. **By-Law Committee Update:** Section 2.02 will be amended to remove specifics about dues and fees. This information will be available in the membership application info. Discussions have occurred with Chip and John and Jim as background for Bylaw 3.02 language choice. Chip recommends amendment to Section 3.02 read "45 days in advance of the AGM" rather than 30 days. The board supports the bylaw changes as presented. We would like the 3.02 change in effect prior to our '97 AGM. ACTION: Jim will submit an article for the newsletter to communicate clearly with members [see pg. 2]. We hope this will inspire prompt response with the mail-in ballots.

7. **Nominations Process:** Discussion in which Chip requests suggestions for improving the board nomination process so the board reflects membership. Gary suggests the newsletter run an ongoing ad for board nominations that members can respond to. ACTION: Gary and Chip will discuss this with Diane and other board members.

8. **Staff Report:** Accreditation Certificates have been printed up, wallet size cards available as well. ACTION: Jim will write an article for the newsletter about the accreditation program [see pg. 8]. Chip inquires if the accreditation program is paying for itself. The answer is an approximate yes, so we decide to have a limited-time special - FREE IOIA CAPS TO ALL MEMBERS ACCREDITED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR! Research continues on specifics of AGM in Iowa. No word on the FSMIP grant to date.

9. **Training Committee Report:** Iowa training possible, needs expressed for a basic course in the Northwest, possibly Oregon. No local groups are coming forward to share responsibility yet. Mailing planned to certifiers asking about training needs. COSTA RICA - Nov 4-5, '96 plans going well, need a few more specifics before it can go on to the Regional Training Oversight Committee. ACTION: Rick will line up the info that is missing so things can proceed. Chilé training on-hold again. India training awaiting funding, tentatively scheduled for September. Mexico may be open to the idea of a training in '97, with the AGM in '98 to allow for more planning time. ACTION: Rick will continue to be point person on this. He will suggest AMIO send a rep to the Costa Rican training to learn what's involved in hosting.

10. No OCC report **Communications With Lawyers:** Tim Sullivan willing to help for $80/hr depending on his schedule and the issue. Susan Vaupel interested in exchange for free attendance at a training. ACTION: Dorothy Johnson will be sent a letter by Joyce thanking her for her interest in volunteering as a tax lawyer.

11. **IFOAM in Denmark:** Jim and daughter Laura attending. Inspectors meeting has been scheduled and publicized - discussion questions will be developed, comparing experiences, reasons for IOIA existence...Jim plans to describe the Accreditation program: details on his workshop still sketchy - A new member already - Gunner Rudgren from Sweden has joined - Jim will continue to promote

membership. We wish him good luck and a GOOD TRIP!

12. **Brochure:** Gary reports that the writer he has been working with is busy 'til Oct. Gary feels we could rewrite the brochure more effectively ourselves. We will need a new brochure prior to the AGM. How to proceed with our financial appeal and designing a letter or flyer for a mailing? Better companies want well-trained inspectors who can provide a rigorous inspection. Those companies would likely be willing to support our work. Discussion on the focus of corporate sponsorship.

Suggestion to encourage Phil and Jim to draft a corporate brochure. ACTION: Gary will contact Phil and Jim to get the corporate brochure underway. Gary will continue to work on the consumer education approach. He does, however, share doubts about the likelihood of broad-based consumer support, but he would like to test the waters anyway. The world can surprise us...

13. **Inspector survey:** Steve overbooked, still plans to compile survey for next meeting. Requests support. Jim reminds us that Rochelle Eisen expressed keen interest in assisting with the survey results. ACTION: Rick will let Steve know Rochelle is interested in helping with the survey.

Next board meeting conference call will be Sept 7, 1996. Happy trails!

Soil Health and Organic Inspectors

By Robert Dixon

Maintaining healthy soils is at the heart of organic farming practices. Building up humus content and supporting a vigorous and balanced soil life is the key to successful organic production all over the world. Anything that damages the soil, leads to a breakdown in humus or hurts the soil life is prohibited by organic certification standards. This can be seen in several important US documents including the 1990 Organic Food Products Act (at the start of section 2114) and the preamble of the Organic Farm Plan in the Final Recommendations of the National Organic Standards Board, where they talk about maintaining soil fertility. Most certifiers also talk about the need to build up the soil or enhance soil fertility or prevent erosion.

Organic inspectors are expected to make some assessment of soil health and to report on any observed deficiencies, (see section 2.2.6 OCIA International Standards). It is not too difficult to comment on something obvious like poor growth or erosion or a prohibited practice like the use of raw manure on crops for human consumption. What happens if subtle damage to the soil is occurring that doesn't show up in an obvious way? Do we, as organic inspectors, really have the tools we need to make practical assessments of soil health? It is easy to assume that, as long as plant residue is being worked into the ground and there is some kind of rotation plan, everything is fine or at least meets the letter of the standards.

What bothers me is that we don't really know and there is some evidence, both from research and personal observation, that some soils on organic farms may be in trouble. The book *Saving Our Soil* by James Glanz reports some startling research about the use of tillage for incorporating crop residues. The following quote deals with plowing but the effect is similar for other tillage methods.

"...the moldboard plow... accelerated the mineralization of organic matter, liberating nutrients that help crops grow. But the same processes ensure that the more residues farmers plow under, the higher the microbial populations will be, making it impossible to raise the levels of organic matter ...[with] more carbon released into the atmosphere than if the residue had been set on fire and completely burned." (pgs. 96 - 98)

It appears that plowing in crop residue is worse than burning it off the field. Not only does it not add organic matter to the soil but plowing actually causes more organic matter to be burned up! This is very hard to believe but it would explain why some organic fields appear to be so poorly structured, especially when you look at the tillage operations that are performed annually. I don't know that there is a problem but it is a concern that no accurate soil testing exists that would help show whether the soil was healthy or not.

The same book quoted above talks about the work of **Dr. John Doran**, a soil microbiologist with the USDA Research Center at the University of Nebraska. He has developed a soil health test kit which can assess soil quality through the use of simple inexpensive field tests which can be performed and interpreted by anyone without the use of expensive labs and highly trained technical people. The tests measure about twelve soil characteristics including pH, water infiltration rate, soil microbial respiration and soil water-holding capacity. This is a really exciting development because it brings science out of the lab and into the field and allows people involved in organic agriculture real tools that can assess the impacts of farming practices on the critical soil life.

The soil is the second most important Critical Organic Control Point from an organic inspectors point of view (the first is the heart and soul of the grower...). The organic integrity of the crop is directly related to the quality of the soil and how it is treated. Now we may have the tools to really help the grower monitor this critical part of their operation. Isn't this something or-ganic inspectors could learn more about?

Special Offer: I.D. Cards & Caps for Accreditation!

By Jim Riddle

Have you been considering applying for IOIA Inspector Accreditation? Wait no longer!

Through the end of 1996, the IOIA Board is offering **free** organic cotton IOIA caps to all accredited inspectors! This is a **one-time offer**, and it is too good to pass up!

The Accreditation Review Panel is fully functioning, and is ready to act on your application. Numbered Accreditation Certificates and I.D. cards are custom printed for all successful applicants.

You may apply for accreditation as a crop, livestock and/or process inspector. Cost for accreditation is $60.00 for the first category and $10.00 per additional category, with the total cost not to exceed $80.00. Accreditation is good for three years, at which time you need to re-apply.

Caps are available in English and Spanish. Colors are plum, natural and navy blue in English and plum and olive green in Spanish. Please state your cap preference on your accreditation application. To be eligible for this special offer, applications must be received before December 31, 1996.

To receive an application and a copy of the IOIA Inspector Accreditation Standards, simply call, write, fax or email your request to the IOIA office.


Independent Organic Inspectors Association

Certificate of Accreditation

This is to certify that:

I. M. Green

Has met the Requirements for IOIA Accreditation in Organic Crop, Livestock and Process Inspection

Feb. 23, 1996 - Feb. 23, 1999

Issuance/Expiration Date — Certificate #00000 — IOIA Accreditation Chairs, Chair

Asking the Right Question

By Jim Riddle

During two different recent inspections, I have come across information which has been pertinent to the status of the operation being inspected, and the information was revealed solely because I happened to ask the right question. Both parties had already been certified for a number of years, so the inspection should have been a piece of cake, right?

In both instances, the information provided to me by the certifying agent and the inspected party appeared, at face value, to meet the standards, and could have sufficed, but I went a little deeper. Things are not always what they seem!

The first was a farm inspection. The grower had tomato and cabbage transplants which had been grown as a custom service by a nearby conventional greenhouse operation. I visited the greenhouse and conducted a complete inspection. I asked about the soil mix. I was told that the grower had provided the soil mix, and it was Johnny's 512 Organic Soil Mix. I was shown a copy of the invoice and the catalog description of the product. Remaining bags of the product were marked "Org. Soil Mix." Everything was cool, and I could have been satisfied with that, but I asked for further information about the ingredients in the soil mix.

The grower called Johnny's Selected Seeds and requested the information. They were faxed a product specification sheet. It turned out that the soil mix contains compost which is produced by adding triple super phosphate, which is a prohibited input for organic crops. The catalog description did not mention the phosphate.

The 512 soil mix has been approved for use in greenhouses by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA), but that is not the agency for whom I was conducting the inspection. I turned over all product the information, including a letter from MOFGA, to the certifying agent.

Several month later, I was conducting an inspection of a flour mill. I was provided with a neat summary of pest control activities which also included the dates of all organic product runs. I reviewed the pest contractor's reports and the facility's production records, and everything checked out with the summary. Good enough, eh? Not quite!

I asked the production supervisor if there are any pesticides applied by employees. It turned out that the entire production area and adjacent warehouse are routinely fogged with insecticides every week during the summer and another insecticide is sprayed around the equipment as needed. No records were kept of these applications, and there was no information about the insecticides in the pest control file. I gathered all of the information that I could access and wrote a complete description of the situation in my inspection report.

I tell these stories in order to highlight the diligence that is required in order to conduct thorough inspections. What is due diligence? How many things have I missed over the years by accepting information at face value?

I encourage all inspectors to dig deep, because if we don't, no one else will! Certifying agents cannot make informed decisions unless they have all the facts, and it is up to us to be the fact finders.

Introducing: OCIA Certification Coordinator Michael Graham

By Diane Cooner

Michael Graham came to OCIA about six months ago after relocating to Ohio from Northern California. He brings with him ten years of non-profit organization experience. A graduate of World College West, Graham was exposed there to environmental issues on a global scale. He had lots of book learning about sustainable agriculture, but it wasn't until the last two years - when he became involved in a CSA thru Full Belly Farm in Guinda, California - that he really made the connection between environmental theory and practical application (those fresh veggies do it everytime!).

Graham claims his landing at OCIA was a "serendipity thing" - he and his wife had relocated to Ohio to be closer to her family - and he spotted the job announcement in the local paper. OCIA was about 10 minutes from their home, and after the extremely competitive non-profit market in California, he wasn't sure what his prospects were. The position called for a bilingual person, and although Michael wasn't, Executive Director Betty Kananan pushed for his hiring, expanding the position into two jobs, the other now being filled by David Waldron.

Graham has a clear idea about his role at OCIA. "The coordinator's challenge is to work with members' certification deadlines and timelines and annual inspection dates. If the coordinator is working to meet these points, it will help keep costs down for members and inspectors," explains Graham. "Things are working well at the chapter level. At the international level - with 50 states plus all of our worldwide membership - we have a plateau to reach to get enough ahead of the inspection process that members have an opportunity to set up dates and inspection particulars." OCIA has between 7,000-8,000 members worldwide - 2,000-3,000 of these are certified operations - quite a staggering workload! He points out that there is a difference between a farmer dealing with the growth cycle of a particular crop and the time frame of what the marketplace cycle is. He sees a major part of his job as coordinating between these two timelines.

So good to see the face behind the voice on the other end of the phone! OCIA International Certification Coordinator Michael Graham relaxing with friends.

"My information management skills are really being tested!" he said in a recent interview. "We are trying to upgrade all procedures that go into the timeline for a certification." OCIA wants to take advantage of new technologies to track information better, improve forms (especially for niche operations), and enhance communications. He believes that one of the biggest tasks is to increase the knowledge base of all OCIA staff across the board. "OCIA is so diverse....there are so many procedures....we will be contantly working on refining procedures over the next few months." Staff is working hard to improve their skills. Besides increasing their knowledge base, they want to be able to answer questions that come into the office more quickly.

Graham also feels that the role of ethics is important. OCIA has developed their own inspector accreditation committee with the purpose of administering one of their most needed upgrades - that of a better feedback loop in the inspection information process.

Michael Graham has his work cut out for him. Hopefully, the improvements that he is working on at OCIA will make the inspection/certification process easier and more timely for farmers and inspectors alike.

State Accreditation in the EU

Challenge for Organic Inspectors

By Andreas Kratz, Certification Coordinator, Ecocert Int'l., Germany

The European Community (EU) has regulated organic agriculture since 1992, setting up both standards for organic farming, food processing and importation, and requirements for an inspection scheme including criteria for private inspection bodies' accreditation by member countries. This regulation (no. 2092 91) did show some consequences for inspectors having conducted inspections on behalf of farmers associations and now having switched to private EU control bodies. Some of those issues may be useful to consider in the US when state-driven inspections may become more important, along with the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) being set into force and implementation.

The European "Inspection Market"

Private initiative marked the starting point of organic agriculture. Farmers' associations and their inspections systems mainly developed in the 80's. Those systems still exist today for reasons of private standards and logo management. The private sector was supported by various green parties who represented politically the new ecological concern for official recognition of organic agriculture called for in society in the late 80's. Issues like state subsidies and consumer protection from organic labeling misuse were discussed. By 1992 the EU replied to this demand by setting up state standards, a state inspection system, and by granting subsidies in most member countries during the conversion period, at the least.

The EU regulation leaves the option in the member countries to operate the inspection system either directly by an inspection authority or indirectly by approved private inspection bodies. Obviously, to be an inspector employed by a state authority changes the role of inspectors in a way that may be compared to those inspectors working within a US federal state-driven certification program. Most EU member countries voted for approval of private companies with inspectors either as employees or as free-lancers. Quite a lot of former private inspectors now switched - at least part time - into these approved companies.

The New Rules Of The Game

Member states' definitions of approval criteria for organic inspectors concern education and experience. Lack of degrees may lead to the strange situation that even experienced inspectors cannot enter into the state-supervised inspection system as they might not fulfill education criteria. Some member states require a university degree in agronomy or food science; some are satisfied with lower degrees. For inspection of processors or importers, sometimes knowledge in food technology and quality management is required. As a matter of fact, training courses covering these items become essential (likewise, IOIA training in the US). Some well-structured and established inspection bodies offer internal training programs or external training possibilities. In such agencies inspectors profit as well from exchange within the inspectors team and they may qualify for more complex inspection issues. From the European point of view, it seems to be important that the OFPA be flexible in its inspectors' criteria and not fail in overstressing university degrees. Nevertheless, it should be stated that such inspectors criteria is based on accreditation requirements considering international norm series.

The legal framework obliges the inspector to accept and put into his job practice the state standards and inspection requirements. With private standards, the inspector may choose to work with such certification programs that fit best to his/her personal conviction and philosophy. In some cases, inspectors have had remarkable influence on private inspection programs by suggesting techniques, procedures, scopes, forms, etc. Within the EU regulated inspection system, such influence is not given anymore. Moreover, the organic inspector has to conduct an inspection program that may cover items the inspector does not agree with e.g. purely administrative items or specific technical requirements. This is to recommend that some feedback procedure between inspectors and the legislative body should be foreseen in order to check if the inspection program fits into reality. In the EU competition, legal requirements favor employment of inspectors instead of free-lance jobs. Consequently inspectors have to choose one agency to work with.

Regarding the financial impact of inspections, the EU system is very clear. Inspectors wages are arranged between the inspector and the inspection body. General inspection fees will be set by the inspection

body as part of the accreditation documents. Inspection costs for specific enterprises and operators will be agreed upon between the inspection body and the operator. As a result, the inspector gets his money exclusively from the body he works for and no money issues have to be discussed by the inspector with inspected parties.

The New Role

Within such regulated systems, the organic inspector is the person who has to communicate and to put into force "the law". Increasing inspector's power may facilitate the verification task by easier access to even confidential documents. It goes as well along with increasing responsibility, impact and hopefully knowledge, (as the inspector must refer always to specific provisions of the regulation which is very complex and not always very clear).

To understand well this changing role it must be mentioned that the EU regulation does not introduce the notion "certification." The inspection system basically consists in on-site inspection resulting in a report. The report should:

1. Describe completely the inspected unit.
2. State practical measures to be taken to ensure compliance with the regulation.
3. Specify an undertaking by the operator to carry out operations in accordance with the regulation and to accept enforcement of sanctions if applicable.

This report has to be signed both by the inspector and the operator. Inspectors' observations should result in decisions stating conformity and non-conformities, infringements and penalties. Manifest infringements found by the inspector should remove organic indication from lots concerned in order to prevent organic sale. Such obligation might occur in cases when the inspector personally does not agree but is forced to do so by legal requirements. Penalties have to be recorded and communicated to the inspection authorities which may modify the inspector's decision.

In practice, of course, the inspector will try to call his inspection office and discuss the issue. He might send the inspection report later and after discussion with the office to the operator. Some inspection bodies do foresee report review by specific staff before sending and signing, thus establishing a sort of "certification" procedure. Some inspection bodies have even installed so-called certification committees.

Nevertheless, the EU regulation does not foresee certificates (only for third country importation) and in some cases the inspector will find himself alone to take legally binding decisions on-site. Some operator's complaints ended up with court decisions which confirmed this powerful role of inspectors.

But the new role consists as well in a closer relationship to the operator as inspection partly has the character of quality auditing. Standards and legal requirements for the food industry may force implementation of quality management systems. Inspection may be meant more and more as a support to continuously improve such systems, and operators may feel grateful to get such support. There is a real chance to build a new partnership between inspectors and operators.

The New Challenge

European inspectors and inspection bodies were not always prepared to play the new role. The "conversion period" might last more or less long. Everybody has to answer the question if he wants to enter in to the new system; more identification with the law, more power, more responsibility, precise knowledge of standards, by-laws and laws. Moreover, the questions arises if everybody that wants to and has been inspecting has enough standing and is suitable to perform this job.

Inspection bodies may reduce the pressure on inspectors by excellent organization and management which includes continuous training, teamwork and support. Legislative authorities may reduce the pressure by designing an inspection system which always consists of several steps managed by several parties.

American inspectors should look at these items of the OFPA and they should discuss their role with the inspection bodies they work with in the future.

[In 1995, Ecocert serviced 8,000 farms and 800 processors/handlers throughout Europe.]

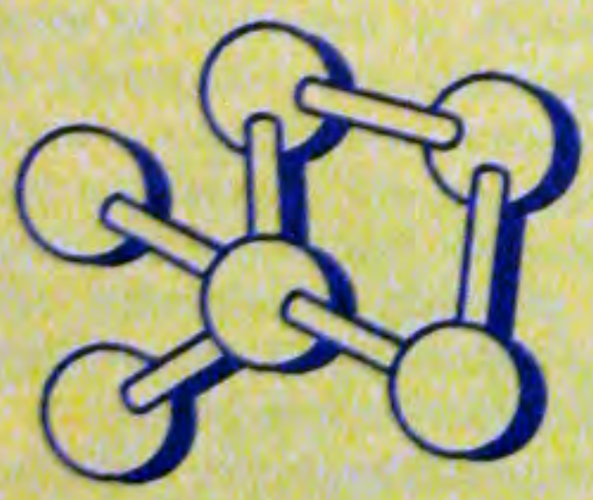
Limestone - The Forgotten Fertilizer?

Chris Agee, Forage Specialist
Kerr Center Newsletter, Vol 22 #2, March/April 1996

In the United States, it is estimated that 100 million tons of limestone are needed annually, but only 30 million tons are applied. Limestone application reached a peak fifty years ago and has since declined so drastically that in many areas poultry litter is more available.

In the humid South where acid soils predominate, lime should be the first step in any soil management program. Lime supplies the least expensive plant nutrients, increases the effectiveness of more expensive nutrients (particularly nitrogen and phosphorus), reduces aluminum and manganese toxicity, helps to maintain legume populations (reducing nitrogen needs), influences microorganism diversity, and can increase the effectiveness of certain herbicides.

What can lime mean in dollars and cents? An eight-year study of a corn-soybean-wheat-hay rotation on an acid soil with adequate N-P-K limed and unlimed, showed a net annual loss of $13.64/acre for the unlimed treatment and net increase of $19.75/acre in the limed treatment.



Agricultural limestone (aglime) is the most commonly used liming material. Aglime is usually calcium carbonate ($CaCO_3$) known as calcitric limestone, or else calcium-magnesium carbonate ($CaMg(CO_3)_2$) known as dolomite, or a mixture of calcitic and dolomite known as dolomitic limestone. Most aglime contains a mixture of particle sizes usually ranging from very fine (100 mesh) to larger (60 mesh). Once in contact with the soil, the range of lime particle sizes react at different rates to neutralize soil acidity, raising soil pH over time. Organic matter and clay content contribute to potential soil acidity or buffer capacity, increasing the amount of lime needed to raise the soil pH. For example, a heavy clay loam will require more lime to adjust the pH compared to a sandy loam. Once the target pH is reached, however, a large buffering capacity will also resist the trend toward acid conditions. A soil test will reveal the buffering capacity of a soil and provide a reasonable estimate of the nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium levels. Most soil testing labs will provide fertilizer and lime recommendations to match fertility with the requirements of the crop to be grown.

In row cropping situations, lime can be effective within a relatively short period of time due to the mixing of the lime into the plow layer by tillage. In permanent pastures and no-till cropping, lime is typically surface-applied and can take months or years to become effective, and even then the crop response is much more subtle than after the addition of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Surface-applied lime moves slowly through the soil and should be applied six months to a year before planting an acid-sensitive crop. Applying lime before aerating a pasture is an effective way to increase lime contact with the soil.

Applying lime after nitrogen fertilization helps counter the acidifying effect of most nitrogen fertilizers by forming calcium and magnesium nitrates ($Ca(NO_3)_2$ and $Mg(NO_3)_2$ in the topsoil. These compounds are residually basic and can move downward through the soil profile to help offset subsoil acidity. Subsoil acidity can prevent deep root exploration, decreasing drought tolerance due to shallow rooting.

Compared to most row crops, pasture species are much more tolerant of soil acidity. Two of the most common base forages in southeastern Oklahoma, bermudagrass and tall fescue, owe part of their success to their ability to survive under acid conditions. However, yearly applications of nitrogen fertilizers acidify the soil and lower soil pH to levels that will reduce plant nutrient uptake. Eventually, fertilizer dollars will yield diminishing returns.

Bringing soil back to fertile levels is not cheap. First, have your soil tested to determine fertility. A clay loam soil which has not received lime in many years will probably require several tons of lime per acre to raise the pH to an acceptable level. Current aglime prices of $15 to $25 per ton generally make it cost prohibitive to lime an entire farm in one year. Form a lime budget, determining the total cost of lime, and what you can afford on a yearly basis. Apply lime to the acreage you can afford until the entire farm has been covered. Keep soil testing every two to three years to monitor the soil fertility and pH changes. Bringing a soil up to a productive fertility level can be expensive, but once achieved, relatively inexpensive to maintain.

Plant Biochemical Warfare

Mariia Filimonova, Soul and Plant Analysis Laboratory Manager

Kerr Center Newsletter, Vol 22 #2, March/April 1996

In a plant community, competition for space, water, light, and nutrients is a life or death struggle. Plants with a competitive edge or superior fitness will survive and successfully produce seed. Many plant species increase their competitive edge by producing and releasing chemical attractants, stimulants, or inhibitors. The term "Allelopathy" was first used by Mollisch in 1937 to describe all chemical interactions, whether positive or negative, among organisms of all levels of complexity, including microorganisms. Currently, allelopathy refers to the detrimental effects of higher plants of one species on the germination, growth, or development of plants of another species.

Gardeners long ago observed that tomatoes grew poorly under black walnut trees. It is now known that a chemical compound, **juglone**, produced by the black walnut tree inhibits tomato and many other plants' growth. The residues or allelochemicals of many other trees, as well as certain crop plants including sorghum, rye, tall fescue, timothy, red clover, and alfalfa can also inhibit plant growth and provide resistance to insects and diseases.

Allelochemicals are present in virtually all plant tissues, including leaves, flowers, fruits, stems, roots, rhizomes, and seeds. Whether these compounds are released into the environments in sufficient quantities and with enough persistence to affect a neighboring or a succeeding plant remains a critical question. Allelochemicals are released by such processes as volatilization, root exudation, leaching, and decomposition of plant residues. Evidence indicates that several allelochemicals are released together and may combine in an additive or synergistic manner. Even in such cases as juglone, where one compound appears to dominate, the possibility still exists that the dominating compound may mask the importance of minor but biologically active compounds. Furthermore, soil is such a complicated physical, chemical, and biological entity that organic compounds released into it could be changed rapidly through various mechanisms.

There is a wealth of information demonstrating the role of allelopathy in natural ecosystems. For example, allelochemicals isolated from common ragweed strongly inhibited the germination of onion, oat and ryegrass seeds. The shrubs *Salvia leucophylla* and *Artemisia californa* that are invading grasslands in California maintain a zone one to two meters wide devoid of herbaceous species. Similarly, chamise (*Adenostoma fasiciculatum)* and *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* in Southern California have zones under their canopies. On the Allegheny Plateau in Northwestern Pennsylvania there are logged sites that have remained essentially treeless for up to 80 years. Several herbaceous weed species have invaded the site producing allelochemicals that inhibit the establishment of the black cherry seedlings that normally invade logged sites in the area.

As a better understanding of plant allelopathy develops, incorporation of this knowledge in no-till, minimum-till, intercroppping, and rotational cropping systems, as well as agroforestry systems, may reduce the need for synthetic pesticides while reducing production expenses.

OFRF Report

The Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) released the results of its national 1995 survey of organic growers in a May press conference in Washington, D.C., USA. The ten-page survey was mailed to 3,480 certified organic farmers belonging to 61 of the 70 certification groups in the US; a response rate of 27.2% (945) growers was achieved, with 14% of the total coming from California growers. Survey questions focused on seven major catagories, each of which are highlighted in the following article.

Organic Farming Research

Respondents chose "relationship of growing practices to crop quality and nutrition" as the most important research topic. "Crop rotations for fertility and pest managment" and "consumer demand for organics" ranked second and third. Growers in five regions (mid-Atlantic, California, Hawaii, South, Great Lakes and Northwest) also chose "the relationship of growing practices to crop quality and nutrition" as their top research priority. Nearly 63% of respondents conduct their own research projects on-farm, and 19% have worked with collaborators in more formal research settings leading to published results. The majority of the growers (67%) indicated they would be interested in formally participating in on-farm research projects if the resources were available.

Commmodities and Markets

Over 66% of respondents grow vegetable crops while almost 50% grow fruit, nut, tree crops and field crops. Only 33% raise livestock or poultry for the organic marketplace. About 36% of respondents market their product directly to consumers, while 60% market their product wholesale. Growers' concerns about marketing (continued on page 14)

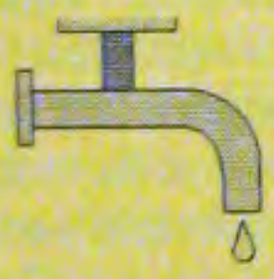
(continued from page 13)

were demonstrated by the placement of "consumer demand for organic products" and "direct-marketing opportunities and tools for organic marketing " in the top third of their research priorities.

Diversification remains a key objective of the nation's certified organic farmers. About 52% of the growers plan to market about the same number of commodities in the near future, while 40% plan to increase the number of products they grow and market. In terms of organic production, 47% of surveyed growers expect to stay the same, while a significant 49% plan to increase their organic acreage. Farmers in 23 states said vegetables were the most ecconomically important to their farm, followed by growers in 17 states who listed soybeans.

Managing Farm Inputs

A majority of growers (58%) reported soil fertility inputs were generated on the farm. Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) was by far the most important off-farm pest management tool used.



On-Farm Water Quality and Usage

About 44% of respondents use well water with another 25% depending upon rainfall. Almost 60% of the growers were strongly or somewhat concerned about the quality of their water, 29% were able to identify specific water quality problems. Growers noted, by a margin of 64% to 24%, that organic certifying agents did not require the testing of their water for possible contamination.

Challenges to Organic Production

Over 70% of the growers believed that lack of knowledge about organic production was the greatest barrier to organic farming that they faced. Almost 65% of respondents identified uncooperative or uninformed extension agents as an obstacle to beginning organic production.

Farm Labor and Demographics

Over 80% of the growers are either sole proprietors of their farms or are partners with family members. Nearly 79% of the respondents' farms are all organic. The average number of acres farmed, both organic and conventional, is 245. The average leased land is 169 acres while the average owned land is 116 acres. On average, each farmer has 2.6 salaried and 10 hourly employees. Respondents have been farming an average of 16 years, nine of them organically. The farms have been certified organic for an average of 4.7 years. The average age of the growers is 46. Over 59% of respondents have completed college and 19% hold graduate degrees. Females represented 21% of the respondents.

Farmgate Economics

Nearly half of the respondents grossed less than $15,000 in organic farming in 1994. About 13% grossed between $15,000 and $29,999, 9% between $30,000 and $99,999, while the remaining 18% grossed over $100,000 in organic product sales.

OFRF seeks to survey growers every two years as a means of developing research priorities for project funding, and also to provide vital information to the public and policy-makers about organic agriculture in the U.S. The 1995 survey was funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Flow Fund, and Farm Aid. For a copy of the complete Survey, please contact the OFRF office at 408.426.6606 or write them at 1995 National Organic Farmers Survey, OFRF, Box 440, Santa Cruz, CA 95061 USA.

**CCOF Newsletter, Summer 1996

From the Editor

My plea from the last issue was heard; we received an interesting article on European Certification procedures from Andreas Kratz of Ecocert International, Germany. But let's not stop there!

To all of our worldwide members, **please enter the dialogue and share** your thoughts and experiences with your fellow inspectors. Email is the most timely and least expensive way to get articles to me. Deadlines are listed on page 2.

Please continue to help keep your newsletter a worldwide conduit for inspector issues and information by contributing today!

Advertising

IOIA recently established policy regarding accepted advertising in The INSPECTORS' REPORT.

1. IOIA and The INSPECTORS' REPORT publisher reserve final decision making power for all advertisements. Ads are to be submitted for review by the IOIA Board of Directors.

2. Advertising should be relevant to the organic community, i.e. with practical or educational value. IOIA reserves the right to refuse any advertisements found to be in poor taste or offensive in content, or non-supportive of organic agriculture.

3. All advertisements must be paid for in advance. Annual cost for 4 issues, 2"x3" type camera-ready ad: $100 [Any additional design is extra].

4. IOIA does not endorse advertised products. A statement of such will appear in each issue of the newsletter.

If you are interested in advertising in The INSPECTORS' REPORT, please refer to page 2 for staff address.

Navigation in the Internet!

By Lidia Gaivironsky, Argentina IOIA Inspector, email: <gaivi@overnet.com.ar>

Greetings to all I.O.I.A. members! For the last few months, I have had direct access to the Internet, and for me, one who loves to search for information, it is like being in paradise! The information available is nearly infinite, but I feel like a person inside of the biggest library in darkness and without guidelines to explore it. How to do it? I gather URLs (uniform resource locator) from different sources and, late in the night (the telephone charges in the day are very expensive in my country), I start to navigate to look for sustainable agriculture and related topic sites. I have visited and recommend the following URLs:

-**Alternative Farming Systems Information Center** (AFSIC):
<http://www.inform.umd.edu/EdRes/Topic/AgrEnv/AltFarm>
<http://www.nal.usda.gov>
-**AREAWIDE IPM** Update Newsletter: <http://www.tfrec.wsu.edu> This newsletter is free in the U.S.A. For other countries it is obtainable directly in this URL.
-**EPA:** <http://wastenot.inel.gov/envirosense> AND <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/ef_home.html>
-**A Japanese host,** with lots of information about sustainable agriculture:
<ftp://ftp.iij.ad.jp/pub/academic/agriculture/sustainable_agriculture/>
-**Pollution Reduction and Environmental Protection:** <http://www.igc.apc.org/iatp/chlorine.html>

Then there are discussion or mailing groups:

-**SANET (Sustainable Agriculture Network):** email them at: <almanac@ces.ncsu.edu> subscribe sanet-mg
<**Majordomo@igc.org**> has a lot of mailing lists, some with electronic newsletters.
Chlorine-news: a newsletter about non toxic alternatives to chlorine. subscribe chlorine-news
PANUPS: about pesticides and their problems. subscribe panups
SUSAG-NEWS: about sustainable agriculture. subscribe susag-news
-In <**listproc@listproc.wsu.edu**> subscribe SUSTAG-L name of the recipient
-In <**LISTSERV@nervm.nerdc.ufl.edu**> SUBSCRIBE APIS-L (to get an electronic newsletter)
-In <**LISTSERV@cnsibm.albany.edu**> subscribe bee-l
-**IPMnet** (electronic newsletter) <IPMnetNUZ@bcc.orst.edu> subscribe IPMnet

I have a list of many more URL addresses. I am happy to share it with I.O.I.A. people. I hope this list helps the newly "connected-Internet" people to decrease "darkness" in your travels. I would like to receive comments about these URL and new URL unknown to me. Thank you, and Cheers!

INDEPENDENT ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

I am interested in the following:
IOIA Membership Application (Membership includes quarterly newsletter and membership directory)
Please Specify Category - All Funds Payable in US $
❒ Individual - Annual Dues - $50.00 ❒ Organization - Annual Dues - $250
❒ The Inspectors' Report - 1 Year Subscription $10.00 (4 issues)
❒ 1995-1996 IOIA Membership Directory - $15.00
IOIA Organic Inspector Manual: ❒ $25.00 members ❒ $35.00 non-members
IOIA Inspector Caps - $15.00, in English and Spanish. All caps are made from organic cotton
English, color choices: ❒ natural ❒ navy blue ❒plum **Spanish,** color choices: ❒natural ❒olive green ❒plum
(Spanish caps also available from Gabi Soto-Munoz in Costa Rica, +506-224-3712)
Please type or print clearly. Mail to IOIA, Rt. 3, Box 162-C, Winona, MN 55987 USA

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Business Name _____ Phone _____

Amount Enclosed _____ FAX _____

Calendar of Events

Sept 21 *Northeast Organic Farming Assn - NJ 6th Annual Organic Country Fair,* Pennington, New Jersey 609.730.9752 or 609.737.6848.

Sept 20-22 *20th Annual Common Ground Country Fair,* Windsor, Maine. Sponsored by Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. 207.623.5115.

Oct 2-3 *Community Food Systems: Sustaining Farms & People in the Emerging Economy:* UC Davis, Co-sponsored by Community Alliance with Family Farms. 916.752.7541, email <dave.c.campbell@ucdavis.edu>.

Oct 5 *Tenth Annual Hoes Down Harvest Festival,* sponsored by the Committee for Sustainable Agriculture, Guinda, CA. 916.756.6967 or 916.796.3464.

Oct 6 *The Organic Farm Bus Tour,* Guinda CA. Pre-registration required. Benefits Committee for Sustainable Agriculture. See previous listing.

October 17-18 *Natural Products Expo East,* Baltimore, Maryland. 303.939.8440.

Nov 6-8 *Biofair '96, The Second World Trade Fair for Certified Organic Products.* Costa Rica. Contact AgriSystems Int'l., 610.863.6700, fax 610.863.4622.

Nov 9 *Shiitake Mushroom Workshop.* Sponsored by Kerr Center, Poteau, Oklahoma. $35, includes inoculated logs, lunch and educational materials. 918.647.9123.

January 22, 1997 *17th Annual Ecological Farming Conference,* Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, CA. Sponsored by the Committee for Sustainable Agriculture, 408.778.7366, fax 408.778.7186.

January 24-25 *Organic Farming Demystified - 16th Annual Organic Conference & Eco-Produets Trade Show,* University of Guelph, Ontario Canada. 705.444.0923, fax 705.444.0380, email <organix@georgian.net>.

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