

The

Inspectors' Report

VOL 14 NO 3 SUMMER 2005

PUBLISHED BY THE INDEPENDENT ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

Notes from The Chair

By Brian Magaro

The Board of Directors will meet in the Santa Cruz area for a 4-day Planning Retreat on November 2-5. Former BOD member Dag Falck will serve as facilitator. To prepare for this event, the Board has been meeting on monthly conference calls since the 2005 AGM in Vancouver, reviewing the work of the LaVeta BOD Planning Retreat in 2000, and setting priorities.

IOIA has a right to be proud of what we do and what we've accomplished, but we are called to be more and do more, as the world has changed around us. We are called to become increasingly professional, in an increasingly regulatory environment. As a membership association, we are also called to maintain democracy and independence and to address the issues and concerns of our members. One factor as we considered the decision whether to hold the Planning Retreat was input from the membership to the BOD at the AGM and afterwards.

The Board is gathering input into the planning process in at least 3 ways:

1. Luis Brenes is dusting off the excellent summary of the 2002 IOIA Inspector Membership Survey results, prepared at the conclusion of that survey by Diane Cooner. Please watch for the newest version to come to you by Email as part of our solicitation for members' input.

2. A short survey has been prepared for certification agencies and will be E-mailed to all IOIA supporting certification agency members, all NOP accredited certifiers, and other international certifiers who might not fit in either of those groups. The BOD will review these responses prior to the California meeting.

3. Day 1 of the actual Planning Retreat will be reserved [see **Notes**, page 6]

OTA & IOIA to Launch First Comprehensive Organic Fiber Processing Training in Texas

IOIA and the Organic Trade Association (OTA) will cosponsor the first Advanced Organic Inspector Training with a Fiber Processing focus. Originally scheduled a year ago, the training is back on track for Nov. 11-12 in Lubbock, Texas at Texas Tech University's International Textile Center. This training is open to experienced inspectors and other interested persons from the fiber industry.

The training includes organic fiber processing standards, detailed information about all of the steps in the complex process of converting raw fibers into finished products, and organic control points for fiber handling and inspection. Cosponsor Texas Organic Cotton Marketing Cooperative (TOCMC) will host a full day of field trips. The day includes stops at a cotton gin and cotton bale storage, a tour of an organic cotton farm during harvest, and tours of Organic Essentials (personal care products) and Cotton Plus (finished fabrics). Texas Department of Agriculture, the first US certification body to create organic fiber standards and offer certification for fiber, also assisted in developing this training.

The 2-day agenda includes, in addition to field trips and the new OTA Fiber Processing standards, a tour of fiber construction basics at ITC; Sam Moore of Burlington Chemical Co. with a comprehensive review of the Materials List and the materials used in dyeing and finishing fiber; and Fred Ehlert on Organic Control Points for the fiber inspector. The focus is mostly on cotton. Matthew Mole of Vermont Organic Fiber, an industry leader in organic wool, will cover wool processing considerations.

Burlington Chemical of North Carolina is recognized for innovative work to reduce the toxicity of products and their 'green' approach to textiles. The company has created a soy-based fabric softener, a biodegradable detergent, low-metal and metal free dyes for nylon, and an algacide that is toxic to blue-green algae but nontoxic to other aquatic life.

The International Textile Center is a complete textile research center devoted to the research and promotion of Texas natural fibers. ITC conducts textile research, testing, and evaluation of fibers; the yarns and fabrics made from these fibers; textile processing systems; dyeing and finishing; and fabric treatments for specific purposes such as flame and high temperature resistance. ITC serves research needs ranging from small-scale investigations to large-scale manufacturing. ITC does testing for organic clients and performs some of the processing steps for organic fiber manufacturers. For more information about ITC, visit www.depts.ttu.edu/itc.

See the IOIA website for applications, more information, and agenda developments.

Organic fiber processing is a strong organic expansion area. Organic cotton has been certified for many years as a crop, but the organic fiber [see **Fiber**, page 6]

NewsFlash!
Personal Care Products etc. Back on NOP's Plate... See page 6 for full story.

What's Inside....
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Plus Sector News, Letter to the Editor, Resources, GMO's, lots o' minutes, Calendar,
....And More!

In Brief...

Reminder: Accreditation Deadline is October 1. Contact the IOIA office with any questions regarding your renewal.

US Organic Food Market Soars from \$3.57 Billion in 1997 to \$10.38 Billion in 2003

Organic Trade Association. The group predicts sales will reach \$14.5 billion by the end of 2005

New Statistical Review Touts Growth of Organics

A new report sponsored by the Int'l Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) says there are now 36 nations it calls "organic mega-countries" with over 50,000 hectares (approximately 120,000 acres) of certified organic land in 2004. Worldwide, the report says, 26 million hectares (62.4 million acres) of organic land is certified producing over \$25 billion in revenue in 2003. The report says there are 558,449 farms in 108 nations involved in the growing, distribution, and marketing of organic crops. To read this new report, go to www.ifoam.org.

Organic Produce Continues to Command Price Premium

An outlook report published by the USDA Economic Research Service in May says that price premiums for organic produce are continuing, even as the organic market expands.

Price Premiums Hold on as U.S. Organic Produce Market Expands examines trends in organic prices and market margins for broccoli, carrots, and mesclun mix. The data show that, while organic wholesale price premiums for mesclun mix are narrowing, wholesale and farmgate premiums for broccoli and carrots remain strong. The data from the report, with monthly organic farmgate and wholesale prices for broccoli, carrots and mesclun mix, are available online at: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/may05/vgs30801/>

China: Organics booming

Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, one of the most important grain production bases in China, is planning to further expand its production of organic food this year. The total organic food area is expected to reach 1.87 million hectares, which accounts for nearly 20 per cent of its total arable land and is an increase of 18 per cent over last year.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE

(Changes made by J. Hessong 08/09/05)
Please make the following changes to your 2005 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 2006 Hardcopy Membership Directory or can be viewed on the 2005 Online Directory.

ADDRESS CHANGES:

INSPECTORS:

Robert Albee
Email: pacbot@peak.org

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Email: farmorganic@comcast.net

David Dahmen
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Fred Ehlert
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John Foster
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Paola Legarre
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Palisade, CO 81526
Phone: 970.464.9019

John McKeon
Email: rjmckeon@earthlink.net

SUPPORTING MEMBERS:

Joel Hoffman
P O Box 26
Wellsville, NY 14895
Cell: 716.244.7038

Welcome Returning Former Members (not printed in 2005 Directory)

INSPECTOR MEMBERS:

Rosalind Hobart
Box T1, RR#1
Clarksburg, ON N0H 1J0
CANADA
Email: rhobart@idirect.com

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Charles Richtmyer
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Phone: 607.535.6507
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SUPPORTING BUSINESS MEMBERS:

Dole Fresh Fruit International
Frans Wielemaker
MIA C-101
P O Box 025365
1601 NW 97th Avenue
Miami, FL 33102
Phone: 011.506.287.2171
Fax: 011.506.287.2172
Email: fwielemaker@la.dole.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

INSPECTORS:

Nazir Alnahlawi (Damascus, Syria)
Patrick Gerwing (Swift Current, SK, CANADA)
Oscar Gallo Fernandez (Guayaquil, EQUADOR)

CHANGED STATUS TO INSPECTOR MEMBER:

Byoung-Deok, Yu (Seoul, KOREA)

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:

Philippe Armenier (Fulton, CA)
Karen Fedor (Annapolis, MD)
Bradley Saito (Boise, ID)

NEW SUPPORTING BUSINESS MEMBERS:

Orgabia (Riyadh, SAUDIA ARABIA)
Yolo County Ag Department (Woodland, CA)

IOIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian MagaroChair
Garry LeanVice Chair
Jack Reams.....Treasurer
Marina Sexty Buchan.....Secretary
John Foster..ExCommMember-At-Large
Luis Brenes.....Board Member
Ann Baier.....Board Member
Ann Lameka.....Alternate
Karen Troxell.....Alternate

The Inspectors' Report is the newsletter of the Independent Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA). 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. Editorial Staff: Diane Cooner, Box 1259, Guerneville, CA 95446 USA. Phone/fax 707-869-3017, ioiaweb@ioia.net. Deadlines are Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1 & Nov 1. Relevant articles are welcomed. We strive for accuracy, but the Editor and IOIA cannot be held responsible for errors or omissions. Published quarterly on recycled paper.



Upcoming Trainings

Tokyo, Japan

IOIA and JOIA (Japan Organic Inspectors Association) will sponsor Basic Organic Farm Inspector training to be held August 29-31, 2005 at Keisen University, Tokyo. Course will be instructed in Japanese using JAS (Japanese Agricultural Standard) for reference. JOIA will handle registration. For more information please contact Riichiro Suzuki or Kazuko Tsujihata at JOIA office: +81-3-5524-6080 phone +81-3-5524-6083 fax or joia@joia.jp

Dou-liou, Yun-lin, Taiwan

IOIA and Florida Organic Growers/Quality Certification Services will cooperate with the Ministry of Education of Taiwan, Transworld Institute of Technology, and Integrated Agricultural Development Foundation (IADF) for additional IOIA Organic Inspector training. For the first time, Processing and Livestock inspection courses will be held. Processing course will commence September 24 and end September 27, 2005; Livestock course will be held September 29-October 2, 2005. Both courses will be instructed in English at Transworld Institute of Technology in Taiwan and use National Organic Standards (NOP) of the United States Department of Agriculture and IFOAM/IOIA International Organic Inspection Manual as references. Some presentations may be translated to Chinese. Please contact Marty Mesh in Florida, USA at 352-377-6345 or fog@foginfo.org for further information.

New Brunswick, CANADA

IOIA and the Fall Brook Centre will cosponsor Basic Organic Farm Inspector Training followed by Basic Organic Process Inspector Training from October 15-22, 2005 in Knowlesville, New Brunswick. Both the Canadian National Standards and US National Standards will be used as references throughout the course. Each course has been extended to 4 days to accommodate the use of both standards. For more information, contact Andrea Berry, Organic Agriculture Program Coordinator at (506) 375-4310 or andrea@fallsbrookcentre.ca. For updates or further information about Falls Brook Centre, please visit www.fallsbrookcentre.ca. Application and info are posted at www.ioia.net.

Lititz, Pennsylvania

IOIA and Pennsylvania Certified Organic will cosponsor Organic Dairy Inspector Training in Lancaster County at the Midway Mennonite Center, Lititz, Pennsylvania on October 20-21 as one session of the field day events scheduled by the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA). It is preceded on October 18-19 by a PASA session on Organic Dairying, which focuses on organic dairy production. Enrollment for both sessions is limited to qualified applicants. The Livestock Inspector Training (Dairy focus) is available for IOIA Certificate of Completion only to those who have completed a prior IOIA Farm Inspector Training course. On-line registration is available at www.pasafarming.org or call 814-349-9856 ext. #7.

Organic Fiber Processing Training, Lubbock, Texas

IOIA, the Organic Trade Association, and Texas Organic Cotton Marketing Cooperative will cosponsor Advanced Organic Inspector Training (Fiber Processing focus) on November 11-12 at Texas Tech University's International Textile Center in Lubbock, TX. Deadline to apply is October 1. (See Page 1 for more info).

Indianapolis, Indiana

IOIA and Indiana Certified Organic (ICO) will cosponsor Organic Farm and Process Inspector Trainings in Indianapolis on December 4-7 in conjunction with the annual conference of Acres USA December 8-10. Trainings will run concurrently, ending with a certifier session with short presentations by certification agencies. Location is the Adams Mark Hotel, just 5 minutes from the Airport. Info and application will be posted at www.ioia.net as soon as available. For more information about the Acres conference, visit www.acresusa.com.

La Crosse, Wisconsin

IOIA will sponsor Advanced Organic Inspector Training in late February 2006, in conjunction with the IOIA Annual Membership Meeting on February 23 and the Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference and Organic University February 23-25, 2006. ISO 9001:2000 Lead Auditor Training will be scheduled in the same area and time frame. Info and application for the trainings will be posted at www.ioia.net as soon as available.

Future Trainings: Watch upcoming IOIA newsletters and the website for details other trainings develop.

IOIA Scholarships Available

IOIA accepts applications for the annual **Andrew Rutherford Scholarship Award**, which provides full tuition for an IOIA-sponsored organic inspector training course during the following year.

Both prospective and experienced inspectors are eligible to apply for the Rutherford Scholarship. It is awarded to an individual on the basis of need and potential as judged by the IOIA Scholarship Committee. Applicants can choose to attend any IOIA-sponsored training. The Scholarship pays for tuition, room and board but does not cover transportation or other expenses.

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

IOIA also offers the annual **Organic Community Initiative Scholarship**, which provides full tuition for an IOIA-sponsored basic organic inspector training during the following year. It is awarded to an individual on the basis of need and their potential to have a positive impact on their regional organic community. The Organic Community Initiative Scholarship is only open to applicants from outside of the US or Canada. Applicants can choose to attend any basic IOIA-sponsored training. The Scholarship pays for tuition, room and board but does not cover transportation or other expenses.

For application materials and information on IOIA training programs, contact Margaret Scoles, IOIA Executive Director/Training Manager, IOIA, P.O. Box 6, Broadus, MT 59317-0006, Email joia@ioia.net, or visit www.ioia.net to download application forms. The deadline for returning Scholarship applications is November 1. Scholarship recipients are notified by December 15.

Mark your calendars for the 2006 AGM Meeting!

IOIA's 2006 Annual General Membership Meeting is scheduled for February 23 in La Crosse, Wisconsin, following several advanced training options and immediately before the Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference on Feb. 23-25. The UMOFC, sponsored by the Midwest Organic And Sustainable Education Service (MOSES), is one of the largest organic conferences in North America, with over 135 exhibitors and 45 workshops. Last year's Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference (UMOFC) attracted more than 1800 people, including farmers, educators, students, government workers, and others interested in organic agriculture. MOSES Executive Director Faye Jones expects more than 2000 this year. IOIA member Joyce Ford currently serves as President of the Board of Directors for MOSES. La Crosse events will include the Annual Meeting of the Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA) on Feb. 20-23. For more info about MOSES or UMOFC, visit www.mosesorganic.org. For more info about the OCIA Annual Meeting, visit www.ocia.org.

IOIA will offer several training options in conjunction with the IOIA AGM. AQS Management Systems of St. Paul, MN will again provide ISO 9001:2000 Lead Auditor Training for IOIA. Date is tentatively set for Feb. 17-20, with exam on Feb. 21. Enrollment is limited so if you are interested, please contact IOIA early. Advanced Training (2 days) will follow on Feb. 21-22 and will include topics such as dairy processing. If you have ideas for other advanced training topics, please contact IOIA. Also tentatively, a Train the Trainer event is planned for IOIA Trainers, to run concurrently with the advanced training.

Why La Crosse? IOIA last selected a Midwestern US training location in 1997. Over 18% of our members are from the Midwest. The location provides networking opportunities with the UMOFC and OCIA. Working with these groups, costs for the meeting will be reasonable, including good regional organic food. Nestled along a panorama of rivers, bluffs, and valleys, La Crosse is a Mississippi River town that once welcomed up to 300 steamboats monthly. Winter activities include watching the numerous bald eagles that winter on the river, ice fishing, snow-tubing, snow-shoeing, horse drawn wagon or bobsled rides, moonlight skiing, snowmobiling, ice skating on city ponds; and the International Ski Jump Tournament near Westby, Wisconsin in mid-February. La Crosse is served by the La Crosse Municipal Airport. Closest major airport is Minneapolis, about 2 hours away. For more info about La Crosse, visit www.explorelacrosse.com.

Watch the IOIA website and upcoming issues of *The Inspectors' Report* for more details about keynote speakers and entertainment.

IOIA and NCAT Collaborate on Resources and Training for the South

Funded by USDA's Risk Management Agency, IOIA collaborated this year with the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) to create decision-making and record keeping tools for the states of Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Kentucky. Tools are designed to assist transitioning growers, who are at risk as they convert to organic. One of those tools will be the first southern organic resource guide, created largely by IOIA and just sent to print this month. This will be one of several new ATTRA publications that grew out of the project. The Guide includes an introduction, national / international / regional resources, inputs list, seed source list, organic research summary, and five state sections that include state resources, lists of certified operations, maps showing their location, Organic Farm Facts from USDA-ERS, and Farmer Profiles with photos. Extension Agents in the 5-state region will receive a CD of the Guide upon request. Other projects include vegetable record keeping forms, farm documentation forms, budgeting tools, and an organic notebook of ATTRA's organic publications. The project is nearing its completion date of September 30.

An indicator of the need for support for growers in the southern region, the Guide lists only 72 certified operations including handlers in all 5 states: 17 in TN, 12 in LA, 19 in AR, 7 in MS, and 17 in KY. The area has little organic research and extension support. The same warm, moist southern climate that provides producers with long growing seasons and a wide variety of soil-building crop rotation options also favor high weed and pest populations.

Representing IOIA on this project in addition to Margaret Scoles, were IOIA Inspector Members Elaine Ferry (West Virginia), Sue Baird (Missouri); Gene Prochaska (Indiana); and Paul Dutter (Georgia). All will be involved in a series of upcoming organic workshops in the south. Baird and Ferry were primary authors of the Guide and are coordinating the TN events. Ferry also represented IOIA in Tennessee in April. Stacy Burwick (Tennessee) and Kathy Turner (Arkansas) assisted as reviewers and/or advisors. IOIA Board Member Ann Baier worked on the project in her capacity as NCAT staff. NCAT led the training in Arkansas in August. Special thanks are due to all of the IOIA Inspector Members who assisted by completing the inspector questionnaire late in 2004, thus providing key insights and direction for needed resources. Training Events are open to the public and free. *Events in LA & MS may be postponed due to Hurricane Katrina.*

Louisiana: September 13, 9-5 Workshop, "Can Organics Work for Louisiana Farmers?" at the LSU AgCenter, followed by a morning farm tour on Sept. 14 about 30 mi. north. Contact IOIA or Carl Motsenbocker, at cmotsenbocker@agctr.lsu.edu

Tennessee: A series of half-day Organic Workshops across the state.

September 13, 2005 (12-5:00 PM): Jackson, TN (UT Experimental Station, Room A, 605 Airways Blvd.) For registration, contact: Peggy Hamlett, Center for Profitable Agriculture, at 731-425-4711, or email: phamlett@utk.edu

September 14, 2005 (12-5:00 PM): Knoxville, TN (UT Biotechnology Building, Room 156/157) For registration, contact: Dr. Jim Wills, UTK, at 865-974-7757, or email: jwills@utk.edu

September 15, 2005 (12-5:00 PM): Nashville, TN (TSU, Auditorium Room 118) For registration, contact: Pam Rye, TSU Ext. Area Small Farm Specialist, at: 931-648-5725, or email: prye@utk.edu

Mississippi: One-day workshop, Sept. 16, "Organic Networking: Finding and Sharing Information, resources, people, and opportunities", in Raymond. For more information, contact: Bill Evans, 601-892-3731 or wbe@ra.msstate.edu

Kentucky: Two workshops, Sept. 20-22. For more information, contact: Jake Schmitz, Kentucky Department of Agriculture Organic Program at 502-564-4983 or Jake.Schmitz@ky.gov

Notes from the ED

By Margaret Scoles

New Hope Expo East, Washington, DC, September 16-18: IOIA will be represented by Brian Magaro, BOD Chair; Helene Bouvier of Manitoba; and Bob Durst of Oregon. IOIA received a free booth space for several of the past years but didn't this year. We do consistently receive some free badges. Hope to see some of you there! This is the first year in three that I will not participate in OTA's Congressional Day at the Capitol (see Deep South for reason why). Bob and Helene will be there, though.

NOSB happenings: The deadline to comment on the Sunset provisions was Aug 16. IOIA was pleased to write glowing letters of recommendations for **Emily Brown Rosen** and **Miles McEvoy**, two of those who put their names forward for the NOSB positions that will open up next January. The NOSB needs people of their caliber, especially as Jim Riddle ends his term as BOD member and Chair in January.

IFOAM: IOIA should be at the IFOAM General Assembly and Conference in South Australia, especially since this year marked the first year ever when all of IOIA's Oz members dropped out. And because it only happens every 3 years. But we just didn't quite have the resources to manage it. This bothers me less, knowing the big news that **Angela Caudle** (that lovely, capable and gentle person who is leaving QCS) will be the new Executive Director of IFOAM (see full story page 8). I had no inkling that Angela spoke German. She will take over her new position in Australia. IOIA wrote a letter of support for **Brian Baker** of OMRI as a candidate for the World Board.

Deep South activities: Upon hearing that we'd received funding with NCAT for the RMA project to assist organic and transitioning farmers in the Deep South a year ago, I remember that my initial reaction was panic. We had only 2 members in the entire region of AR, TN, KY, LA, and MS and very limited expertise in the region. I was afraid that if I contacted people in those states, they'd wonder why someone was calling from Montana. How were we going to pull this off? I'm pleased to report that this project has been one of the most enjoyable of any during

my tenure with IOIA. Because the organic infrastructure is so small in these states, everyone knows everyone else in the organic or near-organic community. As **Sue Baird**, **Elaine Ferry**, and I 'beat the bushes' to find the certified organic operations and identify resources, we found ourselves talking personally with every person listed in the new ***Southern Organic Resource Guide***. And soon, we knew virtually everyone. To my surprise, everyone we called had time to talk and was pleased to take our calls. I met a dynamite goat expert, **An Peischel** of KY. Writing a few *Grower Profiles* for organic farms was great fun. **Todd Elliott** and **Sarah Paulson** of Sylvanus Farms in KY were surprised to get my call. They said they knew almost no other organic farmers and definitely no other organic CSAs in KY. I'd met **Mac Stone** at ATO in Chicago, but until I wrote a profile of his farm with him, I didn't fully appreciate him. KY is fortunate to have a certified organic farmer overseeing their organic program. It was also great to work this year with their Organic Program head, **Jake Schmitz**, who had just attended our IOIA Farm, Process, and Livestock trainings in New Mexico and Idaho. Mac and wife **Ann** are part of a multi-generational farm and operate an organic CSA and produce operation. KY is still working on their NOP accreditation. Working with **Barbara Bellows** of NCAT was great. My personal project has been the Louisiana training. Amazingly, we found one good contact at each of the southern LA universities and all were willing to collaborate on an event. **Harry Schexnayder**, new to his position overseeing the LA State organic certification program last year and also an acquaintance from Chicago's NASOP meeting, has been a joy in supporting the project. I sent out an Email asking how we could get organic lunch catered in and he answered within the hour. So I asked him if he could recommend accommodations and within another hour, I had a 2-room historic plantation cottage B&B 3 miles from the AgCenter booked for **Paul Dutter** and myself for less than the cost of a motel. Talk about Southern Hospitality...! I am very much looking forward to this trip, from Sept. 11-19, starting out in Jackson, Mississippi, traveling first to visit the farm of one of our guest speakers on the way to Baton Rouge to take pictures for the presentation, ended up in the Baton Rouge area for training

and field trip, then driving back to MS for the workshop there on Sept 16 before I take a fast and furious flight to connect with BOD Chair Brian for Day 2 of Expo East floor. I've tentatively been invited to speak to a consumer group in LA too, so I'm looking forward to introducing most of the South to a relatively unknown IOIA. I'll speak in MS on Networking Possibilities and with the new Southern Resource Guide ready to hand out that will be easy. The only thing bad about this project is that it will be nearly over before I have this wonderful resource guide on my desk and at my fingertips. Every time I go to call someone in LA or MS or KY or any other parts south, I find myself wishing I could just reach out and pick it up. If you have any interest or connections to these southern states, be sure to contact ATTRA for this great new publication!

International happenings: IOIA welcomes our first member from Syria, Nazir Mahmoud Al Nahlawi. The Middle East seems to be the center of a lot of organic interest right now and trainings are likely there within the year. Last year's Organic Community Initiative Scholarship winner, **Bel Gurung** of Nepal, is trying to arrange to attend the Texas fiber training.

Montana happenings: 3rd annual Montana Organic Association Conference is scheduled for Nov 11-12 in Billings.

Committees: We need to dust ourselves off and start to work. **Scholarship Committee** will soon be evaluating Scholarship Applications (due Nov 1). **Accreditation Review Panel** will be scrutinizing accreditation applications. (**Reminder:** there are lots of members up for renewal this fall.) The **Training Committee** will be working on restructuring. The **Latin American Committee** lacks a Chair. And the **Canadian Committee** (God bless them) will have their hands full as we move into a whole new world for Canadian inspectors. CFIA is making it clear that they expect inspectors to have more technical background and that more comprehensive inspector training is needed as they move into the role of overseeing organic inspections in Canada. However, they seem willing to collaborate with IOIA, and to "grandfather" in experienced organic

[see ED page 18]

Notes, from page 1

for interactions with individuals who can contribute to the planning process. These might include local certification agencies, committee chairs, staff members, IOIA Members or other stakeholders. After that, the BOD will pull together and focus on areas where IOIA wants to work, while keeping IOIA's core values in mind. Your input is welcomed and requested and we thank you in advance for your contributions.

We look forward to sharing the results with you in La Crosse at the next AGM, as well as here and on the website. May you have a great fall season!

Fiber, from page 1

processing industry is much younger. Cotton is the number 2 crop in the US for most pesticides used. On the bright side, the U.S. is also #2 in production of organic cotton.

Taking a major step forward, the OTA's Board of Directors adopted organic fiber processing standards in late January of 2004. Almost five years in the making, these standards cover all post-harvest processing, from storage of organic fiber at the gin or similar facility, to spinning, wet finishing and labeling. The standards were developed by OTA after reviewing existing international standards and taking into account the requirements of OFPA and NOP regs. A significant difference between the OTA fiber processing standards and those from other countries and organizations is the inclusion of an extremely detailed Materials List. OTA believes the standards will not only provide the basis for environmentally sustainable processing among companies in the organic fiber industry, but will also be of great interest to the conventional textile sector as it looks for ways to reduce environmental impacts of textile production.

The processing standards are available to OTA members and non-members through a licensing agreement. OTA members can receive the license for free. Under the agreement, companies will be licensed to use the standards in-house but prohibited from sharing them outside the company. Information on the standards is available on the members-only part of the OTA web site (www.ota.com).

For more info including fiber facts and a web-based International Organic Cotton Directory, visit the OTA website. ♣

NOP Shifts Policy Again

On August 23, USDA administrators reversed policy again after threatening to withdraw NOP standards on the eve of a deadline to respond to a federal court complaint filed in June by the Organic Consumers Association and Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps.

NOP had originally said, circa 2002-3 that any product made from or containing agricultural ingredients could be certified organic under the NOP, using the USDA organic seal. Then in 2004, they reversed the policy and said that only food products could be certified under the NOP, using the USDA seal. Now they are back to the original position.

Lead Attorney Joe Sandler said he is pleased that "USDA has decided to follow the law and promote the interest of consumers by recognizing that certified organic producers are indeed able to access the NOP program and display the USDA organic seal. In the suit he asserted that a reversal would have destroyed good faith investments. Plaintiff David Bronner said USDA "may not have fully understood what was a stake" when the decision was announced last March. He said a lot of pressure was brought to bear from retailers, congressional representatives, industry groups and a coalition of associations.

The question is, what happens now that the USDA has again taken a position that wasn't supported by OFPA. IOIA contacted Arthur Harvey, who brought the first suit against USDA, for his comments: "I think USDA can, with equal legality, regulate personal care products, or decline to regulate them. OFPA grants USDA some flexibility in developing the program, but not where it would actually conflict with clear direction set by Congress. Personal care products are a gray area, which courts are likely to leave to the USDA's discretion. If the NOP bowed to anything, it was the persistence of industry people who want these products included."

August 23, 2005 – MEMORANDUM

TO: All USDA Accredited Certifying Agents

FROM: Barbara C. Robinson, Deputy Administrator
Transportation and Marketing Programs

Agricultural Marketing Service

SUBJECT: Certification of agricultural products that meet NOP standards

The National Organic Program (NOP) has received numerous inquiries regarding its current thinking on the issue of products that meet the NOP program standards for organic products based on content, irrespective of the end use of the product. This statement is intended to clarify the NOP's position with respect to this issue, and will be provided to all of our accredited certifying agents.

Agricultural commodities or products that meet the NOP standards for certification under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, 7 U.S.C. §§ 6501-6522, can be certified under the NOP and be labeled as "organic" or "made with organic" pursuant to the NOP regulations, 7 C.F.R. part 205.300 *et seq.* To qualify for certification, the producer or handler must comply with all applicable NOP production, handling, and labeling regulations.

Operations currently certified under the NOP that produce agricultural products that meet the NOP standards to be labeled as "organic" and to carry the USDA organic seal, or which meet NOP standards to be labeled as "made with organic," may continue to be so labeled as long as they continue to meet the NOP standards. Such certification may only be suspended or revoked after notice and opportunity for hearing. There are agricultural products, including personal care products, that, by virtue of their organic agricultural product content, may meet the NOP standards and be labeled as "100 percent organic," "organic" or "made with organic" pursuant to the NOP regulations. Businesses that manufacture and distribute such products may be certified under the NOP, and such products may be labeled as "100 percent organic," "organic" or "made with organic" so long as they meet NOP requirements. Additionally, products that may be labeled "100 percent organic" or "organic" may also carry the USDA organic seal. If additional rulemaking is required for such products to address additional labeling issues or the use of synthetics in such products, the NOP will pursue such rulemaking as expeditiously as possible.

Mexico Moves Toward Organic Standards

Perhaps by the end of the year, Mexico may join the list of countries that have established standards for organically grown products.

Mexico's senate in late April approved the Organic Products Law of Mexico and sent it on to the Chamber of Deputies. Chances of passage appear strong, according to OCIA. "Maybe by the end of this year, we'll have approval of it," said Homero Blas Bustamante, director of OCIA's Latin American office in Mexico.

Such organic standards are likely to mirror the U.S.D.A.'s NOP. Bustamante said the law seeks to achieve equivalence with other official organic programs in the U.S., Japan and Europe, which are the top-ranking destinations for Mexican organic products.

Currently, the U.S. has no equivalency agreements with any other countries that have their own organic standards, said Katherine DiMatteo, executive director of the Organic Trade Association.

Organic standards in Mexico are 12 years in the making, said Bustamante, who is one of the proposed law's chief supporters.

"The Organic Products Law will be the legal basis for regulating the standards for organic products produced in Mexico, not only with the objective of exportation, but also with the goal of strengthening our national market," Bustamante said.

The law would create a National Organic Production Council, which would serve as a consulting body to the Ministry of Agriculture. The council will have representatives from various sectors, including producers, processors, brokers, certification agencies and consumers, according to an OCIA news release.

Italian Organic Standards Join with IFOAM

IFOAM has announced the approval of the Italian Organic Standards, the first regional organic standards in IFOAM's "Family of Standards" that have been reviewed and approved as being consistent with the IFOAM Basic Standards, the globally accepted international standards at the root of all organic standards.

Developed by a consortium of Italian certification bodies, the Italian Organic Standards represent the synchronization of their previously independent standards.

Letter to Editor

Subject: Harvey vs. Organic Farmers

Dear Fellow Organic Inspectors:

You are no doubt aware of the impact that the recent Harvey ruling will have on the work we do, on the operations we inspect and on the certifiers for whom we work. As a long time organic activist and inspector (since 1977!), later NOP staff member and now consultant to the Organic Trade Association (among others), I have watched in utter dismay as the organic community has again shied away from confronting the prevailing marketplace mythology about the use of synthetics in organic production and handling. Does the fact, as proclaimed by Consumers Union, that most consumers believe that organic food does not contain "artificial" or "chemically derived" substances, justify eliminating a huge chunk of the current products that carry the organic label? What will happen to the market for scads of minor organic ingredients when many manufacturers are forced to revert to a "made with organic" label on their products? What good will it do consumers?

If you share my dismay at the impact of the Harvey case (and there are numerous other issues that could be discussed), what are you doing about it? Many sustainable and organic activists have jumped on the bandwagon that opposes changing the OFPA to maintain the current standards. This strategy ignores the reality that, despite some helpful tinkering that is possible through regulatory changes, an awful lot of damage will be done if the law isn't fixed. Damage to organic farmers as well as the organic industry. Damage to organic consumers, who will remain ignorant about the meaning of "organic integrity."

Groups such as the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture say they fear the danger in opening the law, but the truth is that Congress mostly fears being attacked like they were after the poultry feed amendment debacle. They need assurances that the grassroots will support the changes that we think are needed. We, as organic inspectors, farmers, and consumers need to let the groups we belong to, and our clients, know how important it is to the continued health of the organic industry and the planet to support amending the OFPA. The law can and must be fixed to reflect the reality of organic production without any compromise to organic integrity.

Organically yours,

Grace Gershuny

In addition to assuring consistency with the IFOAM Basic Standards, the consortium developed its standard to be consistent with the European Regulation 2092/91 as well. Participating organizations include:

- Bioagricert (BAC)
- BIOS
- Consorzio per il Controllo dei Prodotti Biologici (CCPB)
- Istituto Certificazione Etica e Ambientale (ICEA)
- Istituto Mediterraneo di Certificazione (IMC)

The objective of establishing an IFOAM Family of Standards is to support the

concept of regional variation in organic standards, while at the same time facilitating international harmonization of regional standards. Antonio Compagnoni, IFOAM World Board member from Italy, states, "The establishment of the Italian Organic Standard is an important step for the organic movement. It allows organic standards to vary regionally, but crucially, ensures that they adhere to the democratic and grassroots standards of IFOAM..."

More details about organic standards can be found on IFOAM's web page:

http://www.ifoam.org/about_ifoam/standards/index.html

ACA Hires Coordinator

The Accredited Certifiers Association, Inc., (ACA) has announced that **Patricia Kane** has been hired as Coordinator for the Association. Patricia has been active with the organic certification community for many years, including acting as coordinator for the Organic Trade Association's Organic Certifiers Council Standards Consensus Project; serving as Chair of the OTA Organic Certifiers Council; serving as Co-Chair of the Northeast Interstate Organic Certifiers Council, and Administrator of the NOFA-NY Organic Certification Program. Patricia and her husband also operate a farm in Port Crane, NY, raising beef cattle.

The ACA was created in 2004 as a not-for-profit association designed to expedite effective communications among USDA-accredited organic certifying organizations. Members will also work together to improve implementation of the National Organic Program. The work will be accomplished by: developing uniform criteria for the certification process; providing training opportunities to accredited certifiers; providing a forum for discussion of issues impacting the organic certification process; and by facilitating the sharing of information among accredited certification agencies.

The recent ACA meeting held in Chicago at the All Things Organic™ Trade Show established the group's working agenda. A newsletter will be developed, as well as a discussion board and/or list serve for members. These communication mechanisms will provide member certifiers with up to date information and a means to discuss issues with other member certifiers. In addition the ACA will be represented at upcoming meetings focused on the organic industry, such as meetings of the National Organic Standards Board and other related meetings.

Membership in the ACA is open to all USDA accredited certifiers, including certifying organizations based outside of the USA. For membership information, or information on other ACA activities, contact Patricia Kane, Coordinator, Accredited Certifiers Assoc., Inc., PO Box 472, Port Crane, NY 13833, or phone 607.648.3259. E-mail contact is also welcome at AccredCertifiers@aol.com.

Griner Leaves OCIA

Amy Griner, who has served as Director of Inspection and Training Services for OCIA for the past 6 six years, left the association at the end of June, moving to North Carolina for family reasons.

An excerpt from her final email:

"I have always considered working with the inspectors one of the most fulfilling parts of my work with OCIA. I have always enjoyed meeting with all of you, talking to and learning from you. As I'm a trained inspector too (thanks IOIA!!) I will be applying with various certification agencies, and toss my hat in the ring as an independent inspector as well! Wish me luck! If you need to get in touch with me for any reason, my personal email address is algriner1@yahoo.com. I'd love to stay in touch and hear from everyone every once in a while.

Again it has been an amazing 6 years working with OCIA, and getting to know the wonderful inspectors that I've been lucky enough to work with. Thanks to each and every one of you for all you've given me through these years."

OneCert Opens Asia Office

OneCert Asia, based in the US, has established a branch office in India and will deliver organic certification and audits to US NOP standards.

The India Office is headed by Mr. Sandeep Bhargava, Chief Executive Officer, Post Graduate in Food Technology, Post Graduate In Management, also trained for HACCP and ISO auditing and having long experience in Organic Agriculture and Food Processing Industry. Readers will recall that Sandeep was IOIA's **Organic Community Initiative Scholarship** recipient 2 years ago and attended the training in Hong Kong.

He is supported by highly qualified trained organic inspectors. OneCert Asia has applied for the accreditation as Organic Certification Agency with APEDA.

OneCert Asia has already started Registration of groups of farmers, individual farmers, corporate plantation etc. for organic certification.

OneCert is now in its third year of certifying to USDA standards from its US headquarters. Although OneCert is a new organization, its staff has been involved in organic production and inspection from the beginning of organic certification.

OneCert staff have worked in organic certification throughout the world, including USA, Canada, Latin America, Europe, and Asia. OneCert was formed to provide understandable, affordable and efficient certification by certifying simultaneously to the US NOP, Europe's EU2092/91 and Japan's JAS standards in one certification. This ensures adherence to the highest possible standards as well as providing clients with certification for all the major world market for organic produce.

Queries can be directed to Sandeep at:

e-mail: info@onecertasia.in

Website: www.onecertasia.in

Mobile No.: 094140-63456

New ED at IFOAM

The World Board of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) announced on August 19 the appointment of **Angela B. Caudle** as Executive Director. Ms. Caudle will take over the position from Gerald A. Herrmann, the current IFOAM Executive Director and Vice President, to coincide with the 15th IFOAM Organic World Congress, to be held September 20th-27th, 2005 in Adelaide, Australia.

Ms. Caudle is the first woman to lead the organization since its founding 33 years ago. She has been active in both the US and international organic industry, furthering the scope and acceptance of organics. Her practical experience includes living and working in Europe, Asia, and Latin America. She has consistently focused on the value of developing beneficial partnerships and new avenues for organics while maintaining the core principles and values. Ms. Caudle has previously managed US-based Quality Certification Services through impressive growth and expansion and has served as its Director since 2002.

"Angela's US experience, combined with her knowledge of four languages and strong managerial skills, make her uniquely qualified to lead a diverse organic world into a future full of opportunities," offers Gunnar Rundgren, IFOAM President.

Gerald A. Herrmann notes "serving as the Executive Director for this past year has been both a challenge and a pleasure. One of my key activities during this time was managing the search for a new Executive Director, and I am satisfied that Ms. Caudle is the right person for the job." ♣

15th IFOAM Organic World Congress

The 15th IFOAM Organic World Congress will take place from September 20th-27th 2005 in Adelaide, Australia. An event that happens only once every three years, the Congress features a diverse program, including over 300 presentations and workshops examining the state-of-the-art in the organic sector, the 8th International IFOAM Organic Viticulture and Wine Conference, the International Scientific Conference on Organic Agriculture, for the first time organized in cooperation with the International Society of Organic Agriculture Research (ISOFAR), and the IFOAM General Assembly.

The 8th International IFOAM Organic Viticulture and Wine Conference will bring together the world's experts on organic wine from all over the planet to facilitate the further development of markets and products, and to discuss challenges and opportunities for moving forward and conquering mainstream markets.

The International Scientific Conference on Organic Agriculture will delve into the latest research and technical advances in organic agriculture. Organized by ISOFAR (www.isofar.org), the newly established global scientific research authority for organic agriculture, the conference will facilitate global cooperation in research, methodological development, education and knowledge exchange.

An Organic World Exhibition will be held in conjunction with the Congress to showcase and promote organic international organic companies and organizations, and the Go 2005 Organic Festival will highlight the wide range of organic food and beverages available to consumers and visitors in South Australia.

The extensive list of Congress tours, from the wet tropics to Australia's dry outback, will provide a hands-on experience for those who participate. The tours feature Australia's unique flora and fauna and include the important aboriginal culture and traditions that have shaped the continent over the past 40,000 years.

An impressive list of high profile keynote speakers will address diverse and relevant issues to the organic sector. **Dr. Vandana Shiva**, recipient of the prestigious Right to Livelihood award, author of acclaimed works such as *Water Wars* and *Stolen*

Harvest, will open the congress plenary and set the tone for a landmark event. **Dr. Tim Flannery**, the world-renowned conservation scientist whose work included the discovery of the tree kangaroo and saving Bulmer's Fruit bat from extinction, is another in a long list of exciting speakers who are making great contributions to achieving a more sustainable world.

The IFOAM General Assembly, the democratic decision making forum for IFOAM, will take place immediately following the congress. Important decisions that will affect the future of the organic industry will be made, including the adoption of the revised Principles of Organic Agriculture, the election of the IFOAM World Board and the consideration of wide-ranging motions, all monumental decisions for the booming \$26 billion market for organic products.

Taking place during the height of spring, Jan Denham, the congress organizer, notes "the fascinating city of Adelaide combined with renowned Australian hospitality create a setting that will bestow an unforgettable experience on all participants. Additionally, the favorable price structure and currency exchange rate in Australia will help to make participation in the congress affordable."

With over 11,300,000 hectares of certified organic land, comprising 43% of the world's total, Australia is the perfect destination for anyone involved in or interested in organic agriculture.

For further info, visit the congress website: www.nasaa.com.au/ifoam2005.

Jeff Wideman 1953-2005

Jeff Wideman of rural Soldiers Grove died Saturday, July 30 off of the island of Hawaii. He died in the strong arms of his son Henry as Henry was bringing him to shore after they had been hit by the force of a big wave.

Jeff was born in Rochester, Indiana on February 21, 1953, the son of Patricia and Fred Wideman. Jeff always loved the rural life. After graduating from high school in Brookfield, Illinois and attending Lorraine Community College in Ohio and Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois, he moved to the country, making his home in the Kickapoo Valley

in 1975. He and wife Bonnie moved to their current farm in the Pine Knob area in 1987. Jeff loved raising tobacco and sheep. Now the farm pastures Herefords, too. Jeff was also a respected organic farm inspector and he and Bonnie were both staff inspectors with Midwest Organic Services Association in Viroqua.

He leaves behind wife Bonnie, son Henry who is a student at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin; step-children Anna Frey, New York City, and Kilian Frey of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; sister Lisa Steichmann and her husband Jay, their children Dustin and Josh, all of Ann Arbor, Michigan; cousins, aunts and uncles and a multitude of friends. Jeff had a joy for life, infectious humor, and an interest in others. The love of community, friends and family that supported him through cancer treatment in the summer of 2003, gave him a new, deeper appreciation for life. He found the time to share this with everyone he met on the path. Posted above Jeff's desk are three simple quotes:

*"Joy is here today, all around me."
"Happiness is mine for the taking."
"I will forget what I want
and enjoy what I have."*



Jeff Wideman had been an Inspector Member of IOIA since 1999. He was much loved by the farmers he inspected and his co-workers. His wife Bonnie is currently an IOIA Inspector Member and the acting head of MOSA.

Harvey v Johanns Ruling

On June 9, 2005, the US District Court for the District of Maine issued a Summary Judgment and order in the Harvey v. Johanns lawsuit. The judgment clarified that synthetics are not allowed in 'organic' or '100% organic' products [Count 3] and removed the allowance for 80-20% dairy conversion [Count 7]. It also clarified that 205.606 did not allow nonorganic agricultural products unless they are on the National list and the certifier has determined that the organic form is not commercially available [Count 1]. The Court gave the USDA 30 days to notify certifying agents of this clarification. A phase-in period of 2 years (24 months) was announced for product not conforming on all 3 counts to be sold to minimize commercial disruption.

On July 1, the USDA announced a correction (effective immediately) on Count 1 and intent to begin rulemaking on the Counts 3 and 7, to be completed within 360 days of the date of Judgment (June 5, 2006). June 9, 2007 is the final date that any product that is not compliant and has not entered the stream of commerce can be legally sold.

An Industry Perspective: How Did We Get Here?

By Dave DeCou and Brian Baker

Excerpted from OMRI Update, Vol 7, Issue 2, Summer 2005, reprinted here with permission.

The roots of the current issues can be traced to the debate over OFPA, the early work of the NOSB, various state laws, and private certification standards. In 1990 most organ-

ic foods were fresh and the few processed organic products on the market were pretty simple, often composed of a single organic ingredient. State laws, most significantly the California Organic Foods Act, had little or no provision for the use of non-organic ingredients in products labeled as 'organic.' Private standards at the time were similarly restrictive. The individuals who drafted the wording of OFPA did not anticipate the development of a diverse product mix of processed organic products. While they wanted the industry to grow, the experience and technical capacity for processed food was undeveloped. A sizeable share of those in the organic community considered organic food to be 'minimally processed' with most of the value added either at home or by local artisans and restaurants. Few predicted that processed products would become a sizeable part of the organic market.

As the NOSB began their legislatively assigned task of recommending standards and in particular the development of the National List, some members recognized the problem and formulated the basis and justification for the current regulation. Not all NOSB members agreed with the approach, and even the final recommendation differed significantly from the final regulation. In particular, as a justification for the use of any synthetic ingredients in processing, the NOSB recommended that a hierarchy be established in the recommended preamble to the National List:

"All non-agricultural ingredients used as ingredients in organic foods (which contain at least 95 percent organic ingredients) must appear on the National List. An allowed synthetic ingredient or processing aid compatible with organic handling principles may be used in organic foods only when an acceptable, non-synthetic ingredient is commercially unavailable."

The expectation was that certifiers would require most processors to use only organic ingredients. Natural ingredients would be used to a limited extent. If the processor could demonstrate that a non-synthetic solution was not commercially available, a certifier would permit limited use of a synthetic ingredient. Moreover, the NOSB recommended that the handling plan require an annual justification for the use of synthetic and non-organic ingredients, and a documentation of efforts to find organic ingredients.

The NOP rule did not accept all of the NOSB's recommendations on this subject. While the NOP accepted the NOSB's recommendation to create "made with," "organic," and "100% organic" categories, the use of non-organic ingredients in such products was less restricted. The NOP removed the hierarchy that preferred organic over non-organic and non-synthetic over synthetic. Also gone from the final rule was the certifier discretion and oversight of the use of non-organic ingredients. In all fairness, the resources of certifiers to evaluate the technical feasibility and commercial availability appears questionable in hindsight. The NOSB also established criteria specific to the allowance of synthetic 'processing aids and adjuvants' but not ingredients. Some parts of the organic industry as well as consumers were concerned that even more synthetic ingredients would be added to the National List. The NOP revised that recommendation to extend to ingredients. ■

USDA's Clarification of 206.606

NOTICE TO:

ALL USDA ACCREDITED CERTIFYING AGENTS, ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

RE: HARVEY v. JOHANNS

As part of the Consent Final Judgment and Order issued June 9, 2005, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine, in the case of Harvey v. Johanns (Civil No. 02-216-P-H), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Organic Program (NOP) will issue a notice in the Federal Register on July 1, 2005. The declaratory judgment issued by the court states that 7 CFR § 205.606 shall not be interpreted to grant a blanket exemption for certifying agents and their clients to determine the commercial unavailability of nonorganic agricultural substances.

The declaratory judgment further stated that 7 CFR 205.606 shall be interpreted to permit the use of a nonorganically produced agricultural product only when the product has been listed in section 205.606 pursuant to the National List procedures and when an accredited certifying agent has determined that the organic form of the agricultural product is not commercially available.

This notice, in the Federal Register and on this website, supersedes all other interpretations, notices, and guidance to the contrary and is the interpretation of 7 CFR 205.606. Pursuant to the terms of the declaratory judgment, products produced in conformance with the misinterpretation identified by the Court of Appeals, and certified by an accredited certifying agent, may continue to be produced and sold for two year's from the date of the court's order.

With respect to the two remaining counts of the Final Judgment and Order, related to count 3 (dealing with synthetics) and count 7 (dealing with the dairy feed provision), USDA intends to engage in notice and comment rulemaking over the ensuing months and will be seeking input from all interested parties as rulemaking is conducted to amend 7 CFR 205 to comply with the court Final Judgment and Order.

July 1, 2005

Barbara C. Robinson, Deputy Administrator

Transportation & Marketing Programs, National Organic Program

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/Newsroom/07_05ACAHarveyJohannsNotice.pdf

Bowman Weighs In on Suit

Excerpts from Sissy Bowman's article, reprinted with permission from Cooperative Grocer, www.cooperativegrocer.coop.

Note: This was originally printed just prior to the Summary Judgment.

There continues to be much debate about the lawsuit, and simple answers seem far away. But then, nothing much has been simple about implementing the Organic Food Production Act. With new and increasingly diverse organic products entering or wishing to enter the market, making decisions that will lead us into a credible, simple and efficient implementation path will become even more complicated. Now is when we set precedents and determine who will make the difference in what organics is to become.

This is an opportunity to improve the quality of what is called "organic," to build consumer confidence in the label as well as the process that creates the label, and to bring consumers into a more powerful role as far as their food choices are concerned. It is up to us—those who call themselves representatives of this industry—to uphold the integrity of the label and to encourage the public to comment during this important moment in the history of organic food. *Cissy Bowman is Executive Director of Indiana Certified Organic and manages Hoosier Organic Marketing Education, a nonprofit organization in Indiana.* ♣

Verbatim Excerpts from the Summary Judgment

In the US District Court for the District of Maine, Arthur Harvey v. Mike Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture Civil No. 02-216-P-H Judgment be entered in Plaintiff's favor with respect to counts 3 and 7 of Plaintiff's Complaint.

DECLARATORY JUDGMENT with respect to Count 1: 7C.F.R. § 205.606 shall not be interpreted to create a blanket exemption, to the National list requirements specified in 7 U.S.C. § 6517, permitting the use of nonorganic agricultural products in or on processed organic products when their organic form is not commercially available. Consistent with the Organic Foods

Production Act of 1990 (OFPA), 7 C.F.R. § 205.606 shall be interpreted to permit the use of a nonorganically produced agricultural product that has been listed in section 205.606 pursuant to National List procedures, and when a Certifying Agent has determined that the organic form of the agricultural product is not commercially available.

The Court of Appeals' decision recognized that some producers, handlers, and certifiers may have misinterpreted section 205.606 to mean that any nonorganic agricultural product which was determined by a certifying agent to be not commercially available in organic form could be used in organic products, without being individually listed pursuant to National List procedures. That interpretation is contrary to the plain meaning of OFPA.

With respect to Count 3: 7C.F.R. §§ 205.600(b) and 605(b) are contrary to the OFPA and exceed the Secretary's rulemaking authority to the extent that they permit the addition of synthetic ingredients and processing aids in handling and processing of products which contain a minimum of 95% organic content and which are eligible to bear the USDA seal. This declaration does not apply to synthetic ingredients and processing aids authorized by 7 U.S.C. § 6519(f) or § 6510(a)(7).

With respect to Count 7: 7C.F.R. § 205.236(a)(2)(i), which creates an exception to general organic production requirements for conversion of whole dairy herds from traditional to organic production, is declared contrary to the OFPA and in excess of the Secretary's rulemaking authority.

[For full info, go to www.ams.usda.gov/NOP under Latest News.]

Federal Register - Vol. 70, No. 126 - Friday, July 1, 2005

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, Agricultural Marketing Service [TM-05-08] National Organic Program (NOP), Final Judgment and Order in the Case Harvey v. Johanns

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice. [This is the official notice that supports Ms. Robinson's notice on the previous page – Ed.]

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service is publishing this notice pursuant to a June 9, 2005, consent final judgment and order issued by the United States District Court, District of Maine, in the case Harvey v. Johanns. The court issued a declaratory judgment that 7 CFR 205.606 shall be interpreted to permit the use of a nonorganically produced agricultural product only when the product has been listed in section 205.606 pursuant to National List procedures, and when an accredited certifying agent has determined that the organic form of the agricultural product is not commercially available. The court's order limits an accredited certifying agent's commercially available determinations for nonorganic agricultural products used in or on processed organic products to the 5 substances contained in 7 CFR 205.606. The products are native cornstarch, water extracted gums, kelp when used as a thickener and dietary supplement, unbleached lecithin, and high methoxy pectin.

Excerpted from Federal Register:

http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/Newsroom/FedReg07_05HarveyCaseFinal.pdf

"In my opinion, if the results of the Harvey decision prevail, the consequences will be severe for the organic industry. That's why OTA is working to return to a pre-Harvey status quo."

Phil Margolis, Chair, Organic Trade Assn. Interview in Organic Processing Magazine, Vol 2 #4, July-Sept 2005

The August Organic Business News reports that OTA plans to comment on rules as they are offered instead of taking a proactive role in proposing regulation implementing the Harvey court decision.

Harvey vs USDA Timeline Summary of the Facts

October 2002: The USDA implemented the NOP and Arthur Harvey sued in Harvey v. Veneman.

2003: The wheels of the bureaucratic court process moved.

Jan 8, 2004: Harvey lost on all 9 counts. He appealed the decision on all but two to the First Circuit Court of Appeals. Also in 2004, Veneman was replaced by Mike Johanns as Secretary of Agriculture, so the case became known as Harvey v. Johanns.

Jan 26, 2005: Appeals Court issued a decision that affirmed the Court's prior decision on all but 3 counts. Decision was in Harvey's favor on 2 counts and another was remanded back to the lower court for clarification.

April 6, 2005: Harvey, USDA, and other amici of the court presented their opinions on implementation to the Court. See Page 10 for the June 9 & July 1 actions.

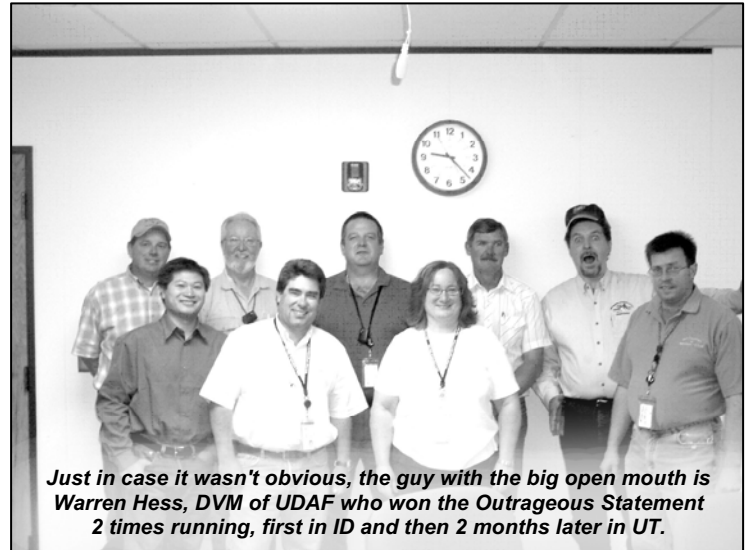
UDAF Handler Inspector Training

By John O'Malley Burns

Seth Winterton of Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) and IOIA organized a closed training for 9 UDAF professional staff, taught by John O'Malley Burns. It was great to have such a small class and be able to focus on all of the needs of each of the participants.

The Outrageous Statement award was won by **Warren Hess**, DVM, who asked, (when iodophores were being discussed as specifically allowed for teat cleaning in Dairy cows), "Why do organic cows need their teeth cleaned". He had graduated from a very humane vet school in northern California and was very sensitive to bovine orthodontics...

Everyone appreciated the participation of Jeff from Central Milling in Logan Utah for allowing us to tour his plant and review his records. Being a small group we were able to conduct Audit Trail samples and a spelt Audit Balance. Thank you UDAF for another good training experience.



Just in case it wasn't obvious, the guy with the big open mouth is Warren Hess, DVM of UDAF who won the Outrageous Statement 2 times running, first in ID and then 2 months later in UT.

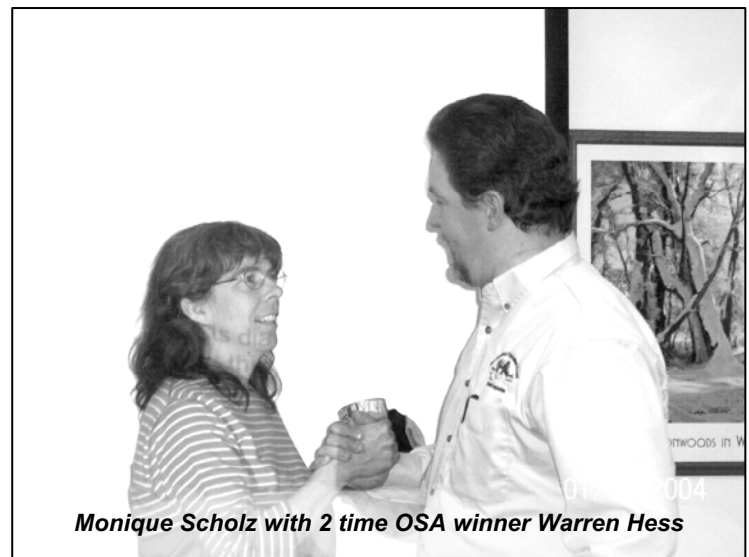
Idaho Livestock Training

By Monique Scholz

IOIA and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) hosted a 3 day Organic Livestock Inspection Training at the department headquarters in Boise, Idaho May 23-25, 2005.

The course was preceded May 22 by a very well-attended NOP Crop Standard Workshop, led by Margaret Scoles. Although only five advance registrations had been received for the workshop, and despite the fabulous early summer weather, 9 participants completed the interactive workshop.

The lead trainer for the Organic Livestock Inspection Training was Monique Scholz from Québec, assisted by Margaret Scoles. Although we have known each other since the founding of IOIA and have both trained many inspectors, this was our first experience working together and we found our style and approach to be very complementary and well-balanced. Approximately one third of our 20 participants were from the IDSA, i.e., state inspectors whose workload includes many other types of inspection work (grain, seed, dairy etc.) in addition to organic inspections. Other participants came from throughout the USA as well as Canada. The training team was delighted to note the intermittent presence of other state employees in the classroom, notably the deputy commissioner, for different training modules. Margaret Misner, of the ISDA, stated that the "training has generated a lot of interest in my department" and enhanced the credibility of the organic inspection scheme among her colleagues.



Monique Scholz with 2 time OSA winner Warren Hess



Trainers Monique Scholz and Margaret Scoles with 19 participants

An intense field trip was generously hosted by **Nathan Jones** of Glenn's Ferry. His diverse organic operation includes a cow-calf herd and modest finishing lot. For participants (and trainer!) from other bioregions, the field trip had the added advantage of getting us into the "desert", i.e., extensive BLM grazing land. Due to the exceptionally wet conditions for Idaho this spring, these pastures were an astounding palette of blooming vegetation.

The traditional Outrageous Statement Award was reluctantly accepted by **Dr Warren Hess**, a veterinarian from Utah who attended the full course and provided much helpful insight. During the review of materials led by Ms. Scoles, and on the subject of scours, he stated "The only thing that corrects diarrhea right now is a cork...and I think that is a natural product".

The course ended with an exam taken by 18 participants.

Pasture Rule Changes Sent Back to NOSB for More Work

With no forewarning, the NOP in mid-August returned the pasture rule change recommendations adopted by the NOSB in March. According to The Cornucopia Institute, as expressed by their policy analyst Mark Kastel, at the spring NOSB meeting the board passed two minor rule changes that would have closed some of the loopholes that large industrial farms were using to get around the requirement that ruminants (dairy cattle) must be pastured. The changes would have made it clearer that it is not enough for animals to have "access to pasture" but that they must in fact "graze." Large farms were using this loophole to justify confining their cattle even though pasture was theoretically available. A second rule change would have made it clear that lactation was not a "stage of production/life," allowing farmers to "temporarily" confine their cattle during all or most of lactation. "These rule modifications were well reasoned and insightful. However, they were suddenly, and without warning, rejected by the USDA National Organic Program staff at the August NOSB meeting. The staff defined the changes as ambiguous and without clear regulatory intent.

"We objected to the USDA rejecting the NOSB's proposed language without negotiating an acceptable alternative, if they had legitimate concerns. In fact, the USDA could have crafted alternative language and presented it to the board at their meeting last week for approval. Instead, they sent the rule changes back to the NOSB to start the process over again," reports Kastel.

"Depending on the NOSB meeting schedule, this might not be taken up again until next spring. It might take as long as 18 months from that point in time until these rules take effect as law. And then, farms that are out of compliance would presumably be given an opportunity to file a new management plan and modify their operations. Thus, in the best case scenario, it could be as long as 3-4 years from now until enforcement actions, based on the proposed rule changes, could take place."

IOIA contacted NOSB chair Jim Riddle, who reports that the recommendations "were not rejected. They were returned for further work. The board was told that the language was unclear and the documents lacked 'regulatory justification'. The NOSB Livestock Committee will revise the recommendations and expand the 'rationale' section to include a complete regulatory justification. The NOSB did adopt a pasture guidance statement." IOIA will let our members know where to access that NOSB guidance statement as soon as it becomes available.

Resources

Online Guide to U.S. Organic Certifiers

Published The Rodale Institute's NewFarm.org and the Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) have announced the *New Farm Guide to U.S. Organic Certifiers*, an online resource where farmers can find comprehensive profiles of participating organic certifiers, including fee structures, available services and geographic areas served. It is the only qualitative organic certifier guide available. Access the guide at www.newfarm.org/ocdbt.

Featured is information on a wide variety of characteristics of certifiers accredited by the NOP. Farmers can browse all certifiers, compare the full profiles of two certifiers or search by criteria such as farm size and type of operations certified.

"A farmer can click on 'livestock' and 'Ohio,' and instantly see all the listed certifiers that will serve that type of operation in that state," said Greg Bowman, on-line editor at NewFarm.org.

The guide is a collaborative effort of OFRF and The Rodale Institute® (TRI).

The U.S. Guide to Organic Certifiers can also be accessed from the OFRF website at www.ofrf.org

Organic Soy Lecithin Available 100% Organic Soy Lecithin is now available in commercial quantities. Clarkson Soy

Products has been producing this product since 2003.

New Nat'l Farmer Magazine Organic Producer Magazine claims to be the first national magazine for organic farmers. They plan to publish bi-monthly, both hardcopy and online. Check out the prototype issue at: www.organicproducermag.com.

Two new resources from ATTRA The National Sustainable Agriculture Information Services (ATTRA) has established a new on-line database, "*Suppliers of Seed for Certified Organic Production*." It lists sources of organic and untreated seed for annual crops: grains, cover crops, and vegetables.

ATTRA also has a new publication, "*Seed Production and Variety Selection for Organic Systems*" that provides insight into the current regulatory climate and the future direction of the seed industry.

Both the on-line database and the new publication can be accessed through:

www.attra.ncat.org

Other News

Paul K. Keene, 1910-2005

Paul K. Keene, a pioneer of organic farming in the US whose products were among the first commercially available organic foods in the country, died on April 23 at a nursing home in Mechanicsburg, Pa. He was 94.

For more than half a century, Mr. Keene ran Walnut Acres Farm, near Penns Creek in central Pennsylvania, which produced and packaged an array of foods including peanut butter, granola and free-range chicken. Walnut Acres products were grown without pesticides or chemical fertilizers and were stocked by health food stores around the country and sold worldwide through the company's mail-order catalog.

Mr. Keene's company was sold in 2000 and is no longer in business. A line of foods bearing the Walnut Acres Organic label is now manufactured by the Hain Celestial Group.

When Mr. Keene started Walnut Acres in the mid-1940's, the agricultural gospel called for using chemical fertilizers and insecticides, with their promise of cheaper, more efficient farming. Natural farming was viewed as eccentric, if not downright un-American.

"It doesn't seem that long ago that everyone thought we were kooks or Commies," Mr. Keene told U.S. News & World Report in 1995. "Someone once tossed dynamite on the property. Another burned crosses."

In the late 1930's, Mr. Keene took a teaching job in northern India. There, he became involved in the Indian independence movement and met Mohandas K. Gandhi, whose belief in simple living greatly influenced him. ♣

Highlights of Recent Board Meeting Minutes

Full minutes will be posted on the IOIA website in the members-only section as soon as available.

April 28, 2005 Highlights

- Jack circulated the first quarter financial report was prior to the meeting. Jack suggested that we are not able to predict how much income IOIA will generate annually especially because the training income is so unpredictable. Currently, we are on track with the budget and could have a \$10,000 in reserve at the end of 2005.
- The BOD supported the motion for the reorganization of the Training Committee to create a new structure that allows for involvement of trainers and others in the training program review. Margaret, Lisa, Janine and Ann Baier will be involved in restructuring the Training Committee and its training program.
- Margaret said she has been working on special trainings such as an organic dairy workshop and a possible Morocco training.
- The BOD supported the motion to accept Lisa's curriculum proposal with funding for phase 1 and 2 and endorse in principle phases 3, 4 and 5.
- The BOD agreed to the motion that the 2006 AGM will be on February 23 2006 in La Cross, Wisconsin.
- Garry reported that he had spoken with Janine and Lee Ann McCormick about co-chairing the Canadian Committee and updated the BOD on the progress of the task force.
- The BOD agreed to appoint Lee Ann McCormick as co-chair of the Canadian Committee. Brian thanked Garry for keeping the BOD informed on the Canadian situation. The BOD agreed to support Lisa's participation on the Inspector Training subcommittee of the Canadian Regulatory Task Force.
- The BOD discussed the possibility of establishing an IOIA Canadian contact point (or office). Garry and Jack offered to bring forward more information to the next meeting about setting up an IOIA office in Canada.
- Brian led a round table on the Board members thoughts about the timing of a full board Strategic Planning retreat. The BOD decided that the retreat that was planned for June of 2005 be postponed, but the BOD will continue with the planning meetings and reset the retreat date when it is economically feasible and the BOD members are available. The BOD decided that the agenda for the May 5th meeting will be to continue with the planning and the Canadian office situation. It was noted that some time should be set aside for thinking about the Big Picture. Brian thanked Dag for his commitment to IOIA and the strategic planning process.
- Margaret noted that Arthur Harvey plans to be among those who will tend the IOIA booth in Chicago. A specific time will be posted for conference attendees to chat with Arthur at the IOIA table.

May 19 Highlights

- Dag Falck led the BOD in a Planning to Plan for the Strategic Planning retreat session with a recap of the previous sessions and a round table about how the participants felt about the process to date. The BOD discussed who is IOIA, what IOIA does, its values, ethics, areas of expertise. There was general agreement in the value of the process and the need to avoid crisis management. Dag summarized the session as the desire for increased professionalism in IOIA, to be able change with a changing world that is more regulatory driven and the question, "What does IOIA have to offer?"
- Garry informed the BOD that Lisa will attend the Government of Canada's Organic Production System Task Force (Organic Task Force) Training Subcommittee on behalf of IOIA. Other IOIA members on the Training Subcommittee that plan to attend the meeting are Garry Lean, Janine Gibson and Monique Scholz. Information about the establishment of a legal IOIA Canadian entity was brought forward.
- Margaret said the once again OTA gave IOIA complimentary booth space at the 5th Annual All Things Organic™ Conference and Trade Show, May 1-3, Chicago. A big 'Thank You' to OTA. Over 10% of IOIA inspector members stopped by the booth this year. Thanks to Maarten Samsom, George Danner, Arthur Harvey, and Billy Hunter who helped with staffing, as well as toting in and shipping out. On April 30, Margaret attended the NASOP where Jim Riddle gave an update on NOSB activity, including comments on Good Guidance documents. He said that rules for honey, greenhouse, and mushrooms are likely to be posted for public comment this year that the confusion in the marketplace over labeling personal body care products is still unresolved. Riddle also said that the court's Summary Judgment might impact the use of DL-Methionine as an ingredient in livestock feeds.

June 14 Highlights

- Brian noted that the reason for the planning meeting was to establish the foundation for and the foster the momentum for the upcoming IOIA BOD Strategic Planning retreat. Dag began the Planning session by reviewing the previous issues and led a discussion about who is IOIA, what does IOIA do, and how can IOIA become indispensable by providing something that cannot be obtained anywhere else? The idea of a formalized questionnaire to the certifiers was discussed. It was pointed out that ultimately what certifiers want is for inspectors to know what certifiers want! It was noted that some of the qualities that the certifiers want might could be mutually exclusive. John Foster agreed to pose 10 'questions to the certifiers' as a starting point for the BOD certifier questionnaire. Dag pointed out that a questionnaire could be useful in not only in gathering information but also in informing or educating the person answering the questionnaire. There was discussion about changing inspector training so that it would become more of an ongoing process rather than a one-time event.
- Garry reported on the June 14th Canadian Food Inspection Agency Organic Task Force Training subcommittee meeting that took place in Winnipeg, Manitoba. In attendance was Garry Lean, Lisa Pierce, Janine Gibson, Monique Scholz, Byron Hamm, Brian Ives. Garry said that Lisa did an excellent presentation on the IOIA. Janine offered support of IOIA and its training programs. He also said that there was no decision on what entity or entities would deliver the inspector or verification officer (VO) training program(s). Committee members are drawing up an outline of inspector or VO qualifications. There was no answer to the question to, "Who would accredit the VO training program(s)?" There was no further discussion of the need for an incorporated IOIA office in Canada during the meeting, but the IOIA will certainly need a Canadian office if the IOIA applies for government grant funding. There was no subsequent subcommittee meeting scheduled.

July 14 Highlights

- Dag opened the Planning for the Strategic Plan portion of the meeting. Dag had previously emailed the board the document, "Item Planning" as a guide for the Planning session. Luis agreed to assist the BOD in organizing our Brainstorm ideas by entering them as data into an Excel document to be emailed to the BOD later. The BOD agreed that prioritizing and evaluation of our ideas would occur later. The BOD agreed to work by phone conference on portions of Dag's Item Planning Document that would include brainstorming ideas such as, what has IOIA done in the past in this area, what are IOIA's values around this item, what does IOIA want to do on this topic? The development of practical time goals, practical strategies and the identification of structural and other changes needed in order to successfully implement each idea (if any changes are needed) are to be addressed later, hopefully at an in person BOD retreat. The BOD proceeded to brainstorm IOIA's opportunities, challenges and other ideas.
- Brian led a discussion regarding date, location, facilitator, funding and length of a possible Strategic Planning retreat. Luis said he felt that the retreat would be the second part of the November 2000 Montana retreat. A decision was made to go ahead with the retreat that will be separate from the AGM. The BOD agreed that the Strategic Planning retreat would be held in California on November 2,3,4,5 of 2005.
- Jack forwarded his financial report to the BOD prior to the meeting. He reported that IOIA operated better than expected at the end of the 2nd quarter primarily due to better than expected training income for IOIA-managed trainings to date. Operational expenses are running about as expected.
- Margaret reported that the project completion date for the RMA Collaborative Agreement with NCAT is September 30. The Vegetable Record keeping Forms, Farm Documentation Forms, Budgeting Tools, and Pocket Notebook are all being completed by NCAT. IOIA members and subcontractors have contributed and are available for ongoing review. These tools are expected to be finalized by end of July. The Southern Organic Resource Guide is in the final stages of review for formatting by NCAT in late July.
- The IOIA AGM date and training configuration are not confirmed. Tentatively, the AGM is scheduled in the Radisson Hotel, in LaCrosse, WI on February 23. Margaret said she will create a tentative table of events to be held concurrently with the IOIA AGM
- IOIA sent letters of support for Miles McEvoy (certifier rep) and Emily Brown Rosen (consumer rep).
- The BOD voted to allocate \$1300.00 for Margaret and Lisa to work on the curriculum in Red Deer, Alberta August 28-31. [Note: These funds are to be for travel expenses.]
- The next BOD meeting will be on August 18, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

The tall guy is Robert Guilford, whose great organic farm in Clearwater, Manitoba, was the site of the basic farm training with trainer Janine Gibson earlier this year. → → →



Monsanto Report Sheds Light on Damaging Foods

The public may finally be getting an idea of just how damaging genetically modified (GM) foods can be.

That's because, thanks to a German court ruling, the biotech company Monsanto was ordered to publicly expose a controversial report about its Mon 863 variety of corn. Mon 863 was genetically engineered to produce a form of bacillus thuringiensis (Bt), designed to attack corn root worm.

The data verified claims made by prominent scientists who found animals that ate the GM corn developed severe side effects in the blood, kidney and liver and that humans eating the corn might also be at risk.

Moreover, the nearly 1,200-page report on the corn exposed that European regulators accepted Monsanto's promises that their corn was safe, despite the unscientific and contradictory rationale that was used to dismiss significant problems. Among the problems discovered in rats that ate the corn:

- * Kidney inflammation
- * Liver and kidney lesions
- * Increased blood sugar levels
- * Reactions that mimic cancer, allergies, anemia and poor blood pressure

Scientists Speak Out

Two prominent scientists -- both uniquely qualified to assess the study -- spoke out about the findings regarding Mon 863. Both scientists expressed alarm about the unsupported arguments that Monsanto and some European regulators used to force product approvals.

However, their prominent concern was the ways in which Monsanto "wrote-off" statistically significant effects.

Ditching Accepted Methods of Science

In the study, test rats ate Mon 863, while the control group ate non-GM corn from the same parent line. Considering the results were not entirely in Monsanto's favor, the company and their supporters in the European Food Safety Authority appeared to ditch the accepted methods of science to rationalize the findings and instead:

* Relied on just two observation times, which will not give data about the intervening periods; moreover, the short 90-day time period will miss chronic and

reproductive problems, as well as problems in the next generation.

* Depended on analytical methods that are half a century old, and ignored powerful new methods including profiling techniques, DNA chips and proteomics.

* Reported bizarre weight measurements, suggesting possible problems with animal management or faulty data.

* Defended changes in kidney weights by comparing the values with a separate study, which used different corn genetics and a different lab.

All in all, Monsanto's research paper was confusing, conflicting and inadequately reported. It also neglected to disclose the nutritional composition of the feed (backed up by chemical analysis) and the methods used to measure changes in the animals.

Yet despite all of this, the European Food Standards Agency still recommended that Mon 863 be approved.

U.S. Support

And the United States government's support for biotech is no secret either; in fact, it is the official policy in several U.S. agencies to sponsor the industry, and some of them have attempted to push acceptance of GM crops in Europe.

From Health Lies Exposed.com

Testing Finds GM Corn Absent from Mexico

Extensive testing in Oaxaca, Mexico, during 2003 and 2004 failed to turn up any evidence of genetically modified corn, says a Reuters news story on Planet Ark. GM corn had been found in a remote mountainous region in 2001, raising fears that the native gene pool in this area where corn originated had been contaminated. According to the story, an education campaign in the area has urged farmers not to plant corn of unknown origin, because it could be imported modified corn. This education is credited with helping quickly stop the spread of the modified corn in the region.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm?newsid=31978&newsdate=09-Aug-2005>

Alfalfa Deregulated

The USDA has announced that herbicide-tolerant Roundup Ready alfalfa is officially deregulated, which means that it will be available to plant this coming fall, raising serious contamination concerns

amongst producers in heavy alfalfa growing regions such as California and Oregon.

Alfalfa is the fourth largest crop in the USA and the first perennial crop to have been given non-regulated status by USDA/APHIS. It is grown in 50 states and raises particular concerns about contamination and creation of 'super-weeds' because it becomes feral very easily and could become an herbicide-tolerant weed itself. Contamination of other alfalfa crops is almost guaranteed, which means that any dairy or beef cattle fed alfalfa in the US will potentially be ingesting genetically engineered crops. There are additional concerns that the introduction of GE alfalfa will virtually eliminate the possibility of organic honey because the crop is cross-pollinated by bees; as much as 30% of our honey relies on alfalfa pollen.

In an unprecedented twist, Forage Genetics, the patent holder for Roundup Ready alfalfa, has voluntarily agreed that Roundup Ready alfalfa will only be available this year for domestic use, not for export. It will not be available at all in the Imperial Valley of California, where a great deal of exported alfalfa is produced. This demonstrates awareness on their part (and the part of the USDA) that export markets will not accept GE-alfalfa.

New Study Reveals Thousands of Field Tests of GE Crops Across U.S.

More than 47,000 field tests of genetically engineered crops were authorized by the U.S.D.A. between 1987 and 2004 despite serious environmental threats and inadequate regulations in place to monitor their impacts, according to a new report released recently by Environment Maine Research & Policy Center and Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA). Three hundred seventy-five of these tests were conducted in Maine, mostly for GE potatoes.

Both the National Academy of Sciences and the General Accounting Office have criticized the USDA for inadequate oversight and expertise in authorizing the release of GE crops.

Nevertheless, this new study reveals substantial increases in 2003 and 2004 of testing of crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical and industrial chemicals, as well as of many new crops never before released. [see **GE**, page 18]

Organic agriculture: The Only Way to Save This Earth

By Ramesh Nath Sharma

Today human beings are challenging nature with new discoveries and inventions. By reason of this the whole world is changed into a small village. With these new discoveries and inventions, peoples' lives are made luxurious and comfortable too. But on the other hand, human beings, animals, creatures, and plants seem to be in hazardous condition, i.e., as a whole, nature is in a critical situation. Humanity itself is the product of this nature, full of conscience among the living things of this globe. But men are being more commercial for their own benefit without caring of their beautiful home, earth. For individual benefit there is unhealthy rivalry which stops humans from thinking that they are also product of this nature. As a conscience living thing, man has to think about nature or preserve nature with proper behavior. It has to be said that man has no right to destroy this nature or earth. On the other hand, due to urbanization, industrialization, and infrastructure development, the rapid loss of agricultural land and its prominence in the worlds' food economy will decrease. The worlds' population, which is rapidly increasing, will suffer as well.

For living things of this planet, agriculture is the basic component to their lives, which is completely related to nature. Without agriculture, living things of this earth cannot imagine their lives. Soil, water, sun, wind and sky are the main factors of agriculture, which are also the main elements of nature. Nature means earth; if nature is destroyed earth also will be destroyed. Without preserving the nature, earth cannot be saved.

For the better supply of agriculture production, farmers have been using new technology such as genetically modified organisms (GMO's), chemical fertilizers, and synthetic pesticides in agriculture. Using chemical inputs in agriculture, there is instant benefit but in the long run these chemicals destroy the production capacity of soil as well as the life of human beings, animals and creatures. In totality it has been creating environmental problems. In the same way, GMO's are also collapsing the originality of the plant specified by nature. Or one has to say nature is stroked by all these things.

Here we have to know about organic agriculture. There are several explanations regarding organic agriculture. Organic agriculture includes agricultural systems that promote the environmentally, socially and economically sound production of food and fibers. By respecting the natural capacity of plants, animals and local conditions it aims to optimize quality in all aspects of agriculture and the environment. Organic farmers are not allowed to use synthetic pesticides or fertilizers. Some of the essential characteristics of organic systems include: design and implementation of an "organic system plan" that describes the practices used in producing crops and livestock products; a detailed record-keeping system that tracks all products from the field to point of sale; and maintenance of buffer zones to prevent inadvertent contamination from adjacent conventional fields. Now in the world, extension of organic agriculture is growing. Nearly 25 million of hectares of land is covered by certified organic agriculture farming which is gradually growing all over the world.

Now we have to look at the benefit of organic agriculture. Less food and drinking water contamination is the main advantage of organic agriculture, as there is a considerably reduced risk of contamination of food when no chemical fertilizer and pesticides are used. A safer working condition is another advantage. Farmers and farm workers actually die each year because of mishandling of pesticides, especially in developing countries. If use of pesticides is reduced, such kind of tribulations will be reduced. Organic production has the potential to produce sufficient food of a high quality. In addition, organic agriculture is particularly well suited for those rural communities that are currently most exposed to food shortages. Greater biodiversity, reduction of soil erosion, less consumption of water, low use of non-renewable resources are other main characteristics of organic agriculture. There are so many other advantages, even though viewing all abovementioned advantages also proves that it is a must that organic agriculture continue to grow, to save the nature or this earth.

In the context of Nepal, modern technologies (using of chemical fertilizer & pesticides) have been implemented in the field of agriculture. Nepal has a history of using chemical fertilizer and pesticide for

over 35 years for high agriculture production yields. But, there is less impact of this in comparison with developed countries. The main reason is insufficient infrastructure development such as roads and other access. So, it could not spread out all over the country. Because of this, farmers of Nepal are still far from the environmental effect of the conventional method. Limited farmers are using these chemical inputs where they are available but they are not using in the proper way or in relative amounts. Due to this, the life of the soil is dying day by day and fertility of the soil is decreasing; not only that, the quality of production is also contaminated. For example we can take rice. Before using chemical fertilizers, the quality of rice was very high and was full of flavor. While cooking the rice in a kitchen, all of the surrounding area used to smell of it. After using chemical fertilizers, the quality of rice start to be decreased, and now there is not any flavor in the same variety of rice. Similarly, it has been decreasing the quality in other food and crops, too.

Nepal is a mountainous country, and here, the origin of all rivers and streams are the mountains. The greater part of the agricultural land is residue in the southern part of the country and these rivers and streams are used for the irrigation of those lands. All chemical fertilizer and pesticides used in mountain farms comes with the flow of water in the river, and it affects the crops as well as the environmental & ecological balance.

This is the time to think, otherwise it will be too late. To avoid negative impact of chemical inputs used in agriculture, all the concern parties such as Government, NGOs, INGOs have to take further steps. In this regard government has to play a vital role in coordinating with concerned NGOs and INGOs. This is an example of only one developing country – and there are many other developing countries like Nepal.

Humanity is natural therefore all of its activities should be natural or should not be beyond the nature. If human activities move away from nature, the result will be very problematical. It will affect the home of humans on earth and the results will be hazardous. Despite many in the world that are aware of this fact, we should not be late to think about this matter. Ignoring human life, contemplating whether competition for the [see **Nepal**, page 18]

ED, from page 5

inspectors who might not meet all of their criteria. I've been less supportive than I'd like to committees this year, as we experienced record number of IOIA-managed trainings and the diversion of the RMA project.

Inspection Woes: I enjoyed assisting **Wendy Paulsen** in completing her apprenticeship this year for livestock, having covered farms last year. New apprentice **Jean-Marie Aguerre** of Oregon survived a full week with me this year. I only do about 20-30 inspections each year, but still I struggle with getting those darned reports written. "Be more concise!" I tell myself. I keep thinking of what Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "I'm sorry this is such a long letter, but I didn't have time to make it shorter." I finished a report about midnight last night that should have been shorter, but I just ran out of time... ♣

Nepal, from page 17

large amount of agricultural production with the commercial view is right or wrong, we have to think in these regards. Therefore, by proper utilizing of natural resources, we should strive for high quality organic agricultural production.

In this way we can save our planet. For this we should apply sustainable organic farming systems. In the meantime, developed countries in the international community should share in the responsibility of supporting the economic development of developing countries. In view of the fact that the latter rely highly upon agriculture, it is of great importance to further international organic agriculture cooperation.

This article was submitted by Ramesh Nath Sharma, Executive Director of the Sustainable Agriculture Development Program Nepal (SADP-Nepal), located in Pokhara, Nepal.

GE, from page 16

The report, *Raising Risk: Field Testing of Genetically Engineered Crops in the U.S.*, highlights potential risks associated with the release of GE plants. The results of large scale field trials conducted over many years were just published in the March 2005 Proceedings of the [British] Royal Society demonstrating adverse effects on wildlife, but experiments conducted in the US continue to be piecemeal and short term. Scientists have criticized

research in this country as deliberately designed to hide any harm.

"Our environment is being used as a laboratory for widespread experimentation on genetically engineered organisms with profound risks that, once released, can never be recalled," said Environment Maine Advocate Matthew Davis. "Bt corn plants have been found to be toxic to monarch butterflies and other non-target species. Until proper safeguards are in place, this unchecked experiment should stop."

Findings of the new Environment Maine Research & Policy Center report include:

* As of January 2005, the fourteen states and territories that have hosted the greatest number of field test sites are: Hawaii (5,413), Illinois (5,092), Iowa (4,659), Puerto Rico (3,483), California (1,964), Nebraska (1,960), Pennsylvania (1,707), Minnesota (1,701), Texas (1,494), Indiana (1,489), Idaho (1,272), Wisconsin (1,246), Georgia (1,051), and Mississippi (1,008).

* Since 1991, USDA has received 240 requests for 418 field releases of crops engineered to produce pharmaceuticals, industrial chemicals, or other so-called biopharmaceuticals; the number of requested field releases of "biopharm" crops increased from 22 in 2003 to 55 in 2004.

* Nearly 70% of all field tests conducted in the last year now contain secret genes classified as "Confidential Business Information," which means that the public has no access to information about experiments being conducted in their communities.

* The ten crops authorized for the greatest number of field releases are corn, soybean, cotton, potato, tomato, wheat, creeping bentgrass, alfalfa, beet, and rice. Potatoes have had 143 field releases in Maine.

USDA authorized field tests on several crops for the first time in 2003 and 2004, including American chestnut, American elm, avocado, banana, eucalyptus, marigold, safflower, sorghum, and sugarbeet.

These experimental genetically engineered crops are grown in the open environment to test the outcome and

environmental impact of certain gene combinations. The groups charged that field testing genetically engineered crops in such a widespread way poses serious threats to the environment and neighboring farmers.

"For over a decade, MOFGA has called for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act prior to any field testing or field release of GE plants or other organisms. We're still waiting," said Sharon Tisher, Chair of the MOFGA Public Policy Committee. "Not only the distinguished National Academy of Sciences, but also the staff of the U.S. Department of the Interior, have raised serious questions about the risk of GE crops and animals becoming harmful invasive species. Also, GE crops that present a risk of genetic contamination of organic crops are a direct economic threat to certified organic farms."

A major goal of the field tests is to obtain information about potential ecological risks associated with genetically engineered organisms. However, independent reviews of the data collected by the USDA demonstrate that very little information has been gathered. As a result, despite the large number of field experiments that have occurred, fundamental questions about their impact remain unanswered, including long-term impacts on the soil and non-target species.

"The evidence continues to mount that the U.S. regulatory system is based on the principle of 'don't look, don't find,'" said Davis. "Conducting field tests that are poorly designed is taking large risks without any benefits."

Environment Maine Research & Policy Center and MOFGA called for a federal moratorium on genetically engineered foods unless:

- * Independent testing demonstrates safety,
- * Labeling for any products commercialized honors consumers' right to know, and
- * The biotechnology corporations are held accountable for any harm resulting from the products.

From the publication *Environment Maine*

IOIA sends hope and prayers to all who have been affected by Hurricane Katrina

Straight Talk from Farmers on Farming Organically and Successfully in the Northeast

Northeast Organic Farming Association announces the completion of a brand new manual series: ten handbooks that present the most proven and successful practices of organic farmers around the region. It's the NOFA *Organic Principles and Practices Handbook Series*, funded by the NOFA Interstate Council, NOFA/Mass and SARE.

All ten handbooks, illustrated and 60 - 110 pages in length, are written by talented farmer-writers for serious gardeners and commercial growers. Pre-publication review by farmers and scientists with relevant backgrounds has assured that each covers up-to-date experience and research. The handbooks include tables, references and farm profiles and are fully indexed. The series was illustrated by Jocelyn Langer and coordinated and edited by Jonathan von Ranson with the help of longtime farmers and leaders in NOFA.

NOFA and the book ordering page are at www.nofa.org

Suggested retail price is \$7.95. Bulk price \$4.50 per book (minimum 6 books of any title), \$3.50 order fee plus 30¢ per book postage. To order, contact Elaine Peterson info@nofamass.org or 978 355-2853.

To request review copies, contact Jonathan at commonfarm@crocker.com or 978 544-3758.

Handbook titles include: **Organic Dairy Production** by IOIA member Sarah Flack. Healthful organic milk comes from healthy cows, which come from good forage management based on healthy soils. Here's help in developing the observation skills and practices to get there, including chapters on soils, plants/forages, livestock, marketing and record-keeping. Health-protecting treatment options are covered, plus considerations for marketing fluid milk and value-added dairy products and coverage of regulations issues. Profiles of half a dozen individual farms help shed light on aspects of dairying and value-added production.

Vegetable Crop Health: helping nature control diseases and pests organically

Whole Farm Planning: ecological imperatives, personal values and economics

Compost, Vermicompost and Compost Tea: feeding the soil on the organic farm

Crop Rotation and Cover Cropping on the Organic Farm: soil resiliency and health

Marketing and Community Relations: the organic farmers' guide

Humane and Healthy Poultry Production: a manual for organic growers

Organic Seed Production and Saving: the wisdom of plant heritage

Organic Weed Management

Organic Soil Fertility Management



Bioethics Paper Available

"*The Transgenics: A Bioethical Overview*" is a Paper presented by Dr Marta Lachowicz and Agr. Eng Lidia A. Gaivironsky in the IX Argentinean and Latin American Journey of Bioethics: "Bioethics, Health and Citizenship in the XXI Century", Buenos Aires City, Argentina, November 2004.

If you are interested to have a free copy of it, please, send a message to lagaivi@fibertel.com.ar

I am interested in the following:

IOIA Membership Application

All members receive our quarterly newsletter All members may receive a hard copy member directory for \$15 each.

Please specify category – all funds payable in US \$ - All dues are annual

- Inspector - \$100
- Supporting Individual - \$75
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- Food Plant Sanitation and Safety, by Dr. Joe Montecalvo, 184 pp, \$50.00
- Introductory Food Science, Dr. Joe Montecalvo, 187 pp, \$50.00
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2005 Calendar

Sept 7 Organic Food & Farming Education & Research Field Day, Wooster, Ohio. Visit Ohio State U's Ag Research and Development Ctr. to see what researchers are doing in organic ag research.
<http://www.oeffa.org/tours05.html>

Sept 8 - 9 National Workshop on State and Local Food Policy, Des Moines, Iowa. <http://www.statefoodpolicy.org/natwkshp05.htm>

Sept 13 - 15 Eastern Biofuels Conference & Expo. Warsaw, Poland.
<http://www.easternbiofuels.com>

Sept 15 - 18 Natural Products Expo East, Washington, D.C. <http://www.expoeast.com/>

Sept 16 WSU Master Goat Farmer Program, Tacoma, Wash.. 3-day program covering herd health and nutrition, pasture management, milking management, meat goats, reproduction and genetics.
www.smallfarms.wsu.edu/whatsnew/MasterGoatFarmer.html

Sept 19-23, 15th IFOAM World Congress, Adelaide, Australia. Info: Fax: +61 8 8339 7800, <http://www.nasaa.com.au/ifoam/>
E-mail: ifoam2005@nasaa.com.au

Sept 19-22 Advanced Training in Organic Crop Production. Three separate multi-day sessions (starting and ending at noon) will cover a wide range of organic veggie production and management topics. New York. www.neon.cornell.edu/training

Sept 24-27 IOIA Processing Inspector course, Taiwan. See page 3 for details.

Sept 28-30 What Works! Rural Entrepreneurship & Community Development in the Northeast Conference, Burlington, VT. www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/entrepreneur2005wksp.htm

Sept 29-Oct 2 IOIA Livestock Inspector course, Taiwan. See page 3 for details.

Oct 3-7 III World Congress on Conservation Agriculture.

Share/Expose experiences and lessons noted worldwide on the role of conservation agriculture in enhancing rural livelihoods in diverse environments. Nairobi, Kenya. www.act.org.zw

Oct 6-7 USDA Workshop on Organic Agriculture: Innovations in Marketing, Technology, and Research, Washington, DC.
www.ers.usda.gov/organicagworkshop

Oct 6-9 9th Annual Conference of the Community Food Security Coalition. Field trips, keynote speakers, workshops on food system-related topics, meals serving locally grown food, and more. Atlanta, Georgia.
www.foodsecurity.org

Oct 7-9 Green Genes - Saving Breeds Created for Grass, Fort Collins and Greeley, Colorado. Don't miss a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to tour the Livestock and Poultry Gene Bank facility of the USDA National Animal Germplasm Program.

<https://secure.cnchost.com/albc-usa.org/Conference2005/conference2005.html>

Website 2: <http://www.albc-usa.org/>

Oct 11-17 Grazing for Great Livestock, Waco, TX. Intro course for solving practical problems using sustained agriculture techniques related to managing native pastures and rangelands. Topics include rangeland ecology, stocking rates, rotations, brush control, and vegetation improvement.
www.highlanderranch.com/

Oct 14-16 Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association National Conference, Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee.
www.biodynamics.com

Oct 15 - 22 IOIA Basic Farm and Processing Inspector training, New Brunswick, Canada. See page 3 for details.

Oct 16-19 4th National Small Farm Conference, "Enhancing Opportunities for Small Farmers and Ranchers". Greensboro,

NC. www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/ag_systems/in_focus/smallfarms_if_conferences.html

Oct 20-21 IOIA/PCO Organic Dairy Inspector training. See page 3 for details.

Oct 21 - 23 The 2005 Women in Sustainable Ag Conference. Burlington, VT.
www.uvm.edu/wagn/womeninag.html

Oct 28-30 Natural Products Northwest, Seattle, WA. Exhibits, educational conference.
www.nnfa-northwest.com/

Nov 2-4 Green Business Conference and Festival, San Francisco, CA.
www.coopamerica.org/cabn/conference/

Nov 3-5 13th National Small Farm Trade Show & Conference, Columbia, MO. The largest annual small farm conference and trade show in the US. www.smallfarmtoday.com

Nov 4-6 From Field to Fork: Creating a blueprint for a sustainable food system in the Carolinas. 20th Annual Sustainable Agriculture Conference, Durham, North Carolina.
www.carolinafarmstewards.org

Nov 6-9 Agricultural Institute of Canada - AIC Conference: Identifying Strategies to Support Sustainable Agriculture, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. www.aic.ca

Nov 11-12 IOIA cosponsored Advanced training, organic fiber processing. See story, page 1.

Nov 11-13 Tilth Producers Conference, Wenatchee, Washington.
www.tilthproducers.org/conference.htm

Dec 4-7 IOIA/ICO Organic Farm and processor inspector trainings, Indianapolis, IN. See page 3 for details.

December 14 -16 Int'l Conference on Natural Farming and Farmers' Knowledge, Hisar, India. www.geocities.com/nf_net/icnffk.html

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