

## Come to Mexico for the 2019 AGM!

In 2019, IOIA will celebrate the annual meeting and advanced training in the lovely destination city of Huatulco, Oaxaca, on the Pacific Coast of Mexico. Inspectors toiling long days in the sun now are probably not yet longing for a warm destination next March, but winter will be here before we know it. Consistently, IOIA members vote for warmer locations when they weigh in preferences for the annual meetings.

Advanced training with simultaneous translation is planned on **February 28-March 1**, followed by the Annual Meeting on March 2. Discussions are underway about co-locating with cosponsor-managed Spanish language basic training.

Huatulco - specifically Santa Cruz de Huatulco - was recommended by the AGM Organizing Committee.

Huatulco is located in the state of Oaxaca where the foothills of the Sierra Madre del Sur mountains meet the Pacific Ocean approximately 500 km south of Acapulco. Huatulco is an area of 9 bays with Santa Cruz being one of the smaller and somewhat less touristy. The population is 50,000. Legends say the Toltecs and Quetzalcoatl came from this area. Although it is consid-

ered a tourist destination, 80% of the tourism is domestic. Until resort development began in the 1980s, Huatulco was little known except as a coffee-growing area.

Huatulco has been designated as Mexico's only "Green Globe Certificate Community", a sustainability award. Huatulco was the first sustainable tourist community in the Americas and the third worldwide to receive this award.



To entice members to attend, the committee considered factors such as traveler safety and proximity to field trips (aromatic herbs, tropical fruits, coffee, beekeeping) and supported a beach site over a city. The city of Oaxaca can be explored as a side trip (5 hours by car). Most participants will likely fly through Mexico City and then take car, bus, or a short flight

to Huatulco (1 hour). There are also direct flights to Huatulco from major airports in the US and Canada. As a trade-off for slightly higher airfares to travel internationally, hotel costs will be quite affordable (less than \$100/night). Members may want to extend their stay to visit the Parque Nacional (National Park) Huatulco, located 10 minutes from town, a see **Mexico**, page 4

## Notes from the Chair

by Margaret Weigelt

Greetings - from the rain-soaked tropics of western Minnesota USA - where it was 100°F earlier this month! Two months ago we experienced blizzard conditions. Still, the fields got planted and crops are growing.

So what's going on with the IOIA BOD? Well, let me tell you.

Energized by the 2018 IOIA strategy retreat following the AGM at Charleston SC, the BOD is focusing on how to get five identified key goals accomplished. Performance measures and milestone achievements are being actively monitored by the group via our 'live' online BOD Goals Sheet. This particular system was introduced and set up by BOD treasurer Heather Donald. With encouragement and a bit of tutoring from Heather the BOD bravely entered this new venture.

See **Notes**, page 4

**Welcome New Members**

**Inspectors**

Perla Perez Allende

**Returning Inspector Members**

Amy Griner-Stafford  
Sue Baird

**Upgrading to Inspectors**

Ariel Russel  
Ely Battalen  
Alana Henderson-Bayzath  
Kirsten Giacci

**Supporting Individuals**

Jeremy Bena  
Joanna Lynne Blessing  
Aaron Bogart  
Cathy Colley  
Sean Cunard  
Justine Dobson  
Suzette Edwards  
Eric O. Gunderson  
Keoni Gutierrez  
Alison Howard  
Donald Howell  
Patricia Indries  
Naery Kim  
Kim Knapp  
Martin Lichty  
John Lippmann  
Patrick Madden  
Gretchen Oat  
Patrick O'Neill

Continued in next column....

**IOIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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*The Inspectors' Report* is the newsletter of International Organic Inspectors Association. IOIA is a 501 (c)(3) educational organization. Our mission is to address issues and concerns relevant to organic inspectors, to provide quality inspector training and to promote integrity and consistency in the organic certification process.  
Editor: Diane Cooner [webgal\[at\]ioia.net](mailto:webgal[at]ioia.net)  
Deadlines: Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1 & Nov 1.

**WEBINAR Training Schedule**

for details & to register go to: [www.ioia.net/schedule\\_list.html](http://www.ioia.net/schedule_list.html)

**Webinar Discount Note: All IOIA Inspector Members are eligible for 1 half-price webinar in 2018.**

**200 Level Webinar - July 10 & 13  
Grower Group Inspection and Certification**

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (Pacific).  
Two, 2.5 hour sessions.  
Presenter: IOIA Trainer Luis Brenes.

**200 Level Webinar - July 17 & 20  
IOIA Residue Sampling & Responding to Test Results**

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (Pacific).  
Two, 2 hour sessions.  
Presenters: Nathaniel Lewis and Nathaniel Powell-Palm.

**100 Level Webinar - July 31 & Aug 3  
Open Enrollment COR Crop Standards**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Pacific).  
Two, 3 hour sessions.  
Presenter: IOIA Trainer Lisa Pierce

**200 Level IOIA/OMRI Webinar - Aug 7  
NOP Livestock Input Materials**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Pacific).  
One, 3 hour session.  
Presenter: Johanna Mirenda

**300 Level Webinar - September 4  
Client Procedures when Using Uncertified Handlers**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Pacific).  
One, 3 hour session.  
Presenter: Silke Fuchshofen

**100 Level Webinar - Sept 18 & 21  
Open Enrollment NOP Processing Standards**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Pacific).  
Two, 3 hour sessions.  
Presenter: IOIA Trainer Luis Brenes

**100 Level Webinar - Sept 25 & Oct 2  
Open Enrollment IOIA/COTA COR Processing Standards**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Pacific).  
Two, 3 hours sessions.  
Presenter: IOIA Trainer Kelly Monaghan

**200 Level Webinar - October 18  
IOIA/OMRI NOP Processing Input Materials**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Pacific).  
One, 3 hour session.  
Presenter: Johanna Mirenda

**200 Level Webinar - November 6  
IOIA/OMRI COR Processing and Handling Input Materials**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Pacific).  
One, 3 hour session.  
Presenter: Johanna Mirenda

**200 Level Webinar - December 3 & 5  
Livestock Feed Audits, Grazing and Non Grazing Season**

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (Pacific).  
Two, 2.5 hour sessions.  
Presenters: Jonda Crosby and Nate Powell-Palm

**200 Level Webinar - December 4 & 11  
Processing - Audit Trail/Balance: Processing In/Out Balances, Traceability & Recipe Verification**

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (Pacific).  
Two, 2 hour sessions.  
Presenter: IOIA Trainer Kelly Monaghan

**200 Level Webinar - July 17 & 20  
IOIA Residue Sampling & Responding to Test Results  
Full details on page 8**

**Welcome New Members, continued**

Lisette Carolina Ramirez  
Heather Schwartz  
Michael Scott  
John Siebert  
Billy Skaggs  
Lindsay Steinmann  
Sara Surabian  
Rebecca Takacs  
Brandt Thibodeaux

Jessica White  
Suzanne Wickham  
Matthew B. Young

**Supporting Business**  
New Mexico Dept of Ag -  
Julia Conlogue

## *On-Site Training Schedule - full details and applications at [www.ioia.net](http://www.ioia.net)*

### **IOIA Crop and Livestock Inspection Trainings, South Burlington, Vermont**

**Crop Course – September 10-14**

**Livestock Course – September 17-21**

IOIA will sponsor a Crop Inspection Training and a Livestock Inspection Training at Best Western Plus Windjammer Inn, South Burlington, Vermont. Each course includes 4 days of instruction including a field trip to a certified organic operation, plus ½ day for testing. Please see the [Course Information](#) for further details and a registration link.

### **IOIA Advanced Organic Inspector Training, South Burlington, Vermont - September 15**

IOIA is collaborating with Vermont Organic Farmers (VOF) to develop this training, which will focus on what inspectors need to know to verify compliance to international equivalency agreements and organic control points for imported products. Agenda will be posted on the IOIA website soon.

### **IOIA/OEFFA Advanced Organic Inspector Training, south central Ohio**

**September 20 (evening) – through September 22**

Deer Creek State Park Conference Center, Mt. Sterling, Ohio will be the host venue. Three field trips to vegetable, livestock, and grain farms are included. The overall goal of the training is give participants confidence that they need not be experts in plants, insects, animals, or hydrology to effectively inspect and assess to the NOP rule and related guidance concerning natural resources and biodiversity. The training will focus on the basic visual cues and best practices to use, especially in the Midwest region. Trainer team includes conservation and biodiversity educators Tony Fleming of Indiana (geologist and former inspector) and Jo Ann Baumgartner (Wild Farm Alliance). The course is designed primarily for inspectors and certification staff, but others are also welcome to register. Agenda and a link to register are posted on the IOIA website. Closest airport is Columbus. Cincinnati is also an option.

### **IOIA/KDA Field Training for Organic Inspectors, Frankfort, Kentucky**

**Crop Course - September 23 & 24**

**Livestock Course - September 27 & 28**

**IOIA Field Training as a structured apprenticeship** will include 2 days of practice inspections and report writing. At the Field Training, participants work with an experienced trainer/inspector to participate in two inspections and complete two inspection reports. On Day 1, participants will be in a group of five to six with an experienced trainer/inspector as the lead inspector. On Day 2, participants will be in a smaller group of two or three and they will conduct the inspection, with the trainer/inspector facilitating the inspection process and the learning objectives of the course. Participants should arrive late afternoon the day before the training begins and plan to leave in the morning after the last day of the training, to allow ample time to prepare and complete the course expectations and assessment. Each course will be limited to 10 applicants. Please see the [Course Information](#) for full details.

### **IOIA/JOIA Organic Farm Inspection Training, Tokyo, Japan - September 25 - 28**

IOIA and JOIA will cosponsor a 4-day Basic Organic Farm Inspection Training using JAS Standards as a reference. The course will be held at Waseda Houshien, Tokyo, Japan, September 25-28, 2018. The training language will be Japanese. Please contact JOIA for more information about this training. E-Mail: [info@joia-organic.com](mailto:info@joia-organic.com)

### **IOIA Crop and Processing Training, Farmington, Minnesota**

**Crop inspection course – October 29-November 1**

**Processing inspection course – November 5-9**

IOIA will cosponsor Crop and a Processing Inspection Training at Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center, Farmington, MN. Each course includes 4 days of instruction including a field trip to a certified organic operation, plus ½ day for testing. Please see the [IOIA website](#) for course information or to register.

### **Other Trainings under development:**

- **Advanced Training in Huatulco, Oaxaca, Mexico, February 28 & March 2, 2019 with AGM March 2**
- **IOIA Crop and Livestock training in Marin County, California, May 2019**

## Notes, from page 1

### What are the five goals?

**1) Update the Inspector Accreditation Program** by creating a new Information Management System and by developing an Inspector Qualifications System. This has included participation by our ED Margaret Scoles to encourage the implementation of the ACA Guidelines on Inspector Qualification as well as strengthening collaborative efforts for continuing education for inspectors, including during Certifier Inspector Dialogue calls. The IOIA Canadian Committee is also involved in the development of an inspector qualifications system for Canada.

**2) Adopt an IOIA BOD Comment Policy and create an IOIA Policy Committee.** Fulfill our yearly obligation to review the IOIA BOD Policy Manual and update as necessary. Put in place revised IOIA Bylaws contingent on legal review.

**3) Increase IOIA membership by adding value.** Initial activity includes a non-member survey already completed for the USA and is being worked on by the Canadian and Latin American Committees to include their perspectives. Current ideas being worked on are: creation of an IOIA podcast system for inspectors, a promotional IOIA member benefits one-pager, a working database of prospective members, a membership drive, an organic consumer outreach including our pilot 'Ask the Inspector', and the creation

of a consumer supporting membership category.

**4) Making sure we have a seat at the table in ongoing discussions in the organic sector about Fraud Prevention Technology.** Conceptualize a tool to prevent fraud and make quality inspecting easier. Write a collaborative RFP proposal to create an inspector tech tool or app. Beta-test and be ready for launch in the year 2020.

**5) Update the IOIA website.** Write a RFP proposal for a tech/web design consultant integrating the qualities most sought after by our inspector members and the public.

And, in addition to all this, the IOIA staff continues to develop and conduct oodles of trainings and webinars - including the creation of new self-directed learning modules.



The commitment of IOIA BOD and IOIA staff is solid and we continue together to envision and gather the elements needed to build our capacity.

With a collaborative outreach we will fulfill our mission to address issues and concerns relevant to organic inspectors, provide quality inspector training and promote consistency and integrity in the organic certification process.

### Interested in becoming Accredited?

The next deadline is **October 1.**

Available in three scopes (Crops, Livestock, Processing) for \$80. The cost for one scope is \$60 and \$70 for two. Renewals are every three years, and cost less. Successful applicants receive a certificate suitable for framing, a wallet sized replica laminated card, listings in the hard copy and on-line Membership Directory. They are also eligible to become IOIA peer field evaluators.

## Mexico, from page 1

protected area since 1998. It contains 6,375 hectares of lowland jungle and 5,516 hectares of marine areas, encompassing 5 bays and the most important coral communities of the Mexican Pacific.

In 1984, a government agency dedicated to the development of tourism in Mexico, acquired 21,000 hectares of land to develop a tourism center, similar to that in Cancún.

From Wikipedia: Sunshine can be expected about 330 days a year with the average temperature of 28 °C (82.4 °F). The dry season extends from December to May and the rainy season is from June to November.

IOIA typically meets in Latin America every 4 to 5 years and in Canada about every 3 or 4 years. This roughly corresponds to the make-up of IOIA's inspector membership.

For details, keep an eye on the IOIA website, <http://www.ioia.net/AGM.html>



## Notes from the ED

by Margaret Scoles

**Where have I been?** In April, I traveled to Pennsylvania to work on video-taping for the **Residue Sampling** webinar, followed by serving as Trainer. We were deluged with applicants for the Crop course. The solution – have 2 sections of the course in the same week. Garry Lean led one and I led the other. In late April, I traveled to Tucson, Arizona for the **NOSB meeting** and the **NOC meeting** before it. With **Inspector Qualifications** on the NOSB agenda, IOIA's presence **was critical**. In mid-May, I led another Crop course with Garth Kahl. The Board and I agreed in 2016 that I should teach few basic trainings, but we had too few trainers. My role now is primarily working with new trainers to help onboard them. A few weeks after OR, I was off to assist at the Utah Crop training. The Utah basic crop and processing trainings, completed just days ago, will be featured in the next newsletter. I am glad to be home. It is finally raining, lots! **After 2 years of drought, we are making hay.**

**NOSB:** The big news (for inspectors) was the NOSB Recommendation on [Inspector Qualifications and Training](#). OTA and some others commented asking the NOSB to support 3<sup>rd</sup> party accreditation of any entity approving inspectors. IOIA is not opposed to ISO 17024 accreditation of our inspector accreditation program. But that feels a bit like having the house inspected before it is built. The focus of our sector (inspectors and certifiers) should be on creating the system by which entry-level inspectors are more inspection ready. Mentors need to be compensated. Structured field training needs to become the new norm. Inspectors need to be compensated appropriately for their experience and their expertise. There were very few formal comments on the Inspec-

tor Qualifications recommendation (probably an indication of just how unnoticed inspectors are). But there were lots of little comments throughout the meeting as to inspector un-qualifications. It did not feel good to hear about poorly qualified inspectors, inspectors inspecting outside their scope of knowledge, and untrained inspectors.

The final recommendation passed unchanged, unanimously as follows: ***The Subcommittee recommends the National Organic Program develop minimum qualifications and training, and continuing education guidelines to ensure a professional and competent inspector pool to meet the demands of ever-evolving and complex organic supply chains. These should include considerations of the criteria included above in the Discussion area of the document. The Subcommittee encourages the program to use existing resources in this area.***

Bureaucracy will likely be slow to implement this recommendation. The NOP will need to develop Rule, Guidance, or Instruction. If Rule or Guidance, it will sit in draft status for public comment before adoption. Meanwhile, IOIA and ACA are moving ahead to look at how to best implement the [ACA Guidance on Organic Inspector Qualifications](#) in the coming year. We will first focus on training and mentoring. There is much that we can do by working together without asking the NOP to do it for us. IOIA is proud that our draft work, ***IOIA Criteria for Inspectors and Reviewers working for NOP Accredited Certifying Agencies, November 2011*** was finally, **after 7 years**, made public as Appendix 1 to the NOSB recommendation. And we are proud that work was also the ba-



Lois, Garth and Margaret at NOSB meeting in Tucson

sis of the ACA Guidance document. But we are also disappointed. None of the certifiers or commenters supported similar qualifications for reviewers. One highlight included seeing **Silke Fuchshofen** do a spectacular job on the Import Oversight Panel to the NOSB. Another was hearing **Garth Kahl's** comments. Both are past IOIA BOD members. It was great to hear Silke and Garth introduce themselves as IOIA Accredited Inspectors and Trainers. Silke, Garth, Lois Christie, and I managed a typical inspector encounter – slurping down a fast lunch and covering four essential topics all in 20 minutes, so that we could race back to the meeting for IOIA's oral comment, delayed 2 hours. Garth and Lois were juggling inspections and consultations during the meeting. A personal highlight was attending the meeting on the campus of the U of AZ, where I graduated in Agronomy in 1981.

**Inspections:** In 1988, the first year I inspected, I did 4 inspections. That was when I fell in love with the work and never looked back. This year, that is my assignment again – just 4, the least I've done for 30 years. It is an interesting way to celebrate an anniversary... Have a good summer!

## SECTOR NEWS

### Proposed Changes to the National List for Organic Livestock and Handling

On April 27, 2018, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service published a proposed rule in the Federal Register to amend the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List) based on public input and the National Organic Standards Board's (NOSB) November 2017 recommendations for livestock and handling.

In general, synthetic substances are prohibited for crop and livestock production unless specifically allowed and non-synthetic substances are allowed for crop and livestock production unless specifically prohibited.

This proposed rule would make two changes to the National List:

- Allow elemental sulfur in organic livestock production for use as a topical pesticide treatment to repel mites, fleas and ticks from livestock and their living spaces;
- Reclassify potassium acid tartrate from a nonagricultural substance to an agricultural substance. Potassium acid tartrate is currently listed as a nonorganic ingredient allowed in organic products.

Reclassifying potassium acid tartrate as an agricultural substance would require handlers to use the organic form when it is commercially available. If it is not commercially available, handlers would be allowed to use the nonorganic form.

#### The 60-day public comment period closes on June 29, 2018.

*Organic Insider, 4/27/2018*

### USDA Publishes 2018 Sunset Review Notice

USDA AMS has announced the renewal of 17 substances on the National List to conclude the 2018 Sunset Review. The new sunset date for these substances is May 29, 2023. These substances are used in organic crop and livestock production and organic handling/processing.

USDA concurred with the NOSB recommendation to renew 16 substances. In one case, the NOSB recommended removing carrageenan from the National List, but, based on public comments received during the review process, USDA is renewing it because there is sufficient evidence that the substance continues to be necessary for handling agricultural products.

*Organic Insider 4/4/2018*

### European Parliament approves new organic regulations

On April 19, 2018, the European Parliament approved new European Union regulations for organic production and labeling. After the Council of European Union ministers formally approves the changes, the new rules will apply beginning January 2021. Key provisions: Imports will have to comply with EU standards, as current equivalence agreements will be phased out within the next five years. Derogations allowing the use of non-organic seeds and livestock in organic production are set to expire in 2035. Risk-based inspections will be used throughout the organic supply chain. 'Mixed' farms with organic and non-organic production will be allowed. [More.](#) *NOSB Recap, May 2018 Wolf, DiMatteo & Assoc.*

### Japan plans to include animal products in organic regulations

Japan intends to apply the organic Japan Agricultural Standard (JAS) to foods that contain ingredients of animal origin on April 1, 2019. Because the current U.S.-Japan Organic Equivalency Arrangement does not include products that contain ingredients of animal origin, all U.S. animal products will need to be deemed equivalent or be certified to the JAS organic standard once Japan's revision enters into force.

*NOSB Recap, May 2018 Wolf, DiMatteo & Assoc.*

### Comment on proposed National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard

The USDA's proposed rule for disclosing the presence of genetically engineered food and food ingredients **is open for comment until July 3**. The National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard (NBFDS) is intended to provide a mandatory uniform national standard for disclosure of information to consumers about the bioengineered (BE) status of foods. Products certified as organic under the National Organic program are exempt from additional record keeping.

The NBFDS would apply to raw produce, seafood, dietary supplements, and most prepared foods, such as breads, cereals, non-meat canned and frozen foods, snacks, desserts, and drinks, but only applies to foods subject to the labeling requirements of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.), or the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1031 et seq.) if the most predominant ingredient of the food would independently be subject to the labeling requirements under the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FDCA); or if the most predominant ingredient of the food is broth, stock, water, or a similar solution and the second-most predominant ingredient of the food would independently be subject to the labeling requirements under the FDCA.

The proposed rule would rely on lists of commercially available genetically engineered foods to determine which products must be labeled. For example, since genetically engineered canola, field corn, cotton, soybeans and sugar beets have an adoption

See **NBFDS**, page 9

## US FARM BILL

Thanks to a strong and combined effort, the organic sector fought back the attack on the integrity of the organic standards in the bill. This could not have happened without so many organizations mobilizing their members to send a clear message to the US Senate Agriculture Committee. In the days leading up to the release of the bill, many Democratic Senators reported that they were hearing from their constituents on this issue and that it mattered.

Most of the harmful language regarding the National Organic Standards Board from the House bill did not make it into the Senate version. The NOSB language in the Senate bill was called by some to be a carefully crafted concession from the Democrats that does the least harm possible. It states: “Any vote on a motion proposing to amend the National List shall be considered to be a decisive vote that requires 2/3 of the votes cast at a meeting of the Board at which a quorum is present to prevail.” This codifies what has been standard practice for the past 5 years. However, several groups are still challenging the way that input materials can be removed from the list, because this is such a dramatic change from the original Sunset Review process.

Given what could have happened, this is a great outcome. At the same time, as the National Organic Coalition states in their analysis of the bill, any statutory changes to the NOSB are unnecessary and have the potential to undermine the integrity the organic rule-making process. Continued dedication and alertness are needed to defend the NOSB and organic standards.

There are other significant wins for organic in the Senate Farm Bill. Here’s a quick summary of gains:

- Organic Research and Extension Initiative – Funding increases to \$40 million annually for the next two years and ramps up to \$50 million annually by 2022
- National Organic Program – Funding increases each year up to \$24 million in 2023
- Organic Certification Cost-Share – Mandatory funding of \$11.5 million per year
- Organic Data Initiative - \$5 million annually
- Organic import oversight – Additional resources and authority to create robust oversight and enforcement
- Conservation Stewardship Program funds allocated to states to support organic production and transition to organic production
- Crop insurance - Organic agriculture is considered a good farming practice for purposes of crop insurance
- Regionally adapted seeds and breeds – No funding allocated, but helpful language amending the National Genetic Resources Advisory Committee to require an assessment of needs related to public cultivar development and to advise the Secretary on funding gaps

While the bill receives high marks for the vast majority of organic priorities advanced by NOC members and our organic colleagues, the bill includes an unnecessary statutory change to the NOSB process for reviewing and approving materials for use in organic. NOC has long argued that any statutory changes to the NOSB are unnecessary and potentially undermine the integrity of organic.

National Organic Coalition has developed a [score card](#) to provide more details about how this draft Farm Bill stacks up and compares to the House version on core organic priorities.

You can also access the score card via this link: <https://app.box.com/s/mz1wf5ac3kaql0l19ldxrwwkn4ah3i7x>

Check out this link for a quick analysis of the bill: <http://www.nationalorganiccoalition.org/news-items/noc-weighs-in-on-draft-senate-2018-farm-bill>

*Sources: Various Farm Bill coalition press releases including OTA, NOC, NSAC, and FOE*

## NOSB Meeting Highlights

During the National Organic Standards Board Spring 2018 April 25-27 in Tucson, all 13 of the board's current members were present to vote on motions. The meeting kicked off with presentations from Ruihong Guo, the National Organic Program's Acting Deputy Administrator, Greg Ibach, Under Secretary of USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs, and Jennifer Tucker, NOP's Associate Deputy Administrator. They emphasized the Secretary of Agriculture's two main principles for organic: To protect the integrity of the USDA organic certified seal and to deliver efficient and effective oversight of organic production practices so organic products meet consistent standards.

To operationalize these principles, the department will focus on three areas:

1. Strong organic control systems, which could include increased inspector and reviewer training and risk-based accreditation audit models.
2. Farm to market traceability, especially for international trade, and could include increased reporting to the Organic Integrity Database, new agreements with Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Customs and Border Patrol, and electronic export certificates. Import oversight is a key focus for NOP certifier audits this year. In addition, AMS is developing an electronic export certificate option expected to launch over the summer for businesses shipping to Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and Mexico.
3. Robust enforcement, including increased onsite surveillance and investigations, more enforcement posting, expedited complaint processes, and risk-based investigation models. Priorities for 2018 include: unannounced inspections for organic dairies in the United States; additional site visits and inspections of grain importers; certifier audits in Eastern Europe, and commodity/country-level certifier audits.

[Meeting documents are available](#) on the National Organic Program website.

### NOTABLE PROPOSALS:

**Eliminating the Incentive to Convert Native Ecosystems to Organic Production** The proposal addressed concerns about the loss of ecosystems due to conversion of land to organic agriculture. Because the regulations require the land be free from prohibited materials and methods for at least three years, there is a built-in incentive to start farming previously unfarmed land. This can result in destruction of high value conservation lands and fragile ecosystems. The proposal defined 'native ecosystem' and proposed a potential rule change to add a 10-year waiting period before agricultural use of native ecosystems could be certified as organic. Passed 11-1 for rulemaking upon NOP approval.

**Inspector Qualifications and Training** To strengthen the organic certification system in a complex global market, the document proposes establishing mandatory qualifications, ideal levels of experience or background, and compulsory continuing education for organic certification inspectors. The proposal acknowledges the numerous resources available, including the Accredited Certifiers Association's best practices document. Public comments supported a licensing program for inspectors and oversight of training programs, along with concerns about how such requirements might drive up certification fees. Passed 13-0 for rulemaking upon NOP approval.

### Comment on proposed changes to the National List

See page 6.

[Comment online](#) on Docket Number AMS-NOP-17-0080 NOP-17-09 by June 29, 2018.



Import Oversight Panel to the NOSB - photo by Organic Trade Association



## NOSB Meeting Highlights, continued

The lead topic was how to prevent fraud, with several themes continuing to emerge:

- Require certification of everyone in the supply chain, including currently exempt handlers, brokers, distributors, and retailers;
- Report all crop acreage to the integrity database and do mass-balance audits of regional production; and,
- Apply risk-based analysis to all audits and complaints.

The most contentious materials debate -- should liquid fish be allowed to be acidified to less than 3.5 pH -- will be determined at the Fall meeting in Minneapolis, when its renewal as a synthetic fertilizer will be voted on.

There was useful fine-tuning of the National List, as described below. And some thoughtful motions moved forward as recommendations to the USDA.

Concerns about whether this administration would ignore or harm the organic program were somewhat allayed. USDA Undersecretary announced appointments filling two vacancies on the Board and affirmed that funds and activities to assure the integrity of the organic seal is a priority. The [NOP presentation](#) was also informative and worth checking out. *Excerpted from May 2018 NOSB Recap - WOLF, DIMATTEO + ASSOCIATES - 6/11/2018*

## New NOSB Appointees

**Dr. James Greenwood** from California, has been appointed to fill the open environmental protection and resource conservation seat. Dr. Greenwood is an organic avocado farmer and handler and has served on the board of directors for the USDA Hass Avocado Board. He has served on the Faculty of the School of Public Health at University of California, Los Angeles where he has been actively engaged with UCLA's Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, and the Center for Public Health. Dr. Greenwood holds a Master's in Public Health, a Master's in Microbiology and a Doctorate in Microbiology.

**Mr. Eric Schwartz**, also from California, has been appointed to fill the open organic handling seat. Mr. Schwartz serves as the chief executive officer for the United Vegetable Growers Cooperative. Before that, he served in a number of roles at Dole, including as senior vice president for operations. He served on several panels and boards, including the California Healthy Soils Initiative, and co-chaired the start-up of the California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement. Mr. Schwartz also served as a board member for the Arizona Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement. He has been involved in different aspects of organic growing, harvesting and processing for over twenty years. He holds a bachelors in Logistics Management from Penn State University.

## NBSTS, from page 6

rate over 85 percent in the U.S., the presumption would be that those ingredients in a food product covered by the regulations would have to be disclosed as bioengineered. The definition of bioengineered food could potentially limit the scope of the regulations to only foods in which the modified genetic material can be detected and could eliminate any incidental additives from disclosure requirements. In addition, very small food manufacturers, and restaurants/retail food service establishments are exempt from the requirements, and small food manufacturers have a delayed implementation deadline.

USDA has requested comment on several issues, including the definition of bioengineered food, how to determine if something is 'found in nature'; the composition of the lists of commercially available bioengineered foods; thresholds that trigger disclosure; use of a seal in lieu of text; record-keeping requirements, and more.

Proposed compliance dates are January 1, 2020, with a delayed date of January 1 2021 for small manufacturers; labels printed before the compliance date could be used until January 2022 or supplies are depleted.

Read the proposal and comment on Docket number AMS-TM-17-0050) by July 3, 2018.

*NOSB Recap, May 2018 Wolf, DiMatteo & Assoc.*

## Membership in IOIA – the trend is...UP!

IOIA has been taking steps over the past year to grow membership. The results are encouraging. In one year, IOIA has increased all categories of membership except for Patron and Sustaining. IOIA is focusing on growing inspector members, rather than members in the upper supporting levels, including personal invitations by BOD and staff.

**How could IOIA find and engage other inspector members?** It started when the BOD set goals at their 2017 retreat. Membership growth was identified as both an organizational and a fundraising goal. The BOD requested that the Membership Committee meet and propose strategies to increase both membership and membership service. The Committee, chaired by Eric Feutz and with support from Chuck Mitchell (BOD Liaison), decided to first identify the reasons that inspectors didn't maintain IOIA membership, instead of launching a member drive. A non-member survey was developed and sent to a sample of 60 inspectors, mostly in the US. Getting lists of non-member inspectors was challenging in the US and even harder elsewhere. The survey was anonymous. However, to encourage participation, IOIA included a question asking if the inspector would like to be in a drawing for a free membership. **Vernon Coblentz of Ohio** won the draw at the annual meeting. Chuck Mitchell, who is also BOD liaison to the Latin America Committee, also initiated an email invitation in Spanish. With assistance from Latin American certifiers, his invite went out to dozens of inspectors.

**What happened in Latin America?** IOIA has 14 members in 4 countries in Latin America. Four of those (almost a third) joined since the membership drive began – encouraging! Strongest growth is in Mexico, perhaps in part because IOIA plans our annual meeting there in 2019.

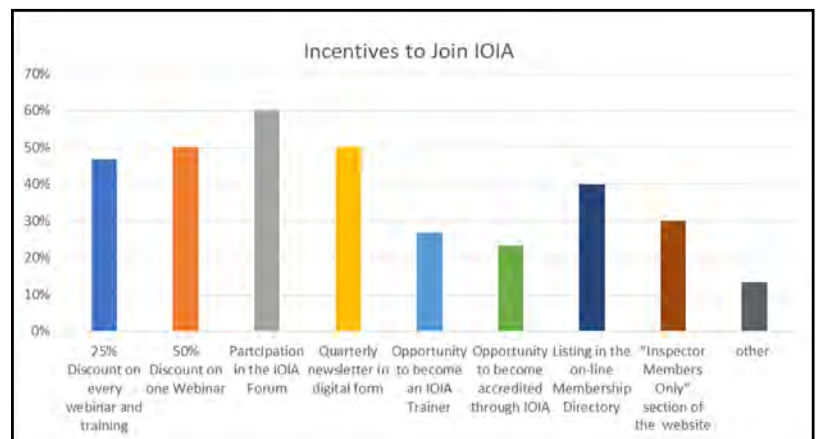
**What did we learn from the survey?** Most non-members haven't joined not because they made a conscious decision not to join, but because they haven't been invited and aren't aware of the benefits. We can be encouraged by the number of people who joined in direct response to invitations following the survey. Thirteen respondents said they'd like to receive an invitation. All were invited and three of those have already joined. If we are more proactive to invite inspectors, we'll get more members. It usually takes more than one invitation before most inspectors join.

**Some interesting survey stats:** Twenty-eight % said they had been an inspector member at one time. For those who had belonged, top reasons for not being a member? Dues too high (42.86%), and 28.57 % each - worked only for one certifier, were employed by one certifier as a staff inspector, or have all the work they want or need. Of those who hadn't joined, reason for not being a member? Almost half chose because they work only for one certifier. One-fourth had all the work they want or need. And 13% answered "because they had never been invited". Incentives to join (benefits not currently offered) top responses: Group business insurance (55%); Group Errors & Omissions insurance (44.8%); Structured apprenticeship (24%); Peer Mentoring (34.5%).

Membership drive progress, compared to one year ago:

- Five new Supporting Certifiers
- Inspectors: We are at 239, representing a gain of 15 inspectors.
- Supporting Businesses: Grew from 23 a year ago to 26 (10% growth).

**Membership Committee action plan:** We will offer the survey again, focusing on Canadian inspectors. Larger certifiers in Canada will be contacted to ask if they would share their inspector lists. If not, would they forward a message from IOIA that includes a survey link to their inspectors? IOIA will continue to strive to make IOIA more relevant to Spanish and French speakers.



Want to help grow IOIA membership? The IOIA Membership Committee is seeking at least one more member. Contact the IOIA office or [Eric Feutz at ebfeutz@gmail.com](mailto:Eric.Feutz@gmail.com)

## Update on the Canadian Organic Regime (COR): Organic Sector & the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

By Janine Gibson

As part of a new quarterly meeting strategy to improve communication, 5 Canadian organic industry reps met with 4 CFIA Directors on April 26th, 2018. The meeting objectives were to establish the terms of a collaborative relationship between the Canadian organic industry and the CFIA- to enhance the efficacy of the Organic Products Regulation and to identify issues that both parties could tackle together.

Paddy Doherty, Co-Chair- Org Value Chain Round Table, Tia Loftsgard, Executive Director- Canadian OTA, Wayne Adams, Executive Director- Canadian Organic Growers, Nicole Boudreau, Coordinator - Organic Federation of Canada and Marie-Eve Levert, Director, The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security met with Daniel Miller, Executive Director, Food Import Export Systems Evaluation Directorate (FIESED), Heather Holland, A/Manager, Foreign Relations and Issues Management, FIESED, Doug Hazel, Director, Food Import and Export, and Jay Holmes, National Manager, Labelling, Organic and Packaging (Responsible SFCRs).

Three key elements were discussed:

- Update on organic and CFIA key priorities and initiatives
- The development of a protocol for future meeting; and
- How to align the OVCRT/Organic sector and CFIA priorities and to increase the visibility of the organic sector within CFIA.

Currently, 70% of CFIA resources are devoted to meat inspection which drives CFIA day-to-day priorities. The main goal for 2018 is the publication of the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations. Jay Holmes is the new main point of contact on the SFCRs. Mr. Holmes was unable to confirm the date of the SFCRs publication, but once published CFIA will work with government partners and industry associations to connect with businesses and help them stay informed and ready for the coming-into-force date.

**IOIA's Canadian Committee on Inspector Qualifications: Monique Scholz, Chuck Mitchell, Kelly Monaghan, Bill Barkley and Janine Gibson.** They are all open to being contacted to share relevant info and assist with inspector issues as needed.

### Alignment of the organic industry and the CFIA priorities

The OVCRT members are in the process of endorsing the 2018-2023 OVCRT strategic plan and will start implementing the working plan that goes with it. Mr. Miller was interested to learn about the plan and to discuss the overall strategy for the long-term growth of the sector. In order to have alignment of OVCRT and CFIA priorities, three things are needed: 1) Identify long term objectives for the growth of the sector, 2) Identify opportunities for the sector where CFIA could play a role/have impact, and 3) Work with CFIA to prioritize the opportunities. Collaboration on a list of organic operations in Canada was also discussed.

**The new CFIA structure and its impacts:** in January 2018, the CFIA and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) created a new branch focused on international market access and regulatory trade issues. This new structure function is to support the Government of Canada's goal to increase Canada's agriculture, seafood and agri-food exports to \$75 billion by 2025 providing additional opportunities for the agri-food sector including the organic sector.

**Mr. Fred Gorrell**, Assistant Deputy Minister of AAFC's Market and Industry Services Branch will lead the new branch. The teams who will join this new branch are CFIA's International Affairs and Market Access Directorate and the Food Import Export and Systems Evaluation Directorate from Policy and Programs Branch and AAFC's Market Access Secretariat. Consumer Protection Market Fairness Division now reports to the Food Safety and Consumer Protection Directory in Policy and Programs Branch.

The responsibilities under the Canada Organic Regime remain the same. The Consumer Protection Market Fairness Division is responsible for the organic regulations and standards, the Standards Interpretation Committee and labelling. The Food Import Exports Systems Evaluation Directorate is responsible for the oversight of the certification system, and equivalency determinations and negotiations.

A chart outlining the new structure, personnel and responsibilities can be found on the [IOIA website](#).

## July 17 & 20 Webinar: 200 Level Residue Sampling and Responding to Test Results

This webinar will prepare inspectors and certifiers to comply with the USDA National Organic Program final rule on residue sampling. The NOP rule requires sampling of at least 5% of certified operations annually. The course will cover all relevant NOP regulations and Program Handbook documents. The roles of certifiers and inspectors will be discussed, as samples are followed through the process: setting up a sampling program, creating a sampling plan, providing inspectors with directions, communicating between the certifier and the inspector, taking a sample in the field or post harvest, maintaining integrity of the sample, and responding to the results of analysis. Practical how-to tips, certifier interviews, and video content are included.

### There are two registration options:

**Session 1 only.** NOP Regulations, Program Handbook documents, information for certifiers, inspectors, and certified operations. Available to current OTA members (with no registration fee) or those registered for the full 2-session course. No pre-course assignment is required, and there is no exam. Enrollment: limited to 100.

**Session 1 and 2 combined, with assignments and exam.** Session 2 focuses on How-to's of Sampling. Available only to inspectors and certifiers (with registration fee.) Enrollment: limited to 20. Assignment Deadlines: Pre-Course: Noon, July 13, 2018 and Final Exam: Midnight, July 27, 2018.

Course participants will have previously completed an IOIA Basic Inspection course and are already working as inspectors or reviewers. If you are interested in participating, but have not completed an IOIA Inspection Training, contact IOIA before registering.

### Presenters are:

Nathaniel Lewis, Organic Trade Association (session 1)

Nathaniel Powell-Palm, IOIA accredited inspector (session 2)

### About the Course Presenters:

Nathaniel Lewis Nathaniel is OTA's Farm Policy Director where he provides staff support to OTA's Farmer Advisory Council, on-the-ground outreach to OTA's organic farmer membership community, and analysis of policy issues that affect organic crop and livestock producers. Prior to his current position, Nathaniel served as Certification Coordinator for Washington State Dept. of Agriculture's organic certification program where he managed WSDA's material review program and gained certification experience in all scopes of organic production. Nathaniel's responsibilities at WSDA also included coordination of their periodic residue sampling program. Nathaniel holds a Bachelor's of Science from The Evergreen State College with a focus in agricultural science and organic chemistry. Nathaniel and his wife have managed their own farm for the over a decade growing certified organic pastured broilers, egg layers, sheep and cattle.



Nathaniel Powell-Palm An IOIA accredited inspector, Nate has been certified organic by the Montana Dept of Agriculture since 2008. He currently farms organic grains, grazes organic cattle, and is working to find that perfect dryland crop rotation. Since 2012, Nate has worked as an organic farm and livestock inspector, adding the processing scope in 2013. He has worked as a full time inspector since 2014, conducting inspections year round since then, including the collection of dozens of samples for multiple certifiers. In 2017, he joined IOIA's training team. He holds a B.S. in Environmental Science from Montana State University.

**Cost: \$275 for those who are both members of OTA and IOIA; \$300 for IOIA member; \$325 for non-IOIA member. [Register thru the IOIA website.](#)**

## 200 level IOIA/AGA Self-Directed Grassfed Dairy Inspection Training for Organic Inspectors

This course was developed by IOIA with the American Grassfed Association to prepare experienced organic dairy inspectors to perform an “add-on” AGA inspection at the same time as an organic inspection, or as a stand-alone AGA inspection. Each participant is required to complete a pre-course assignment, assessing their familiarity with organic dairy inspection. There are two pre-recorded webinars. The first session provides an overview of the AGA standard and where it is the same or different from the NOP. The second session provides resources and tools to aid the organic dairy inspector in conducting a pasture based and animal welfare focused dairy inspection. Each participant can complete these on their own timeline and at their own convenience, provided the entire course is completed in one month. The course concludes with a written exam following the second recorded webinar. Upon successful completion of the exam, the inspector is approved by AGA to perform these AGA inspections. This course would also be useful in understanding the resources and activities related to any grass-based livestock operation.

The course focuses primarily on dairy cattle. Dairy goats and sheep are included. Participants will learn AGA meat standards, since some organic dairies may also want to sell cull females and male animals as AGA meat. Dairy farm transition, production and animal handling standards are discussed as well as tools and resources to assess compliance. Before the webinars, participants will receive the AGA standards, the AGA on-site inspection checklist, a list of resources, and a sample “animal status inventory worksheet” for use by the dairy farmer and/or the inspector to keep track of the NOP and AGA status of animals on the farm. It is expected that performing these add-on inspections at the same time as the NOP inspection will take approximately an extra hour.

If you are interested, please contact the IOIA office.

Primary training developer and presenter is Harriet Behar.

Harriet is an Outreach Specialist with the Organic and Sustainable Cropping Systems Program at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She is also the vice-chair of the National Organic Standards Board. Previous employment included MOSES, Organic Valley, TSP for the NRCS, contract work with OFRF, the Organic Seed Alliance and IOIA trainer. She has extensive teaching and organic inspection experience with all livestock species. She’s both taught and attended workshops and field days focused on organic dairy, veterinary tools, grazing and pasture management. As outreach specialist, she aids groups and farmers in solving their unique production issues using organic systems and approved materials. Harriet has visited 2000+ organic farms and processing facilities. She has been growing organic vegetables since 1973, operating a certified organic farm since 1989.



## Welcome New IOIA Trainer Garth Kahl!

Garth Kahl began his career in organics by studying Ecological Horticulture at the University of California Santa Cruz Farm and Garden Program, where he earned a Certificate in Ecological Horticulture in 1989. He went on to obtain a BS in Agriculture from Cornell University in 1992. After graduation he managed a commercial medicinal herb farm for two years, before starting his own farm and becoming an organic inspector in 1996.

Since 1996 Garth worked as an organic inspector half to full time, working on 3 continents in 2 languages, including inspections of crops, processing, wild harvest, livestock, apiculture, grower groups and textiles. He is accredited as an organic inspector in all scopes by IOIA. From 2007 to 2011 he was the Latin American Program Manager and interim Farm Program Manager for OTCO, before leaving to inspect and consult as an independent contractor.



Garth and his wife Angela, who is also an organic inspector, grow certified organic blueberries, sheep, cattle and hogs in the coast range of Oregon. Garth’s passions include pasture-based farm systems, apiculture, whitewater rafting and canal boating. When not in the field or on the road, he may be found halter training young calves or in the greenhouse tending to his beloved mini bell peppers and English cucumbers.

Garth strengthens IOIA’s capacity to train in Spanish language.

## IOIA Crop Training in the World's Organic Banana Capital

by Luis Brenes

Control Union cosponsored a Basic Crop Inspection Training on Apr 3-7 in Peru. This training was an in-house training to reinforce capabilities and skills of professional who have already been trained and are working as organic inspectors under local and EU regulations. Participants were selected among inspectors from Peru and Ecuador and it was held in Piura,



Peru. Wilson Mieles, CU manager for Ecuador, was in charge of cosponsors duties.

Piura is well known for its rich soils, desert weather but plenty of irrigation water available from rivers that come down from the mountains. These conditions have proven to be ideal



for fruit production. Knowing that bananas' main phytosanitary challenge is managing black sigatoka (*Mycosphaerella fijensis*) it is not surprising to see that Piura is where much of the organic bananas are produced for the fresh fruit export market.

I was honored to be the trainer for this event- which, although intended to be basic training, due to the experience of participants almost turned out to be an advanced training. Excellent questions, discussion, and participation made it an enjoyable and unforgettable experience.

Thanks, Control Union!

*Muchas gracias por haber formado parte del aprendizaje de mis compañeros y mío. En particular puedo mencionar que pude resolver varias dudas que tenía, queda claro que a pesar de la experiencia y estudios que podamos tener nunca se deja de aprender y cursos enriquecedores como este nos ayudan hacer mejor nuestra labor de inspectores orgánicos.*

**Hugo Jesús Casso Ramirez**  
Auditor, Control Union Peru



## Building Organic Inspection Capacity

by Lisa Pierce

It was a dream come true for Maheswar Ghimire and the 'best training ever' for seventeen course participants and IOIA Trainer Lisa Pierce. Perhaps the first IOIA course that included a convoy of motorcycles and a jeep full of singing participants to the field trip sites?

IOIA and NEP.Cert co-sponsored an organic crop inspection course in the tea growing district of Ilam in Nepal. The training held from April 10-14, 2018 coincided with a push by the government of Nepal to push the branding of Himalayan Tea to the world. The course participants were all from Nepal and included farmers, tea technicians, university professors and affiliates of tea cooperatives, tea associations and the National Tea and Coffee Development Board in Nepal. Lisa (IOIA trainer) collaborated with Maheswar Ghimire (IOIA member in Nepal) to deliver



Women harvesting tea

a course that included inspection of community grower groups, and scenarios applicable to tea production and experiences in Nepal. Participants were very engaged and committed to building organic inspection capacity in Nepal.

The IOIA/NEP.Cert International Crop course was presented in a five day format that emphasized the 'international' of the International Organic Inspection Association; commonalities and differences in organic standards were discussed relative to key organic control points and the IFOAM standards were used as the baseline reference.

The IOIA training was considered to be a 'first step' to be followed by apprenticeship opportunities coordinated by

NEP.Cert. And before the course was over there was already discussions about obtaining funding to hold another IOIA course with a focus on coffee production...



Author and Trainer Lisa Pierce, right, at Nepal Tea Festival

After years of preparation, IOIA was able to realize an inspector training in Nepal. Thanks to Maheswar Ghimire, center in hat, and Lisa Pierce, kneeling second from right, for their diligence in making this dream a reality!

The training was supported by UNNATI Inclusive Growth Programme in Nepal.

As their banner says, 'Organic for Prosperity!' IOIA/NEP.CERT Organic Crop Inspection Course in Ilam, Nepal, April 10-14, 2018



## IOIA/PCO Basic Crop Inspection Training - Twin Courses in State College

The IOIA/PCO Crop inspection course was posted on IOIA's website the last week of 2017. Within one week, there were 15 registrants. This training was quickly breaking all previous records in speed to fill up. Within the next week, the registration overflowed. A mad scramble ensued. Another meeting room at The Penn Stater was secured, and a second section of the Crop course created. Garry Lean, as planned, led one. Margaret Scoles, not planned, stepped in to lead the other. Jonda Crosby assisted both courses and served as group leader each week. Corinne Kolm took a break from buying and moving to a farm to assist Garry, also not planned. PCO came to the rescue with staff members Heather Donald and Liz Amos to superbly support the training. Liz was assistant for the entire week with Margaret. Heather Donald served as group leader for Garry's group. The courses ended up training 35 participants.

One of the most challenging aspects of planning and coordinating a training event is confirming enough field trip hosts. This ended up being especially challenging. A huge thank you to Liz! We needed 6 farms and 3 dairies and she wrangled up great hosts for all trainings.



**Green Heron Farm, certified since early 1989, raising their own sweet potato slips.**



**Garry's Basic Crop Inspection Group**

Margaret's Basic Crop Inspection Group, at right, displays a lively way to make group introductions - After receiving a colorful sheet of paper, participants were instructed to share their name as they wished to be called, a drawing that represented something special to them, and one or more words to briefly describe themselves. It worked great as an icebreaker!

**April 9 - 13**



## IOIA/PCO Basic Livestock Training - April 16-20 - State College, PA

Garry Lean was Lead Trainer. Ashley Madea, PCO staff inspector (VT), Liz Amos, and Jonda Crosby, Training Services Director, assisted. PCO certified dairies hosted the three field trips. The course filled to the brim with 19 participants.

Course evaluations validated IOIA's decisions two years ago to move to smaller class size, move standards portion of the course from Day 1 to preparatory webinar, move the field trip to a day earlier, and spend an entire day on report writing. One participant said, "Thought the format was a vast improvement from previous course - Field trip on Wednesday and Report Thursday worked better."

About the Trainers - "Garry is able to push the class into intense discussions about seemingly simple problems. He creates a very productive learning environment." "Jonda is able to teach the class using common sense, when things are complex." "Ashley did a wonderful job of teaching us how to conduct an organic inspection on a dairy farm. She used her experiences to help us learn and adapt to new experiences."





## IOIA/PCO - Advanced/Refresher Training in PA - April 14

Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO) and IOIA collaborated for nearly a year to bring together one great day of training on April 14. Goals – fewer topics in more depth and relevance to both certification staff such as reviewers and working inspectors. The most fitting name for the outcome was **Advanced/Refresher Training**. Topics finally selected were Dairy Feed Audit and Organic Integrity Issues. Training location was at the PCO office conference room in Spring Mills.

**Sticky Issues for Dairy Inspectors** solicited questions from the 18 participants in advance. Penelope Zuck, NOP Accreditation Manager, led off with a **Pasture Rule Refresher**. Garry Lean of Ontario did an amazing job of pulling together the **Simplifying Feed Audits on Dairy Farms** presentation and exercise, using IOIA's materials.



As a show stopper, he passed around two bags of silage and asked everyone to write their estimated moisture content on a piece of paper. Then he cooked up the silage in a microwave (the smell of baked hay wafted down the hallway) to determine the actual dry matter content. What was the purpose of the activity? If we were too far off, it made the difference between compliance and noncompliant DMI from feed fed when we did our calculations! Amanda Birk won the prize for coming closest on the moisture estimates. She won an IOIA cap, but passed it on to the second place winner, Ashley Madea. We learned to take the dairyman's numbers less at face value.

Miles McEvoy, former NOP Deputy Administrator and one of IOIA's newest inspector members, followed up with **Organic Integrity Issues: Evaluating integrity** in the organic supply chain; **Investigations** – evaluating residue test results, planning, collecting evidence; **Ports of entry** – CBP, APHIS, and fumigation. Participants appreciated the breadth and depth of his lifetime of experience in organic inspection, certification, and accreditation.

There were lots of questions and discussion throughout the day, and an opportunity for networking during an excellent simple lunch, a short walk down the street at "Pizza Heaven". This was a prototype for an excellent customized training model. Last year, IOIA did similar training in collaboration with QCS in Florida on other topics.



Garry Lean, center,  
leads the advanced session



Miles McEvoy



Liz Amos and Marissa Pyle,  
Pennsylvania Certified Organic

## IOIA/ODA In-house Crop Inspection Training

IOIA and the Oregon Department of Agriculture cosponsored in-house training for 10 ODA staffers, including inspectors, reviewers, and administrative staff in Salem, Oregon, May 14-18. Three staff inspectors from the WA Dept of Ag were invited to join the group, alleviating an otherwise over-booked training in Pennsylvania. Margaret Scoles, assisted by Garth Kahl, Oregon, led the group of 13 participants through the IOIA Basic Crop Inspection course. ODA arranged field trips, including vegetable and nursery production.



## IOIA/ODA In-house Processing Inspection Training

IOIA and the Oregon Department of Agriculture cosponsored in-house training for 10 ODA staff, including inspectors, reviewers, and administrative staff in Salem, Oregon, May 7-11. Garry Lean, Ontario, served as Lead Trainer. Thanks to De Casa Fine Foods, the group had a good field trip experience. The course was a bit atypical in that all 10 participants completed this course and went on to take the basic crop course the following week. Two long and busy weeks!



## IOIA/OAK Transition Trainer Workshop in Kentucky, May 1 - 2

IOIA and the Organic Association of Kentucky cosponsored a Transition Trainer Workshop – Crop and Livestock on May 1-3 in Lexington, Kentucky. The workshop included 8 hours of preparatory webinar content on the NOP crop and livestock standards, and 3 days of intensive hands-on training including field trips to farms. The goal was to train Transition Trainers to assist producers who are interested in transitioning to USDA-certified organic production. Ten participants attended. This was the second such training. OAK and IOIA worked together on a similar training in 2016. Garry Lean, Ontario, was the trainer for both courses. For more information about the transition trainers, <https://www.oak-ky.org/oak-transition-trainers>.

## Coming soon – updated and revised IOIA bylaws!

The IOIA Bylaws Committee has just completed what is likely the most comprehensive review of our bylaws in history. There have been a few significant revisions in the past (i.e. the change in the length of terms for directors in 2014), but the bylaws have stood the test of time with little change. However, a BOD consultant in 2016 reminded the BOD of their duty to review the documents of the organization at least annually. In 2017, the committee, under the leadership of Al Johnson, Committee Chair, and Matt Miller, BOD liaison to the committee, followed through.



Matt Miller

*“Our bylaws are kind of like a refrigerator. Time passes much too quickly without taking a close look. Then when we do take a close look, we start to ask questions like, ‘what is this?’ and ‘where did this come from?’. At that point it’s obvious that it’s time to clean things up a bit. That’s what the bylaws committee has been doing this past year - cleaning up. If they aren’t cleaned up, the bylaws will continue to be like that refrigerator filled with outdated stuff. That is a potential for disaster.”* Matt Miller, Bylaws liaison

The Committee identified 12 sections that needed revisions, and recommended to the BOD that a revision ballot be distributed. The ballot was distributed to the membership prior to the AGM and then a vote was taken in-person at the AGM. All proposed revisions passed handily, with the caveat that IOIA should have a final legal review by a Minnesota attorney. IOIA is incorporated in Minnesota, so Minnesota statute applies. All revisions have now successfully passed our attorney’s scrutiny. The Bylaws Committee will next meet in July to review the attorney’s analysis. They will make a recommendation to the BOD. Following the August 6 Board meeting, the revised bylaws will be posted to the IOIA website and the changes will be official.

If serving on the Bylaws Committee sounds interesting to you, IOIA could use a few more members. Welcome, **Leonard Pollara**, newest member of the committee!

### Summary of vote results:

**Section 2.8: Proxies** Add that proxy holders must be current inspector members. **Yes: 72, No: 0**

**Section 2.9: Action by Written Ballot** Clarify the current language for requirement that ballots other than elections must provide option to abstain. **Yes: 71, No: 1**

**Section 3.0 Number of Directors** Sets number of directors to seven (7). Deletes current requirement to set the number of Directors annually at the annual meeting. Deletes requirement that directors must be “actively inspecting”. Clarifies that Board members must be inspector members. **Yes: 63, No: 7, Abstain: 2**

**Section 3.1 Election of Directors; Terms of Office:** Deletes language that was pertinent until transition of the Board of Directors term length from 2 years to 3 years was completed. That transition has been completed. **Yes: 69, No: 1, Abstain: 1**

**Section 3.5.c. Duties of the Board of Directors** Deletes language that makes the Board of Directors responsible for contracting, hiring, discharging, and fixing compensation decisions for staff. New language has been added to replace it with “Appoint an Executive Director as the chief executive officer of the Corporation. The Executive Director will hold office at the will of the Board and shall report directly to the Board.” **Yes: 69, No: 1, Abstain: 1**

**Section 3.6, 3.7, & 3.8 Meetings of the Board of Directors** Adds language to 3.6 to clarify that BOD meetings shall be open to all inspector members rather than all members. Adds language to 3.8 to clarify that notices of BOD meetings will be made public to inspector members. **Yes: 70, No: 2**

**Section 4.0 Election of Executive Committee:** Deletes redundant and unnecessary language regarding who may serve on Executive Committee. The bylaws are already clear that only Directors may serve on the Executive Committee. **Yes: 71, No: 0**

**Section 4.6 Duties of the Secretary** Amends Duties of Secretary to delete “Be custodian of the records of the organization”. **Yes: 52, No: 9, Abstain: 9**

**Section 4.7 Duties of the Treasurer** Amends Duties of Treasurer to delete several detailed duties currently performed by administrative staff including making deposits, receiving monies, and maintaining accounts. **Yes: 66, No: 2, Abstain: 3**

**Section 5.0 Committees: Authorization** Removes language “All committees and subcommittees” See Bylaws, page 23

## Board of Directors Minutes Highlights

(full minutes available to inspector members on the IOIA website)

### March 5 - 6, 2018 - Hilton Garden Inn Charleston/Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

**Members Present:** All Directors were present and participated throughout the entire meeting: Margaret Anne Weigelt, Chair; Heather Donald; Matthew Miller; Charles (Chuck) Mitchell; Lois Christie; Philippe Descamps; Ryan Sitrer Others present: Margaret Scoles, ED

**Elections:** Margaret Anne Weigelt, remain chair; Chuck, vice-chair; Heather, treasurer; Lois, secretary; Philippe, Executive Committee Member-at-Large. All members are participants and/or Board Liaisons on various committees. See Committees below. Ryan agreed to lead up the new website research.

**Board Member Focus – Discussion:** Increase in Staff; Accreditation; Trainings; Obtaining new supporting members; More tools to support the isolated inspector; Professionalizing our inspection; explosive growth; fraud; unionizing; licensing; center of focus and NOP stopping fraud; **Latin America:** IOIA Forum, Webinars in Spanish, Latin America Inspectors Association – sister organization (global partner); **Asia Pacific:** Peer field evaluation (focus/past BOD Vice-Chair Mutsumi Sakuyoshi from Japan intends to establish in Asia-Pacific). Discussed electronic programs to modernize information management; e.g. inspectors enter their own educational information.

### Accreditation Review (new program)

<b>100 level training</b>	certificate - never expires	Includes 100 level standards webinar (need in Spanish)	4.5 day course
<b>Field training</b>	mentorship with approved mentors		
<b>200 level</b>	certain amount of continuing education	Minimum number of inspections	expires every 3 years
ISO audit trainings or other trainings could potentially be accepted as a level requirement			
<b>300 level</b>	certain amount of continuing education	Minimum number of inspections	expires every 3 - 5 years

**Board Orientation, plus Financial note:** Overage also reflects the failure to add adequate staff; \$20,000 allotted toward accreditation was not used last year.

**2018-19 IOIA Committees and BOD Liaisons:** Accreditation: Chair, Pam Sullivan, Liaison, Ryan; Asia Pacific Committee: Isidor Yu, Chair; Liaison, Margaret Anne; Bylaws: Chair, Al Johnson, Liaison, Matt; Ethics (need work), Joyce Ford, Liaison, Matt; Editorial Review/Policy (Board appoints the chair; reviews all IOIA publications and newsletters; need for people to help with policy comments); Diane Cooner, Communications Director; Membership/Nominations: Eric Feutz, Chair, Liaison, Chuck; Scholarship: Chair, Margaret Anne, Member, Lois Christie, Liaison, Scholarship, Philippe; Fundraising/Finance Chair and Liaison, Heather; Latin America Chair: Martha Santizo Castillo, Liaison: Chuck; Training Advisory Committee (TAC) Newly Formed Committee: Liaison, Philippe (encourage more training in Latin America), Jonda Crosby, Training Services Director.

Notes: Committees required by bylaws (membership, accreditation, finance); Secretary – custodian of documents

**Presentation on Blockchain Technology; online Introduction by Chip Leinen;** Computers, programming, software and tools that help make our job easier and better; Used banking systems as example. **Discussion on ways to connect inspection data information for inspector access:** Accessible to those in the industry. What steps need to be taken to get something to happen? Nominated Silke Fuchshofen to NOSB Import Panel. NOP is discussing block chain; modernization (proposed in House of Representatives); IOIA won't be able to foot the bill but could help shape the system; We want the ability to do crosschecking between certifiers. Margaret will get the message to the certifiers. Documents; Most current inspection accreditation schematic presented. Can IOIA offer the service of connecting crosscheck inspection for issues found (sales and purchases); member benefit: to see crosscheck inspections required. Working group that includes certifiers that includes Best Practices – A good practice would be that when dealing with a large of quantities of imports a team be sent in. Crosscheck auditors (NOP and Dr. Jochen Neuendorff (IOAS auditor); German certifier;) **Summary of Discussion:** Margaret Anne proposes we Create an Ad-hoc committee or task force. Matt's Vision: 12 months – set a goal for one committee (implementation); something inspectors can use. Ryan clarified auditor skill, Cross check 300 level inspectors, Planting by Acreage by crop useful in the next year by certifiers agree

## Board of Directors Minutes Highlights

(full minutes available to inspector members on the IOIA website.)

**Al Johnson's Presentation – Peer Field Evaluation Subcommittee Co-Chair:** idea for maintaining the Peer Evaluation Program by incorporating into IOIA accreditation program.

**AGM Debriefing 2017 Retreat; Margaret Anne, Review of action points, resolution of 2017 items, and how to track items going forward.** Agreed to review programs or ways to track action items and due dates and to keep historical information.

**Discussion by Margaret S:** Member Issues –such as not paid by a certifier for a large inspection assignment; excessive OSP updates being requested by certifiers; certifiers not sufficiently reviewing OSP's; inspectors giving technical assistance; survey of Inspectors to ACA's; raising professionalism to inspectors via monetary compensation; create a committee where people could be heard; issues and concerns (part of mission); growing polarization between inspectors and certifiers.

**BOD Meeting calendar planning to set dates for the next 12 months (7 conference calls)**

### Debrief AGM 2018

**Trainings 2018:** Need for further training (Training Advisory Committee). Come up with Guide for experienced inspectors to get Educational Training.

Field trainings and mentorships (regional areas)

- Mock field trainings
- Separate inspector agency idea
- Certifier subsidized field trainers
- Training for field trainers (expectations and requirements)
- Group leader and field trainer is where super trainers begin
- Pilot program:
  - Plan an event: i.e. Kentucky Dept of Ag.
  - Send people individually to mentors
  - Mentorship co-sponsor (certifier)
  - Assist business entity in the mentorship process

### Monique (via Chuck)– Hopes for IOIA: Increased international presence

Stronger presence in Canada COO staff in Ottawa (interaction with staff)

- Ask the inspector program:
- Promotion – IOIA (budget \$7,500.00); some may go toward website.
- Add consumer member category. Doesn't require bylaw changes. Evergreen donor (monthly donors; \$5 or more). IOIA window decals (tag line: making sure organic is organic). Margaret to go to membership committee (Chuck/Liaison)

**Scholarship Report; Margaret Anne:** OCIS scholarship (foster regional organic; may or may not become inspectors); outside US and Mexico; invented because applications outside US scored lower; Rutherford focus was too narrow. Maybe we should have more scholarships instead of less: Give more partial scholarships, travel funded by donations.

**Margaret W. Reviewed Board Member desires (as expressed in their candidate bios and what has been accomplished relevant to those goals):** Philippe: Affordable Trainings in Latin/Central America: \$60.00 membership fee; 50% off 1 webinar per year; co-sponsored webinar (in-house) trainings; Benefits from offering low-cost Latin American trainers: Provide more benefits to Spanish inspectors. Increase our visibility in Latin America. Resurrect Latin inspector forum.

**Add-on's (work opportunity)- Potential opportunities.** Regenerative agriculture (Rodale; Jeff Moyer); plan to use organic inspectors. Potential training opportunity. The Real Organic Project. Grass-fed Dairy (already started).

**Technology Task Force – (Matt):** Matt offered to work on crosscheck systems with the Technology Task Force to have something to offer in 12 months at the next AGM.

**Website Task Force (crossover with accreditation committee) (Ryan):** get proposals for new website; interactive uses for inspectors; Information management systems. Description of what we want. Website requirements: (abbr.) Inspector management system; Ease of payment; More inspector business resources; General and specific searches; How people are using the database; Social media links.

See Board Highlights, p 22

## Board Minutes, continued from page 21

### April 16, 2018 (Phone Conference)

**All Directors were present and participated throughout the entire meeting.** Margaret Anne Weigelt, Chair; Heather Donald; Matthew Miller; Charles (Chuck) Mitchell; Lois Christie; Ryan Sitrler; Philippe Descamps. Others present: Margaret Scoles, ED.

**Agenda Item #5 Financial Report – Heather:** Accrual basis shows we are ahead of budget. Peer evaluation program - break even (at best). Over budget on support staff (much needed). IRS 990 Tax Return will be reviewed later in summer, as our CPA applies for an extension of the May 15 deadline and completes our return during the slow summer months. **Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report (includes the first quarter financial reports). All in favor.**

**Agenda Item #6: 2019/2020 AGM Meetings: 2019 AGM Sat. March 2<sup>nd</sup>** (avoids Anaheim by 1 week). Huatulco. Consists of 9 separate bays; Homero Blas recommended Santa Cruz. Seven people on the AGM Organizing Committee. Livestock training may have to be elsewhere, at a separate time, as there do not appear to be any livestock operations in the vicinity. Also US certifiers have concerns about the lack of a Livestock Materials List in the Mexican regulations. **2020 AGM Meeting:** Pair up with ACA? (They deliver training to a large group, so the training cost is only about \$300.00 for 2 days. Location unknown, Bigger event, Would require a large conference hotel; ½ of content not interesting to inspectors; IOIA can use some of the same speakers for our program. It was suggested in SC that IOIA should ask NOP for permission for IOIA Accredited inspectors to attend the NOP training that happens in conjunction with the ACA training. ACA does want inspectors to attend its conference; it is open to anyone who registers and pays the fee. Other options: Combine with MOSES? **MS to approach ACA to discuss possible collaboration.**

**Membership Category – Chuck:** Member support for a consumer category. Membership Committee meeting prior to next Board meeting. IOIA can expand the types of supporting membership categories without a bylaws change. Consumer Brochure discussion

**Agenda Item #7 IOIA Comment Policy Committee – Heather (reviewed Final Draft Policy):** Positive response from membership; wants us to comment more. Board members should not be the vehicle for commenting; options? BOD only meets every six weeks or so; need to establish a standing working committee. Need mechanism to respond quickly. Who will be responsible for comments and how quickly? The turnaround time needs to be short. Designated person for quick responses. Must have policy committee. This concept was Introduced at the 2018 AGM.

**Board Members Assignment:** Review IOIA Comment Policy PRIOR to NEXT MEETING so we can vote and adopt it into the Board Policies.

### Agenda Item #8 Prioritizing Top 3 Items from Board Retreat:

- Accreditation: Information Management System: Ryan as part of Website Project?
- Inspector Qualifications: Philippe; Ryan; Chuck (Inspector Qualifications Canada)
- Comment Policy Committee: Heather, Lois
- Membership: Chuck
- Fraud Prevention Technology: Matt, Margaret Anne
- Website Project: Ryan – in short term, focus should be the Information Management System.

**Method to track and set Board goals:** Heather: Goals spreadsheet – with milestones, steps, details, progress markers, who is responsibility; will provide prior to next meeting

**Fraud Prevention – Matt Report:** Matt has been attending OTA meetings to keep IOIA involved (Chip’s company is involved). Inspectors need to be at the table since we are the ones who review audit trails and perform in/out audits and would be best positioned to catch fraud. **Matt to submit report after meeting to BOD.**

**Agenda Item #9 Add-On Labels – IOIA’s Role:** Several philosophical and political views of the add-on labels were discussed. It was determined that the Board agree the best course of action is not to take a position. Margaret S. stated that based on the criticism against organics, that we should not take a position, but rather continue to promote organic.

**Agenda #10 Inspector Qualifications & Accreditation - Credentials:** OTA’s comments to the NOSB were that any organization providing credentials should be ISO accredited. Licensing will likely include government involvement. Ryan suggested that rather than creating a new entity for the Accreditation program or “building a fire wall” that the current IOIA (which is already set up for accreditation) remain and training be moved to a new entity. An IOIA accreditation program needs not to be NOP-centric. ISO has no governmental boundary; an Australian organization had an ISO-based standard for organic inspectors 10+ years ago, but based on IOIA’s conversations with them, it would be costly.

**Minutes, from page 22**

**Agenda Item #11) ED Report – Margaret S:** Discussed certifier complaint (informal): Need to revisit membership criteria and to request that the certifier describe what training the applicant had whenever it is not an IOIA training. Inspector membership requires “Formal Basic Inspector Training”. It is rare when an applicant for inspector membership has not had an IOIA basic training.

**Washington D.C. – Organic Week:** Discussed Margaret Anne not to go to D.C. Instead, Margaret S. will try to talk to Senator Daines in Montana. Submitted By Lois Christie, Secretary

**Bylaws, from page 19**

shall keep regular records and send copies of minutes to the Secretary.”

**Yes: 46, No: 16, Abstain: 9**

**Section 6.0 Corporate Records and Reports: Minutes, Books or Accounts** Clarifies that copies of all bylaws, as amended, are kept on file and available to members. **Yes: 70, No: 0**

**Section 6.2 Annual Statement of General Information** Deletes specific dates for reports to Secretary of State, as these dates vary by state or province and could change. Replaces specific dates with language with requirement that reports be filed annually. **Yes: 69, No: 1**

Some other IOIA procedures will change as a result of the review.

- BOD meetings are open to inspector members, so the BOD meeting agendas will be posted on our website “inspectors only” section with a link to listen in using the GoToMeeting platform. Through the use of technology, members can participate at no cost to IOIA.

- All ballots will offer the opportunity to abstain. This was implemented with the 2018 bylaws revision ballot, and some members exercised their right to abstain on specific items on the ballot.

**GMO NEWS**

**Indian Supreme Court says seeds, plants and animals are not patentable**

There has been a major victory for the planet, for biodiversity, for seeds, for farmers, for the rule of law in India’s Supreme Court with the court refusing to overrule a decision of the High Court that upholds article 3j of India’s Patent law , amended to implement the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights Agreement of the WTO.

*Article 3(j) excludes from patentability “plants and animals in whole or in any part thereof other than microorganisms but including seeds, varieties, and species, and essentially biological processes for production or propagation of plants and animals”.*

This article is an implementation of article 27.3 b of TRIPs. While Monsanto brought patents on life into a trade treaty, the Indian government and governments of Brazil and Argentina introduced exclusion to patentability, as well as a sui generis option for protection of plant varieties.

Monsanto has admitted on record that it tried to write the TRIPs agreement, for it’s own benefit. James Enyart of Monsanto is on record at a conference illustrating just how deeply the TRIPs agreement was supposed to be aligned to corporate interest and against the interests of farmers, nations and their citizens.

**Genetic Modification is a Method, Not a Product**

Monsanto is unscientifically trying to argue that a gene is merely a chemical, a plant is a machine into which the chemical can be mechanically introduced and removed at will. They are trying to make a fallacious argument that Bt cotton is not a plant and Bt genes modified by them is not a part of a plant or plant variety. Genes are part of living organisms. Subcellular organanelles are parts of living organisms. Monsanto is also trying to say their patent is for a “product”, not a “process” to try and escape from the restrictions of Art 3j.

However the Patent title itself clarifies that patent number 214436 is for “methods for transforming plants to express bacillus thurengensis delta endotoxis”. It is therefore false for Monsanto to argue that that patent is a product patent and not a process patent. Once the transgenic gene made with Bt toxins extracted from the organism Bacillus Thurengensis, with genes for antibiotic resistance markers and genes that act as viral promoters and introduced into cotton, it becomes Bt cotton a plant variety which is not patentable under 3j .

Besides falsely claiming patents on Bt Cotton Seeds first as patents on plants, then as patents on genes that are modified in a lab, now as patents on chemicals, Monsanto is distorting science at the most basic level and wanting to corrupt our national laws based on the highest scientific understanding of the biology of living organisms , of genes, of GMOs. By referring to Bt genes as a “Technology” and now a chemical product added to plants, Monsanto is hiding from the courts that a “gene” even when described in its chemical form as a nucleic acid sequence becomes pat of the plant and its future generations through the essentially biological process of plant reproduction and future breeding.

Bt genes are genes, and in Bt Cotton they become part of Plants, and a Plant Variety. Genetic modification is a method, not a product.

Article 3j of India’s Patent Law does not allow patents on seeds: Monsanto’s claims to patents on Bt Cotton, now as “product patent “ on genes as chemicals are false and illegal.

Monsanto cannot and does not have a patent on Bt Cotton seed, its patent was for a lab technique for adding a Bt gene (or two Bt genes in the case of Bollgard II) to an existing cotton plant.

It is now legally reaffirmed that Monsanto did not have a patent on Bt Cotton, that it has illegally collected royalties from farmers, trapping them in debt, driving thousands of cotton farmers to suicide.

*by Dr Vandana Shiva, 5/8/2018*



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**Keep IOIA Strong - Lend Your Strength And Get Involved!**

## 2018 Calendar

**September 10 - 14** IOIA/VOF Crop Inspection Trainings, South Burlington, Vermont

**September 12** Organic Trade Assn. Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.

**September 12 - 15** Natural Products Expo East, Baltimore, MD.

**September 15** IOIA/VOF Advanced Organic Inspector Training, Vermont

**September 17 - 21** IOIA/VOF Live-stock Inspection Training, South Burlington, Vermont

**September 20-22** IOIA/OEFFA Advanced Organic Inspector Training, Mt. Sterling, Ohio

**September 23 & 24** IOIA/KDA Field Training for Organic Inspectors - Crops Course, Frankfort, Kentucky

**September 27 & 28** IOIA Field Training as a structured apprenticeship Livestock Course, Frankfort, Kentucky

**September 25 - 28** IOIA/JOIA Organic Farm Inspection Training, Tokyo, Japan

**October 24 - 26** NOSB Fall Meeting, Intercontinental St. Paul Riverfront Hotel, St. Paul, MN

**October 29 - November 1** IOIA Crop Inspection training, Farmington, Minnesota

**November 1 - 3** Organic Connections Conference & Trade Show, Prairieland Park, Saskatoon, SK.

**November 5 - 9** IOIA Processing Inspection training, Farmington, MN

**February 28 - March 1, 2019** IOIA Advanced Training in Huatulco, Oaxaca, Mexico

**March 2** IOIA AGM - Huatulco, Mexico

**May 2019** IOIA Crop and Livestock training in Marin County, California

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*Please see pages 2 & 3 for the current list of IOIA on-site trainings and webinars*