

The

Inspectors' Report

VOL 13 No 1 LATE WINTER 2004

PUBLISHED BY THE INDEPENDENT ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

Notes from The Chair

By Brian Magaro

In the last *Notes from The Chair* I had wished everyone a winter of inspiration and personal enrichment. I truly hope that this has been the case with all of you. It has been for me and I am thankful for that.

The winter here in PA has been following the normal course of events for January and into February. Which on the days you have to cancel inspections because of bad weather you get the unscheduled time to catch-up. Like this morning to awake to another 4-6" of snow, turning to freezing rain, and while the truck is warming up a phone call from the producer to postpone the inspection till next week. So now you are getting *Notes from The Chair* as he looks out over new fallen snow, watching birds converging on the feeders and trying to digest all the great information that has been on the inspector forum lately.

The forum has certainly become a good communication source for inspectors. The questions, answers and overall information have been great. If you are not a member of the forum you may want to consider contacting Diane Cooner, forum moderator, at webgal@ioia.net for information and access.

The IOIA web site is also currently (constantly) being updated, upgraded and expanded. The inclusion of the inspector directory and the many ways for those seeking inspectors to locate them is very cool. The final touches are nearing completion. Another part of the web site that is in the very near "coming soon" stage is the "iTAP". This is the inspectors Technical Advisory Panel. The name may change. Here will be areas where inspectors can pose questions on a particular subject such as GMOs, boiler chemicals, water, etc and get a direct response from the "expert" moderator of the particular topic. Questions and answers will also be compiled for a future data base application. If you have expertise in a particular category and wish to become a moderator get in touch and let us know. IOIA is working hard to expand member services. If you have any questions or ideas please feel free to contact me at magarob@aol.com. (see Notes, p 4)

OTA Approves Organic Fiber Processing Standards; Joins with IOIA to Launch 1st Comprehensive Organic Fiber Processing Training

IOIA and the Organic Trade Association (OTA) will cosponsor the first Advanced Organic Inspector Training with a fiber processing focus (organic fiber is any fiber, such as cotton, wool, hemp, flax or silk, which is grown organically). Scheduled for April 16-17 at Texas Tech University's Int'l Textile Center in Lubbock, Texas, this training is open to experienced inspectors and other interested persons from the industry. Sandra Marquardt, OTA Fiber Council Coordinator, is assisting IOIA in development of the collaborative effort. The 2-day training includes presentations on fiber processing fundamentals, the new OTA organic fiber processing standards, and Organic Control Points for the fiber inspector. The training will also include field trips to organic fiber farms and processing and sales facilities. See the IOIA website for more information, applications, and agenda developments (details to be posted by late February).

The IOIA/OTA training will lead up to the public introduction of the organic fiber processing standards on May 4 at OTA's All Things Organic™ Conference and Trade Show in Chicago, IL (see www.atoexpo.com). There will be a special focus on organic fiber May 4 with a fashion show and three seminars focusing on producing organic products, marketing them, and the processing standards.

Organic fiber processing is a strong organic expansion area. Organic cotton has been certified for many years as a crop and the livestock for organic wool must be raised organically, but the organic fiber *processing* industry is much younger. OTA's "All Things Organic" conference and trade show in Austin, TX featured a *Wear Organic! Organic Fiber Fashion Show* in May 2003. Marquardt emceed the event and in "The Organic Report" July 2003 was quoted, "As organic food sales continue to soar, organic apparel is a natural extension for consumers who want to support sustainable environmental practices..." Cotton is the number 2 crop in the US for the most pesticides used. On the bright side, the U.S. is also #2 in production of organic cotton.

Taking a major step forward, the Organic Trade Association's (OTA's) Board of Directors adopted organic fiber processing standards in late January. 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 regulations. 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 new processing standards are available to OTA members and non-members through a licensing agreement. OTA members can receive (see Fiber, page 4)

What's Inside....

Annual Report.....p8
Mad Cows.....p16
Scholarship Winners..p10
Training News.....p14
Plus Guest Commentary,
GMO's, Calendar,

...and More!

AGM Update

2004 IOIA Annual General Meeting Saturday, March 13, 2004

10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Lunch from 12-1:30 p.m.

Election of Board Members: 2:00 p.m.

Hotel Villa Zurquí, Heredia, Costa Rica

Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

Keynote address: 7:30-8:30 p.m.
by Jim Riddle "From Local to Global
- Growing the Organic Vision"

Evening activities: 'Salsa' music,
dance, organic refreshments.

IOIA will pay all lunch and dinner costs for IOIA voting members on March 13. Members are asked to pay a \$10 AGM registration fee for logistical purposes to get accurate counts for meals and snacks. If you would like to attend but are unable to pay this \$10, please contact the IOIA office. **IF YOU WILL BE EATING MEALS WITH IOIA, PLEASE CONTACT IOIA AT LEAST 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO THE AGM.**

Keynote: **James A. (Jim) Riddle** will speak about "what is happening in my neck of the woods, expand on reflections about the USDA program, and share international observations". Over the past 24 years, Jim has been an organic farmer, gardener, inspector, educator, policy analyst, author, and consumer. Jim serves as vice-chair of the National Organic Standards Board, which advises the USDA on organic agriculture policies and regulations. He also serves on the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Organic Advisory Task Force, and was instrumental in the passage of Minnesota's landmark organic certification cost-share program. Jim holds degrees in biology and political science from Grinnell College, and works part time as an organic policy specialist for Rodale's website, newfarm.org. In 2003, Jim was appointed Endowed Chair of Agricultural Systems at the University of Minnesota. He was founding chair of IOIA and has helped train organic inspectors throughout the world.

Getting there: Hotel Villa Zurquí, Heredia, Costa Rica (near San Jose), + 506 268 8856 Directions: Carretera Braulio Carrillo, 150 m. Este de la Bomba-Gasolinera Zurquí. Email: hvzurqui@racsa.co.cr For transportation to and from Zurquí, taxi or shuttle service is available from San Jose Airport (advised to use only the official airport cabs: orange cabs called "Taxis Unidos"). Approximate cost for a solo ride is \$20 one-way. Cost for 2 or more is about \$10 each. Vans are available for 6-8 passengers, reducing the cost per person. Plan to have cash (US dollars or colones) for transportation to/from the airport. The lobby desk is open until 11 p.m. For late arrivals, a night person is on duty for assistance. If you would like to arrive early (before March 10) or stay later (later than the night of March 13), please make your reservations directly with the host facility. The cost for those extra nights is \$40 US per room, no tax; availability is limited. For more information about sightseeing options in the local area, please visit the IOIA website.

Currency: Colones are the standard currency in Costa Rica. Exchange rate is 422 colones per \$1 US (as of Feb.2) but this changes daily.

Agenda: The AGM discussion should be stimulating this year, based on current IOIA Forum topics. Some members are challenging IOIA to open its doors to a wider membership. Other members are challenging IOIA to take a stronger position in the industry to strengthen organic integrity. Discussion about how to fund the organization, decrease the size and/or number of basic trainings, increase advanced training opportunities, select future AGM locations, and increase IOIA's visibility at the national and international level will help set the tone and direction of IOIA's future. All members are invited to engage in discussion about the mission, vision, and direction of IOIA. We will also elect 3 Board members and 2 Alternate Board members and decide 2 potential Bylaws Amendments.

Voting: Please vote by mail if you do not plan to attend the AGM! Ballots were mailed to all paid up voting members on January 29. If you did not receive a ballot, please contact the IOIA office. IOIA needs to insure

that a quorum is present to transact business at the AGM. Returned mail ballots are likely to insure a quorum for issues on those ballots. However, a quorum is still needed to transact business other than those issues on the mail ballots. If you plan to attend, please help to insure that a quorum will be present by carrying the proxy of at least one other member who will not attend the Annual Meeting. Proxies cannot be used to vote on Board of Directors or Bylaws Amendments, since those issues are provided to all members in a mail ballot. No specific format is required for proxies. However, to be valid, the proxy must be written, state the member's name and the name of the person they designate to carry their proxy. **If you will not be attending the AGM, please send a proxy!**

And, in the spirit of the 2003 Vermont AGM, IOIA is taking nominations for the 2004

Inspector Asset of the Year.

Please contact the IOIA office with your nomination by **March 5.** Our 2003 winner was Emily Brown-Rosen of OMRI.



IOIA Board of Directors

Brian Magaro.....Chair
John Foster.....Vice Chair
Jack Reams.....Treasurer
Ann Baier.....Secretary
Dag Falck.....Member-At-Large
Luis Brenes.....Board Member
Garry Lean.....Board Member
Chris Kidwell.....Alternate
Doug Crabtree.....Alternate
Garth Kahl.....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, webgal@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 will co-sponsor Japanese language Basic Process Inspector Training **Feb 28-March 01** with the Japan Organic Inspectors Association (JOIA) to be held in Tokyo, JAPAN. The commuting course will use JAS as standard reference and be instructed in Japanese. JOIA will handle registration. For more information, contact JOIA at mutsumi.sakuyoshi@nifty.com or +81-422-56-6651 or +81-422-56-6651 (fax).

Naramata, BC, CANADA Certified Organic Association of British Columbia (COABC) and IOIA will co-sponsor Basic Farm Inspector Training (**February 24-27**) and Advanced Training (**March 1-2**). Trainings will be held in conjunction with the COABC conference held **February 28 and 29**, and training participants are encouraged to attend sessions at the conference. The Farm Inspector training will have a unique regional focus and use provincial COABC standards as primary reference while still covering the basic IOIA curriculum including organic farm inspection protocols, investigative skills, risk assessment, auditing farm yields, use of approved materials, report writing and on-farm processing. The Basic training will include a mock inspection to a local orchard, vineyard or greenhouse. Advanced Training will be responsive to needs of provincial inspectors and certifiers. Potential topics include inspector ISO compliance requirements, food safety, conducting label reviews, advanced auditing and understanding NOP requirements for Canadian exporters. Interested applicants please contact Kristen Kane at the COABC office (250) 260-4429 or office@certifiedorganic.bc.ca.

COSTA RICA IOIA will sponsor Advanced Organic Inspector Training on **March 11-12, 2004** in conjunction with the 2004 IOIA General Membership Meeting on March 13 at the Hotel Villas Zurqui near San Jose. Additional Spanish language training opportunities will be offered on the morning of March 14. Advanced training topics will include Organic Fiber Processing with Fred Ehlert of Minnesota and Food Processing inspection issues (sanitation, chlorine, boiler additives, food contact surfaces) with David Gould. Both Ehlert and Gould are organic inspectors. Ehlert is an experienced inspector and IOIA member with a strong interest in fiber. He recently attended a weeklong seminar in 'Fiber Fundamentals' at the College of Textiles in NC State University. In Costa Rica, he will discuss the current state of the organic fiber industry, touch on existing standards, explain basic fiber processing steps, and focus on issues for the inspector. He will speak on similar topics at the IOIA/OTA Organic Fiber Processing training in Texas. Two concurrent sessions will accommodate Spanish speakers with further classroom training in advanced coffee audit trail and English speakers with a tour of an organic coffee processing facility. Most training sessions will be in English with Spanish translation or bilingual speakers. For information, contact the IOIA office. Eco-LOGICA and IOIA will cosponsor Spanish language Basic Organic Farm Inspection Training on March 15-18 at the same location. For more information about that training, please contact Geovanny Delgado at Eco-LOGICA at Apartado 132 2020, San Jose, COSTA RICA; ph: +506-280-6592; fax: +506-224-6676; Email ecologic@mail.powernet.co.cr; or visit www.eco-logica.com.

Make plans now! Airfare is still reasonable (hovering around \$500 US roundtrip from most major US cities, \$600-750USD from Canada), training costs are lower to entice members to make the trip. This promises to be a memorable AGM.

Fayetteville, Arkansas IOIA and the National Center for Appropriate Technology, managers of the ATTRA project-the national sustainable agriculture information service, will sponsor Basic Farm and Livestock Inspector trainings on **April 1-7, 2004** at the Mount Sequoyah Conference Center, in Fayetteville, Arkansas. The Farm training is scheduled for April 1-4, followed by the Livestock training on April 5-7. Guest speakers include Ann Wells, DVM, of ATTRA on Livestock Health issues. ATTRA (Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas) is widely regarded as an excellent resource for organic producers in the US. Mount Sequoyah Conference Center is on 30 acres in the Ozark Mountains, on the highest point overlooking Fayetteville and Northwest Arkansas, minutes from downtown Fayetteville, 40 minutes from Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport, and an easy two-hour drive from Tulsa, OK or Springfield, MO. Fayetteville is known for its restored 19th century buildings downtown, its colorful entertainment (bistros, night clubs, and galleries plus The Walton Arts Center) on Dickson Street, and extraordinary city parks and recreation. Training Coordinators are Harriet Behar and Stanley Edwards. For information or application forms, contact the IOIA office or the IOIA website at www.ioia.net. Deadline to apply is February 27. For more information about the location, visit www.mountsequoyah.org, but please do not contact Mount Sequoyah directly for reservations.

Assiniboine Community College, Manitoba IOIA and Assiniboine Community College will cosponsor Basic Organic Livestock Inspector Training in late April. Interested applicants please contact Keith Proven at ACC. For more information, ph: (204) 725-8700 ext 6982; fax: 204-726-7012; Assiniboine Community College, 1430 Victoria Ave. East, Brandon, MB, CANADA R7A 2A9; or Email provenk@assiniboine.net.

Lubbock, Texas IOIA and the Organic Trade Association will cosponsor Advanced Organic Inspector Training (Fiber Processing focus), on **April 16-17**. This training, the first of its kind, is open both to experienced inspectors and interested persons from the organic industry and will include a tour of a fiber processing facility, field trips to see value-added cotton manufacturing, and an introduction to the new OTA Fiber Council standards.

For information or application forms, contact the IOIA office or the IOIA website at www.ioia.net. See lead story, page 1.

Notes, from page 1

As IOIA enters 2004 there are few areas about the organization that will not have major activity. These include the web site, membership services, training curriculum, and financial planning to name but a few. The IOIA support staff, the Board of Directors, IOIA committees and individual volunteers are committed to keeping IOIA a strong and respected industry resource. I wish to thank all of you who have volunteered time as individuals, committee members and Board members for your continued support and efforts given to IOIA. Where the biggest thanks needs to be directed is to the staff of IOIA and the executive director, Margaret. Without her dedication and that of the IOIA staff we would be in very big trouble. When you have a doubt about what you do, the association you are a member of, the consumer you ultimately are working for (to protect), take a moment to think about just how lucky you are to be who you are where you are doing what you do. Makes me feel good.

Well, back to reading email...Hope to see you at the AGM. 🍷

Third Time's the Charm?

by Margaret Scoles, ED

For the 3rd time in 2 years, IOIA redefined IOIA Inspector member status with Bylaws amendments. During the 2002 AGM, the Bylaws definition was tightened to include the requirement for formal inspector training. At the 2003 AGM, Inspector status was tightened much further to require a specified number of supervised inspections. The Membership Committee proposed a 3rd change later during 2003, softening the requirement for number of supervised inspections and providing an alternative for experienced inspectors without enough supervised inspections.

The results of the Bylaws Ballot are in. The new language removed all reference to Apprentice Inspectors and defined Inspector Members as follows:

2.1 Inspector Members: Membership is open to qualified and experienced inspectors in the field of production, processing, and/or trade. Criteria of acceptance are:

a. Training or experience in agriculture, processing and/or trade.

b. Experience in inspection of organic farming, food processing, and/or trade.

Minimum experience is documented in one of two manners:

1. Ten organic inspections performed, plus a letter from a certification agency attesting to completion of these inspections. **OR**

2. Five supervised inspections performed, plus a letter from a mentor inspector attesting to completion of these inspections.

The official results of the ballot, voted by mail (inspector and apprentice inspector members have voting rights), and counted by paid ballot counters on Jan. 6, 2004: For Amending the Bylaws: 70 Yes 5 No 1 Abstain

In addition, 11 "yes" votes were cast but could not be counted officially, due to loss of identity of the voting members or arrival after the official count was taken.

What does this mean for our members?

Several members who joined during 2003 were able to change from Supporting Individual members to Inspector Members. They'd joined with inspection experience but without enough supervised inspections to meet the Bylaws as amended at the 2003 AGM. Most are choosing the option of proof of inspection experience from certification agencies.

IOIA is more inviting to experienced inspectors. (At least one member had the experience of 100+ inspections but not enough supervised inspections to meet the bylaws). Some of the members who joined IOIA primarily to seek accreditation found themselves in the awkward position of meeting IOIA's Inspector Accreditation requirements but not Inspector Member status. 🍷

ED, from page 5

plan the budget for the next year, plan the Annual Meeting, and publish the annual Membership Directory. And that's all in addition to the everyday work like processing trainings, accreditations, and new members. This year was Phoebe's first to handle the Membership Directory on her own (we'd been contracting this job out for most recent years). This year we threw into the mix an extra mail ballot for the proposed bylaws change, a co-sponsorship for the Montana Organic

Conference, and the massive change to a 'real-time' Member database. We expected to be busy. But no one expected Phoebe's 11 year-old daughter, Tonya to be in serious auto accident in early December. A seriously fractured leg, two surgeries, and many stitches, took Phoebe out of the office for much of the month. She valiantly worked nights and weekends as much as possible, but things were tough at IOIA for a bit. In January, Phoebe resumed her regular schedule, Tonya went back to school on crutches, and we tackled the backlog.

One more surgery again this month and we are all nearly as good as new...but we have been running a bit late. We are doing our best.

See you at the AGM!

Fiber, from page 1

the license for free; non-members will be charged \$500. Under the agreement, companies will be licensed to use the standards in-house but prohibited from sharing them outside the company. Info on the standards is available on the OTA web site (www.ota.com). Or, contact Sandra Marquardt at smarquardt@ota.com.

OTA's Fiber Council (OFC) provides a forum for OTA members to address topics of interest to all types of businesses within the organic agricultural fiber industries, including cotton, hemp, wool, flax and others. Sectors represented include growers, brokers, designers, mills, manufacturers, and retailers. OFC develops and disseminates educational information about organic fibers to its members, to consumers via public relations and media outreach, and to other industry and trade groups via conference presentations and exhibitions. OFC also provides source and supply referrals all along the supply chain to improve the availability of organic fibers and develop new markets. OFC goals include:

- Educate consumers as well as the apparel and textile industry about organically grown agricultural fibers
- Unify the diverse sectors of the organic fiber industry to address industry-wide problems
- Promote increased sales and sustainability of the organic fiber industry
- Provide a strong and unified voice on legislative, regulatory and policy issues concerning organic fiber research and promotion

For more information including fiber facts visit the OTA website at www.ota.com A quick perusal of the impressive list of members of the OFC gives an idea of the breadth of this 'organic frontier' industry. 🍷

Notes from the ED

By Margaret Scoles

IOIA's New Database: The biggest news at IOIA is still in the works. Hopefully by the time you read this, you will be able to access the first-ever 'real-time' searchable IOIA member database from our website. Although the Annual Membership Directory will always be a 'snapshot' in time (accurate as possible for a day), the new database will allow immediate updating to allow new members immediate visibility and vastly improved accuracy and public access to IOIA members. You will be able to access your Training history including all grades and certificates earned and, eventually, will be able to print transcripts. For starters, we entered only the Trainings and whether you earned a Certificate. Data entry for training grades may take all year to complete. Some categories (accreditation status and training history) can only be changed by IOIA office staff. Other information, such as your academic background, address and Email info can be changed by you, the member. This multi-tasking database will generate mailing labels for newsletters, name badges for trainings, and do many other chores. We are finding this year's directory to be a tedious task, but the time savings for future years should be HUGE. The database will increase office efficiency without increasing support staff time, thus saving IOIA money. It will be on-line very soon, so please go to the website and check out your entry. The seed for this idea was planted first by **Drew Stuckey** and more recently by **Maarten Samsom**. Maarten requested money in the Membership Committee budget to create such a database. We all agreed that it would be great to have one, but it seemed out of reach and the database didn't make the budget. This year, thanks to a dedicated computer whiz who was willing to barter training fees for his services, we managed it for less than \$3000.

DSL at IOIA: The addition of a high speed internet connection was one of the best additions to the IOIA office during 2003. It is more efficient, convenient, and cheaper than a 2nd phone line.

IOIA Discount Subscriptions *The Organic Standard*, published by Grolink of Sweden, is an excellent, concise, cutting-edge, international organic publication. *The Non-GMO Source* (monthly newsletter): provides useful information and resources to help inspectors understand IP, non-GMO products from "seed to shelf", GMO contamination risks, non-GMO ingredient sources, and GM food issues and trends in food traceability. Subscribers through IOIA also receive the annual Non-GMO Sourcebook, the first directory of non-GMO and organic suppliers and service providers. Individual subscription rate to *The Non-GMO Source* is \$65 for a hard copy subscription without the IOIA discount.

*Email Organic Standard, forwarded from the IOIA office: \$5/year.

*Email The Non-GMO Source, direct from the publisher: \$25/year

*Hard Copy The Non-GMO Source, direct from the publisher: \$35/year

If you are interested in subscribing through the IOIA member discount to either publication, please contact the IOIA office immediately as we must notify the publishers during February. Samples of both newsletters were posted on the website a year ago for a free preview. To check them out there, go the IOIA homepage, Books & Goods section, and then click on "Non-GMO News" or "The Organic Standard" to view pdf versions of either publication.

Sorry, this offer is good **only** to Inspector Members, Apprentice Inspector Members, or Supporting Individuals who are truly individual members and not representatives of larger organizations.

Paypal: IOIA has made it easier for you to purchase IOIA resources and pay dues online. IOIA now has a PayPal Account, which allows you to make purchases with your credit card directly from the IOIA website. Notice of your purchases and payments come to IOIA by Email.

IFOAM STANDARDS: If you are interested in reviewing the first revision draft of the 2002 IFOAM Basic Standards, please contact the IOIA office. IOIA, as a member of IFOAM, has been invited to comment. The Draft can be forwarded to you electronically. A hard copy of the document will be included in the next issue of the IFOAM magazine, "Ecology and Farming" (June). Comments in electronic format are preferred. The 90 day comment period will end on August 15.

"All Things Organic" in Chicago, IL this year May 2-4: IOIA will staff a table again this year, as part of our promotional efforts. Previously held in Austin, this is the trade show's first year in Chicago. Info is available at www.atoexpo.com. If you are interested in volunteering or just plain inspector networking, please stop in at the IOIA exhibit.

IOIA collaborates on review of training materials: Funded by USDA Western Region SARE, a training later this month will serve technical service providers, accompanied by a manual titled "Organic Production: Principles, Practices, and Materials: A Compliance and Resource Guide for Western Region Agricultural Professionals".

Inspector Story: In a recent inspection, I asked the inspected party who was changing certification agencies if they had previous certification requirements. They said 'no' and I let it pass. But it turned out they did. What did I learn? I learned the importance of NOP 205.401(c), which says that the application must include the "The name(s) of any organic certifying agent(s) to which application has previously been made; the year(s) of application; the outcome of the application(s) submission, including when available, a copy of any notification of noncompliance or denial of certification issued to the applicant for certification; and a description of the actions taken by the applicant to correct the noncompliances noted..." Hint: Ask very pointed questions if you inspect someone who is switching certifiers. True, the applicant is in the wrong if not submitting a complete application, but it was me who went back for a 2nd inspection to make sure those previous non-compliances were all corrected. This NOP rule is a good one. It gives the inspector the right to insist on a complete application, even if the applicant has failed to submit it and even if the certification agency misses it.

Patience: Thank you all for it. December and January are historically 2 VERY busy months in the IOIA office. We collect most of the annual dues, gather Membership update info, complete the end-of-year financial reports, award the scholarships, (see ED, page 4)

OTA Down On EF/FF Seal

The National Organic Program has built a solid foundation upon which our industry can continue to grow. New markets and trading opportunities are opening up for the organic sector as consumers increasingly favor organic products. Unfortunately, the flip side of our collective success is the backlash from groups seeking to undermine the consumer confidence in organic.

You may be aware that the Center for Global Food Issues, a project of the Hudson Institute, is working with USDA to pilot an "Earth Friendly/Farm Friendly Seal of Approval" for dairy producers and processors. The "standards" behind the seal basically uphold the conventional farming and processing status quo. This new label is a blatant attempt to distract and confuse consumers, especially those who are our potential future customers - those interested in organic but not yet buyers.

All of us have spent years and countless resources to communicate that organic is an earth-friendly and farm-friendly production system. The creators of this new seal state: "This is the only science-based seal of approval which supports both farm economics and protects the environment without added costs to consumers." This is an outrageous effort to hijack the promise behind the USDA Organic seal and could have serious ramifications for all sectors of our industry. OTA is exploring all legal and regulatory actions available to stop this misleading label in its tracks.

OTA's Executive Director Katherine DiMatteo believes that in the coming year we will also see new attempts to weaken or co-opt organic standards by those who simply want to capitalize on the popularity of organic. In a recent meeting she had with Congressman Nathan Deal (who was the catalyst behind the effort to weaken organic feed requirements for livestock last year), he indicated that he would continue to pursue his agenda, and use his position to expose inconsistencies in the organic standards and the potential dangers of organic production. So while we won the battle of Section 771, we need to

remain vigilant and be prepared to stave off additional legislative attacks on the organic rule.

Source: OTA Annual Fund Drive Letter, Jan 2004

ATTRA Under the Ax

The U.S. President's 2004 budget proposes eliminating the highly-rated and effective Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas or ATTRA program. Currently funded at \$2.5 million, the program is the major source of sustainable and organic agriculture production and marketing information for farmers, extension agents, and other agricultural professionals. The proposed budget also would scale back funding for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program by 22 percent to \$13 million. The proposal would also reduce the research and extension program to help farmers transition to organic agriculture by 74 percent to just \$500,000.

Please visit the MSAWG website at www.msawg.org to find out what you can do about this, and to do everything you can to get involved in this year's presidential election so that we get someone in that office who is friendlier to farmers and to the environment.

Source: Midwest Sustainable Agriculture Working Group

Canadian Regs Discussion Open to Public

Agriculture & Agri-Foods Canada has scheduled the following public consultation meetings to gain consensus on an organic regulation: Tuesday, Feb. 17, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wandylyn Inn and Convention Centre, Amherst, Nova Scotia (Contact Shawn Ingraham: 902-426-3439 or IngrahamS@agr.gc.ca); Friday, Feb. 27, 4-9 p.m., Naramata Centre, Narimara, British Columbia (in conjunction with BC's Organic Future 2004 Conference). Register at www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca or contact Tracey Innes (604-666-9353 or innes@agr.gc.ca); Wednesday, Feb. 25, in Edmonton, Alberta: venue not yet confirmed.

USDA sessions on CSP

USDA will host 10 listening sessions on its proposed rule to implement the Conservation Security Program. The first sessions was held Jan. 13 in Tempe, Arizona, and Roanoke, Virginia, with

others to follow in Texas, Washington, Michigan, Florida, Iowa, Maine, Mississippi, and Wisconsin. The proposed rule, published in the Jan. 2 Federal Register, and detailed information on the listening sessions are available on the NRCS web site (www.nrcs.usda.gov).

California Now Has SOP Status

California received official notice on February 6th, that its application to serve as a State Organic Program was approved by USDA.

This means that California will now be allowed to provide support and enforcement services to both the organic consumers of the state and to the more than 3000 registered organic producers.

The California Organic Products Advisory Committee met on February 10, and formed a sub-committee to immediately address the enforcement protocols. Ray Green, program director, also has plans to provide trainings to certifiers and inspectors on investigative reporting skills, due process, and the appeals process. He said that more attention will be paid to auditing the certifiers at the site of inspection to be sure both that operators are in compliance and that certifiers are doing their jobs.

OTA Issues Fact Sheet on Organic Beef

In response to the discovery of Mad Cow disease in the U.S., OTA has issued a press release reassuring consumers that certified organic beef is fully traceable, has passed rigorous inspections, and has never been fed any animal by-products in any form. See: <http://www.ota.com/news/press/124.html>. In addition, OTA posted a fact sheet concerning the production of organic beef (see: <http://www.ota.com/organic/foodsafety/OrganicBeef.html>).

Nati'l Organic Roadshow in Oz

Watch out for the coming National Organic Roadshow across Australia between February and April. Dates for these events have been listed in the December edition of the Organic Business and are also on the BFA website. The workshops are open to all interested parties across Australia from all sectors and will cover market and technical issues, including specific presentations, networking within the organic industry, strategic direction setting within the industry and more. These workshops will likely be the main organic event for your region for 2004 so please tell your friends and come along and be involved. Contact Suzi Moore media@bfa.com.au.

Harvey Suit Update

The civil suit brought against USDA by Arthur Harvey, was denied by the district court, and is now headed for the First Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston. Because the district court's review was rather shallow, Harvey is optimistic about the appeal, at least on six of the nine counts.

EPA Proposes Compost Rule

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued a proposed rule for federal procurement of "recovered materials". The rule defines "compost" broadly and defines "organic fertilizer" inconsistently with National Organic Program rule requirements. For the proposed rule see: www.ota.com/m/committees/govaffairs/index.html.

OTA Calls Regs Burdensome

Proposed regulations that exempt 100% organic producers from 28 national marketing order programs are "overly burdensome" and would be difficult to comply with, according to a new detailed assessment by the OTA. In December, the OTA called the regulations "a disaster", and asked and received USDA commitment to extend the public comment period to Feb. 2.

The OTA said that requiring producers to petition for the exemption is unnecessary and that an affidavit from an accredited certifier should be enough. OTA was also critical of language that would not allow handlers who do not do processing to exempt a producer. "It should not matter whether a handler involved in promotion assessments is also a producer," the OTA said. "The point is not who collects the assessment, the point is that no assessments should be made on 100% organic producers, whether by the board or through a handler."

Handlers should not be required to be 100% organic and the USDA should clarify the definitions of producer and handler.

In related news, the USDA is expected to announce in February exemptions to federal milk marketing orders as well as 15 other national promotion and research programs.

Exempting dairy farmers from the milk marketing orders that require a mandatory fee to be paid has more financial implications than the other programs. The nation's two largest organic milk producers have argued that organic dairy operations should be exempt because they do not benefit from advertising paid from the funds collected.

Source: Organic Business News, January 2004

NOP Loopholes Allow Mad Cow into Organics

Even though the organic sector has taken numerous precautions which minimize the risks of organic cattle being infected with BSE, it would be prudent to take a hard look at the NOP regulation to determine if there are likely entry points whereby BSE could be detected in organic cattle, according to Jim Riddle, NOSB secretary.

In a recent post to the IOIA Forum, Jim made the following comments:

"A review of the regulation reveals the following potential pathways whereby BSE could be detected on organic farms:

1) 205.236(a)(2) allows conventional dairy cows to be converted to organic production, either using the "one year" or "80/20" method of conversion. This allowance means that animals with BSE could be found on organic dairy farms. Such animals could never be slaughtered for organic meat, so the risk that organic meat would be contaminated is negligible, but the risk of bad publicity is significant.

2) The "two track" interpretation of 205.236(a)(2)(iii) increases the likelihood that BSE infected animals will be detected on organic dairy farms. Under the "two track" interpretation, dairies that converted to organic using the "one year" method may continually introduce non-organic replacement animals, while dairies who used the "80/20" method must use replacement animals which have been fed and managed organically from the last third of gestation. Farms which are allowed to continually introduce non-organic animals into the herd pose a significantly higher risk for detection of BSE than farms which manage all animals organically from the last third of gestation.

3) 205.236(a)(3) allows breeder stock from nonorganic operations to be used to produce organic offspring, provided that the breeder stock are "brought onto the

[organic] facility no later than the last third of gestation." Breeder stock, sourced from nonorganic farms, could be infected with BSE. It is suspected, but not proven, that BSE can be passed from mother to offspring, which is why USDA ordered the destruction of 450 calves, since one of the calves was the offspring of a BSE-positive cow. While it may not be practical to prohibit nonorganic breeder stock from producing organic offspring, we need to move in that direction. One way would be to clarify that, once breeder stock have been converted to organic production, they cannot be managed nonorganically and continue to produce organic offspring.

4) While 205.237(b)(4) prohibits the feeding of manure (e.g. poultry litter which may contain spilled feed with slaughter by-products) and 205.237(b)(5) prohibits feeding "mammalian or poultry by-products to mammals or poultry", there is no linkage to 205.604, which is the list of nonsynthetic substances prohibited in organic livestock production. The only item listed is strychnine. I realize that one needs to read and comply with both the rule text and the National List, but, in reality, many producers, inspectors, and certifiers turn directly to the National List to see what can and cannot be used. To clarify the prohibition of feeding manure and slaughter by-products, the NOP should consider amending 205.604 to show specific "nonsynthetic" feed ingredients and additives items as prohibited, similar to the prohibition of arsenic in both 205.206(f) and 205.602(b) of the crop sections.

5) Is the prohibition in 205.237(b)(5) limited to "slaughter by-products"? Taken literally, someone could feed slaughter products to organic animals. There is no definition of "slaughter by-products". Possibly there should be a clarification stating that the prohibition of slaughter by-products includes all slaughter products, not just waste materials.

6) The NOSB has recommended that ingredients and processing aids allowed by 205.605 and 606 for human consumption also be allowed in livestock feeds. If enacted, this could allow gelatin and animal derived enzymes (and possibly other animal products) to be used in livestock feed. If this recommendation is enacted, the NOP should specifically exclude such animal derivatives by placing them on 205.604 as prohibited for use in organic livestock production.

7) Likewise, the NOSB has recommended that all feed additives allowed by AAFCO be allowed under 205.603(d). AAFCO allows certain animal slaughter by-products to be used as feed additives. (see BSE, page 22)

2003 IOIA Annual Report

Submitted by Brian Magaro, IOIA Chair

IOIA's mission is to address issues and concerns relevant to organic inspectors, to provide quality inspector training, and to promote consistency and integrity in the organic certification process.

Training: IOIA and our team of Training Coordinators led IOIA inspector trainings around the world including Japan, Ecuador, Taiwan, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Vermont, Missouri, Maine, Wyoming, and Oregon with 433 persons trained. This included 74 experienced inspectors taking the advanced trainings. State programs in the US cosponsored two basic trainings. The number of trainings was consistent with the past few years. However, trends were fewer Basic Farm attendees and more emphasis on Livestock, Process, and Advanced trainings. IOIA responded to requests from the prairie provinces in Canada by providing regional advanced inspector training, customized to meet the needs of our members there.

This year, IOIA offered *Sampling for Residue Analysis* as part of Advanced Inspector Trainings, first in February with Primuslabs and next in April in Saskatchewan, partnering with Envirotest Laboratories of Canada. IOIA also offered the 2nd IOIA/ISEES Organic Aquaculture Inspector Training.

IOIA is a collaborator in a *Wild Farm Alliance project*, funded by an Organic Farming Research Foundation grant. This grant includes funds for development of organic inspector trainings on assessing biodiversity and wild habitat on farms.

IOIA formed the *Curriculum and Training Program Subcommittee*, a subcommittee of the Training Committee, during 2003 to spearhead the work of upgrading IOIA's basic training curriculum for greater consistency. IOIA will expand this work to other types of trainings. The *Regional Training Oversight Committee* was re-named to the more appropriate *Training Oversight Committee*.

The Board modified IOIA's goals to allow for customized and in-house trainings for the industry. The TC Pool Agreement (IOIA's contract with our Training Coordinators) was finalized and implemented during 2003.

Promoting Consistency and Integrity: For the 2nd year in a row, IOIA allocated funds for Promotion of IOIA. IOIA attended two major organic events in the US and Canada with our booth. 2003 was our first year to *cosponsor* the *Guelph Organic Conference* in Ontario. We attended "*All Things Organic*", the Organic Trade Association show in Texas in May, which included OTA's Annual Meeting, OCC, and other industry meetings. We testified at the NOSB hearing there. IOIA was also represented at the *Natural Products Expo* in Washington DC in September. Three Board members and our Executive Director participated in *Congressional Day*, and met with NOP Program director Richard Mathews. We invited Mr. Mathews to work more closely with IOIA on inspector training and explained our inspector accreditation process.

IOIA supports the *Canadian General Standards Board* work through the Canadian Committee budget.

IOIA continues to collaborate with certification agencies to *improve member services*. Some examples: OCIA held an inspector workshop in conjunction with the Vermont training. IOIA worked with Oregon Tilth to sponsor inspector trainings in Oregon in conjunction with the Tilth Annual Meeting.

On a regional note, IOIA *cosponsored the first-ever organic conference in Montana*.

IOIA *continues to support IFOAM, OMRI, and Co-op America* through membership dues.

It is important to acknowledge our successes as an organization and as a community. During 2003, IOIA rallied as individual members and as an organization to *successfully fight the infamous "Fieldale" rider*, which threatened to undermine organic integrity of the NOP rules by allowing non-organic chicken feed.

Issues and Concerns Relevant to Organic Inspectors: During 2003, membership services were expanded to include discount (at cost) subscriptions to electronic newsletters, *The Organic Standard* and *The Non-GMO Source*.

We created the first real-time electronic IOIA *membership database*, including a searchable feature to make our membership information readily available on-line, and continually upgrade the IOIA website. This year, a 'members only' section was added.

IOIA responded to an inspector request for *assistance in late payment* from a certification agency.

IOIA provides inspector 'transcripts' of all IOIA trainings for a nominal fee.

IOIA continually expands resource books available for purchase through IOIA and makes OMRI lists available to inspectors for a nominal fee.

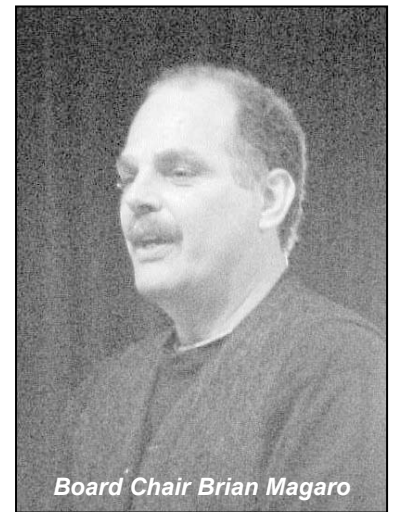
Finances: Financial health of our organization continues to be strong. The Finance Committee is developing IOIA's first *Business Plan*. Our budget exceeded \$200,000 for the first time in 2003, and income exceeded expectations by nearly \$20,000. However, the bottom line at the end of the year ended up about -\$5000, as income increases failed to offset additional expenses. Factors contributing to the negative bottom line for 2003 were low enrollment in early 2003 trainings and cancellation of 2 scheduled trainings in the northeast US, twice postponed training for a group from China, and many members delayed paying dues until 2004. The increase in income for regional trainings did not offset the cost of our new Regional Training Manager. Also, some 2003 projects had been unbudgeted or under-budgeted. These included a full Board retreat in October, bringing our new Regional Training Manager fully on line, and completion of the new database. IOIA switched all accounting to a CPA firm in 2003; this cost was more than budgeted. We believe that these expenditures will improve membership service and stability of the organization, reduce staff time and expense in the future, and allow us to expand our role in the industry and the services we offer both to our members and for sale.

2003 saw IOIA's *first membership dues increase since 1997*. The Board went to the membership with the results of an analysis of membership costs relative to dues and suggested a variety of options to pay the approximate cost of \$177 per inspector member. Inspector members were asked to pay individually for hard copy newsletters and membership directories and to contribute an assessment of \$2 per inspection and/or donate. Members responded with 24 paying the \$2 assessment, 34 paying for the membership directory, and 40 paying for the newsletter. Dues may increase again for 2005, in an attempt to more closely correlate the cost of membership to the dues that members pay, but this will only happen with further membership discussion. IOIA's membership as we

begin 2004 is lower than a year ago, for the 2nd consecutive year. It is too early to tell if this is a clear trend. 2003 was particularly unique. IOIA lost about the same percentage of members that we typically do. The dues increase was not cited as the reason for dropping membership among those who were contacted. Lower IOIA membership seems to be due primarily to less increase in membership during 2003. Historically, IOIA's largest increase in new members comes from Basic Farm inspector trainees and those trainings usually are the highest enrollment. In 2003, we sponsored two farm trainings with state programs (Missouri and Wyoming). The member retention rate for state trainings is lower than for IOIA-managed trainings with more independent inspectors. We had significantly lower enrollment in both IOIA managed farm trainings. Advanced, Livestock, and Process training attendees tend to be IOIA members, so a much lower new-member enrollment is associated with them. Also, bylaws changes during 2003 probably deterred some potential members from joining by making it more difficult to achieve Inspector status. At the AGM, Inspector status was tightened to require a specified number of supervised inspections. The Membership Committee proposed a 2nd change later during 2003 that softened the requirement for number of supervised inspections and provided an alternative for experienced inspectors.

Donations increased significantly in 2003, partly due to a fundraising project managed by Diane Cooner.

Using IOIA's new PayPal account, services and products can be *purchased directly from our website*. Jack Ream, Treasurer, and Margaret Scoles will present a detailed budget for 2004 at our AGM.



Board Chair Brian Magaro

Staff Margaret Scoles continues to serve full-time as Executive Director and Training Manager, with Phoebe Amsden as Office Assistant. Phoebe's hours increased during 2003 and will increase again in 2004. According to Margaret, the addition of a DSL (high speed) connection in the office to free up the overtaxed phone, fax, and Internet line was worth as much another part time assistant. A high point of her year was winning her 5th Outrageous Statement Award to maintain her lead as OSA record holder.

IOIA added *Regional Training Manager* Lisa Pierce during 2003 to manage IOIA trainings other than those directly managed out of the IOIA office. About 1/4 of IOIA's trainings are managed out of the IOIA office. The others rely on logistical support of cosponsors. Lisa traveled to Montana in February 2003 for in-house training and took on her position fully in June. IOIA recognizes and appreciates that Lisa's hours have **far exceeded the expected time** for her position.

Diane Cooner continues to do a super job as *Newsletter Editor* and *Website Manager*. Increasingly the website is IOIA's 'face' to the public. IOIA mails out fewer and fewer information packets, as inquiries are directed to the website and applications, forms, and info are available for direct download. Diane also moderates *The IOIA Forum* (inspector list serve). Diane continues her work to develop the technical advisory feature for the "Inspectors only" section of the website. She gave a presentation on this at the 2003 AGM.

Committees The **Membership** Committee, under new leadership with Chris Kidwell as Chair, proposed a new definition of Inspector Membership status. This proposed *bylaws amendment* passed at the end of the year, redefining inspector membership status for the 2nd time in 2003. Outgoing chair, Maarten Samson, is owed a **big thank you** for help with the arrangements for our annual meeting in Vermont. His work as **Nominations** Committee Chair is also acknowledged. The Membership Committee chair also chairs the Nominations Committee. The ballot for 2003 was charged with electing 5 Board members and the ballot was described by many members as 'the toughest election ever' because so many qualified candidates were listed.

The **Scholarship** Committee this year reviewed 7 applicants for our inspector scholarship and 2 applications for the Organic Community Initiative Scholarship. Congratulations to this year's Andrew Rutherford Scholarship winner, **Wendy Ziehl** of Saskatchewan, and this year's OCIS Scholarship, **Sandeep Bhargava** of India. **Elaine Ferry** attended the Vermont Process training on her scholarship during 2003. **Diana Alejo** of Argentina, the winner of the first OCIS scholarship, was unable to use her scholarship during the year due to travel costs but was given a 'rain check'. IOIA extends a special '**thank you**' to **Rochelle Eisen** for chairing the Scholarship Committee for at least 5 years. During 2003, the Scholarship Committee completed a massive overhaul of application and evaluation forms for this committee. Nancy Ludwig, winner of the scholarship for 2001, is the new committee Chair.

The **Ethics** Committee, chaired by Joyce Ford, had a quiet year with no formal inspector complaints.

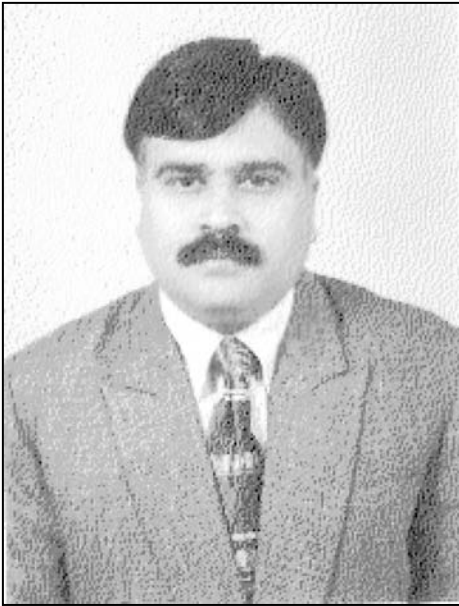
The **Accreditation Committee**, with new Chair Jake Lewin, oversees the IOIA inspector accreditation program. The Accreditation Review Panel (ARP) reviewed 10 applications for crops, livestock and/or processing accreditation. Twenty-four IOIA members are accredited, which reflects the 2nd year's decline in the number. Changes included a new ARP Chair, Mike Wise. IOIA thanks **Chip Kraynyk**, outgoing Chair and a member of this committee from its beginning; **Linda Kaner**, outgoing Chair of the ARP serving since 1999 and a member since its beginning; and **John Foster**, Interim Chair, who was charged with finding a new chair and assisting the ARP. The **Latin American** Committee, chaired by Lidia Gaivironsky of Argentina, supported Latin America's hosting of the 2004 AGM in Costa Rica. This is our first AGM in Latin America since 1998.

The **Bylaws** Committee, chaired by Arthur Harvey, proposed a total of 9 Bylaws Amendments in 2003; all were adopted by the members. An additional Bylaws Change, proposed by petition, revised Inspector Members status and deleted the Apprentice Inspector Member category. It was also approved.

The **Communications** Committee title was expanded to the Communications and Marketing Committee, under new Chair Bob Howe. IOIA appreciates all volunteers. Poster sized committee reports were displayed for the first time at the 2003 AGM (a practice we agree is worth repeating every year). This list of committee activities is far from comprehensive. (see Annual, page 22)

2004 IOIA Scholarships Awarded

Wendy Ziehl is the winner of this year's Rutherford Scholarship. Wendy was raised on a mixed farm in southern Saskatchewan. She attended the University of Saskatchewan, receiving two degrees: a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with Honours, and a Master of Science. Wendy has extensive experience managing research projects related to grain processing. Her experience also includes implementing quality assurance programs in the food industry. After a number of years working for University of Saskatchewan and a private grain processing company, Wendy recently returned to rural Saskatchewan. She and her partner are in the early stages of becoming organic grain farmers. Wendy plans to attend IOIA organic inspector training in Arkansas this April and establish a career in rural Saskatchewan as an organic inspector.



The winner of the 2nd IOIA Organic Community Initiative Scholarship is **Sandeep Bhargava**, of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India. Sandeep has more than 12 years experience in the food processing/organic agriculture sector.

He is presently working as an independent organic & food safety certification consultant, advisor and internal auditor for the Morarka Foundation, a non-profit in Jaipur. He also handles turnkey projects for the foundation, promoting organic agriculture with small and marginal farmers (approximately 10,000) and helping them in organic certification.

Sandeep has a Post graduate associate degree in fruits and vegetable technology (Equivalent to M.Sc food technology); Postgraduate diploma in Management; Professionals software course; HACCP trained by SGS & CIEH; Registered Food safety Trainer by National Environmental Health Association, USA; and is a Registered Test Administrator for the National Registry of Food Safety Professionals., USA.

He attended Maharana Pratap University for Agriculture and Technology, has a Post Graduate Diploma In Organic Agriculture Management, and is Visiting faculty for Organic & food safety certification and Quality there.

Sandeep is making plans to attend inspector training in the US this year and is hoping to make arrangements to complete an apprenticeship while in the US. If you are interested in assisting or working with Sandeep, please read the message below and contact him at: sbhargava4@hotmail.com

"As I have received the IOIA scholarship for the year 2004 and wish to become an Organic Inspector, I wish to do two audits as Apprentice, either with the organic inspectors or a certification agency. Immediately after training, I am willing to do the apprenticeship. I will be highly Obligated If you kindly provide me an opportunity to work as apprentice in your Organization or Provide me a short term job. This training will directly benefit the small and marginal farmers in India. I am willing to attend the training preferably in summer or in April. I can change my programme as per the requirement of Mentor."

Elaine Ferry Thanks IOIA

I want to take a minute of your time to express my gratitude for receiving the Rutherford Scholarship in 2003. I am indebted to the selection committee and the only way I can express my appreciation to the membership is to recount the experience and let you know what it has meant to me.

First, getting there. In the days prior to the conference, my part of West Virginia received a foot of snow, an ice storm and sixteen inches of snow. We had no power for 8 days. When I called the roads department the day before my flight, they stated it would be another week before they could get to us due to the downed trees everywhere. It took a community effort to get me to Vermont. My neighbor (a Paul Bunyan clone) walked the two miles from his place cutting out the downed trees. Halfway, my other neighbor "Shakey" joined him. Shakey is so named because of his Parkinson's. Together they cleared to my house, picked me up and we worked our way to the blacktop, three and a half miles from my house. Then my problem was snow height. Although my car is four wheel drive, it's a low riding sport sedan and I couldn't move because I was snowplowing. As we worked our way to the hard road, about 2 pm, we gained two more men to help move the logs. One of these I barely knew, but he got his two wheel tractor out and made his way up the hill to my place, installed a blade borrowed from the other guy and he and Paul Bunyan worked till dark clearing my 120 foot driveway (a euphemism). I drove my car to a neighbor's at the bottom of the hill and walked back, ecstatic that I would actually make the conference. A little sore though, some of those trees were 30 inches in diameter and these guys



cut them in 10-foot lengths to “save the boards”. Next day, I could not put on my socks. Shakey came and got my bags and me and drove me to my car. I drove my stick shift the 300 miles to the airport in tears, but I made it and it was well worth it. I took the Processing class with Luis and Stanley, instructors extraordinaire. The class was astounding, very thorough, with exceptional extra speakers brought in. The section on pest control was an eye opener and has been extremely useful on all my inspections, not just processing. Although I was already inspecting on-farm processors, this class was the determining factor in encouraging me to expand to processing facilities. Between processing inspections and a couple of consults I have done, it increased my income by 25%. This hasn't made me rich, but it certainly has eased the crunch, and I feel it has made me a much more aware inspector. Thank you for the opportunity!

Elaine Ferry was our 2003 Rutherford Scholarship Winner.

IOIA Scholarships Available for Organic Inspector Training

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

IOIA Accreditation News

New in 2003:

Brian Magaro, Livestock, Processing

Renewals:

Lizabet Dwyor: Crops, Livestock, Processing

Stanley Edwards: Crops, Livestock, Processing

Fred Ehler: Crops, Processing

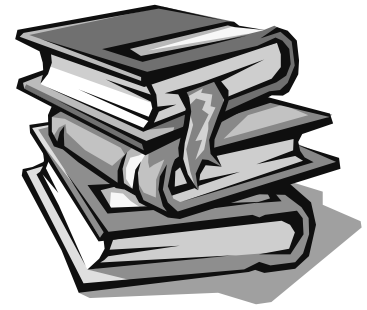
John Foster: Crops, Processing

Jim Fullmer: Crops

Janine Gibson: Crops, Livestock, Processing

Brian Magaro: Crops

Margaret Scoles: Crops, Livestock, Processing



IOIA offers Accreditation in 3 categories as a membership service available to IOIA Inspector Members with at least 2 years of inspection experience in the category. Contact the IOIA office for application forms. The IOIA Accreditation Program is also available on the website. **Next deadline: March 1**

IOIA says 'Thank you' to **Linda Kaner** for serving as Chair of the Accreditation Review Panel for 5 years! IOIA says 'Welcome' and 'Thank you' to our new ARP Chair, **Mike Wise!** The transition to new ARP Chair and Accreditation Committee Chair has been made, quite smoothly and harmoniously. We've revised and made the scoring forms more electronic so that the ARP can operate almost 100% by Email.

Current ARP members are:

Inspector Members: Mike Wise, Stephen Grealy, and Linda Kaner

Certifier Representative: John McKeon, CCOF

Consumer Representative: Ami Greenberg, Washington

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 ioia@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.

Regional Training News

By Lisa Pierce

As the Regional Training Manager I am thankful and appreciative of the opportunities I have had this year to meet with many of you – Brian, Ann, Gary, Jack, Dag, John, and Luis of IOIA Board, Margaret and Phoebe, training coordinators, volunteers, members and members in waiting. I am struck with the

diversity of our group and the overriding sense of being ‘connected’ – of serving this larger entity called IOIA. It is an exciting time of many challenges and decisions to be made together. And part of what is so exciting is that I keep hearing very similar ideas expressed again and again from many different people. Somehow there is this communal sense of change and direction. That is the spirit that keeps me thinking and going. The expression of that spirit, however, is a little more mundane – a little more administrative.

Currently there is a multitude of administrative changes in process and in search of time and funding. These include procedures to be included in revised Training Coordinator and Co-sponsor manuals, revised training checklists and Training Coordinator directory.

IOIA regional inspector trainings completed since last issue include Farm and Process trainings in Gainesville, Florida cosponsored with QCS, and Basic Farm training in Japan cosponsored with JOIA. Upcoming regional trainings include Process training in Japan (Japanese language) also with JOIA, Basic Farm training in Costa Rica (Spanish language) cosponsored with Eco-LOGICA, Advanced and Basic Farm trainings in British Columbia cosponsored with COABC, and Livestock training (distance curriculum) in Manitoba cosponsored with Assiniboine Community College. ♪

Highlights from BoD Executive Committee Conference Call, December 17, 2003

(Note: Actual minutes will be finalized and approved on Feb. 19 and posted on the IOIA website.)

Present: Executive Committee members Ann Baier, Dag Falck, John Foster, Brian Magaro, Jack Reams.

IOIA Staff: Margaret Scoles.

Brian called the meeting to order at 8:05 pm EST.

Secretary's Report - Approval of Minutes from Oct. 18-20, 2003

Treasurer's Report - Jack and Margaret commented on the financial reports and the proposed 2004 budget sent out ahead of this Board meeting.

Draft Budget for 2004 - Discussion: The Board would like support of the Membership for their draft budget, and proposes to present different scenarios for balancing the budget at the AGM. We are interested in engaging the membership in discussion in order to gain better understanding of their priorities. Jack and Margaret will be prepared to present the proposed deficit budget at the AGM. They will also prepare for discussion three fleshed out alternative scenarios for a balanced budget, including: a) Increased membership dues; b) Increased training income; c) Reduced expenses.

Adjustment to proposed budget: Staff Raises

Discussion: The Board discussed an incremental raise each year for the Executive Director. An incremental raise is also planned for Phoebe, and is already reflected in the draft budget. Motion: The salary of the Executive Director shall be increased by \$1200 for the year 2004. Endorse: All

Committees: No committee reports available for this meeting. Committee Reports are being published in the December newsletter.

Scholarship Committee Chair Discussion: The Board thanked Rochelle Eisen for her long dedicated service and a job well done as chair of the scholarship committee. Nancy Ludwig has been recommended to be the new chair. It was noted that three of the four members are past scholarship winners. Motion: Appoint Nancy Ludwig as Chair of the Scholarship Committee. Endorse: All

Canadian Committee Discussion: Dag is the Liaison to this committee. The current co-chairs, Rochelle Eisen and Jim Hudson, are resigning. The Board asked Dag whether he would be willing to serve as interim chair. John encouraged this scenario based on his recent experience of stepping in as interim chair of the Accreditation Committee. He reflected on how useful it was for him to have even interim experience in order to better understand the committee, and also because he was motivated to see things move forward and identify someone (other than a Board member) that would actively fulfill the role of chair so that the committee will function well. Dag agreed to serve as interim chair of the Canadian Committee. Dag will contact the outgoing committee chairs for the Canadian Committee and, with the Board's support, offer to serve as the interim chair of this committee.

Training Committee Janine Gibson has notified the committee that she will be resigning from her position as chair of the Training Committee. It is not yet clear who will be the replacement.

2003 Bylaws Amendment Ballot: Discussion: In order to have a quorum, 68 people must vote and the deadline for receiving ballots is December 20, 2003.

2004 AGM

AGM dates are as follows:

March 11-12: Advanced Training

March 13: AGM

March 14: All day Board of Director's Meeting.

a. Ballot and Nominations Committees Discussion: As required by IOIA Bylaws, the nominations committee needs to provide a list of candidates for every vacancy on the Board at least 60 days before the election per Article 5 (3) (b) of the Bylaws. (This date is January 11, 2004 in anticipation of the March 13 AGM). The complete list of candidates will be posted on website and sent out by email, including short biographies of the candidates, and then sent out with by mail with the proposed bylaws amendment that must be sent out with the mailing at least 45 days before the AGM. Chris Kidwell has sent out an email to the committee, requesting that we recommend candidates. We would like nominees to be aware that if they are elected as a full Board member (not an Alternate), half their travel expenses to the AGM will be paid by IOIA. They will be expected to participate in the all-day Board meeting that will be held at the location of the AGM on March 14, 2004. A Ballot Committee of three members will be appointed from those attending the AGM in Costa Rica.

b. Cost to Members for the Annual Meeting The Board approved a nominal registration fee for members attending the AGM. The main purpose of this is to create an accurate list of attenders who will be eating meals. IOIA will pay for lunch and dinner for all members attending (a cost of approximately \$25 per person).

c. BOD meeting; Confirm attendance/participants/dates The EC agreed to support Diane Cooner's attendance and participation in the AGM in the amount of up to \$700. Her participation at the meeting may include such roles as newsletter reporter, photographer, presenter (website orientation refresher, report on the Fundraising Committee, etc.) and Ballot Committee.

Set date of next BOD Meeting (set after the call for Feb. 19, 8 PM EST)

Brian **adjourned** the meeting at 10:56 PM EST.

Future agenda topics: Accreditation, RTOC, Certifier's Advisory Council, Training Cancellation Policy, Procedures (Personnel, Accreditation) and Policy Manuals. 🍷