

Committee Reports

Accreditation: Chair Jake Lewin, jake@sasquatch.com 831-469-3964, Liaison John Foster 503-474-2824, john@onlinemac.com Members: Linda Kaner, John Foster, Alex Hanley, Arthur Harvey, Chip Kraynyk, Margaret Scoles. The Accreditation Review Panel (ARP) has met and cleared the accreditation work backlog. With this out of the way, the accreditation committee and the ARP can begin working with the board to improve both the process and value of the accreditation program. Contact Jake with your input.

Business Plan: Ad Hoc, Chair: Jack Reams, marlene_reams@telus.net 604-858-9815. Liaison Brian Magaro, 717-732-7940, magarob@aol.com

A business plan has been developed as an internal document for presentation to the annual meeting. It contains proposals to enhance the marketing of IOIA and its potential to new and old members alike. The plan also includes working with the Communications & Marketing Committee to enhance IOIA's role in becoming an expanded educational facilitator to meet the needs of varied, distinct audiences in the organic industry.

Bylaws: Chair, Arthur Harvey, 207-388-2860, arthurharvey@yahoo.com Liaison Garry Lean, 705-887-5230 garrylean@sympatico.ca Only one formal proposal has come before the bylaws committee during the past year: We approved the amendment proposed by the Membership Committee that was recently voted on and passed by the membership (see page 4).

Canadian Committee: Interim Chair Dag Falck, dfalck@junction.net, 250-379-2614. Dag has agreed to serve as Interim Chair for this committee until a new Chair is found. **Canadian Inspectors, if any of you would like the opportunity to aid communication between Canadian inspector members, and to help represent IOIA in the Canadian Organic sector as Chair of the IOIA Canadian Committee, please contact Dag.** At meetings held during the Guelph Conference, Janine Gibson represented the CC at a sector Strategy Meeting Jan 25th and supported the development of a Canadian Organic Coalition which could have a subcommittee overseeing the Organic Regulation and Standard Maintenance. She also attended a further Strategy discussion the afternoon of the 25th in which she supported proposed coalition members lobbying the Federal

Government to ensure the new Agricultural Policy Framework has funding earmarked for regional organic initiatives that meet the APF's environmental targets. To this end the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada has new resources on approaches to federal lobbying to ensure the APF does not ignore how the organic sector and our practices meet many of the APF goals for environmental sustainability. Janine encourages Canadian members to visit the OACC website and review the resource documents available there that complement our Canadian National Organic Strategic Plan and how we as inspectors and educators can help achieve its conversion to organic targets.

Communications & Marketing: Chair Bob Howe, earthorganic@aol.com 845-657-9592. Liaison Brian Magaro (see Business Plan). This committee has a revamped name. Needs members with time to work on committee issues.

Compensation/Working Conditions: Chair: Eric Feutz, 573-256-7643, brandt_01@email.msn.com Liaison Doug Crabtree dcrabtree@state.mt.us 406-444-9421 No report submitted.

Editorial Review: Chair Joe Montecalvo, montecalvo@aol.com 805-772-3574, Liaison Dag Falck (see Canadian Committee). No report submitted.

Ethics: Chair Joyce Ford, jford@hbc.com Liaison: Brian Magaro (see Business Plan). Chair Joyce reports no changes and no complaints.

Finance: Chair/Liaison: Jack Reams, see Business Plan. Business Plan Committee to be rolled into the Finance Committee. No report submitted.

Fundraising: Chair Diane Cooner, 707-869-3017, amani@sonic.net Liaison Jack Reams, see Business Plan. Diane continues to explore member-driven ways to improve assn. income. Will be actively seeking potential funders for various IOIA programs.

Latin American: Chair Lidia Gaivironsky, 54114 503-3106, gaivi@sion.com Liaison Luis Brenes, lbrenes@racsa.co.cr +506-226-1681. Lidia continues to answer messages from Latinamerican people, to translate press releases, to send resources for the website. Support requested in the 2004 budget to assist participation of Latin American members in IOIA AGM and Advanced training.

Membership: Chair Chris Kidwell 530-628-4560, ckidwell@tcoek12.org, Liaison John Foster (see Accreditation). The Nominations Committee, which is a subcommittee of the Membership Committee, has assembled a slate of candidates for the board of directors and the alternate board member positions open for the 2004 election. There are three BOD seats and two alternate seats up for election. An effort is made to

have two candidates for each board and alternate seat. Election information was mailed to all members in late January.

Scholarship: Chair Rochelle Eisen, 250-494-7980, rare@telus.net Liaison Ann Baier, see TOC. Thanks to Rochelle Eisen for many many years of service leading this committee. The reins have been successfully handed over to Nancy Ludwig, who will now chair this committee. Scholarships were recently awarded to two individuals, see article on page 10.

Training: Chair Janine Gibson, 204-434-6018, Janine@mb.sympatico.ca Liaison Ann Baier, see TOC. The Curriculum and Program Sub Committee (CAPS) of the Training Committee met in Oregon for three days of intensive work along with a follow up conference call in February. Active in Oregon were Lisa Piece, John Foster, Harriet Behar, Margaret Scoles, Ann Baier, John Burns and Janine Gibson. Stan Edwards sent his regrets and Joe Montecalvo was welcomed as a guest.

The workshop was an opportunity for CAPS committee members to meet face to face and 1) formulate a framework for designing, writing, and editing curriculum and 2) establish working groups. Seven members attended Day One: several programmatic issues were discussed and 'learner centered' approach to curriculum design was reviewed. Days 2 and 3 consisted of expanding the vision of IOIA training programs and further exploration of criteria for assessing course material to be used in IOIA copyrighted courses. Working as a group, four members of CAPS committee analyzed the initial IOIA Crop Inspection presentations developed by John Burns, as well as discussion of the benefits of Harriet's much more liberal use of pictures and reduced Power Point slides.

The minutes included a skeletal outline of the topics discussed during the workshop. Following the minutes is 'Action-Reflection-Action: Framework for Designing, Writing, and Editing IOIA Curriculum' based on compilation of notes taken by Ann Baier, Margaret Scoles, and Lisa Pierce.

The CAPS Sub-Committee has invited another member of the General Training Committee to participate if there is interest, though the smaller group is felt to be more workable. Janine has also called for a new Training Committee Chair and invites her replacement to step up to the plate in facilitating communication on training issues. If you are interested please contact Ann Baier at farmorganic@aol.com 831-426-2052.

Training Oversight Committee: Chair Harriet Behar, harrieta@mwt.net Liaison Ann Baier, ahbaier@aol.com 831-426-2052. Ongoing, approving trainings and TC's. The RTOC has dropped the 'R' in their name and is now simply the TOC. They continue to be busy reviewing regional training proposals, making suggestions and approving trainings as put forth by Lisa after TOC input. Training Coordinators for these trainings have also been discussed and approved. All of their work is done via email. See listing of upcoming IOIA regional trainings on page 3. ☛

Florida Training Report

By Rick Martinez & Marty Mesh

An IOIA Processor Inspector Training was held in Gainesville FL. January 15th thru 18th cosponsored by Florida Organic Growers (FOG) / Quality Certification Services (QCS). There were a total of 18 participants, 6 of which were from Canada who endured the bone chilling 60 F – 70 F degree weather. Trainers for the event were Rick Martinez, IOIA trainer, and Marty Mesh, executive director of QCS. Presentations were also given by QCS staffers Angela Caudle and Laura Kennedy.

The mock inspection was made at Golden Flake Snack Foods potato chip line. It provided a quite interesting opportunity for the participants see how potato chips are made as well as the challenges related to organic processing of this quite addictive product. Bet you can't eat just one. Our thanks go out to the staff at Golden Flakes for subjecting themselves to this torture for the sake of higher education.

Our thanks also go out to the staff of QCS for all of their support before, during and after the training. And last but not least we must thank the attendees for enduring the many hours of boring classroom sessions and the dull sense of humor of the trainers, a true test of their metal.

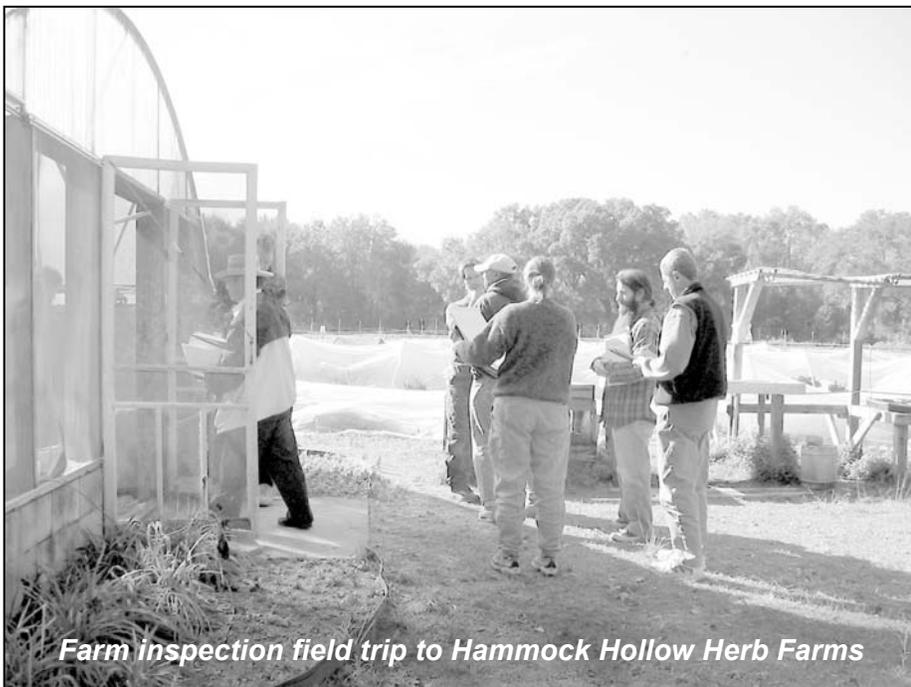
Most outrageous statement award honors go to Marty Mesh for the following: When some asked, after 30 minutes, how much was left of the ethics presentation, Marty replied,

“There can't be much left, there's not that much ethical stuff to talk about”. *(that's Florida for you!)*

A close second place finish was Rick with the following: “Do you understand the phrase ‘cover your ass?’” *(see? Proves our point)*

The message to the students from the two training coordinators? Don't worry about being ethical and cover your ass!! First place award was a brand new IOIA baseball cap. Second place award was diddlysquat. Congratulations Marty and Rick.

A Great Wagging of Fingers Is hereby awarded to John Foster and John O'Malley Burns for not getting articles to me about the Oregon training for a second issue in a row! You are both on notice that you each owe me an article about the Farm and Process training in Wilsonville. This public reprimand was approved by The Boss. *(Dear Readers, please expect to see articles on these two trainings in our Spring issue! – Ed)*



Farm inspection field trip to Hammock Hollow Herb Farms

*Checkin' out the chad, um, uh..., that is, the
Chip factory, in Florida*



Instead You Get This

Thought you would want to know about this e-mail virus that I just heard about today. It seems to affect owners and users of both PC's & Macs. Even the most advanced programs from Norton or McAfee cannot take care of this one. It appears to mainly affect owners who were born prior to 1960.

Symptoms:

1. Causes you to send the same e-mail twice.
2. Causes you to send a blank e-mail.
3. Causes you to send e-mail to the wrong person.
4. Causes you to send it back to the person who sent it to you.
5. Causes you to forget to attach the attachment.
6. Causes you to hit "SEND" before you've finished.
7. Causes you to hit "DELETE" instead of "SEND."
8. Causes you to hit "SEND" when you should "DELETE."

It is called the "C-NILE VIRUS." ☹

Can The Certified Organic Label Be Trusted?

By Larry Lack

After more than five years of doing inspections, I am asking other inspectors to consider what I think are critical questions about the integrity of the certification process as practiced by some certifiers. In my effort to be "the eyes and ears of the organic consumer" I've had to conclude that in some cases the "certified organic" label is not a reliable or trustworthy assurance that the products it identifies as organic are actually produced according to certifier standards.

In part I think this situation stems from conflicts of interest which, from what I've observed, are not uncommon in organics. In countries other than the United States, certifiers that are not regulated by the NOP may still allow inspected parties to certify one another. Certified operators may participate in or strongly influence certification decisions about other producers or processors with whom they do business. In some instances the degree of financial interdependence between and among these producers and processors is considerable and creates pressure to certify operations that may not meet certifier standards.

The NOP does not address another even more difficult problem, that of de facto conflict of interest between some for-profit certifiers and those they certify. This occurs as a result of the reputation these certifiers cultivate for "going easy" on the operations they inspect, often couched in terms of being "reasonable" and "client-friendly". For-profit certifiers are compensated based on the number of operations they certify, and some of them compete for and "earn" producer loyalty by overlooking violations of their standards or minimizing the importance of noncompliances that come to their attention.

For these and other reasons, in my opinion some certified operations do not in fact meet the standards that their certifiers supposedly require. I think these improper certifications are a serious problem. They endanger the reputation of the large majority of producers who do meet certifier standards, and they break faith with

consumers who put their trust in the "certified organic" label and the ethical system of certification they assume it reflects.

I think most certifiers and their chapters practice exemplary ethics in all aspects of their work. But it is disturbing to find that very questionable and even flatly fraudulent certifications are not uncommon. Too many operations that were clearly out of compliance when I've inspected them have subsequently been granted certification without anything having been done to address or remedy the noncompliances that I (and/or previous inspectors of these operations) have brought to the attention of certifiers in our reports.

Like all inspectors I normally defer to certifiers to use my reports and other information to arrive at final decisions about which producers and processors should be certified. But in some situations I think this deference to certifiers needs to be limited. I don't think we should simply walk away from situations in which our observations about whether standards have been met are completely ignored by certifiers. When this happens with one of my inspections I can't help asking myself "what's the point of doing this work when critical information I provide to certifiers is not acted on or even acknowledged by them?"

Other inspectors have made known their concerns that certain certifiers tend to overlook serious noncompliances and appear to be certifying noncompliant operations. Based on their observations and my own, I think the certification of noncomplilant producers is a substantial problem that needs to be addressed because it could seriously damage everything that we in the organic movement have worked so hard to create and nurture. In this connection I know that many of you will recall how a single case of conflict of interest and corruption in the certification process nearly destroyed a major certifier several years ago.

I think transparent certifier policies and a conscientious effort to achieve transparency in business practices can encourage, if not assure, integrity in the application of certifier standards. But unfortunately transparency is not an outstanding characteristic of most organic certifiers. Most certifiers do little or nothing to encourage the public to

understand how they make certification decisions. If certifiers made their standards readily available to the public and made it known that they welcome enquiries about how their standards are applied and enforced, I think that many if not most cases of unearned or inadequately documented certification would tend to be eliminated.

I know that the USDA's NOP, which governs all U.S. certifiers and many certifiers in other countries, has an accreditation process that is supposed to reduce or eliminate conflict of interest and address other ethical problems among NOP accredited certifiers. The NOP's rules make it more difficult for certified parties to directly influence decisions about their own certification. But the NOP does not address the problem of certifiers that attract business by overlooking or minimizing noncompliances, nor does it require increased transparency from certifiers regarding how they conduct business and prevent inspected parties from influencing certification decisions.

Since the NOP only came into force in 2002, it may be too early to pass judgment on its effectiveness as an ethics watchdog. But what I know of USDA's record and its current leadership gives me little confidence that this money-dominated agency will avoid the fate of other government regulatory agencies, nearly all of which are thoroughly dominated by the special interests they were created to regulate.

In my view NOP oversight is no substitute for self regulation by the organic community through open discussion. "Organic light" certifiers whose "wink-wink" business practices compromise organic core values and ideals should be challenged and forced to change their ways or quit calling themselves organic.

I hope inspectors will find their voice and speak out about the problems I've touched on in these comments. Inspectors are well-positioned to understand how careless or unscrupulous certifiers, large or small, can tarnish the good name of organics which is largely responsible for its phenomenal growth and commercial success. IOIA could coordinate inspector efforts to ensure that certifiers document how compliance issues identified in inspection reports are resolved. Inspectors should also consider how cooperation and networking with consumer groups and publications such as Consumer Reports could add clout to inspector demands for increased transparency and accountability on the part of certifiers.

Inspectors should not be shy about suggesting changes and improve- (see Label, page 22)

Records Show No BSE Tests in Washington State

Federal agriculture officials did not test any commercial cattle for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, a.k.a. mad cow disease) through the first seven months of 2003 in Washington state -- where the first U.S. case of the disease was detected on December 23, 2003 -- according to records obtained by United Press International.

The U.S.D.A.'s records of mad cow screenings, conducted on 35,000 animals between 2001 to 2003, also reveal no animals were tested for the past two years at Vern's Moses Lake Meats, the Washington slaughterhouse where the mad cow case was first detected.

In addition, no mad cow tests were conducted during the two-year period at any of the six federally registered slaughterhouses in Washington state. This includes Washington's biggest slaughterhouse, Washington Beef in Toppenish -- the 17th largest in the country, which slaughters 290,000 head per year -- and two facilities in Pasco that belong to Tyson, the largest beef slaughtering company in the U.S. Nearly every test conducted in Washington over the two-year period was on animals from Midway Meats in Centralia, the packing plant where Vern's Moses sent the infected cow carcass. The meat was distributed to several states where some people apparently consumed it, raising concerns about the possibility of contracting the human equivalent of mad cow, an always fatal, brain-wasting condition known as variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

The USDA said the meat posed little risk to consumers because the most infectious parts -- the brain and spinal cord -- had been removed.

The testing records, obtained by UPI under the Freedom of Information Act, which the USDA delayed releasing for six months, also show a number of other gaps in the agency's national surveillance strategy for mad cow disease, including:

-- Tests were conducted at fewer than 100 of the 700 plants known to slaughter cattle.

-- Some of the biggest slaughterhouses were not tested at all.

-- Cows from the top four beef producing states, which account for nearly 70 percent of all cattle slaughtered each year in the United States, only accounted for 11 percent of all the animals screened.

-- Though dairy cattle are considered the most likely to develop mad cow, some of the top dairy slaughtering plants were sampled only a few times or not at all.

-- The test tally for 2003 includes more than 1,000 animals ages 24 months or less, which would not test positive for the disease on the test used by the USDA even if they were infected. Many of these animals displayed signs that could indicate mad cow disease, including being downers or unable to stand, and symptoms suggesting a possible brain disorder.

"I can't believe that," Felicia Nestor, food safety program director of the whistleblower organization the Government Accountability Project (GAP), in Washington, D.C., said of the USDA's lack of testing in Washington.

Nestor questioned why the USDA would not implement more testing after the finding of a case of mad cow in Alberta, Canada, in May of 2003, in a close border state such as Washington. The records show that after May and through July, however, no commercial cows in Washington state were tested.

"It's right near Alberta ... and everybody knows a lot of cattle cross over the border from Canada into the United States," Nestor told UPI. Approximately 1.7 million Canadian cattle entered the United States in 2002.

GAP has followed the mad cow surveillance program closely for several years and has released statements from current USDA inspectors, who said the surveillance system is not administered uniformly across the country. In some cases, the inspectors said, the plant personnel -- not USDA veterinarians -- are in charge of selecting which animals go for testing.

USDA spokesman Jim Rogers said some states, such as Washington, may not get tested during some periods of the year because the agency's system is based on sampling from eight regions of the country rather than each state.

Asked if the agency tries to sample from all slaughterhouses, Rogers said, "Not necessarily." Some plants do not take downer cattle so the USDA will not conduct much, if any, testing at these

facilities because the agency wants to target the high-risk animals, he said.

In addition, Rogers said, the samples taken each year by the USDA are adequate to detect mad cow if it is present at the rate of one-in-a-million animals. "As long as they take the required number of samples, they're OK," he said.

Nestor argued the failure to screen any animals for a two-year period at Vern's in Moses Lake, Wash., where a Holstein cow tested positive for mad cow on Dec. 22, raises questions about the ability of the mad cow surveillance program to focus on cows most vulnerable to the disease. Vern's Moses Lake is known for slaughtering older and injured dairy cows, which are considered the cattle most at risk of developing mad cow disease.

Many of the top dairy slaughtering plants around the country either do not appear in the testing records at all or are listed only a couple of times. Dairy cattle often are given feed supplemented with animal protein to enable them to produce the vast quantities of milk required in today's mass dairy operations. Ranchers in the United Kingdom incorporated cattle tissue into their cow feed because it was a cheap source of protein. This is thought to have contributed to the spread of the mad cow epidemic that hit the country in the 1980s because some of the cattle turned into feed were infected.

Although that practice has been banned in the U.S., the ban did not go into effect until 1997 and several feed firms have been and are still in violation. Because cows infected with mad cow disease can take as long as six years before they show symptoms, this raises the possibility that animals infected before or after the feed ban were processed at slaughterhouses such as Vern's Moses Lake, yet were never tested or detected by USDA's surveillance program.

On January 26, 2004, Health & Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced several new public health measures, to be implemented by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), to strengthen significantly the multiple existing firewalls that protect Americans from exposure to the agent thought to cause mad cow disease and that help prevent the spread of BSE in U.S. cattle. Specifically, HHS intends to ban from human food (including dietary supplements), and cosmetics a wide range of bovine-derived material so that the same safeguards that protect Americans from exposure to the agent of BSE through meat

products regulated by USDA also apply to food products that FDA regulates. FDA will also prohibit certain currently allowed feeding and manufacturing practices involving feed for cattle and other ruminant animals. These additional measures will further strengthen FDA's 1997 "animal feed" rule.

To implement these new protections, FDA will publish two interim final rules that will take effect immediately upon publication, although there will be an opportunity for public comment after publication.

The first interim final rule will ban the following materials from FDA-regulated human food, (including dietary supplements) and cosmetics:

-- Any material from "downer" cattle. ("Downer" cattle are animals that cannot walk.)

-- Any material from "dead" cattle. ("Dead" cattle are cattle that die on the farm (i.e. before reaching the slaughter plant);

-- Specified Risk Materials (SRMs) that are known to harbor the highest concentrations of the infectious agent for BSE, such as the brain, skull, eyes, and spinal cord of cattle 30 months or older, and a portion of the small intestine and tonsils from all cattle, regardless of their age or health; and

--The product known as mechanically separated beef, a product which may contain SRMs. Meat obtained by Advanced Meat Recovery (an automated system for cutting meat from bones), may be used since USDA regulations do not allow the presence of SRMs in this product.

The second interim final rule is designed to lower even further the risk that cattle will be purposefully or inadvertently fed prohibited protein. It was the feeding of such protein to cattle that was the route of disease transmission that led to the BSE epidemic in United Kingdom cattle in the 1980's and 1990's.

This interim final rule will implement four specific changes in FDA's present animal feed rule. First, the rule will eliminate the present exemption in the feed rule that allows mammalian blood and blood products to be fed to other ruminants as a protein source. Recent scientific evidence suggests

that blood can carry some infectivity for BSE.

Second, the rule will also ban the use of "poultry litter" as a feed ingredient for ruminant animals. Poultry litter consists of bedding, spilled feed, feathers, and fecal matter that are collected from living quarters where poultry is raised. This material is then used in cattle feed in some areas of the country where cattle and large poultry raising operations are located near each other. Poultry feed may legally contain protein that is prohibited in ruminant feed, such as bovine meat and bone meal. The concern is that spillage of poultry feed in the chicken house occurs and that poultry feed (which may contain protein prohibited in ruminant feed) is then collected as part of the "poultry litter" and added to ruminant feed.

Third, the rule will ban the use of "plate waste" as a feed ingredient for ruminants. Plate waste consists of uneaten meat and other meat scraps that are currently collected from some large restaurant operations and rendered into meat and bone meal for animal feed. The use of "plate waste" confounds FDA's ability to analyze ruminant feeds for the presence of prohibited proteins, compromising the Agency's ability to fully enforce the animal feed rule.

Fourth, the rule will further minimize the possibility of cross-contamination of ruminant and non-ruminant animal feed by requiring equipment, facilities or production lines to be dedicated to non-ruminant animal feeds if they use protein that is prohibited in ruminant feed. Currently, some equipment, facilities and production lines process or handle prohibited and non-prohibited materials and make both ruminant and non-ruminant feed -- a practice which could lead to cross-contamination.

To accompany these new measures FDA will in 2004 step up its inspections of feed mills and renderers. FDA will itself conduct 2,800 inspections and will continue to work with state agencies to fund 3,100 contract inspections of feed mill and renderers and other firms that handle animal feed and feed ingredients. Through partnerships with states, FDA will also receive data on 700 additional inspections, for a total of 3,800 state contract and partnership inspections in 2004 alone, including annual inspections of 100 percent of all known renderers and feed mills that process products

This is yet another example where science cannot save us from an industrial food or agroecosystem. If ever there was a case for the precautionary principle, exposure to BSE and other transmissible spongiform encephalopathies is #1 on the list.

Michelle Gale-Sinex, as posted on the SANET

containing materials prohibited in ruminant feed.

In response to the Dec. 23 finding of a BSE positive cow in Washington state, FDA inspected and traced products at 22 facilities related to that positive cow or products from the cow, including feed mills, farms, dairy farms, calf feeder lots, slaughter houses, meat processors, transfer stations, and shipping terminals. FDA also conducted inspections at the rendering facilities that handled materials from the positive cow, and they were found to be fully in compliance with FDA's feed rule.

To further strengthen protections, FDA/HHS intends to work with Congress to consider proposals to assure that these important protective measures will be implemented as effectively as possible.

FDA is also continuing its efforts to assist in the development of better BSE science, to achieve the same or greater confidence in BSE protection at a lower cost. For example, to enhance the ability of our public health system to detect prohibited materials in animal feed, FDA will continue to support the development and evaluation of diagnostic tests to identify prohibited materials. These tests would offer a quick and reliable method of testing animal feeds for prohibited materials and for testing other products for contamination with the agent thought to cause BSE.

FDA has publicly discussed many of the measures with stakeholders in workshops, videoconferences, and public meetings. In addition, FDA published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in November 2002 (available online at www.fda.gov/OHRMS/DOCKETS/98fr/110602c.htm concerning possible changes to the animal feed rule.

Comprehensive information about FDA's work on BSE and links to other related websites are available at <http://www.fda.gov>.

Link to expert panel report on BSE:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/bse/US_BSE_Report.pdf

Sources: Steve Mitchell, United Press International Medical Correspondent. E-mail sciencemail@upi.com
Thanks to Jim Riddle for posting this on the IOIA Forum;
<http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=138-01262004>

Resources

The new **Organic Certification (USDA) mailing list** is now up and running; subscription is open to the public as are its message archives.

The focus of this forum will be USDA Organic Certification, exclusively.

The list name is: organic-certification
Homepage for this list is:
<http://lists.ibiblio.org/mailman/listinfo/organic-certification>

Posting ID is: organic-certification@lists.ibiblio.org

List message archives exist at:
<http://lists.ibiblio.org/pipermail/organic-certification/>

AGRICOLA Upgraded The National Agricultural Library (NAL) has released a significant upgrade to its Web-based AGRICOLA catalog of records for the materials in its collection. The new version of AGRICOLA provides improved access--many new search and retrieval capabilities, with daily updates--to over 4 million bibliographic records, the world's largest compilation of agricultural information.

Other features of NAL's new AGRICOLA catalog include:

- * Users may search the catalog of books, journals and non-print items; search the catalog of article records for the journals indexed; or search the two catalog databases combined.

- * Users may choose either to display results of searches, or to e-mail the search-results to themselves.

- * Hotlinks enable users to obtain the full text of resources, where available electronically.

Access to the new AGRICOLA online public catalog is through www.agricola.nal.usda.gov. Users

visiting the former AGRICOLA98 address will be automatically redirected to the new location.

The National Agricultural Library, located in Beltsville, Md., is part of the Agricultural Research Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific research agency. NAL is one of four U.S. national libraries, and is known for an expert staff, extensive AGRICOLA bibliographic database, leadership in information services and technology applications, and strong collections in agriculture and related sciences.

BSE Archival Info For the best accounts of what happened in Wisconsin, Britain, and elsewhere from the 1960s through mid-1990s around spongiform encephalopathies (mink, sheep, cow, and other) see this book, which you can read on-line for free (or download), PR Watch site: <http://www.prwatch.org>
Click on the icon of the book cover, /Mad Cow USA/.

Who Owns What Great informational graphic and information on corporate ownership in the Organic Sector:
www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/services/corporate-ownership.html

Energy-Efficient Grass-Based Meat and Veal Production and Marketing Manual (54 pgs), Center for Agricultural Development & Entrepreneurship, (607) 431-6034; khodne@cadefarms.org.
<http://www.cadefarms.org/publications.htm>

Organic Agriculture Symposium 2003, proceedings from ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meetings held November 2003, <http://www.misa.umn.edu> (see forum section); for free CD, contact Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, University of Minnesota, (612) 625-8235; misamail@umn.edu.

Organic Agriculture Worldwide 2004, 88-pg directory of members and associates, from International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, 16 Euro (nonmembers) from IFOAM Head Office, headoffice@ifoam.org; http://www.ifoam.org/neu_index.html

Designing a Clean Energy Future: A Resource Manual, 100-pg workbook with 30 case studies, from Minnesota Project, University of Minnesota's Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, and Minnesota Dept. of Commerce, <http://www.mnproject.org>; print copy is free from MDC's Energy Information Center, (651) 296-5175.

An Assessment of the Environmental Impacts of Organic Farming, 80-page report commissioned by UK's Dept. for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, available online from Elm Farm Research Centre, contact lead author Mark Shepherd, ADAS Consulting, mark.shepherd@adas.co.uk or [\[@efrc.com\]\(mailto:@efrc.com\)](http://elmfarm</p></div><div data-bbox=)

http://www.efrc.com/updates_main.htm

Breaking New Ground: Carbon Management at the Farm Scale, 15-pg project report, http://www.cfra.org/pdf/carbon_management_report.pdf; print copy is \$5 from Center for Rural Affairs, PO Box 136, Lyons, NE 68038; (402) 687-2100.

Enhanced Nutrient Content of Grass-Fed Beef: Justification for Health Label Claim, 11-pg review paper from California State University-Chico and University of California Cooperative Extension researchers, available from Grassfed beef educational website, <http://www.csuchico.edu/agr/grsfdbeef>; or contact Glenn Nader, UC Cooperative Extension, (530) 822-7515; ganader@ucdavis.edu.

Organic agriculture policy statement (Sept. 2003 draft) from National Association of State Depts. of Agriculture, contact NASDA, 1156 15th St. NW, Suite 1020, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 296-9680
http://www.nasda.org/nasda/nasda/Calendar/NASDA2003_reports/policies/18.pdf

Support Alternatives Journal Alternatives Journal is launching a Sustainability Initiative. It is the only Canadian environmental journal with a mandate to link the work of advocates, academics and professionals and to cover both ecological and social justice issues. *Alternatives* is reaching out to the grassroots to build its subscriber base to a sustainable level, which means that it will be less reliant on outside funding, and the environmental message will reach more people than ever. To find out how you can help, visit <http://www.alternativesjournal.ca>

New On-line Irrigation Calculator An irrigation schedule calculator is now available on-line, free of charge, courtesy of Gaia College Inc. You can find the calculator at http://www.organic-landcare.com/irrigation_calculator.php

Please send your comments and suggestions on how the calculator can be improved, or adapted to a particular crop or application.

The LC Science Tracer Bullet on Sustainable Agriculture (a research guide to help get the reader on target) is 20 pages and includes references from books, journals, dissertations; as well as sources from the Internet and Organizations such as Organic Ag Info and SARE (SAN). It is not intended to be a comprehensive bibliography. It is available

on-line via the Library of Congress Science Reference Service:

<http://www.loc.gov/r/r/scitech/tracer-bullets/sustainable-agtb.html>

If you are interested in receiving a hard copy contact jehar@loc.gov

New organic books from CABI

Publishing:

Organic Agriculture: Sustainability, Markets and Policies. Info:

<http://www.organic-research.com/Books/bookdetail.asp?isbn0851997406>

Organic Fruit Growing More info:

<http://www.organic-research.com/Books/bookdetail.asp?isbn085199640X>

Animal Health and Welfare in

Organic Agriculture More info:

http://www.cabi-publishing.org/bookshop/book_detail.asp?isbn085199668X

New Book Posits Organic Replicates What It Set Out to Oppose

Thirty years after the birth of organic agriculture in California, the industry looks more than ever like the agribusiness model it set out to oppose, asserts Julie Guthman, assistant professor of community studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and the author of the forthcoming book *Agrarian Dreams: The Paradox of Organic Farming in California* (Berkeley: UC Press, 2004). www.ucpress.edu

Biological Farmers of Australia has released *its Organic Food and Farming Report Australia for 2003*. A key issue highlighted by the report is that growth in demand (20-25%) continues to outstrip supply (10-15%), and will likely continue to do so for some years to come. The vision for the industry is to have 10% of farmers in Australia producing organically by 2020. <http://www.organic-research.com/news/database/newsarticle.asp?id2485>

More from freerangegraphics.com

The same folks that brought us *The Matrix* have another great online cartoon about how Kraft is experimenting with our health, www.krafty.org/flash/



APHIS Seeks GMO Comments

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the USDA intends to prepare an environmental impact statement in connection with potential changes to the regulations regarding the importation, interstate movement, and environmental release of certain genetically engineered organisms. This notice identifies potential issues and alternatives that will be studied in the environmental impact statement and requests public comment to further delineate the scope of the issues and alternatives. Deadline for comments is March 23, 2004.

You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. If you use postal mail/commercial delivery, please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 03-031-2, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 03-031-2. If you use e-mail, address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 03-031-2" on the subject line. For further info, contact Ms. Stephanie Stephens, APHIS, (301) 734-4836.

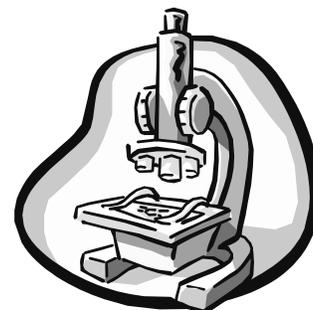
GM Contamination, from page 21

licensed to hand out "organic" labels in the United Kingdom, claims that it can trace every ingredient in products it certifies back to farms that have been

declared GM-free. The organisation sets the upper limit for GM material in organic foods at 0.1%, as it is technically difficult to measure contamination at levels below this. "This research shows we need to do more," says a Soil Association spokeswoman. Murphy predicts that it will become even more difficult in the future for the organic food industry to keep its products GM-free. Almost all the soya from the United States and Argentina, two of the world's major producers, is transgenic. The world's third largest soya producer - Brazil - legalised GM varieties of the crop last September. In many countries, GM-free crops are often mixed with transgenic varieties after harvesting. And batches of soya seed sold as non-GM can contain 1-2% from transgenic varieties. "In another year the problem will be ten times worse," says Murphy. <http://www.nature.com/nsu/040202/040202-15.htm>

Clark Comments on Schmeiser Case

For an interesting commentary on the Schmeiser vs. Monsanto case currently being considered by the Canadian Supreme Court, check out the CropChoice website, <http://www.cropchoice.com/leadstry.asp?recid=2370>



AgCanada Ends Testing of GE Wheat

Agriculture Canada is abandoning a long-running project involving GE wheat it developed in partnership with biotech giant Monsanto, amid doubts about how well the product would sell. Regulatory authorities continue to assess the risks and benefits of Roundup Ready wheat, but the AgCan decision suggests that scientific hopes for the first strain of biotech wheat may be dimming.

Jim Bole of AgCan said the department will make no further investment in the crop it has developed with Monsanto since 1997. "We're no longer developing Roundup Ready wheat with Monsanto." Asked if the department's decision reflects concern about whether Canada's wheat customers would accept the new strain of wheat, Bole replied: "Yes, I think it does."

The Canadian Wheat Board has said most of its customers don't want the new strain and last year it asked Monsanto to withdraw its application for regulatory approval.

Bole went on to say that the biotech revolution in agriculture has not lived up to expectations.

"I'm afraid it was oversold. We expected to be growing crops at this time with many traits that would be of great value to consumers and producers.

"But the regulatory area has been much more stringent than anyone anticipated and market acceptance hasn't been as positive as we would have anticipated."

<http://www.canoe.ca/NationalTicker/CANOE-wire.Genetic-Wheat.html>

Mendo County GE Fight

A consortium of the world's largest producers of GE crop products has pumped \$150,000 into a campaign to defeat a Mendocino County, California, ballot measure that would be the first in the nation to ban such products. It is the largest contribution ever funneled into a Mendocino County campaign, county election officials said.

The donation by CropLife America, a Washington-based industry lobbying group representing Monsanto, Dow

and DuPont corporations, among others, so far is the only financial support reported by a citizen committee opposing Measure H on the March 2 ballot. CropLife's \$150,000 contribution dwarfs the \$18,000 raised so far by local supporters of Measure H. With a month left before the election, the anti-Measure H group is positioned to spend at least \$3 per registered voter on direct mail and local radio and newspaper ads to convince them the ballot initiative is a "dangerous precedent." As of Jan. 2, there were 46,480 registered voters in Mendocino County.

In 2002, CropLife contributed \$3.7 million to a successful statewide campaign in Oregon to defeat a measure that would have required the labeling of foods produced from GE crops. Mendocino's Measure H does not require labeling.

Measure H, if approved in the March 2 election, would ban the "propagation, cultivation, raising and growing" of GE crops.

Monsanto, Bayer CropScience, Dow AgroScience, DuPont and other agricultural biotech companies contend that genetically engineered crops are safe and subject to adequate regulatory review.

Critics, however, cite a report released Jan. 20 by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences that found it may be difficult to completely prevent GE plants and animals from having unintended environmental and public health effects.

The Press Democrat, January 2004

GM Crops Increase Pesticide Use

A new report from Dr. Charles Benbrook, director of the Northwest Science and Environmental Policy Center, Idaho, concludes that the 550 million acres of GM corn, soybeans and cotton planted in the US since 1996 has increased pesticide use (herbicides and insecticides) by about 50 million pounds.

The report is the first comprehensive study of the impact of all major commercial GM crops on pesticide use in the US over the first eight years of commercial use, 1996-2003. Most studies to date have only focused on the first three years of GM crop adoption (1996-1998), and no study has estimated impacts in 2002 and 2003.

Benbrook draws on official US Department of Agriculture (USDA) data on pesticide use by crop and state to calculate the overall impact of GM crops on the volume of pesticides applied on corn, soybean and cotton. These three crops account for nearly all the area planted to GM crops in the US. The analysis focuses on herbicide tolerant (HT) corn, soybeans and cotton; and corn and cotton genetically engineered to produce the natural insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt).

Benbrook calculates the difference between the average pounds of pesticides applied on acres planted to GM crops, compared to the pounds applied to otherwise similar conventional crops. In their first three years of commercial sale (1996-1998), GM crops reduced pesticide use by about 25.4 million pounds, but in the last three years (2001-2003), over 73 million more pounds of pesticides were applied on GM acres.

This 22% jump was caused by a major price reduction in glyphosate, the need to control more difficult weeds, and the emergence of resistance and/or lessened sensitivity in weed species that were once fully controlled by one glyphosate application. So for HT soybeans, the difference in average herbicide pounds applied per acre between GM and conventional crops shifted from a reduction of 0.36 pounds per acre in 1996 to an increase of 0.47 pounds per acre in 2003.

In short, over the last eight years, HT crops have increased pesticide use an estimated 70.2 million pounds, while Bt transgenic varieties have reduced pesticide use an estimated 19.6 million pounds. Thus, total pesticide use has risen some 50.6 million pounds over the eight-year period. <http://www.biotech-info.net/>

Growing Public Unease over GM

The UK Government has been warned of "widespread unease" over "incremental" steps being taken towards the introduction of GM crops in the UK. Liberal Democrats told the Commons such a "momentous and irreversible" decision was supported by only 2% of the public.

Ministers are considering reports and advice on farm scale evaluations and are due to set out conclusions "shortly."

European Union governments were given 90 days from late January to decide on lifting their five-year-old moratorium on GM foods. If they do not act by then, the European Commission will be able to make the decision itself.

Evening Standard, Thurs Feb 5th 2004

http://www.femail.co.uk/pages/standard/article.html?in_article_id=207451&in_page_id=169

USDA'S Biotech Update Raises Concerns

Today's announcement of plans to update the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) biotech regulations is a welcome admission that the agency's status quo is insufficient. While offering some improvements, the vision outlined by USDA raises several troubling issues. The National Research Council (NRC) issued a report on Tuesday warning USDA of the inadequacy of current biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Just two days later, instead of implementing NRC's recommendations to control the spread of unapproved varieties of biotech crops, the department is considering the exact opposite approach--tolerating failure.

USDA indicated that it might allow low-level contamination of food crops by unapproved biotech varieties to enter the U.S. food supply. The agency claims it will only grant exemptions from regulation when low-level contamination occurs in spite of good agricultural practices. But good agricultural practices should not result in violations of federal regulations and the contamination of the food supply. Lowering the bar to accommodate sloppy compliance with regulation is unacceptable and has no place in any plan to strengthen USDA regulation of biotech crops.

Another serious concern raised by today's announcement is USDA's decision to not improve regulation of already approved biotech crops. With their 2002 report on transgenic plants, the National Research Council cautioned that post-commercialization monitoring should be used to validate deregulation decisions, a recommendation that has yet to be implemented. USDA's unfortunate and unwise decision is in conflict with the NRC recommendations.

Updating USDA biotech regulations is a significant undertaking for which U.S. PIRG commends the Agency. We look forward to working with USDA to improve their current regulations, and will participate in the planned public hearings and meetings that the USDA announced would be a part of this effort. It is essential that while USDA makes this effort to take steps forward to strengthen their

regulations, the agency does not simultaneously take steps back.

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OZ Senate Moves to Protect Farmers from GM

A motion was passed by the Australian Senate on December 8, 2003, "That the Senate: (a) notes that on 14 October the WA Farmers Federation Grains Council passed a resolution recommending to the Primary Industries Ministerial Council that: (i) the Gene Technology Grains Committee (GTGC) be restructured to provide proportionate representation of both GM and non-GM growers; (ii) no costs or liabilities be imposed on a sector of industry without the involvement and approval from that industry; (iii) no sector of agricultural industry be faced with unmanageable problems; (iv) prior to the introduction of GM crops, the GTGC must demonstrate widespread accurate and unbiased industry education of the canola stewardship principles and protocols and proof of widespread acceptance; (v) research be undertaken to gauge market tolerance levels prior to acceptance of 1% of adventitious presence being acceptable; and (vi) legislative changes be implemented to ensure management plans have legal status for compliance, not the voluntary status proposed, to ensure the GM industry is responsible for the containment of their GM product; And (b) calls on the Agriculture Minister and Health Minister to ensure that these

resolutions are debated at the next relevant Ministerial Council in recognition of the widespread concern in the grains industry about the introduction of GM crops and the cost implications for farmers." More: http://www.non-gm-farmers.com/news_details.asp?ID=904

However, Despite Senate Motion, Regulator Approves RR™ Canola

On 19 December, the Office of Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) licenced Monsanto's Roundup herbicide tolerant canola for release throughout Australia - anywhere, anytime, on any scale, by anyone, and permanently. The licence does not require further reporting (other than seed sales), monitoring, review or assessment. The timing is not accidental, as explained by John Hepburn, Genetic Engineering Campaigner, Greenpeace Australia Pacific. "This time last year, the GTGC was busy releasing their co-existence framework - 2 days before Christmas. This year, we're expecting the OGTR to approve Monsanto's GE canola - 4 days before Christmas. Some things never change. The spin from the biotech companies and their minions is as predictable as ever." http://www.non-gm-farmers.com/news_details.asp?ID=936

Organic Food Contaminated with GM

The publication *Nature* reports that a wide range of 'organic' food products on sale in the United Kingdom contain GM ingredients, according to a study due to be published in April. The revelation has prompted organisations that certify food as organic and GM-free, such as the Soil Association, to hurriedly review their procedures. Transgenic soya was found in ten of 25 organic or health food products tested by Mark Partridge and Denis Murphy, biotechnology researchers at the University of Glamorgan in Pontypridd, Wales. Eight of the ten were labelled either as 'organic', which should indicate the absence of transgenic ingredients under Soil Association rules, or explicitly as 'GM-free'. The study, which confirms previous tests by national food standards agencies in Ireland and the UK, implies that a wide range of foodstuffs probably contain traces of GM material. Soya is a very popular ingredient, both in organic and non-organic foods. Over 60% of processed food in a typical supermarket contains soya extracts, including vegetarian sausages and soya mince.

The results could damage the credibility of organic products. The Soil Association, which employs some of the most rigorous tests used by the 16 organisations (See GM, page 19)

Annual, from page 18

IOIA BOARD

In 2003 IOIA had the toughest Board of Director election year ever. IOIA was seeing the greatest number of Board members leaving in a single election (replacing 5 Board members out of 7). Four of these outgoing Board members represented a combined total of at least 29 years of IOIA Board experience. Harriet Behar- Chair, who could tackle almost any challenge in half the time it would take two normal people to do the same task. Stanley Edwards- Vice Chair gave the board that gentle touch and strength through calm and decisive thought. Janine Gibson- Secretary (extraordinaire) and a very talented woman, served IOIA with passion and dedication in (probably) the most difficult Board position. Chip Kraynyk – At Large (and ex-Chair) always made sure that the Board left no stone unturned and maintained his strong alternative perspective in evaluation of issues and IOIA development. One member resigned due to personal commitments. The newly elected Board is now the most international Board IOIA has ever had; a minority of the current Board are from the US. This has developed a wider range of influence and an international strengthening for IOIA. The secretary position was filled by Ann Baier, who stepped up to the plate and has done a terrific job. Ann and fellow Board member Dag Falck developed a great new system for formatting minutes. Three board members are up for reelection this year and have expressed their desire to continue to serve IOIA. These include Jack Reams- Treasurer, Garry Lean and myself. Jack has and continues to be a very leveled headed Canadian who along with Margaret keeps the Board well advised and directed where monies are concerned. Garry who filled a half term position (1 year) for the resigning board member is serving the board with dedication and offers his talents in assisting IOIA with his strong background in education and common sense. One of IOIA's 2003 accomplishments, an organizational flow chart for IOIA, was Garry's work. The remaining board members, John Foster- Vice Chair, Ann Baier- Secretary, Dag Falck- At Large, and

Luis Brenes continue to give many hours of personal time to IOIA.

In October 2003 the Board held a full board retreat at the IOIA office in Broadus, Montana to assist in solidifying the Board with so much new blood. It was also time to evaluate (revisit) the current and future of IOIA based on the work that was done during the Board retreat in LaVeta in 2000. 🍷

Label, from page 19

ments in the certification process. Confidentiality, in my opinion, does not apply to certifiers--it applies to certified (or inspected) parties. Considerations of confidentiality should not inhibit full discussion of certifier policies and actions on our forum and with others in the organic community as long as the confidentiality of specific producers and processors is respected.

When we try to dodge tough problems and controversial subjects we may avoid some personal risks, but we fail in our duty to invigorate and improve the organic movement that benefits all of us. Inspectors should be leaders in a continuous effort to improve organics and help it grow by educating one another and the public about the kind of agriculture--and the kind of world--we want to leave for future generations.

I'll close with what I hope may be a practical suggestion. To assure both the stability and the integrity of organics I think we need independent national or regional boards to resolve disputes between certifiers and inspectors. These boards should be structured to reflect/represent certifiers, inspectors and consumers. They should be empowered to examine ethical complaints about either certifiers or inspectors. In addition they might serve as a forum for hearing appeals of certification decisions brought by inspected parties.

I won't speculate as to how the members of these boards could be chosen, or what their scope of action should be. I do think that creating appeals or arbitration bodies with open proceedings and the authority to hear and resolve ethical complaints could help make the "inner workings" of organics--including the certification process--more comprehensible to organic consumers and the general public.

For most people organics is something of a mystery, and I think some certifiers and other big players prefer it that way. Perhaps part of the reason that we're

facing (or refusing to face) ethical challenges is that for too many of us too many subjects are taboo. Questions such as "What is the role of democracy in organics?" and "Who's in charge in the organic world?" should be deliberately asked and thoughtfully answered. Presently inspectors and traditional family farmers have some limited influence, but almost no power. Big retailers, inspected parties with deep pockets and certifiers hold most of the cards, and in my opinion this needs to change. Healthy food and unhealthy social structures controlled by money and elites are a bad mix. We can do better. 🍷

BSE, from page 7

We must explicitly prohibit such materials from being used in organic production by placing them on 205.604."

Riddle has asked the NOSB and NOP to address these issues. 🍷

In Memorium: Betsy Lydon

With deep sadness we are circulating the news that Betsy Lydon passed away February 9th, after a long, hard-fought battle with breast cancer. Betsy had an incredible inner spirit and fought off her cancer as long as she could by embracing life to its fullest at every moment. Betsy was a passionate advocate for sustainable agriculture and was, according to Wendy Gordon, the heart that propelled Mothers & Others for a Livable Planet in New York forward. She gave incredible energy to the National Organic Standards Board, the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture, Greener Fields, Just Food, and Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems Funders group as its coordinator several years ago, from which we all benefit.

She is survived by her husband, Jeff, and their two amazing teenagers, Gardner and Lucy. There will not be a service immediately but, as Betsy wished, a party in celebration of her life sometime later this spring.

May our work be strengthened by her example and her memory.

The National Campaign will be creating a web page in celebration Betsy's life and the incredible contributions she made to so many efforts and so many lives. Please send them your thoughts if you'd like to have them posted.

For more information, contact the National Campaign For Sustainable Agriculture, e-mail: kathy@sustainableagriculture.net <http://www.sustainableagriculture.net/> 🍷

Balance Sheet – IOIA – As of December 31, 2003

Assets:		Liabilities & Equity:	
Current Assets		Equity	
Checking/Savings		Opening Fund Balance	442.57
CD Savings	10,000.00	Retained Funds	49,929.20
Montana Checking	13,985.90	Net Income	-5105.61
Montana PayPal	4.04	Total Equity	45,266.16
Total Checking/Savings	38,032.20	Total Liabilities & Equity	45,266.16
Accounts Receivable			
Accounts Receivable	-654.99		
Total Accounts Receivable	-654.99		
Other Current Assets			
Inventory Asset	5139.23		
Petty Cash	102.83		
Undeposited Funds	2646.89		
Total Other Current Assets	7888.95		
Total Current Assets	45,266.16		
Total Assets	45,266.16		



I am interested in the following:

IOIA Membership Application (includes quarterly newsletter and member directory)

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

- Inspector - \$100
- Supporting Individual - \$75
- Business/Organization \$100
- Certifying Agency - \$250
- Patron - \$500
- Sustainer - \$1000

- The Inspectors' Report – 1 year subscription (4 issues) \$30
- 2004 IOIA Membership Directory - \$25
- IFOAM/IOIA International Organic Inspection Manual:
 - \$45 members
 - \$60 non-members

INDEPENDENT ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

Please Type or Print Clearly

MAIL TO IOIA, PO Box 6, BROADUS, MT 59317-0006 USA

IOIA HAS SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE. ORDER HERE OR THROUGH OUR WEBSITE.

- Building Soils for Better Crops (2nd Edition), by Fred Magdoff and Harold Van Es. 240 pp. \$20
- COG Organic Field Crop Handbook, 2nd Edition, Expanded and Rewritten. Published by Canadian Organic Growers. An invaluable resource. While preserving the best of the now out-of-print and no longer available first edition, this edition is updated to include info on GMO's, E. coli issues in manure, and many additions to the crop section. 222 pages, spiral bound, \$30.00.
- Food Plant Sanitation and Safety, by Dr. Joe Montecalvo, 184 pp, \$50.00
- Introductory Food Science, Dr. Joe Montecalvo, 187 pp, \$50.00
- Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 2nd Edition, published by Sust. Ag Network, \$18.00
- Organic Dairy Farming, published by Kickapoo Organic Resource Network, 87 pp, \$8.00
- Organic Livestock Handbook, published by Canadian Organic Growers. Edited by Anne Macey, 179 pp, spiral bound, \$25.00
- Organic Tree Fruit Management, published by COABC, 240 pages, \$30.00
- Steel in the Field, published by Sustainable Ag Network, 128 pages, \$16.00
- Introduction to Certified Organic Farming. Published by REAP CANADA, 200 pg. \$25.00
- OCC/IOIA Forms Templates \$35 members \$50 non-members Comes with disk (Word 7.0)

IOIA Caps - \$20.00 – Please specify color 1st choice _____ 2nd Choice _____
[black, navy, royal blue, forest green, white, khaki/forest, maroon/black]

IOIA Tees - \$20.00 – Please specify size L XL XXL

IOIA Sew-On Patch - \$7.00 OR 3/\$20 OR 5/\$30

See our Caps and Tees in the *Books & Goods* section of our website, www.ioia.net

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Address _____

Business Address _____

Business Phone _____ Home phone _____ Fax _____

Check Enclosed – Total Amount \$ _____

Visa Mastercard Account # _____

Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

2004 Calendar

February 24-25 "Organic Agriculture Principles and Practices: Workshops for PNW Ag Professionals," organized and sponsored by Washington State University CSANR, Oregon State Univ. Ext., Organic Materials Review Institute, and Oregon Tilth, in Wilsonville, OR; contact David Granatstein, (509) 663-8181 x222; granats@wsu.edu; or Alex Stone, OSU, (541) 737-5461; stonea@bcc.orst.edu <http://csanr.wsu.edu/whatsnew/OrganicAgWorshop2004.htm>.

February 26th-28 The 15th annual Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference will be held at the La Crosse Center. Info: www.mosesorganic.org/umofc/umofc.htm

Feb 24 - March 2 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. For info contact Kristen Kane at COABC, office@certifiedorganic.bc.ca (250) 260-4429.

February 27-28 Northeast Grasstravaganza 2004, grazing conference hosted by Central New York RC&D for producers, consumers, and agricultural professionals, being held in conjunction with Northeast Pasture Research & Extension Consortium (Feb. 26), in Binghamton, NY; info: for Grasstravaganza, contact (607) 724-9268 or (607) 334-3231, ext.4; socnyred@norwich.net or broomesoil@juno.com; for Feb. 26 Consortium, contact Edward Rayburn, (304) 293-6131; www.syrmeetings.com/grass/grass2004.pdf.

February 27-29 "BC's Organic Future 2004: COABC Annual General Meeting and Conference," in Naramata, British Columbia; contact Rebecca Kneen, (250) 675-4122; gael@ramshorn.bc.ca; or Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia, office@certifiedorganic.bc.ca; <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/AGM2004/index.htm>.

Feb 28 - March 1 IOIA will co-sponsor Japanese language Basic Process Inspector Training with the Japan Organic Inspectors

Association (JOIA) to be held in Tokyo, JAPAN, For more info, contact JOIA at mutsumi.sakuyoshi@nifty.com or +81-422-56-6651 or +81-422-56-6651 (fax).

Feb 29-March 2 National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture Annual Meeting, in or near Washington, DC; contact NCSA, (845) 744-8448; www.SustainableAgriculture.net. Campaign@sustainableagriculture.net;

March 2 7th Annual Northwest (Pennsylvania) Grazing Conference, in DuBois, PA; contact Ken Hendrickson, Headwaters RC&D Council, (814) 375-1272.

March 3 Colorado Organic Conference and Trade Show, Brighton, CO 303-637-8100 or www.adamscountyextension.org

March 5 - 7 Natural Products Expo East, Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, California. www.expowest.com

March 5-8 National Farmers Union 102nd Anniversary Convention, in Billings, MT; contact NFU, 11900 E. Cornell Ave., Aurora, CO 80014-3194; <http://www.nfu.org>.

March 10-11 "Maize and Biodiversity Symposium: The Effects of Transgenic Corn in Mexico," open to public, academia, and government, in Oaxaca, Mexico; contact Esther Maria Carrillo, North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation, emcarrillo@ccemtl.org or info@cecmil.org; www.cec.org/maize/symposium/index.cfm?varlan3Denglish.

March 13 EcoLOGICA invites IOIA to Costa Rica for our 2004 Annual General Membership Meeting. IOIA accepts! The event will include Advanced training in both Spanish and English. See page 3 for details.

March 20-21 Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association Annual Conference, in Johnstown, OH; contact Gwen Uetrecht, OEFFA, (614) 421-2022; oeffa@oeffa.com; <http://www.oeffa.com>.

March 29-31 First World Congress on Organic Food: Meeting the Challenges of

Safety and Quality for Fruits, Vegetables, and Grains. Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, USA. The First World Congress on Organic Food will compare possible risks of fruits, vegetables and grains produced by organic versus conventional methods. The Congress is co-sponsored by the National Food Safety & Toxicology Center, the USDA, and the Int'l Assn. for Food Protection. For more info Contact: mitzelf3@cvm.msu.edu <http://www.foodsafe.msu.edu/Organics/>.

April 1 - 7 IOIA Basic Farm and Livestock Inspector trainings, Fayetteville, Arkansas. See page 3 for details. **Deadline to apply is February 27.**

April 16 - 17 IOIA Advanced Organic Inspector Training (Fiber Processing focus), co-sponsored with the Organic Trade Association, Lubbock, Texas. See page 1 for details.

April 28 - 30 The National Organic Standards Board meeting, Best Western Hotel, Chicago, IL. Buckingham Meeting Room, (312) 787-3100.

Late April Basic Organic Livestock Inspector Training, co-sponsored by IOIA and Assiniboine Community College, Manitoba. Includes distance education and an on-site practicum. Interested applicants please contact Terry Waddell at ACC For info, ph: (204) 725-8700 ext 7116; fax: 204-726-7012; waddell@assiniboine.net.

May 2-4 All Things Organic Conference and Trade Show, in Chicago, IL; contact Organic Trade Association, (413) 774-7511; info@ota.com.

June 24-25 "Agriculture as a Producer and Consumer of Energy," conference organized by Farm Foundation and USDA's Office of Energy Policy and New Uses, in Arlington, VA; contact Steve Halbrook, Farm Foundation, (630) 571-9393; steve@farmfoundation.org; or Joe Outlaw, (979) 845-3062; joutlaw@tamu.edu; <http://www.farmfoundation.org/projects/03-35AgAsEnergyProducerAndConsumer.htm>.

Keep IOIA Strong - Lend Your Strength And Get Involved!



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