



The

Inspectors' Report

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Notes from The Chair

By Brian Magaro

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What's Inside....
Grant News.....p4
Harvey Ruling Update....p10
Training News.....p12
Plus Sector News, Letter to the Editor, Resources, GMO's, lots o' minutes, Calendar,
....And More!

In Brief...

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

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

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

New Statistical Review Touts Growth of Organics

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

Organic Produce Continues to Command Price Premium

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

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

China: Organics booming

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

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE

(Changes made by J. Hessong 08/09/05)
Please make the following changes to your 2005 Membership Directory. *Any changes are italicized.* Other parts of the addresses remain the same unless noted. Any additions or corrections to information categories other than addresses and contact numbers will be listed in the 2006 Hardcopy Membership Directory or can be viewed on the 2005 Online Directory.

ADDRESS CHANGES:

INSPECTORS:

Robert Albee
Email: pacbot@peak.org

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David Dahmen
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John Foster
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Phone: 970.464.9019

John McKeon
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SUPPORTING MEMBERS:

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

Welcome Returning Former Members (not printed in 2005 Directory)

INSPECTOR MEMBERS:

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

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Charles Richtmyer
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SUPPORTING BUSINESS MEMBERS:

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

INSPECTORS:

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

CHANGED STATUS TO INSPECTOR MEMBER:

Byoung-Deok, Yu (Seoul, KOREA)

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:

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

NEW SUPPORTING BUSINESS MEMBERS:

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

IOIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian MagaroChair
Garry LeanVice Chair
Jack Reams.....Treasurer
Marina Sexty Buchan.....Secretary
John Foster..ExCommMember-At-Large
Luis Brenes.....Board Member
Ann Baier.....Board Member
Ann Lameka.....Alternate
Karen Troxell.....Alternate
The Inspectors' Report is the newsletter of the Independent Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA). IOIA is a 501 (c)(3) educational organization, whose mission is to address issues and concerns relevant to organic inspectors, to provide quality inspector training and to promote integrity and consistency in the organic certification process. Editorial Staff: Diane Cooner, Box 1259, Guerneville, CA 95446 USA. Phone/fax 707-869-3017, ioiaweb@ioia.net
Deadlines are Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1 & Nov 1. Relevant articles are welcomed. We strive for accuracy, but the Editor and IOIA cannot be held responsible for errors or omissions. Published quarterly on recycled paper.



Upcoming Trainings

Tokyo, Japan

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

Dou-liou, Yun-lin, Taiwan

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

New Brunswick, CANADA

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

Lititz, Pennsylvania

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

Organic Fiber Processing Training, Lubbock, Texas

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

Indianapolis, Indiana

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

La Crosse, Wisconsin

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

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

IOIA Scholarships Available

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

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

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

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

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

Mark your calendars for the 2006 AGM Meeting!

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

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

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

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

IOIA and NCAT Collaborate on Resources and Training for the South

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Notes from the ED

By Margaret Scoles

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[see ED page 18]

Notes, from page 1

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

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

Fiber, from page 1

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

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

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

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

NOP Shifts Policy Again

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

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

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

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

August 23, 2005 – MEMORANDUM

TO: All USDA Accredited Certifying Agents

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

SUBJECT: Certification of agricultural products that meet NOP standards

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

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

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

Mexico Moves Toward Organic Standards

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Italian Organic Standards Join with IFOAM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Letter to Editor

Subject: Harvey vs. Organic Farmers

Dear Fellow Organic Inspectors:

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

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

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

Organically yours,

Grace Gershuny

ACA Hires Coordinator

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

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

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

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

Griner Leaves OCIA

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

An excerpt from her final email:

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

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

OneCert Opens Asia Office

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

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

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

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

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

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

Queries can be directed to Sandeep at:

e-mail: info@onecertasia.in

Website: www.onecertasia.in

Mobile No.: 094140-63456

New ED at IFOAM

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

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

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

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

15th IFOAM Organic World Congress

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jeff Wideman 1953-2005

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

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

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

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

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



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

Harvey v Johanns Ruling

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

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

An Industry Perspective: How Did We Get Here?

By Dave DeCou and Brian Baker

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

USDA's Clarification of 206.606

NOTICE TO:

ALL USDA ACCREDITED CERTIFYING AGENTS, ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

RE: HARVEY v. JOHANNS

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

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

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

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

July 1, 2005

Barbara C. Robinson, Deputy Administrator

Transportation & Marketing Programs, National Organic Program

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

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