

Celebrating
20 Years!

The Inspectors' Report

Published by the
International Organic
Inspectors Association
Vol 20 N2 Spring 2011

IOIA & OMRI Debut Crop Inputs Webinar

IOIA and the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) will begin offering joint webinars with a focus on inputs used in organic production. The first webinar in the series, scheduled for **August 1**, will focus on crop inputs. The webinar will cover what farm inspectors should look for during inspections, and how OMRI reviews materials. Inspectors and certifiers who attend will gain skill in understanding input assessment, and in navigating the resources available on the OMRI website (www.omri.org). OMRI will provide the technical expertise of **Lindsay Fernandez-Salvador**, OMRI Program Director, as lead presenter. IOIA will manage registration through the IOIA webinar site and will ensure that the course is designed to meet the needs of inspectors and certifiers. Enrollment is limited to 20. Additional webinars will be scheduled as needed.

The course will include pre-course reading as well as in-class discussion and exercises, with opportunity for Q & A. Attendees will also receive an individual subscription to OMRI and a graded post-assessment. Joint IOIA and OMRI Certificates of Completion will be awarded to successful participants, and discounts are available for current OMRI subscribers and IOIA members. To register, see the IOIA registration page: <http://ioiaregistration.ganconference.com>

OMRI, formally recognized by the NOP as a reputable 3rd party material review organization (NOP Policy Memo 11-3), makes the ideal partner for this training effort. OMRI provides organic certifiers, growers, manufacturers, and suppliers an independent review of products intended for use in certified organic production, handling, and processing. Manufacturers submit product information and an application, and OMRI then reviews each product against the National Organic Standards. Acceptable products are OMRI Listed® on the OMRI Products List, and are allowed to display the OMRI Seal. OMRI also provides guidance to subscribers and certifiers on the acceptability of various material inputs in general under the National Organic Program.

Lindsay Fernandez-Salvador holds a B.S. from Oregon State University in Natural Resource Management and an M.S. from the University of Florida in Geography. She has over 8 years of work experience on both conventional and organic farms in Oregon. Her graduate research thesis examined market conditions that contribute to small organic farm success. Through this research she became familiar with organic standards and issues facing organic farmers. She also consults for organic producers and performs organic inspections. She has lived and worked in Latin America and is fluent in Spanish.

Over the past year, IOIA has expanded training offerings in the initial phase of development of the Training Institute. Live in-person training will continue to be the preferred format for delivering the basic '100 level' crop, livestock, and processing courses. IOIA will also continue to offer a variety of specialty or single-focus topics through both live advanced training and webinars. These '300 level' courses are of interest to inspectors who need specific skills or who are doing a specific type of inspection. Examples of webinars in this category could be aquaculture or maple syrup inspection. [see **OMRI**, p. 4]

Notes from the Chair by Michelle Sandy

While the AGM was only two months ago, it seems like ages. My husband and I, as well as our children, keep ourselves busy on our farm in the spring with calving and seasonal chores. Welcome to new BOD members Silke Fuchshoven, Ib Hagstrom, Deb Bunn & Helene Bouvier..... and thank you to the former BOD members Bob Durst, Dave Konrad, Julio Perez and Bob Howe - good luck in your future endeavors! The newly elected IOIA board is focusing its efforts on further development of the IOIA Training Institute; continuing the certifier dialog conference calls; developing a new senior staff position at IOIA; and a Board Retreat focusing on the development of a 5-year Business Plan. In April I attended the Organic Trade Association's 2011 Policy Conference and Hill Visit Days in DC and was reminded of the importance of their efforts in shaping [see **Notes**, page 4]

Inside:

Fumbling Part II
NOSB Report
GMO Lawsuits
BioFach
Training News
Oz Webinar
AGM Wrap Up

And More!!

Welcome New IOIA Staff

Kathy Bowers, IOIA's Office Manager, joined the IOIA staff with the New Year. She brings an education/extension degree, experience teaching computer science and home economics, and a



lifetime of cattle ranching experience. She is in charge of membership and works 4 days each week.

Danalynne Miller, USA Training Services, joined the IOIA staff in early March. She brings 30+ years of



paralegal experience. She now fills the role of bookkeeper and assists the ED and BOD as note-taker for BOD meetings, and is also working

4 days each week.

Fond farewells, thank you, and best wishes to **Teri Lindberg** and **Renee Higgins**.

Jobs at IOIA

IOIA Training Position: IOIA will be posting a job announcement for a second senior staff position. Primary responsibilities will focus on expansion and implementation of the IOIA Training Institute. If you would like more information, contact Bob Durst, Search Committee Chair at BobD@SimpleOrganicSolutions.com or check the IOIA website Job Board.

Grant Writer: Do you have experience and expertise in writing grant applications? Are you interested in contract work in this area, or are you willing and able to contribute your services to IOIA? If the answer is 'yes', please contact the IOIA office.

Membership Updates

Please make the following changes to your 2011 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 2011 Hardcopy Membership Directory or can be viewed in the 2011 Online Directory.

ADDRESS CHANGES:

INSPECTORS:

George Martin *redhawk60@hotmail.com*
Carlos Humberto Gonzalez
humberto.gonzalez@primuslabs.com
Erin Beard Wilson *curlywilly@gmail.com*
Kitri Falxa *kitrifalxa@gmail.com*

WELCOME RETURNING FORMER MEMBERS (NOT PRINTED IN THE 2011 DIRECTORY)

Inge Vogelmann ingev@iglide.net
Greg Awai greg@blacktomato.ca
Eugene Gergen inspect@grghelp.com

Welcome New Members

INSPECTORS:

Sabine Carey
veggies@fullcirclefarms.com
Alvaro Martinez Seminario
a.martinez.s@gmail.com
Amy Griner Stafford algriner@gmail.com
Joel Aitken joel.aitken@gmail.com
Judith Siddiqui
inspectorjudith@yahoo.com
Sung-Jun Park jun747@jejunu.ac.kr
Eunice Schlappi eunice.schlappi@ky.gov
Jeffery Stiles jstiles@co.marin.ca.us
Kimberly Hagen khagen@sover.net

WELCOME NEW SUPPORTING INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:

Laura Cohen
lauraleahcohen33@gmail.com
Ingrid Rooda ingridrooda@gmail.com
Vanessa Ramirez
vanessa.ramirez@berry.net
Steven H. Long slong2@clemsun.edu
Luella Porter egg lady0@gmail.com
Ted Richter
farmerted64@comcat.net
Joe Bocardy jbocardy@live.com
Brendan Kline
brendan.kline@wholefoods.com
Katherine Martin
kemartin1115@hotmail.com
Benjamin Caldwell
darthcaldwell@gmail.com
Jennifer Megyesi
fatroosterfarm@gmail.com

IOIA Anniversary Cookbook

A FUNdraising project celebrating 20 years of IOIA! We are looking for your favorites including simple, 'on the road' recipes, tips and other tidbits that will make this a very collectible book. Our goal is at least one recipe from every IOIA member.

To submit a recipe for the IOIA Cookbook, email mailto:lynell@rangeweb.net with the following information:

- 1.) Your full name as you want it printed. Inspection status (experience/years), social network info (optional)
- 2.) Category of dish (breakfast, lunch, dinner, dessert, drink, snack, etc)
- 3.) A few sentences explaining why this recipe should be included in the cookbook: Why did you choose to submit this one? Is this something that you are known for? Where did the original recipe come from? What makes it so special/delicious? Have you served it at any memorable occasions?
- 4.) The recipe, broken down into ingredients and steps. In WORD DOC only. Times New Roman, size 12 font is preferable, single spaced. No PDF, or other formatting, tables.
- 5.) A photo of you, your farm, or home. JPG only. Please send in the recipe and photo as separate attachments. Please do not embed photos into the recipe document. You may also want to submit a photo of the finished dish.
- 6.) Other tidbits, IOIA history bytes, humorous anecdotes, quotable quotes, or historical photos are very welcome.

IOIA Board of Directors

Michelle SandyChair
Jennifer CliffordVice Chair
Eric Feutz Treasurer
Helene BouvierSecretary
Debra BunnDirector at Large
Silke FuchshofenDirector
Ib HagstenDirector
The Inspectors' Report is the newsletter of the International Organic Inspectors Association. 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. Editor: Diane Cooner, Box 1259, Guerneville, CA 95446 USA. 707-869-3017, fax 707-869-1478.

ioiaweb.ioia.net

Deadlines
are Feb 1, May 1,
Aug 1 & Nov 1.
Published quarterly
on recycled paper.



Training Schedule 2011

Waitsfield, Vermont – Livestock, June 6-10

IOIA will sponsor Basic Organic Livestock Inspector Training June 6-10. Trainings will be held at the Inn at Lareau Farm in Waitsfield. The course includes 4 days of instruction including a field trip to a certified organic dairy operation, plus ½ day for testing.

Webinar: IOIA/OMRI Crop Inputs Webinar August 1 See page 1 for more details.

Gyeonggi, Korea Crop Course, July 13-17

IOIA and KOIA will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Crop Inspection Training using the Korea Organic Regulation (EFAPA) as a reference. The course will be held in Anyang, Gyeonggi, Korea July 13-17. For enquiries, please contact Isidor Yu at Ph: +82-10-9133-5431 Fax: +82-2—2281-9239 e-mail: Isidor.yu@gmail.com

Japan, Farm & Processing Courses, September 14-17

IOIA and JOIA will cosponsor 4 day Basic Organic Farm and Processing Inspection Trainings using JAS Standards as a reference. The courses will be held in Akihabara, Tokyo, Japan, September 14-17 and run concurrently. The training language will be Japanese. Please contact Mutsumi Sakuyoshi at JOIA for more information about the courses. E-Mail: mmu-saku@cap.ocn.ne.jp website: <http://www.joia.jp>

Namyangju City, Gyeonggi Province, Korea, October 2-5 – in conjunction with 17th IFOAM Organic World Congress

IOIA will sponsor advanced inspector training in conjunction with the 17th IFOAM Organic World Congress. The course will be delivered as three separate training segments. On October 2, **Han Jung Yeol**, will instruct a one-day soil assessment workshop for organic inspectors. Mr. Han is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Korea Organic Inspectors Association (KOIA). He has 15 years of experience in soil analysis and eight years of experience as an organic inspector. The language of the workshop will be Korean. On October 3, **Yutaka Maruyama** and **Mutsumi Sakuyoshi**, IOIA trainers from Japan, will present a Standards Workshop to address updates and key differences for EU, NOP, and JAS standards with assistance from **Isidor Yu**, IOIA Trainer from Korea, on the Korean standards. Language of this training will be English. On October 4-5, **Luis Brenes**, IOIA Trainer from Costa Rica, will provide two days of Grower Group inspection training in English language. Mr. Brenes has been training globally and inspecting organic operations, including grower groups, for more than 15 years. Translation will be available. Trainings will be held at the KOBACO Training Center in Namyangju City. A room block has been reserved. IOIA will host an inspector gathering on October 2 after the soils workshop ends. For application materials or more information about the trainings, contact the IOIA office.



Korea Training Planning Meeting, L to R: Sandeep Bhargava, Raymond Yang, IOIA ED Margaret Scoles, Dr. Leigh, and Mutsumi Sakuyoshi.



Brian Lee of the OWC organizing group, offering Korean delicacies during BioFach.

During the OWC and prior to the training, IOIA will deliver a workshop on October 1 entitled “Quality Organic Inspections: The New Organic Inspector”. Workshop presenters include **Sandeep Bhargava**, IOIA Inspector Member from India, on the topic of Grower Group inspection; **Margaret Scoles** on the IOIA Training Institute; **Yutaka Maruyama** (JOIA) and **Isidor Yu** (KOIA) on the formation of regional organic inspector groups. India is the only country to include grower group certification in their organic regulation. IOIA events focus around small holder inspection, in keeping with the theme of the OWC.

California and Midwestern USA, Fall and Early Winter 2011

Basic Crop Training is under development in the Midwestern USA for the fall. Basic Crop/Processing Inspection Training is under development for California, tentatively scheduled for December 5-9. For more information, watch the IOIA website Training Schedule or next newsletters.

Sacha Draine, Margaret Scoles and Dr. PVSM Gouri, Agriculture & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, (APEDA), India discuss future trainings in India at BioFach. Gouri is a candidate for the IFOAM World Board. →



Notes, from page 1

both the regulatory and market environment for organic products. It was an excellent week in DC for the organic industry.

Late April found me in Seattle as an observer at the NOSB meeting. Having never attended an NOSB meeting, I was not prepared for the public comments and heartfelt stories shared during the very brief allotted time. One of the comments from a certifier reminded the NOSB that unannounced inspections had been an action point and had not been followed through with, and should there not be consistency and non-bias in unannounced inspections, both random and with cause, throughout the industry? It was also suggested these unannounced inspections should be completed in conjunction with residue testing. The meeting also covered heavily mandated sunset reviews, which outcomes are covered in another article in this issue. I will not get into the details of the different materials here but found the outcome to be both fascinating and at times surprising. Work continues on animal welfare. Public comments referred to the pasture rule and the ongoing difficulties of implementation, including the lack of inspectors prepared for the inspections needed to verify organic systems to the new pasture rule.

In order to maintain the organic integrity, it is important to remind inspectors to only accept those inspections for which you are **truly qualified**. The animal welfare requirements would cause the producers to suffer under the weight of the documents and these documents do not necessarily guarantee better animal welfare.

I have returned home just in time for planting and farmers markets, although for just a short time, as I travel to Bio Fach China in May.



Have a wonderful spring! Michelle.

OMRI, from page 1

The IOIA/OMRI webinars are part of the new core intermediate or '200 level' courses that all inspectors in a given category need. For example, all inspectors of farms should have additional training beyond basic training in audit trail, natural resources, and crop inputs. All livestock inspectors should have additional training in feed audits and livestock materials.

These new core courses are most valuable to those already working as inspectors and certifiers, going beyond what can be done in a basic 4.5 day course. IOIA is building this new category of courses to develop the necessary skills for performing detailed inspections. IOIA's series of NOP Pasture Rule webinars over the past year represented the first IOIA '200 level' course. This new category will also become an essential component in a stronger inspector accreditation program. The webinar format makes these courses highly accessible, affordable, green, consistent, and reproducible.

This is the first step in the development of a series of IOIA/OMRI webinars that will include livestock inputs and processing inputs. Webinars focusing on inputs in relation to the Canadian standards are also under development. OMRI will continue to collaborate with IOIA on live in-person training of inspectors, as in the past (2007 and 2008), to ensure that adequate numbers of trained inspectors are available to do on-site inspections of input manufacturing operations.

South Africa Stops DuPont Acquisition of Major Seed Company

For the first time, a country in Africa has blocked the purchase of a seed company in order to regain a degree of control over the seed supply. DuPont's Pioneer Hi-Bred had sought to purchase South Africa's largest corn seed company, Pannar Seed Ltd. Activists opposed to the purchase of Pannar Seed Ltd are also pushing the government to reduce Monsanto's degree of control over genetically engineered seeds. Source:

www.Malaya.com, December 16, 2010

Minutes, from page 22

Report from Chair: Michelle attended the DC OTA Policy Conference meeting noting there were many doors open to IOIA. Michelle informed the BOD she intends to attend BioFach China as a representative of IOIA May 25-28 and requested \$1,500 to support her airfare (she noted she will personally be covering all additional costs). The money is expected to be transferred from the IFOAM Korea budget and Michelle indicated she may not attend or will reduce her trip to Korea to cover the budget shift. Other options were discussed as well as the need not to create more deficit. One thousand dollars were allotted to Michelle for airfare to BioFach China.

Conflict of Interest: COI – Margaret asked for verbal announcements of COI's. BOD members had none. It was noted that if in the future a BOD member had a conflict they would abstain from voting on that particular item. A motion was made to table the item of BOD COI Policy to our May meeting for further discussion.

Senior Staff Position Search Committee Update – The last committee meeting was Tampa. Margaret discussed the possible need for a BOD initiative to continue the effort.

Training Institute (TI): The Institute was born in 2007. It was taken up, visualized and created at the AZ BOD meeting in 2010. The Institute is not separate from IOIA, but a platform for all the diverse trainings we offer, create and are involved with. Margaret gave an overview of the TI asking us to keep this in mind while seeking the 2nd staff position.

BOD Retreat Business Plan – Margaret suggests we do a two day retreat or no longer than three days. Retreat dates will be forwarded to Michelle who will put together preliminary meeting dates. In May the BOD will work on defining dates and a location.

IOIA Logo: We would like to move on the logo. Michelle has submitted a new logo. Comments will be forwarded to Michelle who will forward them to the artist. The logo will be discussed again at the May BOD meeting.

IOIA BOD Conference Call May 10

Minutes pending approval.

Notes from the ED: Back to my German Roots

By Margaret Scoles

In February, I had the pleasure of participating for the first time in BioFach in Nuremberg, Germany with **Sacha Draine**, who heads up our International Training Services. Sacha's months of advance planning and multi-lingual gifts (German, Swiss-German, French, and Spanish) greatly enhanced our productivity. I'll journal some of the highlights here. We also attended the IFOAM Summit via webinar a day before we actually arrived in Nuremberg. The entire trip was a great success. One of the personal highlights of the trip was my first real chance to set foot on German soil. My maternal grandparents both immigrated from the Germany/Austria region.

Our very first meeting was with **Mutsumi Sakuyoshi**, IOIA Trainer, Japan, and **Sandeep Bhargava**, IOIA Inspector Member, India. We met to plan the Grower Group aspect of our inspection workshop session at Korea OWC October 1 and the Advanced training in conjunction with that event. Mutsumi is in charge of facilitating the session. We met with **Raymond Yang** and **Dr. Leigh** of Doalnara Institute regarding the same events. The IFOAM booth party followed shortly afterwards on Feb 17 (Organic Night). There was a heavy Asian influence there since Korea is hosting the 2011 OWC. I was glad to reconnect briefly there with **Mr. Lee** of NAQS in Korea. We'd met in Korea last March. We also attended the ECOCERT booth party the same night and confirmed **Michel Reynaud's** participation at the Florida training on the topic of EU regulations.

We had been invited to an IFOAM Leadership Training next morning, on Feb. 18. **Markus Arbenz** and **Anna Wissman**, IFOAM Advocacy Coordinator, led the session. Participants included **Peter Lustig** (Grolink) who has been the Lead Trainer for the Grolink trainings in the developing world over the past 10 years or so. **Ong Kung Wai**, also of Grolink, was there. He had worked with us in 2008 on the Grower Group trainings in India. Several participants represented India and Africa. **Dr. Phil Harris** of Coventry University in the

UK talked about a program in West Africa. We followed up later by visiting the Africa pavilion at his invitation and enjoyed a demonstration in chocolate making. We were descended upon by ICCOA (International Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture, India) after the meeting with requests for our fee schedules and training materials. During the meeting, we explained IOIA's Training

Institute initiative and how we thought the IFOAM Academy and the TI could be linked and mutually beneficial.

Thomas Cierpka, IFOAM Managing Director, gave us more than an hour of his time. We had scheduled a meeting with expectation of much less time. We discussed the concept of IFOAM North America with him, explained our Search Committee task for a second senior staff position, explored the need to update the IFOAM/IOIA International Organic Inspection Manual, discussed and reconfirmed that the current financial arrangements on the manual is working well for both of us, and explained as much about IOIA as we could.

We met with **Beate Huber**, FiBL, and **Bo van Elzakker**, IOAS President. Our discussion turned mostly to the Anti-Fraud Initiative in North America and the potential of training for inspectors. We visited with Organic Services (**Mike Sumner** and **Frank Gerriets**) about paperless inspection formats. They wanted to explore ways that IOIA could promote or make available paperless inspection documents based on the NOP standards. I explained that all certifiers are extremely attached to their own forms, that there is a huge obstacle of who would pay for it, and how IOIA is limited in what role we can play. Paperless certification really only works if it is mandatory and all-inclusive. Creating and maintaining the software for digital certification management is a big job and probably not feasible for individual certifiers or for IOIA.

On Feb 19, we met with **Dr. Gouri** of APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) to discuss further training in India. They are exploring Livestock inspection training to the Indian standards



Three Swiss in a Row: Sacha Draine, Peter Jossi-Silverstein, and Markus Arbenz, IFOAM ED, at the party. Peter was a contributor to the IFOAM/IOIA Int'l Organic Inspection Manual.

as a customized in-house training. This would be a follow-up to the IOIA/APEDA/Grolink Grower Group Inspection Trainings of 2008. We then rushed off to our final meeting -- with **Akiko Nicholls**, then ED of Australian Certified Organic, **Michael Baker** of ACO, and **Andy Monk** of Biological Farmers of Australia to confirm and plan the NOP Standards Webinar held on May 9-10. A few of the sessions we sandwiched between the meetings:

-An inspiring and motivational presentation *GMO's --what it takes to make it history.* (**Dr. John Fagan** and others.) Very interesting and well-done. **Christoph Fischer** described huge gains in Germany with GMO-free zones. **Benedikt Haerlin** gave some chilling updates on the inroads that GMO's are making in the EU. All panelists encouraged people who eat meat to eat only organic meat, explaining that the EU does not regulate the importation of GMO livestock feed.

-*The World of Organic Agriculture -- Statistics and Emerging Trends* (**Beate Huber**, FiBL; **Laura Batcha**, OTA, **Markus Arbenz**, IFOAM; **Dr. Helga Willer**, FiBL and several others) was very informational and well-done. IOIA came home with the newest edition of the hard copy book by the same name.

-*North American Organic Update* (**Michel Saumur**, CFIA; **Arthur Neal**, NOP; **Matt Holmes**, OTA Canada (and IFOAM World Board candidate; and others)

-*US Approaches to Global Organic Integrity: Identifying Best Practices* (**Ruihong Guo**, NOP; **John Foster**, NOSB; and **Jake Lewin**, CCOF, facilitated by **Bob Anderson**).

-An excellent session on *Importing to the EU* (**Jim Pierce**, OTCO, and **Beate Huber**, FiBL, and others).

USDA Alert: 2 Fake NOP Certificates in 2 months

USDA on Feb. 11 announced the circulation of a fraudulent National Organic Program (NOP) organic certificate produced by an uncertified operation. Reported to the NOP by an accredited certifying agent, the certificate falsely represented agricultural products as certified organic under the NOP regulations. The certificate claimed to be issued to the Fushan Hengchang Trade Co. Ltd of China. Six weeks later on March 24, USDA announced discovery of a second fraudulent certificate, this one issued to EMN Trading Ltd, of Johannesburg, South Africa.

"The NOP has not found evidence that any product was sold, labeled, or represented as organic using the fraudulent certificate," said Miles McEvoy, NOP deputy administrator, of both incidents. Although these violations may occur, McEvoy said the vigilance of the organic community will help abate them. "We are warning certifying agents and organic handlers to be on the lookout and to notify the NOP if anyone tries to sell organic products using fraudulent certificates."

The certifiers involved were Ecocert, France, and QAI. Both certifiers brought the certificates to the attention of NOP and were not responsible for their production.

Two Former Certifiers Lose Accreditation

USDA announced March 2 that two former organic certifiers, Certified Organic, Inc. (COI) and Guaranteed Organic Certification Agency (GOCA), are no longer accredited to the NOP.

As a result, the companies do not have authority to certify operations as meeting the USDA organic standards.

As both companies have surrendered their accreditation following the administrator's decision, they are no longer authorized to certify operations as organic. Operations formerly certified under COI or GOCA are being certified by other accredited certifying agents or have surrendered their certifications.

Records of appeals decisions are available in the NOP electronic Reading Room at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOPReadingRoomHome>

Calfo New ED at CCOF

CCOF has appointed former California Deputy State Treasurer **Cathy Calfo** as executive director. CCOF certifies 2,400 organic farmers, processors, retailers and private labelers.

Calfo served as Deputy State Treasurer between 1999 and 2004, leading strategic initiatives and overseeing the department's legislative and communications programs.

"I'm excited about leading CCOF as it enters its fourth decade as a key national force in supporting and promoting organic," said Calfo. "The organic industry is adding farms, creating jobs, furthering sustainable practices, and producing healthy food all while coming out of tough economic times. Our vision is to be the leading voice for organic as we certify products, educate consumers, and shape forward-thinking policies," she added.

"Cathy is a real catch for CCOF," said Will Daniels, CCOF board chair. "She brings with her years of proven, high-profile leadership in a variety of nonprofit settings. She has run a gubernatorial campaign, managed the California Treasurer's office, and won victories on a national stage for green jobs and clean energy. I'm confident that under Cathy's direction, the CCOF staff will grow from its already impressive scale of operation and effectiveness to even higher levels of achievement, prominence, and relevance for organic farming and food production."

USDA seeks nominations for five upcoming openings on NOSB

USDA is seeking nominations for five upcoming vacancies on the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). The five-year term openings are for an organic producer, an organic handler, a consumer/public interest representative, a scientist, and an environmentalist. Written nominations, with cover letters and resumes, must be postmarked on or before July 17. Send nominations to Katherine E. Benham, National Organic Program, USDA-AMS-TM-NOP, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Room 4004-S, Ag Stop 0268, Washington, D.C. 20250, or [contact Benham](mailto:kbenham@ams.usda.gov) directly (202-205-7806.

Interim Rule Extends Use of Methionine in Organic Poultry Production

USDA has adopted as final an interim rule that extends the use of synthetic methionine in organic poultry production until Oct. 1, 2012. The final rule establishes the following maximum levels of synthetic methionine per ton of feed: laying chickens, 4 pounds; broiler chickens, 5 pounds; turkeys and all other poultry, 6 pounds. The full document is available online at

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/pdf/2011-5716.pdf>

NOP Proposes Rule Requiring Periodic Residue Testing

The NOP is seeking comments on a proposed rule requiring that certifying agents conduct periodic residue testing of organically produced agricultural products. The rule, published in the April 29 *Federal Register* (docket number AMS-NOP-10-0102; NOP-10-10), proposes amending USDA organic regulations to make it clear that accredited certifying agents must conduct periodic residue testing of agricultural products represented as "100 percent organic," "organic," or "made with organic." The proposed rule would require that certifying agents conduct periodic residue testing for a minimum of five percent of the operations they certify annually in addition to pre-harvest or post-harvest testing when there is reason to suspect contamination with a prohibited substance. Further, applicable certifying agents would bear the additional costs for residue testing. All comments must be submitted by June 28, and can be submitted online.

USDA publishes guidance concerning compost and other issues

USDA on May 6 published guidance for the organic industry in the *Federal Register* concerning the issues of compost and vermicompost; wild crop harvesting; commingling and contamination prevention; and the use of chlorine materials in organic production and handling. The Final Guidance is posted on the National Organic Program website under the Program Handbook.

USDA Releases Notice on Ruminant Slaughter Stock Provisions

USDA on May 10 issued a *Federal Register* notice on the ruminant slaughter stock provision of the [access to pasture rule](#). It explains that NOP will not take any further action to amend the provision on ruminant slaughter stock under NOP regulations. In addition, operations certified as of Feb. 17, 2010, need to be in full compliance with the rule, including provisions on ruminant slaughter stock, by June 17, while new organic livestock operations must already be in full compliance.

JOIA Shook Up But Okay

The Japanese Organic Inspectors Association (JOIA) office did indeed get shaken up in the March 11 earthquake, a 9.0 event that devastated the country. But the office, the office staff, and IOIA's Japanese members (Mutsumi Sakuyoshi, Yoko Mizuno, Yutaka Maruyama, Ekuko Asano) are all OK. IOIA ED Margaret Scoles has communicated with each of them since the quake, and reports that they experienced serious inconvenience (power outages, train outages, etc) but not actual damage to their families or homes.

A couple thoughts from our ED on how we can support our sister organization:

"1. Yoko Mizuno is the only one of the 4 members in Japan who is actually on the Forum, so it might be better to send individual messages of encouragements to our members in Japan. Only Yoko is likely to see what comes through the Forum. Emails are listed in the Membership Directory.

"2. IOIA should continue our efforts to support the first IFOAM World Conference in Asia, scheduled for Korea in late September. Even though the conference is not in Japan, the disaster is one more factor that could discourage participation from around the world.

"3. I want to share the following excerpt that might be helpful. It's from "The Blue Avocado", electronic newsletter Issue #64 March 14, I find this to be a great publication for non-profits, and it usually brings me a perspective I hadn't thought about:

"With what sadness and shock we view the terrible earthquake and tsunami in Japan, feelings that we know well from Katrina, Haiti, New Zealand, Chile, Indonesia. And many of us nonprofit folk have another feeling, too: internal turmoil about disaster giving. Mika Nakahara, a longtime nonprofit activist in Tokyo, commented in an interview that, "Japan is a developed country. We are not used to getting international aid; we are used to giving aid to other countries." But she added, "It is a new feeling to see that other countries care about us, even countries like Korea, China and Russia where we have political conflicts. Goodwill from abroad means a lot to us!"

"When we asked where people could give donations directly to Japanese nonprofits, she said ruefully that Japanese nonprofits don't usually raise money overseas, so their websites are usually only in Japanese and are not set up for international donations. She herself is giving to **Shanti Volunteer Association**, <http://www.sva.or.jp/global/> which has those characteristics.

"In the meantime, all disasters remind us of the power and spontaneous generosity of volunteers who in Japan are everywhere setting up aid and reconstruction stations of all kinds. Our hearts go out to the people suffering in so many places in the world, and to those among them who are finding the strength to help one another."

California Man Charged With Fraud in Organic Fertilizer Case

A federal grand jury returned an indictment on March 11 charging Kenneth Nelson, Jr., 57, of Bakersfield, with 28 counts of mail fraud relating to his alleged operation of a scheme to defraud customers of his organic fertilizer businesses, including distributors and organic farmers, by falsely representing his companies' fertilizers to be organic products when he knew that the fertilizers contained prohibited synthetic materials. Nelson manufactured and sold fertilizers through Port Organic Products Ltd. and various affiliated businesses that he owned and operated, including AgroMar Inc., Sail-On Ag Products Inc., Desert Organic Express Inc., Action Fertilizer, and Microbial Assisted Soil Health Inc. The indictment alleges that when federal

search warrants were executed at Nelson's businesses, it was found that between at least 2003 and January 2009, he had defrauded his distributors and organic-farmer customers by falsely representing that his companies' fertilizers were organic products suitable for use in organic agriculture.

The indictment charges that Nelson caused aqueous ammonia, ammonium sulfate, synthetic urea, and other nonorganic, synthetic substances to be included in his companies' fertilizers. By mixing in these cheaper ingredients, Nelson allegedly produced fertilizers at a lower cost than if he had used 100 percent organic ingredients, and thereby increased his profits. From 2003 through 2008, Nelson, through his companies, obtained profits in excess of \$9 million from the sale of purportedly organic fertilizers.

The Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) and the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) provide independent listing of fertilizers and other products that meet NOP requirements. Organic farmers, distributors, and others relied on WSDA and OMRI organic listings as indication that the products complied with NOP standards.

The indictment further alleges that Nelson obtained and maintained organic listings for his fertilizers from Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) and Washington State Dept. of Agriculture (WSDA) based on the submission of false applications and renewal applications to OMRI and WSDA in which he failed to disclose the true ingredients in the fertilizers. The indictment alleges that he did not disclose to OMRI or WSDA that he was using synthetic materials, and that if he had, OMRI and WSDA would not have listed the fertilizers as approved organic products.

If convicted, Nelson faces a maximum sentence for each count of 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and up to three years of supervised release.

This case is the second recent investigation in California involving the organic fertilizer industry that has resulted in federal criminal charges. In October 2010, Peter Townsley, the founder and former president of California Liquid Fertilizer, was arrested after being charged in a similar case in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. Townsley has pleaded not guilty in that case and is awaiting trial.

NOSB News

April 2011 National Organic Standards Board recommendations

Crops:

The following materials will be relisted, some with annotation changes as noted:

- ◆ Chlorine materials relisted with a new annotation: For pre-harvest use, residual chlorine level in the water in direct crop contact or as water from cleaning irrigation systems applied to soil should not exceed the maximum residual disinfectant limit under the Safe Drinking Water Act. For disinfection or sanitizing equipment or tools or in edible sprout production, chlorine products may be used up to maximum labeled rates.
- ◆ Copper (fixed coppers and copper sulfate)
- ◆ Ethylene gas for regulation of pineapple flowering
- ◆ Isopropanol and Ethanol
- ◆ Lignin sulfonate, with one listing for use as a chelating agent, dust suppressant and another for use as a flotation agent
- ◆ Magnesium sulfate
- ◆ Newspapers and plastic mulch
- ◆ Newspapers and recycled paper for compost
- ◆ Pheromones
- ◆ Sodium silicate for tree fruit and fiber processing
- ◆ Streptomycin and tetracycline were relisted with new annotations restricting use to apples and pears for fire blight control only until October 21, 2014
- ◆ Vitamin D

The following was not approved for use in organic crop production:

- Nickel as a micronutrient

These items will no longer be allowed for use in organic crop production:

- Sodium nitrate-no use of sodium nitrate after Oct, 21, 2012
- Sulfur dioxide (Smoke bombs), as of Oct. 21, 2012

No decision:

Corn steep liquor continues to be allowed. The board voted (six to five, with one abstaining and two recusals) that it was not a nonsynthetic, but it was noted by NOP that the vote does not mean corn steep liquor is considered synthetic. Corn steep liquor

will continue to be allowed for use as compost feedstock until such time as a decisive vote is taken at NOSB. Expect additional action about corn steep liquor at a future meeting.

Handling:

Petitioned materials that were approved for use in organic handling:

- Attapulgit as a non-synthetic processing aid in the handling of plant and animal oils

Petitioned material that was not approved:

- Calcium acid polyphosphate.
- Annotation change to expand use of Sodium acid polyphosphate as a sequestrant on cooked and uncooked produce.

Sunset decisions:

These items will continue to be allowed in organic handling:

- Enzymes
- Potassium iodide-the nonsynthetic form was relisted on § 205.605(a); the synthetic form was not relisted on § 205.605(b)
- Nutrient vitamins and minerals-NOSB voted to relist with current annotation but NOP to issue guidance on accessory nutrients but not before end of year; expect an annotation change proposal at the next NOSB meeting
- Tocopherols

Materials Classification Guidance Document:

The board voted to remove a sentence from the April 2010 recommendation on the definition of chemical change: leaving the definition as "An occurrence whereby the identity of a substance is modified, such that the resulting substance possesses a different distinct identity (see related definition of "substance")."

The NOSB failed to pass a motion to accept the update with the proposed guidance statement about significant level of a synthetic substance in the final material as a level exceeding any applicable regulatory limits, where in effect for the material being classified, and a level without any technical and functional effects in the final material.

NOSB Policy:

The board also made some recommendations about board policies and procedures, particularly the duties of the Vice Chair, the function of the Policy Development Committee, and the procedures for completing committee recommendations.

Excerpted from Wolf, DiMatteo and Associates News & Policy Updates for the Organic Industry, reprinted with permission. For the full report contact info@organicspecialists.com Report also available at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5090952&acct=nopgeninfo>

Canadian Update

By Kelly A. Monaghan

Funding Update

On February 11th a meeting was held in Ottawa to discuss the future of funding for organic standards maintenance and revision in Canada. Representatives from Agriculture & Agrifood Canada (AAFC), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Canada Organic Office met with Matthew Holmes of the Canada Organic Trade Association, Laura Telford of Canadian Organic Growers, Ted Zettel of the Organic Federation of Canada and myself representing the Organic Technical Committee (OTC).

The OTC received notice of funding for the work undertaken for the year ending March 31, 2011, however we were advised that no further funding will be forthcoming from the Canadian government. The Organic Federation of Canada will be working with industry and government to identify potential sources of funding for this critical work.

At the same meeting it was announced that the work of the Standards Interpretation Committee will become funded annually through the operating budget of the Canada Organic Office.

Standards and PSL Update

The latest revision of the Standard and PSL has been completed by the Canadian General Standards Board and has been dated April 2011. It is anticipated that the final review and signoff will be completed shortly and that the new amendment will be available for download before the end of May at

<http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ongc-cgsb/internet/bio-org/index-eng.html>

At present there are over 200 items on the Committee's work list and as per CGSB procedures the standard's first five-year review is scheduled to begin in 2011. Without funding it is unclear how this work will be completed and how the Standard and PSL will be maintained going forward.

Standards Interpretation Committee

The Standards Interpretation Committee added two more IOIA members to its ranks during a recent election. **Rochelle Eisen** and **Maureen Bostock** join fellow IOIA-members **Janine Gibson** and **Dag Falck** along with **Ted Zettel**, **Gérard Bouchard** and **Jean Duval** who collectively make up the seven member committee. These independent representatives are elected by members of the Organic Federation of Canada and all seven are also voting members of the OTC.

The 68 interpretations that the SIC has prepared to date in response to questions submitted are posted on the COO's website. The SIC is actively developing responses to an additional 30 questions which will be posted for comment as soon as possible.

Canada Organic Office

The industry is preparing for the impending end of the Stream of Commerce policy on June 30, 2011. The Canada Organic Office and industry groups have been communicating to ensure that all organic operators are aware of the changes that will take place on that date regarding enforcement and compliance activities. These may include:

- Detaining non-compliant products and/or removing them from store shelves
- Correcting non-compliant labelling
- Returning non-compliant imported products to the country of origin

We are advised that the COO website is being updated frequently and all interested parties are encouraged to visit often:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/orgbio/orgbioe.shtml>

A Certification Body working group is being established to help apply the COO's Operating Manual. As Joe Smillie might say, let's hope they don't name it the Canadian Accredited Certifier's Association.

Canadian International Negotiations

United States – The Canada Organic Office is preparing for its peer review this coming June which will take place during a visit by the NOP to the COO's offices in Ottawa.

The variances within the equivalency agreement are being discussed on both sides of the border. It is hoped that recent discussions on the use of sodium nitrate in the U.S. may result in that variance being eventually removed from the equivalency agreement. The U.S. has formally asked Canada to consider removing ruminants from the stocking density variance and the OTC has asked to wait until the outcome of the NOSB's recent meeting on that issue is known.

European Union – The COO is in ongoing communications with the EU, indicates that there are no significant disagreements between the two countries and that they hope that an arrangement will be finalized before June 30, 2011.



Honorary Canadian IOIA Member Patti Bursten Deutsch at the IOIA AGM Auction displaying some donated Canadian products

IOIA's Canadian Committee

The Canadian Committee hopes to begin an outreach program to inspectors working in Canada who are not currently members of IOIA. If you know somebody in this situation, please contact Bill Barkley at barkhm5@magma.ca so that we can send them information on the benefits of IOIA membership.

Kelly Monaghan is Chair of the Canadian General Standards Board's Organic Technical Committee. She also acts as IOIA's Membership Chairperson.
www.ashstreetorganics.com

IOIA Celebrates 20 Years of Service to the Organic Community!

Highlights of the AGM:

- Quorum was met. 36 voting members, 26 member proxies.
- Approval of 2010 AGM Minutes: The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.
- Ballot Committee was announced. Chair: Joyce Ford (Chair) members Brian Magaro and Janine Gibson were in attendance.
- Annual Report 2010 Overview: Bob Durst (Chair) presented the Annual Report.
- Treasurer's Report by Eric Feutz. The 2010 Balance Sheet, Trainings Revenue and Revenue and Expense Statements were reviewed. The 2011 Budget was presented. The 2011 budget overview 2nd senior staff position figure is under discussion. The budget deficit is expected to be reduced once the nominating committee finalizes the position's salary details. The financials were unanimously approved.
- Membership Committee: Chair, Kelly Monahan reported. The committee would like to continue to encourage potential BOD members from outside the US and would like to solicit candidates worldwide. A short discussion regarding accreditation ensued. The committee is discussing how best to retain members.
- Canadian Committee: Reporting for Bill Barkley (Chair) was Garry Lean: The Canadian inspector Forum is active. It was a very successful Advanced Training in Guelph January 2011. Ongoing issues and discussions: Regional differences, pay scales, British Columbia ACAs who are COABC accredited only hire IOIA Inspectors, insurance, trainings, Canadian ACA concerns, improving the Association.
- Misc Discussion: Should we require all trainees to become members of IOIA? We would like to keep trainees in touch with us in some capacity.
- Accreditation & ARP Committee: Bob Durst reported that the Committee needs a Chair. This committee will address IOIA accreditation in relation to the USDA/NOP.
- New Scholarship idea: Bob H. suggested we create a scholarship in Lance Christie's name. Lance passed away in 2010. He was a long time IOIA member, organic inspector and dedicated much of his life to environmental justice. Details will be left up to the Scholarship Committee. Bob shared a photo and a Moab newspaper article about Lance's tremendous accomplishments.
- Bylaws Committee: the Bylaws committee eliminated Alternates in 2010. The AGM is asked to approve the increase of the BOD to seven regular members. The motion was passed unanimously. It was suggested the BOD discuss large BOD exits and entrances so there are reasonable numbers of BOD members moving on or off at one time.
- Other Committee Reports: Joyce Ford, Ethics and Margaret Weigelt, Scholarship
- Thank you's: A hearty thanks to Rick Martinez for hosting IOIA's Anniversary party and field trip, Michelle Sandy for orchestrating the party, Bob Howe and family for finding the Mainsail, and Lynell Denson for organizing the AGM and training food. Thanks to all IOIA's past BOD members, many of whom were on hand and were recognized – Luis Brenes, Garry Lean, Jim Riddle, Brian Magaro, Patti Bursten Deutsch, Stanley Edwards, Janine Gibson, Elizabeth Franklin, Joyce Ford, Maarten Samsom. Diane Cooner, a responsible and vital part of IOIA, traveled to Costa Rica last fall. She had expected to be here in person but Skyped in instead.
- AGM location 2011: Vancouver, BC; Costa Rica; and Viroqua, WI were suggested. TBD by BOD.

Issues for discussion:

- Brian Magaro - ACAs are possibly willing to accept annual template inspector forms (confidentiality forms etc.) from IOIA.
- PPF GMO lawsuit – Bob Howe – Public Attending members, to a large degree, agreed the organization should advocate in the best interest of the organic industry. The straw poll indicated an overwhelming majority in favor of being part of the suit.



← 2011-2012 BOD, from left:

Margaret Scoles, ED;
Michelle Sandy, Chair;
Silke Fuchshofen, Facilitator;
Jennie Clifford, Vice-Chair;
Ib Hagsten; Director;
Eric Feutz, Treasurer; and
Deb Bunn, Executive-Member-at-Large
March 28 in Tampa
Not pictured: Helene Bouvier, Secretary.



The BOD surprised the ED with a slide show presentation. It was prepared in secret through collusion between Michelle Sandy and Kathy Bowers, IOIA Office Manager and presented at the AGM by founding BOD Chair Jim Riddle. A 20th anniversary plaque was presented 'to Margaret Scoles for 20 years 1991-2011 of Dedicated Service to the IOIA'. Scoles was a founding BOD member of the organization and a member of the steering committee along with Riddle. The slide show is available to members on the IOIA website (go to 'About IOIA' then 'Annual Report' link). Pictured are Jim Riddle, Margaret Scoles, Bob Durst, and Michelle Sandy. ←



Outgoing Chair **Bob Durst** accepts a gift from IOIA, the traditional handmade thank-you by Ardith Rost of Broadus of hand calligraphy and dried flowers. Durst served as Chair for the past 3 years and as Vice-Chair for 1 year. →



Michelle Sandy presents **Dave Konrad** a gift of appreciation from IOIA for his past 4 years of service on the BOD. ←



Fred Kirschenmann was back for an encore performance with IOIA. He spoke at the first Annual Meeting in Arkansas in 1993. That speech was titled, "*In Search of Objectivity, or How to Create a Credible Certification Program*". Slightly modified, that speech was included in his latest book, **Cultivating an Ecological Conscience: Essays from a Farmer Philosopher**. Kirschenmann donated an autographed copy to the IOIA Auction and gave the 2011 keynote address in Tampa, with "*The Farm, Food, Certification Connection: It's All About Relationships*". →



IOIA members on the veranda after an excellent meal of mostly organic ingredients, listening to Fred's keynote on real food, real food costs, and the future of food. ←



Faces at the AGM: Kevin O'Dare, inspector from Florida, and Janine Gibson, past BOD member. →

Something to Celebrate! 20 Years of IOIA – The AGM Party at Sweetwater Farm

The things that BOD members do for IOIA! Anything to get a few more dollars for an auction item -- Bob Durst, BOD chair, poses in a Wisconsin cheese hat and offers Wisconsin cheese to go with it. Former BOD Chair Brian Magaro served as auctioneer. Patti served as 'Vanna White' in a bright red dress and donated the cheese. And IOIA Treasurer Eric Feutz clerked for the auction, bought more items than anyone, and tried to keep track of the money in the dark. The Cheese hat went to Ontario with Kelly Monaghan's daughter Laura. The auction was a smashing success and raised \$2400.



The 20th anniversary cake, crafted by local caterers and served with delectable chocolate dipped strawberries after sumptuous evening snacks that served as a meal. Wine was donated by Frey Organic Vineyard and Whole Foods, plus contributions from the party-goers. Berries were in full season in Florida. Organic berries were donated by IOIA Inspector Member Ron Clark and wife Sherry (Jordan Farms) and used for desserts throughout the training, AGM, and party. Jordan Farms also hosted a field trip a few weeks later for the basic crop inspection course.



Jim Riddle and **Al Johnson** at the AGM party at Sweetwater Farm. Why are they laughing? Perhaps because of Al's challenge to all founding members of IOIA who were in attendance at the Baltimore meeting in 1991 where IOIA was formed. Of that small group of about 20 inspectors, only four were in attendance at the Tampa events-- Harriet Behar, Alan Johnson, Riddle, and Scoles. Harriet had left the party by the time Al grabbed the mike and issued the challenge -- who could list the most members in attendance at the historic meeting in Baltimore? Johnson won handily with 14. Riddle and Scoles tied a distant 2nd with 10 each. →



Auction Prize - Handmade Quilt by Sherry Clark went for \$330! ↓



In 2002, Harriet Behar was Chair of the IOIA BOD. She cajoled her fellow BOD members into helping her with a puppet show performance of the book *There's a Hair in my Dirt* by Gary Larson at the AGM. An audience member who applauded the performance was Miles McEvoy, then head of the Washington State Organic Program and the keynote speaker for the 2002 AGM. He and his wife Ami Greenberg were in Tampa for the training and the AGM party at Sweetwater Farm for the repeat performance. Harriet fortunately had stored the props and puppets for the past 9 years and brought them out of storage for IOIA. Janine Gibson narrated the performance, and Harriet Behar, Aaron Brin, and Joyce Ford gave life to the puppets. Thank you, Harriet!



Liz Hollister and her band were Awesome!

Ami Greenberg was surprised with a 'Friend of IOIA' Award for her years of service as the non-IOIA member on the IOIA Accreditation Review Panel. She served from the first ARP in 1995 until 2007. The award was a handmade award featuring calligraphy and dried flowers.



'Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain'....

Miles McEvoy was a successful bidder during the auction. He and Ami took home to Washington DC a basket made of a recycled team roper's lariat, handcrafted by IOIA's Office Manager Kathy Bowers. The basket was filled with organic jerky, organic Yellowstone Coffee Roasters coffee beans (sold at the IOIA office), and a Broadus centennial coffee cup showing the historic town square, including the building that now houses the IOIA office.