



The

Inspectors' Report

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Notes from The Chair

By Garry Lean

It's been a busy time! Thanks for all of the extra "miles" from committee volunteers, IOIA staff and contractors and fellow Board members.

During the recent retreat in Montana, the Board adopted a new "slogan" – ***We make sure that "Organic" is really organic.*** It feels like this is core to our mission as organic inspectors – comments and suggestions are welcome.

As Paul Simon suggests, "Let's get together and form an institute": the formalization of The **IOIA Organic Training Institute** has made some initial steps – stay tuned for further developments.

Thanks to some strategic preparation by IOIA ED Margaret Scoles and the work of the IOIA Community Growers Group Committee (Luis Brenes, Chair), IOIA was able to present a position paper at the recent NOSB meeting in Washington. This is truly an international issue and will have far reaching significance in the future "Role of the organic inspector". It was a privilege to represent IOIA at this venue, and thanks also to Catherine Cash for her contributions. In summary, IOIA appears to be on the same page as NOP and ACA – see page 22 for our position paper on CGG's. Again, special thanks to **Luis Brenes** for his review of the submissions from the key contributors and the detailed feedback.

IOIA has been extra busy with training and curriculum development and the Board retreat. Demand for inspector training is strong and summaries from Pennsylvania are included here – Basic Crops, Livestock and Processing as well as a very successful advanced training.

It's not too early to prepare for the AGM and advanced training in Guatemala – the program is taking shape. Do you have some suggestions? Let the IOIA office know.

And, to **Lidia Girón**, "Thank You" for your dedication and enthusiasm on the front line in Guatemala. ☺

2008 AGM Set For March 2 In Guatemala

IOIA's Annual General Membership Meeting is scheduled for March 2 in Retalhuleu, about 2.5 hours southwest of Guatemala City (the airport to fly to).

Lidia M. Girón, IOIA Inspector member since 1995, is spearheading the organization of the event. Lidia, a pharmacist with training in ethnobotany, trains rural groups on the cultivation and processing of medicinal plants through FARMAYA. Lidia says IOIA members can expect very warm (86°F/38°C high and 68°F/20°C low) and humid weather. She says there are lots of flowers, birds, and trees and, "Yes, I think we will need the air conditioning" that is available at the hotel. That will be a pleasant experience for most of us chilly northerners who will enjoy the early preview of spring.

San Carlos University, along with local cosponsors of the basic course, will coordinate transportation from the airport to IRTRA for participants in the advanced course. Advanced registration fees will include transportation from the airport. Lodging will be in the San Martín and Santa Cruz hotels of IRTRA. Visit www.irtra.org.gt to see the venue (Spanish language only). Spanish and English language advanced trainings will run concurrently March 3-4, with some plenary activities. Both trainings will focus primarily on the inspection of community grower groups with internal control systems. Other topics are under development. A field trip is planned to a local farm that produces coffee, macadamia, and bananas. The group will travel together and split into English and Spanish speaking tour groups. Dr. Armando Cáceres, President of FARMAYA and professor at the university, has agreed to speak to both groups on his research in medicinal plants. For further info about the advanced trainings, contact the IOIA office.

IOIA and MAYACERT-FAUSAC-MAGA-FARMAYA-CEMAT-CONCYT will also cosponsor 4.5 day Spanish language Basic Organic Farm Inspection Training using USDA NOP standards as a reference from February 25-29 at the same location.

IOIA's last AGM in Latin America was in Costa Rica in 2004. OCIA Int'l will also host their 2008 AGMM in Latin America, on Feb. 25-March 1 in Oaxaca, Mexico. The 2008 IOIA AGM is scheduled to allow members to coordinate and attend both events.

A popular regional trip in northern Guatemala is Tikal National Park, but IOIA members should plan at least 2 extra days to see it. It is accessible by short flight from Guatemala City. The park's 57,600 ha/142,000ac are covered with old-growth forests of varied plant life including monkeys, coatis and deer. Over 300 species of birds have been studied in the park and reptiles are abundant. The park's natural environment blends with the architectural ruins of the ancient city of Tikal, perhaps the most important Mayan urban center in its time. It is the only place in the world named World Cultural Heritage Site and World Natural Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Plan ahead if you don't have a passport yet. And plan to pack your dancing shoes! **More AGM info on page 3.**

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Plus NOP, NOSB, Notes from
the ED, Int'l Training
Reports....

....And More!

2007 Membership Directory

Updates *Effective 12/11/2007*

Please note the following changes. Any additions or corrections to information categories other than addresses and contact numbers will be listed in the 2008 Hardcopy Membership Directory or can be viewed in the 2007 Online Directory.

Address Changes – Inspectors:

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Clemson University
Chris Ray (New Contact)

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Welcome Returning Former Members

Inspector Members:

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Welcome New Members: Inspectors:

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Thomas I. Schoenfeldt
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Janet M. Thumm
Upgrade to Inspector

John Wilson
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Upgrade to Inspector

Welcome New Supporting Individual Members:

Detweiler, Mark (Rome, GA)
Dobson, Josephine (Winona, MN)
Ehrhart, Ursula (Frankfort, KS)
Ellor, Kristine (Tina) (Kennett Square, PA)
Freer, Mark E. (Delano, MN)
Geer, Carolyn (Ontario, CANADA)
Herrera, Theodore Ralph (Pleasanton, CA)
Holt, Mike (St. Matthews, SC)
Hutchinson, Matt (Elgin, IL)
Marewski, Gabriele (Homestead, FL)
Milich, Mark D. (Broomfield, CO)
Njoroge, John Wanjau (Nairobi, KENYA)
Pack, Jeff (Gainesville, FL)

Pierce, Jim (LaFarge, WI)
Pressman, Andrew (Shavertown, PA)
Sichel, Steven (Baltimore, MD)
Stoneman, William F. (McFarland, WI)
Turner, Chris (Bronxville, NY)
Ward, Joseph W. (Marion, IA)
Williams, Jared (Belleville, IL)

Welcome New Supporting Business Members:

Driscoll's Strawberry Associates, Inc.
Brian McElroy & Carmela Beck
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Welcome New Supporting Certification Agency:

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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.
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Upcoming Trainings

Hawaii IOIA and the Hawaii Organic Farmers Association (HOFA) will offer Basic Organic Crop Inspection Training to be held February 22-26, 2008, on the Big Island, Hawaii. The course will be held at "Your Hawaiian Retreat", <http://www.yourhawaiianretreat.org> located on an organic farm about 30 miles south of Hilo. Nature walks and outdoor recreation in the sub-tropical forest on the farm are available. Attendance is limited to fifteen (15) applicants. In order to encourage Hawaii applicants who may be interested in working as inspectors, HOFA will offer US \$350.00 scholarship to selected applicants upon successful completion of the course. Deadline for course registration is February 1, 2008. Application forms are available from: HOFA PO Box 6863 Hilo, HI 96720. Ph. (808) 969-7789 Fax (808) 969-7759 hofa@hawaiiorganicfarmers.org.

Retalhuleu, Guatemala IOIA will sponsor Advanced Organic Inspector Training on March 3-4, in conjunction with the 2008 Annual Membership Meeting on March 2, 2008. English and Spanish language offerings will be offered. IOIA and MAYACERT-FAUSAC-MAGA-FARMAYA-CEMAT will cosponsor 4.5 day Basic Organic Farm Inspection Training using USDA National Organic Standards as a reference. The course will be held at IRTRA in Retalhuleu, Guatemala from February 25-29, 2008. Instruction will be conducted in Spanish. Please contact Noé Rivera (MAYACERT) or Lidia M. Girón (FARMAYA) phone: 502-2361 8201 and 502-2221 4967 Fax: 2361 8201 and 2230 5006 E-mail Noé at: noe.rivera@mayacert.com and Lidia at: farmaya.sa@explonet.com for further information about the basic trainings. Contact IOIA for information about advanced trainings.

Manitoba, CANADA IOIA and Assiniboine Community College (ACC) will sponsor Basic Organic Crop Inspection Training as a Distance Education course. The course includes a period of individualized study followed by a field trip during a weekend session held in Manitoba. The weekend session from Friday evening until Sunday evening will be held May 2-4, 2008. Course participants receive course packages that require home study and mail-in assignments. For more information and registration please contact Assiniboine Community College at phone: 1-800-862-6307 ext 6716; or 204-725-8700 from outside Canada; or e-mail: organic@assiniboine.net. Information will also be posted at www.ioia.net when available. A training for livestock inspection is under development for later in 2008.

Iowa City, Iowa IOIA and Iowa Organic Association will cosponsor Basic Organic Crop and Processing Inspection Trainings, running concurrently on April 16-20, followed by Basic Livestock Inspection Training running April 21-25, 2008. Location for all trainings is the Coralville Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, Coralville, Iowa in the Iowa City area. Detailed information and application forms for all trainings will be posted at www.ioia.net as soon as available.

Hong Kong, China IOIA and the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre will cosponsor Basic Crop and Processing Inspection Trainings in May 2008. Training is under development.
Other trainings: IOIA, CCOF, and Stellar Certification Services are discussing the possibility of joint Livestock and Biodynamic inspection training in northern California. Watch upcoming IOIA newsletters and the website for details as other trainings develop.

IOIA Scholarships Available for Organic Inspector Training

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

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

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, IOIA, P.O. Box 6, Broadus, MT 59317-0006, Email ioia@ioia.net, or visit www.ioia.net to download application forms. The deadline for returning Scholarship applications is October 1. Scholarship recipients are notified by December 15.

AGM info from page 1

For those members that want to partake of some tourism after the trainings, here are some options to consider – please go to www.ioia.net and click on the 2008 AGM info link, as more details will be posted there.

Guatemala City Tours including Antigua, Chichicastenango & Panajachel – March 4, 5 & 6 (Tues/Weds/Thurs). The price per day includes tourist bus transportation, admission to places visited and a special guide. Meals not included. Contact Ma. del Carmen at laxzonaviva@gmail.com Lax Travel Zona Viva, Tels. 23611617/27

Day 1 – Guatemala City, ½ day – Visit the residential zone "La Cañada", Av. Las Américas, Av. Reforma, Civic Center, Historic Center, Central Park, the National Palace and a relief map of the country. Price per person US\$35

Day 2 - Historical tour – visit the Convento de Santo Domingo, parque central, palacio de los capitanes generales, palacio del Ayuntamiento, Iglesia de la Merced, Jade Museum plus other sites. Time for lunch, then Convento del hermano Pedro, the Old City, San Antonio Hot Springs and the Textile market. Price per person US\$45

Day 3 – Chichicastenango/Panajachel (Atitlan Lake) In the morning visit the open air market, and the Church of St. Thomas la Iglesia de Santo Tomás, in the afternoon visit the lake and it's surrounding 3 volcanos. Time for lunch (not included) & return to Guatemala City. Price per person US\$55

IOIA Audited by Alberta Firm to Int'l Accounting Principles

In June, the IOIA Board of Directors discussed the value of an external audit of the financial books. They asked why IOIA is not regularly audited. ED Margaret Scoles explained the findings of the last internal review by the IOIA Board in 2002, five years ago. She agreed that it was probably time for another audit of some scope. She reported discussions with IOIA's accountant, David Gardner, and her research on the cost of a complete formal audit. IOIA doesn't need a regular audit for many of the typical reasons. The association has never landed a large federal grant from a single source, which would make one necessary. IOIA has also not so far attracted large donors, who might request one. The annual budget is modest and the cost of a formal audit was perceived as high (estimated \$4-\$5000 annually). The IOIA accountant had suggested an annual review according to agreed upon procedures, either by the IOIA Board or an external auditor (probably an accountant). This would be similar to an organic inspection where sample audit trails are tracked, but it would be less than a full financial audit. The cost would be much lower (estimated \$1-2,000). For an organization the size of IOIA, this type of review typically is done in lieu of a complete audit.

Although IOIA is a relatively small nonprofit, it is growing rapidly. The annual budget has more than doubled in the last 5 years. The Board has a responsibility to the membership to ensure that funds are handled appropriately. The BOD decided to investigate options for an audit.

One of those options was a 2-year old offer from Colin Presizniuk, supporting business member of IOIA, to do an audit of the end of the year books for a nominal fee. He would waive the regular audit fee if IOIA would help with expenses from Edmonton, Alberta. Presizniuk and Associates specializes in the audit and review of non-profit associations. Colin describes himself as "an ambassador for auditing by nonprofits". One quick call to his office confirmed that not only was Presizniuk still interested, his interest had recently been piqued by articles in the IOIA newsletter that discussed IOIA's greater international presence. His offer for an on-site audit to international accounting principles was still good. The BOD accepted his offer in July. Colin Presizniuk, assisted by his wife Gale arrived at the IOIA office on August 27 and spent nearly 2 days completing the audit.

Initial findings in the draft audit report bring no surprises to the BOD. The good news is that every penny was accounted for. The 2006 end of the year financial statements were found accurate (with the expected disclaimer that January 1, 2006 amounts were not

validated). The primary recommendations for improvement were:

- ◆ Tighten internal controls to address the situation of one signature on checks with the ED signing all checks including those to her. The report strongly recommended a requirement for 2 signatures required for checks.
- ◆ Move to Accrual financial reporting to the members.
- ◆ Have an annual audit.

The IOIA Treasurer, Finance Committee, and BOD have reviewed the Draft Audit Report. Next step is completion of the Final Audit Report by Presizniuk's office in time for presentation to the 2008 AGM. Treasurer Gene Prochaska reports that the IOIA Finance Committee has drafted an Audit Policy for IOIA. He also says that IOIA will continue to address the issue of increased internal control of funds. This could involve adding staff, or using the services of the accountant. And the BOD will look at the benefits of moving to Accrual based reporting. Prochaska explains, "IOIA currently reports to the IRS using Accrual accounting but reports Cash basis to the membership. Cash based budgets and financial reports are generally clearer to the membership."

ED Scoles says that the audit was extremely similar to an organic inspection. "First, Colin wanted to understand our system and who did what. Then he basically did an audit balance for all the money of IOIA in 2006. I had to produce original documents, such as records of Certificates of Deposit and bank statements. Then he picked highest risk samples for closer scrutiny. In our case, this is the money processed for IOIA-managed trainings, where IOIA might collect \$100,000 or more for one event, and pay out \$80,000 or more in expenses. There are a huge number of transactions for each event. He was particularly interested in security of information and documents. He also asked a lot of questions about calculation of payroll, reporting to the federal and state government, and payroll taxes. It is definitely a plus that we have a certified accountant, Gardner, doing virtually all of those tasks. It was a really good exercise. I was pleased that the records were organized so we could find everything so quickly. One never knows until you get tested. I think that the process validated our bookkeeping system. Colin asked for some things that I always kept because it seemed like we should--such as the annual physical inventory of books that we sell. He also gave us some good reference material on preventing fraud."

EU, from page 18

tropical crops, with working experience in Zambia, Mexico, and Costa Rica. BCS Öko-Garantie GMBH is a global, EU authorized

certification agency based in Germany. BCS is also a supporting certification agency member of IOIA. Their base of activities has been Germany since they began in 1989 as the first organic certifier in Germany. The BCS network includes branch offices in Turkey, China, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and several other countries. In 2006, BCS certified in over 60 countries. BCS also provides certification services for US certifiers that do not have ISO 65 accreditation to help their clients get products into the European market.

Will IOIA provide similar sessions in the future? Yes. The next one will probably occur after the new annexes are released. Thank you, Tobias! 🍷

NOSB, from page 7

recommended to be relisted as an allowed, synthetic ingredient for use in regenerative casings, as an anti-caking agent, and as a filtering aid. Potassium hydroxide and ethylene were not subject to sunset because they were listed prior to 2003. Tartaric acid was not on the agenda because of a drafting error. The NOSB prematurely recommended renewing the listings for tartaric acid and carageenan in August 2005. The allowance for copper sulfate as an algicide and for shrimp control in rice in crop production was continued. While some NOSB members considered that sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate might be a viable substitute to copper sulfate, it is relatively new and has not yet been registered for use in California. Ozone gas was retained as an algicide and irrigation system cleaner. Peracetic acid was also renewed for use as an algicide, disinfectant, and for fireblight. The NOSB also renewed the allowance for restricted use of nonsynthetic calcium chloride to treat a physiological disorder associated with calcium uptake. The NOSB is aware of the EPA's reclassification of inert ingredients and plans to work on the issue in the future. The NOSB voted unanimously to retain List 3 inert ingredients for use in passive pheromone dispensers.

During the NOP report at the NOSB meeting in Alexandria, WA--J. Burton Eller, Deputy Undersecretary of Agriculture, gave a presentation on the Farm Bill. The administration proposed expansion of funding for the NOP, organic research, data collection, and cost share. Eller noted that the 15-20% growth in the sector is unique in USDA; no other agricultural sector is growing at the rate of organic. 🍷

Notes from the ED

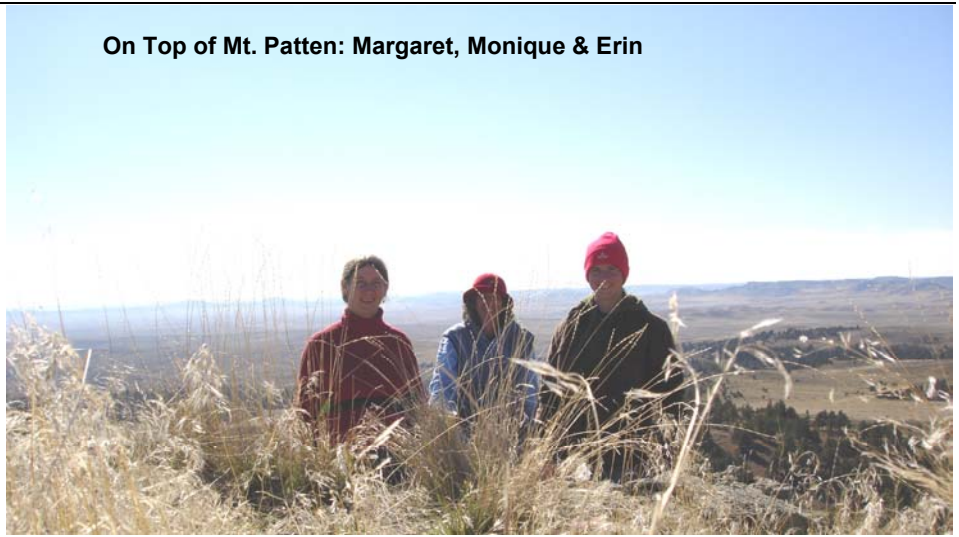
By Margaret Scoles

As I prepare to write my “notes” each issue, I always refer to the last issue. In this case, the last issue seems light years away. There is just too much to write about. There was so much to do. So much happened! But fortunately the pages of this issue are already full of what I’ve been doing. With less to write, I can share some moments that really touched my soul, some ‘gifts from the universe’. In this holiday season, I wish you all the best, including some surprise ‘gifts’ and some wonder. I hope you will find meaningful ministry to do and that you will be surprised and touched by those who choose to minister to you. Here are a few tidbits that fell between the cracks of regular news.

A trip to DC and a visit with Mark Bradley, NOP: I flew in and out of Washington DC on my way to PA trainings. It was significantly less costly. Plus I had ulterior motives. Motive #1: My sister was in DC for a literacy conference the weekend that that weekend.. By flying one day early, we had nearly 24 hours together in DC. High points were a dinner out of Restaurant Nora, the first certified organic restaurant in the country. What to have?! I couldn’t return to Montana and admit to having eaten anything but beef, so I had the locally raised organic ribeye steak. We agreed to see the National Cathedral on Sunday morning before I headed for PA. To our delight, the visiting speaker was Archbishop Desmond Tutu! The overpowering impression that I had from listening is that one cannot teach something that one has not experienced. One has to live forgiveness to be able to teach it. Motive#2: I asked Mark Bradley for an appointment on my return leg of the trip. He not only accepted, he invited Valerie Frances, NOSB ED, to join us. We had a great visit. We discussed training. It always startles me to see that IOIA has more square footage of space in our building than the NOP. I jokingly asked Mark if the staff could qualify as cage-free and whether stocking density might be in order. I had time to wonder a bit through the grounds of the Smithsonian before taking a train back to the airport, luxuriating in the warm weather that followed our wet, snowy experience in PA at the training.

BOD retreat and a mountain top experience: I hoped to help create an environment for the BOD to do great things when they visited this fall. The retreat began and ended with a grounding experience to create the right perspective to think great. I believe that the best way to forget cell phones and Email is to visit a powerful natural phenomena. It is part of why I have lots of rocks in my living room and no computer in my house. Thinking of these things, Erin Beard and I chose the Devils Tower in

On Top of Mt. Patten: Margaret, Monique & Erin



Wyoming. The beginning....I had imagined a team-building experience and a western outing for the BOD. It was amazing how many things I thought of that didn’t work out, from the western lodges and my husband and the horses to a cookout at remote friend’s ranch. I finally discovered that it is allowed to scramble up to a certain staked height on the boulders at the base of the tower. I imagined that the BOD would decide as a team whether to go up, how far to go, and they would organize and help each other. It was a brilliant blue, windless, moonless day on Oct. 11. Everyone was ambling around the base and soaking up the magic of the place when Bill drew us together in a circle and started us with an unusual introductory exercise. I thought I had things figured out so that we would be driving away from the tower to the western hunting lodge for dinner and we’d see it in the background with a sunset behind it. That didn’t work out either. But what happened was better. The sun was sinking fast and suddenly, without any planning or talk at all, the whole BOD started up the boulders. No one helped anyone. No discussion. We just all went. As we sat scattered on giant volcanic boulders in this incredible place, we watched the sun sink in the vast wildness beyond. It was a long moment of wonder. A gift from the universe. When we gathered up, all a bit changed, we looked for Ray (our bus driver and county commissioner). The hunting lodge was closed for dinner when we arrived 15 minutes too late. Garry and I did our best to cajole them into serving us. We were daunted for just a moment until we managed to find a little western saloon right out of an Annie Proulx novel, where we had a great dinner. A day of surprise. And the ending....Garry, Erin, and Monique helped my husband move our little herd of cattle about 13 miles. Erin was Bob’s main cowhand and Garry and Monique helped move vehicles and get the herd safely across the highway. We have a great photo of Monique horseback. Gene and I worked in the office, threw together a dinner, and delivered it to the hungry crew. We enjoyed it in the little

homestead that is what is left of my family ranch. Then Monique, Erin and I slept over in the old ranch house in a log room. The next day, they showed me how to take 6 hours to climb a 3 hour mountain. And I enjoyed it ever so much more than usual. It was a delight to lead them over my familiar childhood places...the gypsum beds with diamond crystals 3 inches long, a big buck deer bouncing lazily over the ridge, and the teepee ring. Erin managed to get the timer set on the IOIA digital camera so we even documented our time on top of Patten Mountain (commonly called Bear Skull).

Friend Susan and the Badlands: My good friend Susan Colwell and I have been promising that we would both start driving toward each other and meet in the South Dakota Badlands for about 10 years. This year we did it. We spent two glorious days as one of a few dozen people visiting a natural site that sees over a million visitors each summer. It was all ours and we hiked it all. Then we returned to the IOIA office and she worked long and hard hours alongside the rest of us preparing for the PA training. I’m not sure how the work would have got done without her. I felt so ministered to and grateful.

This season finds me full of wonder. I leave you with this good thought from the perpetual calendar that sits on my desk:

It is good to have an end to journey towards; but it is the journey that matters, in the end.

Blessings on your journey! É

NOP Sunset Rule

On Tuesday, Oct. 16, USDA's National Organic Program published the final rule for the first mandatory five-year review of materials on the National List. This includes materials that were part of the original proposed rule. Materials listed after that must still be reviewed every five years. Please note that the rule states that categories and annotations remain, but are omitted in the overview printed. Also, the Interim Final Rule listing 38 minor potential non-organic agricultural ingredients is not affected by this final Sunset Rule and remains in effect as issued in June.

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/Newsroom/FedRegSunsetReview10-16-07.pdf>

Feds OK substance for organic livestock, crop producers

The U.S. Dept of Agriculture has given a green light for immediate use by producers of an insect and mite killer dubbed "crucial" for organic crop and livestock production.

In the Dec 10 Federal Register, the USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) said insecticide/miticide sucrose octanoate esters (SOE), recommended for use in organic crop and livestock production by the National Organic Standards Board over two years ago, is now allowed.

The amber-colored liquid bug killer is made from two biochemicals - sucrose (table sugar) and an octanoic acid ester (commonly found in plants and animals) - with an active ingredient that dissolves the waxy protective coating of pests, causing the insect or mite to dry out and die.

The NOSB recommended to the NOP in August 2005 adding SOE to the National List for use in organic crop and livestock production as an insecticide/miticide.

The final rule amends Sec. 205.601 and Sec. 205.603 of the National List regulations.

The NOP consulted with the EPA and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to ensure that the NOSB recommendation for the use of SOE in organic crop and livestock production would be consistent with federal regulations governing the use of the substance. Both the EPA and the FDA confirmed SOE was allowed for use.

Source: *Sustainable Food New*, Dec 10, 2007

Agency seeks applications for Integrated Organic Program

USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) has issued a request for applications for the Integrated Organic Program for Fiscal Year 2008. Applications must be received by close of business on Jan. 9, 2008. The Integrated Organic Program includes research, education and extension activities for the Organic Transitions

Program and the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative. The amount available to support these programs for Fiscal Year 2008 is approximately \$4.7 million.

Ag Sect'y Johanns Steps Down

President Bush on Sept. 20 announced that Mike Johanns had resigned from his post as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to return to his home state of Nebraska, where he is expected to make a run for the U.S. Senate. Deputy Secretary Chuck Conner has been appointed Acting Secretary.

USDA Plans e-NOP

On Nov. 28 at the NOSB meeting, Barbara Robinson, Deputy Administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, announced a plan to post all public documents that would pass a Freedom of Information request and are from the NOP on the web. She said this move would reduce the amount of time NOP staff spends on Freedom of Information Act requests. Meanwhile, in other business at its meetings this week, NOSB moved the topic of multi-site certification from an action item to a discussion item. Thus, there will not be action taken on this issue at this time.

EPA removes 8 inert ingredients from organic production

On Sept. 11, USDA's National Organic Program posted a link to a document to certifying agents concerning EPA action related to inert ingredients used in pesticides for organic production. Eight inert materials no longer listed on EPS's List 4 are therefore no longer allowed in pesticide formulations for organic production. Also, according to the release, "EPA has informed NOP that the 'Inerts List' system may no longer be effective or available for the NOP to reference in the Regulations." Finally, the EPA review of pesticide labels for organic production must be amended to acknowledge EPA's inert tolerance reassessments. NOP will collaborate with EPA and the National Organic Standards Board on any necessary rule amendments stemming from these changes.

USDA Offers \$1 mil Cost-share

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in late August announced \$1 million in funding under the Agricultural Management Assistance Program to defray producers' annual organic certification costs in 15 "under-served" states. The funds are allocated to the 15 states in proportion to the

number of organic producers in each state. These states, in turn, reimburse each eligible producer for up to 75 percent of organic certification costs, not to exceed \$500. For more details, contact Robert Pooler, Agriculture Marketing Specialist (202-720-3252).

US Senate Passes Its Version of Farm Bill

The U.S. Senate approved its version of the Farm Bill in a 79 to 14 vote on December 14. Included are funding and direction for key organic priorities, including a sense that organic research be funded at a level commensurate with organic agriculture's share of the market. Some of the other provisions allot funds for organic data collection and certification cost share; would bar the USDA from charging a premium surcharge on organic crop insurance; and would add organic production as an eligible activity in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. The Senate version and the version approved this summer by the U.S. House of Representatives must go to conference to settle any differences before a final bill is voted on by Congress.

Canadian Gov't Invests in O

Canada's organic agriculture industry is getting a boost with nearly \$1.3 million to help accelerate its growth in Canada, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Ministry for the Canadian Wheat Board. The funding, under the national Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Food (ACAAF) program, includes \$711,500 to help the industry's major research arm at the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada in Truro, Nova Scotia, to better identify research needs and to more effectively communicate research results back to the sector.

An additional \$565,900 will be used to develop a national sector organization, the Organic Federation of Canada, to bring together all players in the industry and raise awareness of the sector and to help with regulatory development.

OTA's *The Organic Report*, October 2007

OFC Holds First AGM

The Organic Federation of Canada held its annual general meeting on Nov. 22, and re-elected OTA's Stephanie Wells as its President. Other officers are Julie Belzile of Filière biologique (Vice President), Arnold Taylor of Saskatchewan Organic Directorate (Chair); Paddy Doherty of Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia (Treasurer), and Janine Gibson of Organic Food Council of Manitoba (Secretary). The federation's mandate is to manage the concerns of the organic sector regarding organic regulation and standards.

NOSB Meeting Alexandria, Virginia November 27-30, 2007

Andrea Caroe chaired her last meeting as an NOSB member and was recognized for her service. Newly elected officers were Texas organic farmer Rigoberto Delgado, chair; Jeff Moyer of the Rodale Research Center, vice-chair; and Katrina Heinze of General Mills, secretary.

Organic aquaculture standards were a major focus of the meeting and is number one on the NOSB Livestock Committee's work plan. Aquaculture was the subject of a day-long symposium and much public comment. Most participants spoke in favor of farmed fish. Important discussion points were fish meal/fish oil from wild sources and net pens. Industry representatives advocated the '12/12 rule,' which allows 12% fish meal and 12% fish oil from wild-caught sources with a sunset.

Livestock Materials Note to inspectors!

FLASH – as of December 12, the US Federal Register now contains the revision of the section of the National List regarding synthetic animal drugs:

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/fr-cont.html and in pdf:
<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-23915.pdf>

The USDA issued a final rule on December 12, adding nine synthetic animal drugs to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances.

The final rule amends paragraph (a) of SEC 205.603 of the National List regulations by adding the following substances:

Atropine
Butorphanol
Flunixin
Furosemide
Magnesium hydroxide
Peroxyacetic/Peracetic acid
Poloxalene
Tolazoline
Xylazine

The final rule became effective Thursday Dec 13, 2008.

Pasture: No one knows yet. Barbara Robinson, USDA, reported that the pasture docket was cleared by USDA attorneys. It goes next to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for up to 60 days. It is expected to face significant opposition in OMB, which has to consider economic impacts of implementing the change.

Livestock Committee: Animal Welfare Issues, Outdoor access of poultry, animal

care, and apiculture on the Committee's work plan. Willie Lockeretz and Kathleen Merrigan presented a paper on animal welfare that compared different international standards. The paper was first presented at the IFOAM conference on organic livestock in 2006. Margaret Wittenburg presented the Global Animal Welfare Initiative initiated by Whole Foods. She said their five step program has been approved by the Food Safety Inspection Service and addresses some animal welfare issues not specifically addressed in the NOP.

Crops Committee: The committee is expected to work on hydroponics and mushroom standards. NOSB member Tina Ellor of Phillips Mushroom Farms will have a key role.

Certification of Grower Groups and other Multi-site Operations

After significant public comment (including those from IOIA, IFOAM and many others) on this highly controversial topic, NOSB tabled the Compliance, Accreditation, and Certification Committee (CACC)'s recommendation. The CACC recommendation addressed the inspection of multi-site operations, both cooperatives of small land owners (CGGs) and retail chains. Most commenters wanted some form of exemption. Barbara Robinson spoke strongly in defense of the current NOP rule requiring all inspections and indicated that certifiers have no discretion to waive the annual inspection requirement.

[To see IOIA's position on this issue, see **page 22** of this issue.]

Policy: Former NOSB chairs Jim Riddle and Dave Carter filed a formal complaint against current NOSB member Joe Smillie, alleging violations of the NOSB's Duty of Loyalty, Conflict of Interest, and Professional and Ethical Standards contained in the Policy Manual; specifically, the 2 complaints allege:

- 1) Smillie, while serving on the NOSB, has failed to disclose to the Board and to the public, interests where Quality Assurance International (QAI), of which he is Senior Vice President, stands to gain financially from the outcome; and
- 2) Smillie was identified as an NOSB member and failed to demonstrate impartiality by allowing his name and quote to be used in a press release.

Neither the NOP or the NOSB have posted the complaint on their websites. The Policy committee also plans to work with the NOP to create a historical database of all NOSB recommendations.

Materials Decisions Report (with appreciation to OMRI's report to certifiers on the meeting):

1. Gellan gum was unanimously recommended to be added to the National List as a nonsynthetic, nonagricultural, nonorganic ingredient. Representatives from CP Kelco, the petitioner, presented how it is made, some uses, and explained why xanthan gum and vegetable gums are not acceptable substitutes. Because isopropyl alcohol is used to recover gellan gum, it was previously assumed to be synthetic. However, U.S. Federal regulations set a limit of 750 ppm (0.075 percent) isopropyl alcohol.

2. The NOSB rejected a petition to allow nonorganic grape seed extract. The NOSB received negative comments regarding the listing of the substance. There are thousands of acres of organic grapes and organic grape seeds appear to be widely available.

3. The NOSB recommended the addition of potassium silicate to the National List as a fungicide and insecticide without an annotation although it will be listed as Aqueous Potassium Silicate, which effectively excludes sources derived from industrial slag. The petitioner withdrew a request to have it considered as a soil amendment.

4. Kristen Knox, spoke on behalf of the petitioner BioSafe Systems that sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate is a safer alternative to hydrogen peroxide. It was recommended as an algicide, disinfectant, or sanitizer. The substance recently received EPA approval for use as an algicide in rice, where it is expected to be a substitute for copper sulfate.

5. The petition for the molluscicide sodium ferric hydroxyl EDTA was rejected because ferric phosphate is allowed and appears to have less of an environmental impact.

6. The NOSB addressed the sunset of materials added to the National List in 2003 as well as petitions for crops and processing. Agar agar, carrageenan, calcium sulfate, animal enzymes, and glucono delta lactone were all voted to be relisted for food processing. Cellulose was also [See **NOSB**, page 4]

Organic Standards Update

By Janine Gibson

The Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) Organic Committee (OC) met for the second time this year in Gatineau, Quebec November 19-21, 2007. Chair Jean Duval, an agronomist from Quebec, guided the CGSB OC process in making standard revisions prior to the implementation of the Canadian regulation, which is in the midst of a 2-year phase-in, with full implementation by December 2008.

Committee Chairs have convened smaller Working Groups, conference calls and in-person meetings in preparing the revision recommendations to the OC for final in-person approval prior to general balloting. A written ballot of previously prepared responses to member comments from the August meeting was sent out to all voting members for vote by the end of November. One balloting change that will help productivity: a vote is cast on each amendment. This makes more clear which specific areas need additional research and work to build consensus for any changes.

The committee of Voting members, including IOIA, User members, and Informational members implemented such Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) requirements for standard revisions as removal of all references to certification and labeling, which will be covered more appropriately by the regulation, rather than being within the standard itself.

We're striving for a greener process so teleconferencing options were explored. Canadian Organic Growers as the meeting host organization was also thanked for being able to arrange organic and local organic food for the meetings.

Sector Summary Differing from the US and EU systems, the Canadian organic sector keeps the government regulations separate from the standards, which are under the guidance of the CGSB process. Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, in collaboration with the Canadian Justice Department, published a regulation at the end of 2006 that has recognized the CFIA as the competent authority. The regulation requires certifiers be accredited by any accreditation body recognized by CFIA which makes application to function in Canada. Current accreditors include the Conseil des Appellations Agroalimentaires du Québec (CAAQ), the Certified Organic Assn's of British Columbia (COABC) the Standards Council of Canada (SCC), the USDA NOP and the International Organic Accreditation Service (IOAS).

The regulation requires that organic food be produced and handled to the CGSB standards for organic production systems General Principles and Management Standards (CGSB/CAN 32.310) and the Permitted Substances List, abbreviated as PSL (CGSB/CAN 32.311). These stand as production practices regardless of whether the operations are certified. The regulations also govern the importation and labeling of organic products.

Discussion of General Recommendations included Certification Requirements. This resulted in recommendations to the Canadian Organic Office (COO) of the CFIA for what activities are included in organic certification (i.e. retail repackaging) and what activities will need to have secondary supervision/oversight via other relevant regulation like the Truth in Labeling Act enforced by CFIA (i.e. washing and trimming). A further general discussion included Supervision and Inspection requirements prior to allowing claims on agricultural products. This included a discussion on frequency and/or intensity of inspection to encourage Minimal Risk Certification Programs such as exist in British Columbia. Recommendations for the amendment to the Regulation were made to CFIA including mandatory reporting to the relevant certifiers in the advent of organic product contamination by prohibited inputs applied either due to accident or emergency decree by provincial or federal governments.

Permitted Substances List (PSL) During the last ballot the CGSB received 66 comments on the PSL regarding differences of opinion among members about changes needed and how to revise. Proposed amendments from the committee were approved by the general group or sent back for revision. The reference standards used to build the PSL include Codex, EU, IFOAM, JAS, and USDA's NOP. Also considered were the existing organic standards used in Canada by the CAAQ, the COABC, and OCPP-Pro-Cert. Canadian Organic Growers appreciates the contract with OMRI to provide technical assistance, offered by Dr. Brian Baker. Dag Falck of Nature's Path was named Chair of the PSLWG, and is responsible for coordinating the work on substances.

One contentious discussion revolved around the approval for use of the substance **Neem**. Though it was approved as a crop input it is not registered for any specific uses by the Pesticide Material Review Agency (PMRA) within Canada. Thus imported products produced with Neem can be brought into

Canada but Canadian producers are not able to legally use Neem in their production.

PMRA also presented a submission that requires operators to ensure all products used in organic production are registered for the specific use by the PMRA or face legal consequences. This clause was not approved and will be reworked prior to resubmission for balloting.

Processing, Livestock and Crops categories were covered by presentations from their various working groups. Some straightforward changes passed, though a majority of the presentations were sent back for more research. The processing issue receiving the most discussion was using sulfites in wine. The CGSB reviewed five options:

1. IFOAM and Codex unconditionally permit sulfites in organic wine.
2. British Columbia allows sulfites in organic wine, with a limit of 100ppm total sulfites, as does the French association of organic winemakers, FNIVAB.
3. Quebec adopted the standard of Agence Bio, a French organic trade association that is not limited to winemakers, which restricts wine treated with sulfites to a 'made with' claim and does not limit residual sulfites.
4. The NOP restricts wine with added sulfites to be labeled as 'made with organically grown grapes' and limits total sulfites to 100 ppm. The CGSB/CAN 32.310 follows the NOP.
5. The EU is silent, with various standards set by the member-states and the private sector.

The CGSB OC preferred option (2). Participants addressed processing criteria revisions, fortification with vitamins and minerals and the place of food additives in organic food.

Livestock One of the main issues with livestock was the allowance of copper-chromium arsenate (CCA) treated fence posts. There was consensus to remove granting discretion to certifiers to make exceptions to the prohibition. A revision of 5.2.3(b) permitting exceptions on rangeland and semi-arid regions will be sent as a ballot.

CGSB/CAN 32.310 is closer to the EU than the NOP for dairy production and closer to the NOP for meat production with regard to animal medications. There is a 14 day withdrawal for the use of antibiotics and other medications for dairy animals, while most medications are prohibited for the life

[continued on page 9]

Committee News

Accreditation Committee

The Accreditation Committee is evaluating applications for the fall round of IOIA Accreditation. Results are anticipated by the end of the year, in time for the printing of the 2008 Membership Directory.

The Accreditation Review Panel is looking for members. The panel includes 3 inspector members, 1 certifier representative, and 1 consumer representative. If any of these positions sound interesting to you, please contact Monique Scholz at mscholz@abacom.com

The Membership Committee is tabulating the results of the 2007 Membership Survey. More than 25% of Inspector members responded. It is not too late to participate via the on-line survey at the IOIA website. It will be posted through December.

The Nominations Committee is preparing the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors election. Deadline to nominate is January 2. If you wish to stand for election, or to nominate a member, please contact Kelly Monaghan, Membership Committee Chair, at kellyamonaghan@sympatico.ca before that date. This ballot will elect two Director positions and the Second Alternate position. Current BOD members not up for re-election are Monique Scholz (Quebec); Bob Durst (Oregon); David Konrad (Ontario); and First Alternate, Erin Beard (Iowa).

Bylaws Committee: The Bylaws Committee considered a proposal from the BOD for a bylaws amendment to change the name of IOIA to incorporate the word "International". The committee has returned a proposal to the BOD with 3 alternatives. The first two alternatives are specific name options. The third is to poll the membership to discover which of these wordings would be most acceptable, and then schedule a vote on the preferred wording afterwards.

The Board expects to mail out a ballot regarding the name change in January to coincide with the annual BOD election ballot. Arthur Harvey (Chair); Al Johnson, Lance Christie, John Trinterud, and Sue Baird.

Scholarship Committee: The Scholarship Committee is busy evaluating applications for the Andrew Rutherford and Organic Community Initiative Scholarships, with recipients to be announced soon. Recipients receive a full waiver of tuition for any IOIA training of their choice.

New this year, an earmarked fund has been created to help defray travel costs for OCIS Scholarship winners. This followed the committee's explanation at the 2007 AGM as to why many OCIS winners were unable to take advantage of their award. IOIA members have donated \$600 to date. If you would like to contribute, please contact the IOIA office.

Canadian Committee: IOIA will have a booth again at the Guelph Organic Conference this year and VOLUNTEERS are WELCOME!

Janine Gibson is serving on behalf of IOIA as a voting member of the Organic Standards Committee under Anne Lacey's dedicated leadership on the Livestock Committee, and the Permitted Substance List Working Group under Dag Falck, convening the Livestock PSL Working Group C (Livestock Substances). She will also be regularly posting activity updates on the COG-MB website, www.organicfoodcouncil.org Under the Producers Section, Standards Updates Page. Janine is happy to respond to any questions or concerns, contact her at janine@rrcc.ca.

Canadian Listserv: IOIA is starting up a new Yahoo group to which updates on Canadian organic standards revision work can be posted and from which IOIA Canadian Committee Chair Janine Gibson can solicit input/feedback. Look for the invitation in your inbox soon.

Canadian Organic Resources

Canadian General Standards Board: www.pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb

The full regulation, including permitted substances lists, is available at:

www.pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb/on_the_net/organic/index-e.html

Canadian Food Inspection Agency: www.inspection.gc.ca (the body charged with overseeing organic inspection in Canada.)

Canada News, from page 8

of the animal in slaughter stock. There are some medications that appear on the PSL with no clarity as to how they are used. For example, hormones are prohibited in meat products, but restricted use of oxytocin is permitted, as is cortisone under the category of 'anti-inflammatory.'

Organic dairy animal pasture access is a contentious issue in Canada as it is worldwide. The Livestock Working Group leans towards a 120 day rule with no minimum dry-matter requirement for pasture.

There is a notable difference between dairy producers in Ontario, which accounts for most of the organic milk production; Quebec, where herd sizes are smaller and production is directed more at the cheese and dairy products than at fluid milk; and British Columbia, which has weather good for year-round grazing. British Columbia and Ontario dairy producers want to eliminate routine tethering and include longer periods required outside of confinement. On the other hand, Quebec dairy producers see routine tethering and longer confinement periods as necessary given the lack of grazing land and more intense climate.

Honey standards were also addressed by a separate task force.

Crops Commercial availability of organic seed and the use of treated seed were significant issues. The Canadian system also includes separate maple syrup production and handling standards. The CGSB OC recommended prohibiting hydrogen peroxide in maple syrup handling, even as an equipment cleaner, because it can be used to artificially lighten the color. J. Wally Hamm of Pro-Cert Chairs the Crops Committee.

What's Next Discussion was held on future funding for standard revisions as well as the role of providing consistent answers to questions of interpretation of the standards. These topics were referred to the Organic Federation of Canada for their consideration.

Jean thanked all participants, especially those most active on committees. The next meeting will be held in Ottawa on March 31, April 1 and 2, 2008.

Source: JG with notes from Dr. Brian Baker

IOIA Board of Directors Meets for 3 day Planning Session

by Erin Beard and Monique Scholz

The IOIA Board of Directors met for its third major planning retreat October 11th thru 14th near the IOIA offices in Broadus, Montana. IOIA has had two other major Planning Retreats in the last 7 years - La Veta, Colorado in 2000 and Santa Cruz, CA in 2005. The Board also met in person for a shorter planning retreat in Broadus during the fall of 2003 and during meetings in conjunction with IOIA AGM's.

The decision to have a retreat in 2007 was made in Encinitas, following the AGM. Given that new Board members outnumbered old by 4 to 3 plus 2 new alternates combined with the need and desire to remain a viable organization in a rapidly changing organic industry, a retreat was deemed a wise investment.

IOIA's home in Broadus was selected as the retreat destination. Two doors down from IOIA's very own, newly acquired, main street building was the Senior Center where the work was done. For most Board members, it was the first time to see the building and meet and show our gratitude to the staff and community.

BOD members, Maheswar Ghimire of Nepal and Catherine Cash of Virginia were unable to attend, though Catherine did join us by phone for a business meeting. BOD Alternates, Erin Beard and Sue Baird stepped in as full participants for the retreat, joining Garry Lean, David Konrad, Gene Prochaska, Bob Durst and Monique Scholz. ED Margaret Scoles was present for the whole retreat. To



DT Lineup – Gene, Garry, David, Sue, Erin, Monique, Bob and Bill

maximize our time together, we decided to seek out a facilitator. Several candidates were interviewed by Margaret, Garry & Bob, settling on Bill Milton of Roundup, MT. An organic beef rancher with quite a resume of facilitation experience, Bill's hard work and guidance were invaluable to our process.

Hometown support

As we toured downtown Broadus the first morning, making stops at the accountant and bank, we were struck by the support and generosity this community provides IOIA. Mayor Lyman Amsden and his spunky wife Anne joined us for lunch. They also happen to be the donors of our office building. Local talent entertained

us on Friday night with old-time music and original cowboy poetry. Bank President, J.T. Korkow helped by taking time off work to provide discounted transportation for our facilitator to and from Broadus via his private plane. And a

Team Building

Our first afternoon was spent trekking a 1.3 mile loop around the base of stunning Devil's Tower as a team building exercise. Bill led us in opening discussions before we scrambled up some boulders at the base of the monument to



David Konrad – not expecting to find gourmet eats in Eastern Montana!



Lunch at The Judges Chambers with Broadus mayor Lyman Amsden & wife Ann (seated across from Margaret)

view the sunset. Throughout the retreat, Bill pushed us in exercises intended to help us know ourselves and each other better, intending to fill our tool box well enough to work effectively for the remainders of our terms.

How did the retreat unfold? As so often happens, the journey forward is started by looking back. Historical review, admission of past pitfalls and limitations, analysis of our difficulties in adapting to a rapidly changing regulatory environment, what should IOIA be? what will IOIA do? who will IOIA serve? why will IOIA do it better? – these are some of the themes we worked on and questions we tackled.

Did we reach any consensus? Collectively, we did agree that IOIA as a training institute, for inspectors and other audiences, is our strength and vocation. And we did agree on Where to go from here: Four target impacts were identified and given specific 12 month and three year goals:

- ◆ Develop Inspector protocols
- ◆ Accreditation Program
- ◆ Become a significant player
- ◆ Foster financial viability.

In the shorter term: Bill urged us to establish a short term work plan (4 months), which we did, with three targets as follows:

- ◆ Create a draft written plan for financial viability
- ◆ Launch IOIA Training Institute: repackaging our training program. Training Advisory Group.
- ◆ BOD job descriptions and accountability.

Why does this sound like we've heard it before? What is holding us back? Scarcity and being personality-driven are preventing us from realizing our potentials. At future BOD meetings, we hope to address these issues, and come closer to our goals, in addition to providing oversight for the daily business of our organization.

We make sure organic is really organic!

How would you define IOIA's purpose in 8 words or less? Bill put this question to the Board on day one but as the end of the retreat was nearing, we didn't have a satisfactory answer until it came to



Retreat work at the Senior Center – Bill Milton, facilitator, with David & Monique



Staff and BOD outside the new building at the community Open House on October 13. Left to Right are: Gene Prochaska (Indiana); Gordon Mulkey (staff); Judy Hessong (staff); Monique Scholz (Quebec); Sascha Drayne (staff); Garry Lean (Ontario); Bob Durst (Oregon); Margaret Scoles (staff); Sue Baird (California); David Konrad (Ontario); and Erin Beard (Iowa).

Margaret, “We make sure organic is really organic.” Now that was something we could all agree with. É



Roy Carrico, cowboy fiddler

The Old Shepherder

by Norman Turnbough

There is not too many songs about
the old sheep's voice
But they are still my critter by
choice.
You might not think they are pretty
or gonna' catch your eye,
But I would rather step on their
pellets
Than I would in a cow pie.

IOIA/KFSAO Livestock Training in Korea

The first IOIA Organic Livestock inspector training was held in Republic of Korea from September 11-15, 2007. This was the third IOIA training in Korea to be sponsored by KFSAO (Korea Federation of Sustainable Agriculture Organizations), in less than a year. Previous trainings were crop and processing with Mutsumi Sakuyoshi and Lisa Pierce as co-trainers. Lisa Pierce was the only Trainer for the livestock training. A total of 12 participants from various cooperatives, certification agencies, livestock organizations and companies attended the training that used the new Korean livestock standards as a reference. Once again, the course in September was successfully coordinated and managed by Isidor Yu. The following article written by Isidor Yu describes his account of the "Organic Development of inspection drill in Korea."



On the day of October 27, there was a big festival in the middle of Seoul. It is an annual party that began in 2006 with the participation of organic producers, consumers, environmental movement organizations, and governmental organizations – MAF and ME, blocking cars passing at a central street. The prime host was KFSAO.



Isidor Yu with livestock farm host

KFSAO was also the host of the first IOIA cosponsored training in Korea. It has planned the course since 2004 with HSRI, the oldest certifier in Korea. Two government officers at NAQS and Mr. Lee Taegeun, the president of KFSAO and HSRI, participated in an IOIA crop course held in the United States in 2002. Although they failed to receive IOIA Certificates of Completion due to the problem of language, the participants learned about the development of a systematic training method for organic inspectors.

KFSAO and NAQS have worked together to develop a regional inspection training program since the spring of 2003. Although there were inspection trainings hosted by KFSAO and NAQS prior to 2003 (since 2001), the trainings improved from the original simple agendas and sessions after their experiences of IOIA training. As time went on, the inspection training program needed better systemization and to utilize a variety of instructing skills such as group discussion and role play. Organic leaders thought they needed to dispatch many inspectors from Korea to the United States to get developed training, but the problem was cost and language.

Since 2004, KFSAO had made an unofficial suggestion to invite IOIA to conduct a training in Korea. Although some leaders agreed with the suggestion, their question

was "who can do it?" Finally HSRI decided to dedicate their resources for the organization of a training. As a result, the first IOIA organic inspector training was possible in Jeju, Korea in 2006.

In 2007, KFSAO did another experiment. It planned trainings in all inspection areas, i.e. crop, processing, and livestock. It is only a short time since the start of formal organic certification for livestock in Korea. Consequently, livestock inspection is still new and not well "methodized" in Korea. In addition, there is currently no national certification program for organic processing in Korea. This situation can be attributed to the separation and continuous controversy between our two government authorities, the MAF involved in farm produce and MOHW involved in processed foods.

KFSAO has pointed out this situation and the need for an integrated, consistent organic food policy to the government. KFSAO went ahead with IOIA livestock and processing courses to prepare a developing organic market despite the structural limitation of authorities.

The attempts of KFSAO have built confidence and given potentiality to Korean organic activists. I believe the routine actions of participants, based on the experience of IOIA training, might become a stream of change and enhancement of organic systemization in Korea.

On October 20th, 11 participants of IOIA training since 2006, met together. They suggested this meeting in order to develop a formal organic inspection system in Korea. A committee was established for the foundation of the Korea Organic Inspectors Association, KOIA and Mr. Han Jungyeol, who completed Jeju crop course in Korea, was placed as the chair.

We cannot take an optimistic view for the success of this new organization because most organic inspectors in Korea, are staff of an organic certifier. There are few independent organic inspectors in Korea. Without certifiers' assistance we may not be able to found an organization. We have funding problems and need workers as well. Nevertheless we expect the currents of people trained by four IOIA courses since 2006 could contribute to the real improvement of organic area in Korea. Could you cheer us?

Submitted by Isidor Yu, the Republic of Korea (Nov 01, 2007)

