

Celebrating  
20 Years!

# The Inspectors' Report

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## Crosby to Direct IOIA Training Institute

The International Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA) has hired Jonda Crosby of Helena, Montana as its new Training Services Director. She joins Sacha Draine, who is in charge of IOIA International Training Services. As Training Services Director, Crosby is in charge of developing both live and web-based curricula for new and advanced organic inspectors, as well as for other audiences.

“I have had the pleasure of working on collaborative projects with Jonda in many educational settings over the past ten years,” said Margaret Scoles, Executive Director of IOIA. “Her dual background in education and sustainable agriculture is a huge asset to IOIA. Her commitment and understanding of sustainable and organic farming systems will benefit inspectors and the whole organic community. Jonda took the IOIA basic crop inspection course last year and inspected organic farms. She brings a fresh perspective on both IOIA’s training program and inspection work.”

Crosby is an accomplished educator and organizational leader, with a strong background in sustainable and organic agriculture. She earned an undergraduate degree specializing in agronomy and soils and a Masters in Agricultural Education from Murray State University. Crosby grew up on a registered Holstein dairy farm in western New York.

Most recently Crosby worked as Executive Director of AERO, a Montana-based, membership-driven nonprofit organization focusing on sustainable agriculture and renewable energy. As an educator, Jonda has worked for the Cooperative Extension Service at both Cornell University in New York and Penn State University, and has taught high school vocational agriculture. While on staff at AERO, she developed sustainable and organic agriculture education materials, publications and outreach for farmers, agriculture service providers, researchers and educators. Jonda also was instrumental in organizing the Montana Food Systems Council, the Montana Organic Association, and the Grow Montana Policy Coalition. Jonda is a past Board member of the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, the Western and Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Groups. She received the Montana Organic Association’s “Leadership in Organics Award”.

[see Crosby, p 4]

## Board Retreat Report

By Jennie Clifford

The IOIA Board of Directors held a three-day retreat at the Shaker Meadows B&B, south of Albany, NY, November 18-20. We were inspired and rejuvenated by the quantity, quality and success of our work done together. This was the first multi-day retreat separate from the annual meeting since 2007. Both Margaret, our ED, and Bob Durst, our past BOD Chair urged us to make space and time for a retreat, which we agree was solid advice!

This year at the AGM in Tampa, five of our seven BOD members were elected, four of which [see BOD, p 4]

## Inside:

IFOAM/Korea  
Training News  
Sector News  
Livestock Inputs  
About TSPing  
GMO's  
Resources

*And More!!*

## IOIA Gets Even More Global

IOIA recently received a request from Anna Galovich, a blogger in Estonia, who found our site interesting and wanted to translate our homepage into Estonian.

Who knows what this might lead to for the good people of Estonia – perhaps trainings there? We'll see. In the meantime, to take a look at what our homepage looks like, go to <http://blog.1800flowers.com/international/ioia-association-es/>

## On-Farm Modes of Transportation '09

By Ib Hagsten

When I visited farms throughout the eastern half of the US this summer, interesting experiences presented themselves.

During a very wet Iowa summer, we were driving on a level, on-farm dirt road, to inspect the fields. When the road tilted we slid sideways into the bean field; with the power of four-wheel drive we traversed the rows perpendicularly to reach the grass waterway for "traction" -- leaving two deep "trenches" behind us.

Stopping my car at a neighboring Pennsylvania farm, as I had arrived 20 min early, I turned off the engine to make phone calls. 15 minutes later I turned the key, only to find my car apparently "dead." A son of the Amish family noted my dilemma and he loaned me his 21-speed bicycle. Much to the surprise of the farmer client, I "pedaled in" on time.

In west Texas, where it only rains 5 inches annually, the farmer and I drove to inspect 1,000 acres of alfalfa at 5-inches per hour. It looked like Lake Pontchartrain, where nothing but water is visible as far as the eye can see in all directions.

Completing the audit trail with an older farmer we went out to do a drive-around of the fields/crops. Seeing a "unique" vehicle near the barn, I inquired. "Wish you hadn't asked," he said, "but since you did, I was a rodeo clown 50-years ago." We ended up driving the old car rigged to tilt backwards and spew smoke (to divert the wild bull).

It's "no bull" that I inspected fields on two wheels.

*Only an inspector would get these stories, so if you have some good ones to share (and you know you do!), send them to Diane at [webgal@ioia.net](mailto:webgal@ioia.net)*

## 2011 Membership Directory Updates

(Changes made by D. Miller 11/30/11)

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

Kimberly Hagen

[kimberlyhagen@comcast.net](mailto:kimberlyhagen@comcast.net)

Maarten Samson

[wmaartensamson@yahoo.com](mailto:wmaartensamson@yahoo.com)

Dale Stoy [dalejstoy@gmail.com](mailto:dalejstoy@gmail.com)

### Welcome New Members: Inspectors

Brian Baker

[bb123organic@gmail.com](mailto:bb123organic@gmail.com)

Les Dale [jldaleaba@aol.com](mailto:jldaleaba@aol.com)

Beverly Hammond

[bjhfaith@yahoo.com](mailto:bjhfaith@yahoo.com)

Delia Hollbach [djhrep@aol.com](mailto:djhrep@aol.com)

Betsy Levy [ilimatx@gmail.com](mailto:ilimatx@gmail.com)

Jennifer Megyesi

[fatroosterfarm@gmail.com](mailto:fatroosterfarm@gmail.com)

Luella Mozingo

[egg lady0@gmail.com](mailto:egg lady0@gmail.com)

Leonard Pollara

[lepollara@gmail.com](mailto:lepollara@gmail.com)

Elizabeth Whitlow

[Elizabeth@ccof.org](mailto:Elizabeth@ccof.org)

### Supporting Business Members:

Biosun Certifier Co.

[info@biosuncertifier.com](mailto:info@biosuncertifier.com)

Organic Consulting Solutions

[negrete.ana@gmail.com](mailto:negrete.ana@gmail.com)

### Welcome New

### Supporting Individual Members:

Elizabeth Amos

[fiddlinglizard@gmail.com](mailto:fiddlinglizard@gmail.com)

Demian Bartholomew

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Tabitha Emmelhainz

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[angelawarteskahl@gmail.com](mailto:angelawarteskahl@gmail.com)



### IOIA Board of Directors

Michelle Sandy.....Chair

Jennifer Clifford.....Vice Chair

Eric Feutz.....Treasurer

Helene Bouvier.....Secretary

Debra Bunn.....Director at Large

Silke Fuchshofen.....Director

Ib Hagsten.....Director

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relevant to organic inspectors, to provide

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## Upcoming Trainings

### San José, Costa Rica, November 28 - December 2

IOIA and Eco-LOGICA will cosponsor a Spanish language 4.5 day Basic Organic Farm Inspection training at ICAES Coronado in San José, Costa Rica from November 28 to December 2nd, 2011.

### American Canyon, California, Crop, Processing, Advanced, December 5-9

IOIA will sponsor Basic Crop Inspection Training and Processing Inspection Training running concurrently December 5-9 at the DoubleTree by Hilton™ Hotel & Spa Gaia Napa Valley-American Canyon. IOIA and California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) will cosponsor Advanced Organic Inspector Training on December 6-7. This training will focus on organic wine inspection and residue sampling. IOIA will collaborate with the Non-GMO Project and FoodChain Global Advisors to offer Non-GMO verification training on December 8. For more information about the Non-GMO Project, see [www.nongmoproject.org](http://www.nongmoproject.org). FoodChain Global Advisors is the technical administrator for the project. Jennifer Schomp, Technical Co-Director at FCGA, will deliver the training.

### Webinar: IOIA/OMRI Crop Inputs Webinar, December 14

This 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](http://www.omri.org)). OMRI will provide the technical expertise of Lindsay Fernandez-Salvador, OMRI Program Director, as lead presenter. The course includes 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>

### Guelph, Ontario, January 26, 2012

IOIA will sponsor Advanced Organic Inspector Training January 26 at Guelph University, Ontario in conjunction with the Guelph Organic Conference. The one-day training will include Identifying Organic Fraud by Ken Commins; Update on COR Standards and PSL by Kelly Monaghan and Garry Lean, IOIA Trainers; Inspecting Hogs to the COR by inspector Dan Scheele; and a Certifier Panel (ProCert Canada, Ecocert Canada and CSI confirmed). The course will include with an open forum “Inspector Issues Discussion and AGM Update”, open to all inspectors, whether or not registered for the training. Ken Commins, originally from South Africa, was the founding Executive Director of the International Organic Accreditation Services (IOAS), the accreditation branch of IFOAM, serving 1997-2011. Commins’ presentation on Anti-Fraud at the IOIA Annual Meeting in the 2010 was highly rated by inspectors. This presentation was made possible through the generous support of CSI. Bill Barkley, IOIA Canadian Committee Chair, will moderate the event. Organic lunch is included in the course fees. For more information about the Guelph Organic Conference, see [www.guelphorganicconf.ca](http://www.guelphorganicconf.ca). For more information about the training, see [www.ioia.net](http://www.ioia.net).

### Chilliwack, British Columbia, Advanced, February 28-29 and AGM March 1, 2012

IOIA will sponsor advanced organic inspector training in conjunction with the IOIA Annual Membership Meeting on March 1 at the Best Western Rainbow Country Inn in Chilliwack. As the agenda is developed, the agenda and speaker bios will be posted on the AGM page of the IOIA website. The IOIA events follow the Annual Conference of Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia (COABC), scheduled Feb 24-26 at the same venue. For more info about that conference, see [www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca](http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca).

### Webinar: IOIA/OMRI Livestock Inputs Webinar, February 2012

This training is under development. For more details, contact the IOIA office, or visit <http://ioiaregistration.ganconference.com>.

### Brandon, Manitoba – Crop and Livestock April 30 – May 12, 2012

IOIA and Assiniboine Community College (ACC) will cosponsor Basic Organic Crop Inspection Training followed by Basic Organic Livestock Inspection Training, using the Canadian Organic Standards as a reference. The courses each include 4 days of instruction, including a field trip to a certified organic crop, respectively livestock operation, plus ½ day for testing. For more information about these trainings, please contact Mary Petersen at Ph: 204-725-8700 Ext 6683 Fax: 204-725-8740; e-mail: [PeterseM@Assiniboine.net](mailto:PeterseM@Assiniboine.net) Assiniboine Community College is located at 1430 Victoria Avenue East in Brandon, Manitoba, Canada R7A 2A9.

### State College, Pennsylvania, Crop, Livestock, Advanced, March 31-April 6, 2012

IOIA and Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO) will cosponsor Basic Crop Inspection Training and Livestock Inspection Training running concurrently April 2-6. Each basic course includes 4 days of instruction including a field trip to a certified organic operation, plus ½ day for testing. Advanced Organic Inspector Training will precede the training on March 31-April 1. All trainings will be held at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel. PCO is a USDA-accredited certification agency that certifies approximately producers in Pennsylvania and adjoining states (New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, and Ohio). For more information about PCO, visit [www.paorganic.org](http://www.paorganic.org). Application forms and more details will be available soon at [www.ioia.net](http://www.ioia.net)

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## Crosby, from page 1

In the past 13 years, Jonda co-founded a successful organic feed business, Big Sky Organic Feed, and co-managed an organic farm, specializing in medicinal and spice seed production. Scoles adds, “While on staff at AERO, Jonda demonstrated her capacity for collaborative leadership, fundraising and developing effective program outcomes. She brings a solid experiential and a comprehensive educational background to her new work as the Training Services Director at IOIA.”



Crosby will work from her home base in Helena. She can be reached at 406-227-9161 or [jcrosby@mt.net](mailto:jcrosby@mt.net).

## BOD, from page 1

were newly elected with the fifth being a second term member. We two BOD members not up for election were beginning only our second year of our first terms – we are a relatively young board with a big job.

A major focus for IOIA this year has been the search for and hiring of the new Training Services Director. While the search went on for that stellar person, the BOD wrestled with numerous other issues. This year was a high profile year for IOIA on the international scene. We were represented at BioFach in Germany, IFOAM OWC in Korea, BioFach China, Expo West in Anaheim and Expo East in Baltimore.

Our ED was also managing the extra workload of the USDA contract, with a final deadline that leaned closely toward our retreat date. Not everything was easy. Our Chair was unable to join us on the retreat. We BOD members hadn't all met face to face yet, carrying on business via conference call since the AGM. We hemmed and hawed about spending the money on the retreat and hiring a facilitator and finally did both, enabling us to set the direction for the coming year and beyond. Thanks to Silke, who arranged both the facilitator and our venue, we were joined by Bruce Withrow of Meeting Facilitators International in Toronto who worked well with the BOD and our long list of agenda items. And thank you to all who traveled from far and wide to be there, with sleeves rolled up to carry on the important work of IOIA.

The retreat began with a short business meeting. Jonda Crosby, IOIA's new full-time Training Services Director, joined us for Day One, the first time any of the BOD members had the pleasure of meeting her. We jumped into the retreat with a look at our Mission Statement and a BOD Self-Evaluation. What do we do

well? What could we do better? Those questions were relatively simple to answer and were a good place to start.



**The setting looks tranquil, but you can be sure that the BOD was working during every minute of their retreat on the guidance and future of IOIA.**

We next met with a prospective grant writer. Then we launched into the Training Institute. Who and where are our customers? Where is the growth opportunity? What should the structure of the TI look like? What is the role of an Advisory Council? What should our approach be to Licensing/Registration? That topic carried forward to Day Two. New ideas presented themselves along the way such as a suggestion of a 200 level webinar to be offered annually as a membership service called “The Changing Landscape”.

We explored the structure of IOIA and the TI concluding there was no compelling reason for them to be separate. Motivated by the USDA contract, which treated the need for inspector and reviewer training as equally important, we decided to pursue the idea of developing reviewer training. We also considered adding training for producers, processors and consultants but decided to first prepare some background material for discussion within the membership. A key decision made was to form an Advisory Council [see **Retreat**, p 5]

## Retreat, from page 4

to the IOIA. An Advisory Council would obtain broader stakeholder input, especially given the shallow pool of potential IOIA BOD members; only inspector members can be elected to the BOD. The topic of an advisory body is not new for IOIA and during this retreat we conceptualized and formulated a structure preparing the way for the creation of an Advisory Council in the coming year.

We looked at IOIA accreditation and also at re-inventing it. We defined terms, i.e. license, certification, accreditation, registration. Accreditation will be a main topic at the next BOD retreat to be held with the AGM, along with a focus group discussion at the AGM. In light of governmental interest in the development of a licensing program, should IOIA proactively develop a licensing program and take action to gain the support of our members, certifiers, the NOP and other national agencies?

We projected into the future an Organic Learning Symposium, recognizing that government agencies plan five years out and that programs take time to develop. We came away from the retreat with tasks: A Job Description for BOD members, with better descriptions of the roles of individual officers, and an overdue Performance Evaluation of the ED. Helene and Ib offered to prepare a proposal for New Board Member Orientation in preparation for the coming AGM, noting they had not felt fully oriented when they came on board. Helene offered to research the potential of a Canadian 'arm' of IOIA. She encouraged IOIA to pursue training for the CFIA in Canada similar to the NOP training in September.

We worked hard and got a great deal done during the retreat. It was a pleasure to work together in person. It was an occasion to become more cohesive as a group, brainstorm, have some fun and become re-inspired about the future of IOIA.

If you are interested in being part of discussions regarding the IOIA's Training Institute, Accreditation/Licensing of Inspectors, or forming a Canadian arm of IOIA, please join us

for the AGM! We will prepare background discussion in advance and hold focus groups at the AGM. We would love your input! Every year the membership discussions seem to run short as IOIA's regular business extends past its allotted time. This AGM we are committed to allocating plenty of time to truly engage you, the membership. Please plan to come, tell us what you think and help your organization progress. Look forward to our next newsletter for more BOD retreat outcomes.

## Notes from the ED

By Margaret Scoles

There is so much great material in this issue, I'll be keeping my "Notes" super-brief.

First – let's celebrate. IOIA just completed **one of the most ambitious and daunting projects ever** in just three months. We delivered to USDA **criteria for inspectors and reviewers**; lists of training content for beginning, intermediate, and advanced training based on those criteria; and proposed approaches for training and possible licensing inspectors and reviewers. We did it on-time and within IOIA's prescribed budget. (See last issue for more detail about this project, if you missed it.) Huge thanks are due the shared management team (Joyce Ford and Winfried Fuchshofen), the lead writer for the project (Monique Scholz), and the other team members ( Pat Kane of ACA, Jim Riddle, Julia Govis, Garry Lean, Margaret Dickson, Joe Montecalvo). Their efforts were nothing short of heroic. To complicate the project, I was in Korea for the last two weeks of the final task. The project was a useful exercise in gaining clarity about how inspectors should be qualified. It also opened our eyes to pursuing collaborative training for reviewers with greater vigor.

What happens next with the deliverables we created? That is up to the NOP.

The NOP also asked the NOSB last summer to recommend inspector qualifications. Michelle Sandy, BOD Chair, and I represented IOIA on the OTA Task Force to prepare their

response to the NOSB CACC's proposed guidance on unannounced inspections and inspector qualifications. Full text of both the NOSB proposal and IOIA's response are posted on our home page if you are interested to read them. Michelle will be carrying IOIA comments in-person to NOSB in Savannah, Georgia.

I wish each of you a great holiday season. Yesterday was officially the hanging of the greens at my church. It was hard to believe we are nearing the end of the year. Don't forget your dues, your directory update, and mark the date of the AGM, **March 1, 2012**, on your calendar!



Our ED - Awesome in any language

## IOIA AGM 2012 – Chilliwack

Don't miss the 2012 IOIA Annual Meeting and Advanced Training, Feb 28-March 1!

IOIA will sponsor 2 days of advanced organic inspector training in conjunction with the IOIA Annual Membership Meeting on March 1 at the Best Western Rainbow Country Inn in Chilliwack. As the agenda is developed, the agenda and speaker bios will be posted on the AGM page of the IOIA website. The IOIA events follow the Annual Conference of Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia (COABC), scheduled Feb 24-26 at the same venue. For more information about that conference, see [www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca](http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca). Recent IOIA annual meetings in Canada were Montreal (2009) and Vancouver (2005).

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## SECTOR NEWS

### Ohio Drops Dairy Regulation

The State of Ohio has agreed that it will no longer pursue regulations limiting labeling on organic dairy products. Ohio had attempted to prohibit statements on labels which informed consumers that organic dairy products are produced without antibiotics, pesticides or synthetic hormones. After the Organic Trade Association sued the State of Ohio, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals sided with an OTA lawsuit citing consumers' right to know and gutted the Ohio rule, finding that it was unconstitutional.

### OMRI signs major contract with USDA

The Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) has signed a large contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to produce a comprehensive list of substances permitted for organic crop production. The contract calls for the production of a draft guidance document, the Permitted Substances List (PSL), to clarify which commonly available generic substances are allowed for use in organic crop production, according to USDA regulations. Additional materials lists are expected to follow for organic livestock production and for organic processing.

### IOIA Friends Elected to IFOAM World Board

IOIA is very pleased to announce that past board member Gabi Soto of Costa Rica has been elected to serve as Vicepresident of IFOAM.

Gabi has been inspecting for the past 20 years and has served as an IOIA trainer.

Matthew Holmes, Executive Director of Canadian OTA has also been elected to the IFOAM World Board. He is the only representative from North America on the ten-person Board. IFOAM is the worldwide umbrella organization for the organic movement, uniting more than 750 member organizations in 116 countries.

The election was part of the 17<sup>th</sup> Organic World Congress, held in South Korea Sept. 26 to Oct. 1, which attracted close to 2,000 participants from 76 countries.

### USDA publishes proposed rule on tetracycline, formic acid, and attapulgate

USDA is inviting comments on a [proposed rule](#) that addresses the use of

three substances in organic agriculture: tetracycline, formic acid and attapulgate. The proposals reflect the recommendations of the National Organic Standards Board. Tetracycline has been allowed in organic crop production since 2002 solely to control fire blight; the proposal would allow its use until Oct. 21, 2014. Formic acid was petitioned in May 2010 to be allowed as a pesticide to suppress varroa mites in honeybees; the proposal is to allow its use. Attapulgate was petitioned in May 2009 as a processing aid to purify vegetable and animal oils; the proposal is to allow its use. Comments must be submitted by Jan. 9, 2012, to be considered during final rulemaking. Parties can view the docket and submit comments by visiting [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) (search for keyword or ID AMS\_FRDOC\_0001-0854).

### NOP website updated with new petitions and technical reports

The National Organic Program's website has been updated with new National List petitions and Technical Reports for several petitioned substances. Technical Reports recently received include Ammonium nonanoate, Arachidonic Acid (ARA) Single-Cell Oil, Color: Beta-Carotene, Docosahexaenoic Acid (DHA) Algal Oil, Ferric phosphate, Indole-3-butyric acid, and Propane. Recently posted petitions include Ascorbyl palmitate (§ 205.605), Lycopene (§ 205.605), Nucleotides (§ 205.605), Taurine (§ 205.605), Tartaric acid (§ 205.605(b) (to remove), Curry leaf (§ 205.606), and Kaffir lime leaves and fruit (§ 205.606).

### NOP Seeking Clarification of 'Other Ingredients'

The NOP sent a memo to the NOSB on November 15, requesting clarification of "other ingredients" in processed organic products. When used as a formulated product, some substances on the National List may contain additional ingredients in various categories, including, but not limited to, carriers, stabilizers, and preservatives. Such "other ingredients" are sometimes referred to as inert ingredients, excipients, or incidental additives.

Since OFPA requires that each non-agricultural ingredient be specifically allowed, and because the National List

doesn't specifically list "other ingredients" commonly found in formulated products, the NOP is requesting that the NOSB specify whether these "other ingredients" are allowed.

Go to this link to view the memo:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5095484>

### Super-Committee fails, work to continue on Farm Bill

The US Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (Super-Committee) announced on Nov. 21 that it had failed to reach an agreement on how to find \$1.2 trillion in savings over the next ten years. This means these savings must be found through sequestration beginning in 2013. The House and Senate Agriculture Committees submitted a proposal to the Super-Committee that would have served as the 2012 Farm Bill, and cut \$23 billion from agricultural programs. Because the Super-Committee failed, the 2012 Farm Bill, which authorizes funding for key organic programs, now will likely be written through the normal legislative process. For a comprehensive overview of the Farm Bill, check out [OTA's Farm Bill web pages](#).

### OTA Participates in Mexico Seed Workshop

OTA Executive Vice President Laura Batcha and Senior Trade Advisor Robert Anderson recently participated in critical organic and untreated seed meetings held in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. Officials from the Mexico Ministry of Agriculture, SAGARPA and SENASICA made presentations and engaged in dialogue regarding the current phytosanitary regulations for organic, untreated and all seeds imported into Mexico. Importantly, the U.S. government participated, led by Minister Counselor Daniel Berman, USDA's Deputy Administrator of the National Organic Program Miles McEvoy, and a representative from USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) facilitated the meeting. Other participants included Mexican producers, international seed companies and U.S. companies including Driscoll's and Oregon Tilth. Next steps include addressing the urgency for growers to have access to organic seeds, analysis of Mexican soil-borne pathogens,

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analysis of the Mexico Seed Database, clarifying country of origin and country of processing requirements, and the submission of proposals to SAGARPA from industry, seed companies and governments. Participants agreed to develop strategies and coordinate measures to resolve the current crisis in organic seeds for Mexican growers.

## **FY 2012 Ag Appropriations signed into law**

On Nov. 17, the US House and Senate passed Fiscal Year 2012 Agriculture Appropriations as part of a minibus bill that also included funding for Commerce, Justice, and Science programs. The bill was subsequently signed into law by President Obama. Funding for critical organic programs, including the National Organic Program, Organic Data Initiative, organic research, and Appropriate Technology for Rural Areas were funded in the bill. The minibus also funds through Dec. 18 government programs that are in the remaining appropriations bills that have not been passed.

## **Job Opening – Certification Specialist**

MOSA is hiring an additional Certification Specialist to begin work in early 2012. Primary responsibilities include customer service for organic producers and handlers, evaluating organic plan information and inputs to determine compliance with the National Organic Standards, and communication with clients about certification requirements. The ideal candidate will have a college degree in a related area, or equivalent by training or experience, and knowledge of organic farming and certification. Also requires excellent communication skills, verbal and written; strong computer skills; and the ability to do detail-oriented work in a fast paced environment. This is a full-time position with benefits and requires working out of MOSA's office in Viroqua, Wisconsin. Salary is competitive for a non-profit organization. MOSA offers a friendly work environment, challenging work, open communication, and commitment to a job well-done. Interested and qualified candidates are invited to send a resume, letter of interest and job application (available on MOSA website) to [mosa@mosaorganic.org](mailto:mosa@mosaorganic.org)

## **China Not the Only Producer of Fake Organic Certificates**

The National Organic Program recently closed a complaint case concerning a fraudulent organic certificate that originated in Cameroon, Africa, produced by a counterfeit company.

Reported to the NOP by an accredited certifying agent, the certificate falsely represents agricultural products as certified organic under the NOP regulations, violating the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990. It contains the following identifying information:

Operation name and location: Villa Feed Association, Bamenda, Cameroon, Africa

Certificate number: CV004-098

Products listed as certified: Sesame seeds, sunflower seeds, cotton seeds, herbs and grains

Certifying agent and location: Agose Culture (NOTE: This is NOT a legitimate USDA accredited certifying agent)

Certificate issue location and date: Vicky Avenue, Cameroon, Africa

The NOP has not found evidence that any product was sold, labeled, or represented as organic using the fraudulent certificate.

## **ConAgra Sued Over GMO '100% Natural' Cooking Oils**

While various lawsuits have been filed in recent years claiming that food companies using the term natural are engaging in deceptive marketing, a suit filed in June in California against ConAgra could make the entire industrial food complex shake in its boots. The plaintiff claims he relied on Wesson oils "100% natural" label, when the products are actually made from genetically modified organisms.

Today's supermarket is awash in items claiming to be "all-natural." If you've ever wondered how even some junk food products can claim this moniker (e.g., Cheetos Natural Puff White Cheddar Cheese Flavored) the answer is simple if illogical: the Food and Drug Administration has not defined the term natural.

Ironically, the complaint cites a definition of GMOs by none other than Monsanto: "Plants or animals that have had their genetic makeup altered to exhibit traits that are not naturally theirs."

Four Wesson varieties are implicated in the case: Canola Oil, Vegetable Oil, Corn Oil, and Best Blend. And it's not just on the label that ConAgra is using the natural claim, but also online and in print advertisements.

The complaint describes the extent of ConAgra's deception, alleging the "labels are intended to evoke a natural, wholesome product."

What makes this lawsuit especially intriguing is its potentially far-ranging impact. According to the Center for Food Safety, "upwards of 70 percent of processed foods on supermarket shelves -- from soda to soup, crackers to condiments -- contain genetically-engineered ingredients." While it's unclear how many of these products also claim to be natural, given incentive to 'go green' going on these days, it's likely to number in the thousands.

Specifically, up to 85 percent of U.S. corn is genetically engineered as are 91 percent of soybeans, both extremely common ingredients in processed foods. The legal complaint also notes that on its corporate website ("but not on the Wesson site that consumers are more likely to visit"), ConAgra implies that its oils are genetically engineered. The company concludes: "Ultimately, consumers will decide what is acceptable in the marketplace based on the best science and public information available."

But by being told the oils are "100% natural," consumers can no longer make an informed decision as they are being misled.

## **Occupy USA and the Food Movement**

This could be a catalyzing moment for the food movement with a real chance for average Americans to see and hear the connection between corporate control of the food supply and the nation's health crisis. Indeed, the declaration of Occupy Wall Street (available on its Facebook page), addresses issues the food movement has been working on for years. The declaration states, "They have poisoned the food supply through negligence, and undermined the farming system through monopolization." More info at:

<http://civileats.com/2011/10/13/occupy-wall-street-and-the-food-movement/>

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## Canadian Update

By Kelly A. Monaghan

### COG Welcomes New ED

On November 17, the Canadian Organic Growers (COG) welcomed Beth McMahon as its new national Executive Director.

Out-going COG Executive Director, Laura Telford, recently accepted a position as Business Development Specialist (Organics) in the Food Commercialization & Marketing Knowledge Centre of the Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives.

“During my eight years at COG, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to have a front row seat as the Canadian organic sector evolved from a small but passionate alternative food movement to a global food system leader with international standards, federal regulation and equivalency agreements with major trading partners. I’m thrilled to be able to leave the organization in great hands and to be staying on in the organic sector in a new capacity.”

Beth has many years involvement with the Canadian Organic Growers, first joining the Canadian Organic Grower magazine editorial committee in 2003, and later working closely with the COG staff as Executive Director of ACORN (Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network), from 2004 to the present day.

With skills in non-profit organizational development, fundraising and organic agriculture, the Board of Directors is confident Beth will continue to build on our past successes and further strengthen the Canadian Organic Growers capacity to fulfill its mandate.

Beth will begin the process of moving from Sackville, NB, to the National Capital Region. Beth can best be reached by email during this transition phase at [beth@cog.ca](mailto:beth@cog.ca).

### First Suspensions of Certification

On July 1, 2011, active enforcement of the Canada Organic Regime began. Since that time there have been a number of suspensions and cancellations of certification. A list of these can be found at the following link:

<http://inspection.gc.ca/english/agen/transp/comp/orge.shtml>

### Canada Organic Week

For the second year in a row, Canada Organic Week took place in mid-October. Spearheaded by the Canada Organic Trade Association and Canada Organic Growers, events took place all over the country at retailers, farmers markets restaurants and at industry gatherings.

One highlight of the week was the second annual Parliament Hill Day on Tuesday October 18<sup>th</sup>. Organic representatives from all parts of the industry in Canada descended upon Parliament Hill in Ottawa to educate Senators and Members of Parliament about organics in Canada.

The key points that the industry stressed included funding of standards maintenance in Canada, the proposed low-level presence policy for GMOs and the need for support of farmers interested in transitioning to organic.

Most MPs were unaware that Canada is the one country which, through its equivalency arrangements with the US and EU, has access to 96% of the global organic market.



A number of representatives attended a meeting of the Agriculture Committee and heard testimony from some supporters of organic. Matthew Holmes, representing Canada Organic Trade Association and Ted Zettel, representing Organic Meadow are two advocates who have testified as witnesses to this committee this fall requesting more support for the organic industry in Canada as a part of the government’s “Growing Forward II” program.

### Organic Value Chain Round Table

Semi-annual meetings of the OVCRT took place in Ottawa in November. This group is discussing long-term funding of standards maintenance, a branding program for the organic sector, and the impacts of GMOs on organic agriculture and trade.

### Canadian Int’l Negotiations

#### *European Union:*

The equivalency arrangement signed in June 2011 between Canada and the European Union is in force however there are some concerns that it does not provide the level playing field desired by Canadians. At present the EU’s letter states that organic products from Canada are deemed equivalent for the purposes of sale in the European Union but only if all components of that product are grown in Canada. The COO has indicated that they are actively working to rectify this misunderstanding.

#### *United States:*

The Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture was asked to review a request made to the Canada Organic Office by the USDA’s NOP requesting removal of ruminants from the terms of the Equivalency Arrangement between the two countries.

After consultation with the Canada Organic Office regarding data provided by the NOP on actual stocking densities in place for ruminant animals in the US, the Technical Committee agreed to support the removal of ruminants from the stocking density variance of the agreement.

### Funding Update

Despite efforts of those on the funding task force (described in the last newsletter), those active in the industry’s Parliament Hill Day and on the Organic Value Chain Round Table, no funding is yet in place for standards maintenance.

### Advanced Inspector Training at Guelph

An IOIA Advanced Inspector training is scheduled for January 26, 2012 during the Guelph Organic Conference. Please see page 3 for full details, agenda and application.

### Membership Chair Position Open

Due to other pressing commitments, Kelly will be standing down as IOIA’s membership chairperson. If you are interested in this great opportunity to serve IOIA, please contact us at [ioia@ioia.net](mailto:ioia@ioia.net)

Kelly Monaghan is Chair of the Canadian General Standards Board’s Organic Technical Committee. [www.ashstreetorganics.com](http://www.ashstreetorganics.com)

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## BOD Conference Call - July 12, 2011

**Attendance:** Jennie Clifford, Silke Fuchshofen, Ib Hagsten, H  l  ne Bouvier, Deb Bunn, Michelle Sandy and Margaret Scoles – Executive Director  
Absent: Eric Feutz.

**Minutes taking:** Jennie Clifford/Michelle Sandy chair, Margaret Scoles note taking, H  l  ne Bouvier minutes.

**2012 AGM:** Vancouver area was discussed with date, in conjunction with COABC.

**Retreat location & date:** BOD Retreat was confirmed for November 18-19, unless an alternate date would make it possible for all BOD members to attend.

**Training Services Director Search Committee:** Listed position with MT Nonprofit Association, Montana Job Service, EdZapp. Bob is doing a great job of keeping the Search Committee updated. The Committee will have a narrowed short list by the time of the next call.

**Korea OWC plans:** Discussion over original plan to get a cheap booth. It was found out that it is not possible to get a ‘raw space booth’. Airfare: \$1322; Hotel: \$480; Registration for conference, Mutsumi, and Margaret: \$630; Estimated travel/meals during conference: \$500 **TOTAL: \$2622.** IOIA has purchased an ad in The Organic Standard, and a discounted web-ad for the Advanced training. It is listed on the IFOAM training platform. Margaret will conduct group emails to get wider exposure, and solicit for free advertising from the OWC group.

**IFOAM Standards Vote:** The deadline to vote on the IFOAM General Standards is July 28. Silke will set up an ad hoc team to see what interest or recommendations IOIA may propose.

**OTA Board vote:** Margaret will confer with Michelle. They will make a chart on the candidates to allow BOD input to decide IOIA’s chosen candidates.

**New IOIA Logo:** Logo options will be posted as Doodle or Excel with room for comment. Each BOD member should rank. Michelle’s logo, adapted as per previous input will be one of the options. Who will decide on final logo? BOD will make final decision. BOD should narrow down to only a few, then send out two to membership. Ask for vote, give deadline, then BOD decides final logo.

**IOIA Training Policy Re-taking course after Failing Exam or Report:** A participant of an IOIA training who failed the report assignment has requested an exception to IOIA policy. Current IOIA policy is that the only way to change a failing grade to a Certificate of Completion is to re-take the entire course. IOIA occasionally gets requests from participants who do well on the report but fail the report, as to whether we will allow them to re-take only the field trip/report writing portion of the class. Another request is whether we will allow them to replace it with an approved mentor and actual apprenticeship in the field. In very rare cases involving participants with ESL issues, IOIA has allowed this exception. The BOD re-affirmed the current policy and did not support an exception for participant.

**Mischa Popoff Public Letter:** The BOD decided to send a personal letter to Popoff, asking one more time that he discontinue misrepresenting his connection to IOIA, before posting a public letter.

**ED Report:** NOP has requested that the NOSB Certification, Compliance, and Accreditation Committee (CACC) develop a committee proposal outlining the criteria that inspectors should be required to meet. It should address baseline standards for education and experience, including continuing education. Luis Brenes has written the IOIA ED and BOD Chair encouraging IOIA to write a strong letter to the NOSB. BOD consensus was to write such a letter, especially supporting the IOIA training program in preference to solely in-house certifier training. It is not clear how this initiative relates to the USDA project IOIA has already bid on.

## BOD Conference Call - August 9, 2011

**Attendance:** Jennie Clifford, Silke Fuchshofen, Ib Hagsten, H  l  ne Bouvier, Eric Feutz, and Margaret Scoles – Executive Director  
Absent: Deb Bunn and Michelle Sandy.

**Minutes:** H  l  ne Bouvier. Acting Chair: Silke Fuchshofen. Margaret Scoles note taking.

**Secretary’s Report:** Minutes of the July 12 meeting were postponed and will be submitted for approval at September 22nd meeting along with August 9 meeting minutes.

9:22 – Jennie left the meeting and remainder of the meeting was without a quorum. BOD meeting continued with discussion only, no decisions.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Financials were presented in advance of meeting. Eric Feutz reported 2nd quarter financials vs. actual and a detailed budget and balance sheet. The IRS Form 990 was received by BOD prior to meeting. Eric stated the IOIA 2010 IRS Form 990 will be filed by next Monday, August 15th. The Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) was discussed. It has been changed from an Expense account to a Liability account. IOIA Business Plan Income and Expense 2011: Revenue and expenses for Business plan discussed: NOP project, no other special projects planned. It was noted that IOIA does not expect to meet budget projections for cosponsor-managed training, little webinar income reported in first half of year, but no hire of new 2nd Senior Staff person helps keep actual net revenue in line with expected. Consideration to the Business Plan for need to discuss and consider including an increase in capacity and budget income, additional application for non-profit grants.

**Mischa Popoff Discussion:** BOD reviewed IOIA’s prior action, bylaw exact text and Membership committee’s decision to not accept Mischa Popoff’s membership, previous IOIA BOD approval of Membership committee’s recommendation, staff notification to Mischa. Again, it was noted that no such designation as “Advanced Organic Inspector” exists. The BOD will review adverse membership action and make a final decision at retreat. [Minutes are continued on page 23]

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## Aquaculture Training in Hong Kong

By Lisa Pierce

The bumper sticker on my truck at home says, “Wild Salmon are Sacred.” I boycott farmed salmon. Perhaps it seems a bit ironic then, that I am the facilitator for the first IOIA aquaculture training held in Asia. But here in Hong Kong, I feel differently about fish farming. In some cases, freshwater fish are still reared using the same practices developed in China hundreds of years ago. Ponds are sometimes supplemented with fertilizer to encourage the growth of plankton. The plankton is consumed by fish and the polyculture system is complemented by three to four different species of fish with different eating habits that utilize different trophic levels in the pond.



The Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre (HKORC) co-sponsored one day IOIA aquaculture training on September 03,



Freshwater pond with city background

2011 at Hong Kong Baptist University. This was the third aquaculture training delivered by IOIA; the first training was held in Wisconsin in 2002 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> training in Canada in 2003. The morning sessions of the training in Hong Kong were instructed by Deborah Brister using webinar technology. Deborah gave a comprehensive overview of global aquaculture including global trends, history of organic aquaculture, production systems and fish species. Deborah Brister is an international aquaculture auditor and aquaculture consultant who has been extensively involved in the development of national and international organic aquaculture standards. Deborah was the co-chair and coordinator of the International Federation

of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) Aquaculture

Group. Since 1999, she has worked closely with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Program in the development of organic standards and was coordinator of a National Organic Aquaculture Workshop sponsored by the Institute in June, 2000.

Participants in the Hong Kong training were a combination of persons who had just completed IOIA Organic Crop Inspector training, persons who had previously completed IOIA training, staff of HKORC and government employees of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) with no previous organic inspection experience and training. The afternoon sessions, facilitated by myself, were designed to encourage the sharing of information between those participants who had experience in assessment of aquaculture systems and those who had training in organic inspections. The Aquaculture Fisheries Division of AFCD has published a great series of booklets on Good Aquaculture Practices as part of Hong Kong voluntary Accredited Fish Farm Scheme. By cross referencing Good Aquaculture Practices, HKORC aquaculture standards and organic inspection concepts of contamination and commingling, participants were able to develop organic inspection matrix relevant to aquafarms here in Hong Kong.



Amy Cheung Wai Yee receives her certificate of completion from Lisa

When I left Canada my partner and I were in the midst of canning and freezing fruit and vegetables for the winter. In contrast, Hong Kong is like a brokerage of food where the emphasis is on fresh and if possible – still alive. Fish are displayed in the wet market with the innards intact and exposed. Stalls and stores are filled with fresh fruit and vegetables imported from all over the world and aquariums with swimming supper adorn the front of restaurants. I have this moment where I think, wow, I traveled half way around the world only to stare at live seafood from Canada, probably harvested near where I live. But behind the wonder and international display are local producers struggling. Net cages huddled in the bays and outlying islands of Hong Kong float empty. Producers who have fish ponds in the new territories struggle to compete with farmed fish from Thailand and Vietnam.



Lisa on Lamma Island with fishing village in the background

Organic aquaculture, building on the foundation of Accredited Fish Farm Scheme, offers a new hope for aquafarmers in Hong Kong to create a new market niche for safe, local and organic fish.

Special thanks to my class. I had fun and learned a lot. Immense gratitude to Tina and Sharon and all the wonderful, hard working staff at HKORC. The discovery of the people in the tall buildings and the country behind the tall buildings was unexpected and beautiful. Thank you.

## Basic Crop Inspection Training in Hong Kong

IOIA has been invited again by the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre to provide an inspectors training from Aug 29 to Sep 2nd. Luis Brenes and Lisa Pierce interacted with 26 students which included two auditing on behalf of the HK Customs Department. Among the students we had some experienced farmers, HKORC staff, officers from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, from the Vegetable Marketing Organization, farmers Community Grower Group, and other private and public organizations.

Training was based on the HKORC-Cert standard and included a field trip to four different certified farms to evaluate compliance against this standard. We also had the opportunity to share a friendly dinner with former students and current inspectors in a splendid vegetarian restaurant in Victoria Harbor.

IOIA wishes to thank the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre for its continued trust in our trainings and wishes a strong and fast growth of the organic sector in Hong Kong.



## 17th IFOAM Congress – Little Time for Breaks

"Organic is Life", the 17th IFOAM Organic World Congress, Sept 26-Oct 5 was organized and warmly hosted in Namyangju in the Republic of Korea (also known as South Korea). This was the first-ever IFOAM Organic World Congress in Asia.

IOIA presented an OWC workshop on October 1 and hosted a dinner for IOIA inspectors and members later that evening. IOIA was joined by KOIA and JOIA in cosponsoring a booth at the Organic World Fair Sept 28-Oct 2. The IOIA Executive Director represented IOIA and participated in the IFOAM General Assembly Oct. 3-5. IOIA welcomed a new member -- Dr. Mohammad Reza Ardakani, IOIA's first member from Iran. He joined at two levels; as an inspector member and a supporting business member. IOIA member Gabriela Soto of Costa Rica was elected to the IFOAM World Board and then selected as one of the two vice-presidents. The General Assembly took place in a brand new facility that included the World Organic Museum. Precious break times were filled with training discussions, including: Gunnar Rundgren (Grolink); Ong Kung Wai (Malaysia) and Vitoon Panyakul of Thailand about grower group training in Asia; Leslie Zuck (PCO) about the spring training in the US; David Crucifix and Jan Deane of IOAS about certifier training; Elizabeth Henderson about agricultural justice project training; and some old and new friends from the Philippines, Australia, Uganda, and many other countries. An excellent proposal was submitted by the Buğday Association for Supporting Ecological Living, The next IFOAM GA will be held in 2014 in Istanbul, Turkey.



The grounds were spectacular, including artfully designed demonstration gardens of many varieties of rice, greens, and other crops, with traditional breeds of cattle, pigs, and poultry displayed. A torrential downpour challenged foot navigation one day for the thousands of visitors.



**Left:** IOIA hosted a small dinner party at a Korean BBQ on October 1. At Left: Han Jung Yeol (KOIA president), Margaret Scoles (IOIA ED), and Leslie Zuck (PCO). At Right: JOIA, Yutaka Maruyama (JOIA president) Mutsumi Sakuyoshi, and JOIA Board members. The group was joined a bit later by IOIA member Raymond Yang and Robert Yang, of Doalnara Institute. Photo credit: Isidor Yu. **Right:** Bibimbap or "mixed meal". Delicious!



**Left:** Isidor Yu, IOIA Trainer, with Mutsumi Sakuyoshi, Seo Sang Boe and Margaret Scoles at the Control Union booth.

**Right:** Drs. Nasser S. Al-Ghumaiz and Khalid Bin Nasser Al-Redhaiman, inspectors from Saudi Arabia, stopped by to visit the WOF booth and discuss the possibilities of intermediate or advanced training in Arabic language.

