



Independent Organic Inspectors Association

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PRESS RELEASE re: 2008 IOIA TRAININGS (Please Post!)

Unity, Maine

IOIA and Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners (MOFGA) will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Crop using the NOP Standards as a reference. The course will be held at Unity College, 90 Quaker Hill Road, Unity, Maine **July 14-18**. For more information about the courses please contact Mary Yurlina at ph: (207) 568-4142, e-mail: ioiacourse@mofga.org or visit MOFGA's website at: www.mofga.org

Hong Kong, China

IOIA and Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre (HKORC) will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Crop and a 4.5 day Basic Organic Processing Inspection Training using the HKORC-Cert Organic Standards as a reference. The courses will be held at Sin Hang Campus, Hong Kong Baptist University, Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong, China **August 6-10** (Crop Course) and **August 11-15** (Processing Course). Application forms and more information about the course are available at the website of HKORC at www.hkbu.edu.hk. For enquiries, please contact Sharon Chan hkorc@hkbu.edu.hk or Isa Lin isalin@hkbu.edu.hk.

San Diego, California

IOIA, Quality Assurance International (QAI), the Non-GMO Project, and FoodChain Global Advisors are collaborating to provide non-GMO verification training for inspectors on **August 16** at the QAI office. David Gould of FoodChain Global Advisors will present this session. The Non-GMO Project is developing training for organic inspectors to do non-GMO verifications, most often in conjunction with the organic inspections of the same operation. FoodChain Global Advisors is the technical administrator for the project. Application is directly through FoodChain. Application forms are also available from the IOIA website or office.

Warren, Vermont

IOIA and Vermont Organic Farmers (VOF) will cosponsor Basic Organic Livestock Inspection training at the Sugarbush Inn in Warren, Vermont on **August 19-23**. Nearest Airport is Burlington (BTV). The Sugarbush Inn is located approximately 45 minutes south of Burlington, Vermont, in the tiny town of Warren (population <400). Course participants will enjoy country inn charm and hospitality. This course includes 4 days of instruction including a field trip to a certified organic operation, plus ½ day for testing. Livestock field trip options will include dairy operations. For more info about the Sugarbush Inn visit www.sugarbush.com. Please do not contact the Sugarbush Inn for lodging for the IOIA Training. IOIA will prepare the rooming list. For further information about VOF, see www.nofavt.org.

Following the livestock course, a Non-GMO Verification Training is scheduled on **August 24** in Burlington, Vermont. This event is a collaboration between IOIA, Vermont Organic Farmers (VOF), the Non-GMO Project, and FoodChain Global Advisors. It is open to certification agency staff and other individuals as well as inspectors. David Gould of FoodChain Global Advisors will present this session. Application is through IOIA. For more information about the Non-GMO Project, see www.nongmoproject.org. For more information about the event, contact IOIA.

Gangwon, Korea

IOIA and Korea Federation of Sustainable Agriculture Associations (KFSAO) will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Process Inspection Training using the Korea Organic Regulation as a reference. The course will be held in Gangwon, Korea **September 29 - October 3**. For enquiries, please contact Isidor Byeongdeok Yu at Ph: +82-10-9133-5431 Fax: +82-2-796-2615 e-mail: community02@hanmail.net

Corvallis, Oregon

IOIA and Oregon Tilth Certified Organic (OTCO) will cosponsor Basic Organic Crop, Livestock, and Processing Inspection Trainings at the LaSells Stewart Center, Oregon State University, in Corvallis, Oregon. The Crop and Processing trainings will run concurrently **October 22-26**, followed by Basic Organic Livestock training **October 27-31**. Stellar Certification Services and IOIA will cosponsor Advanced Organic Inspector Training on **October 26-27** on the topics of biodynamic inspection (1 1/2 days) and other than NOP standards (1/2 day). This will include updates on EU, JAS, and Canadian standards. IOIA will collaborate with the Non-GMO Project and FoodChain Global Advisors to offer Non-GMO verification training on **October 28**. The Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) and IOIA will cosponsor Advanced Organic Inspector Training on **October 29-30** with a focus on inspection of input materials manufacturers. Lodging options include on-campus dormitory or the nearby Hilton Garden Inn. Application forms will be posted on the IOIA website as soon as available. For more information, contact IOIA.

Watch upcoming IOIA newsletters and the website for details as these and 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.

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

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