



International Organic Inspectors Association

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PRESS RELEASE re: 2012 IOIA TRAININGS

(Please Post!)

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.

Chilliwack, British Columbia, February 28-29 and Annual Meeting March 1

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. Tentatively, a poultry euthanasia workshop is also being developed with the BC SPCA late afternoon Feb. 27 at the Ministry of Agriculture Pathology lab in Abbotsford. Training will include one full day (Feb 28) of field trip to the Agri-Pacific Research Station Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the UBC Dairy Education and Research Centre, both in Agassiz. Transportation will be provided. The morning session will focus on practical field indicators of soil health for inspectors. The afternoon includes a tour of the dairy research farm with focus on animal welfare projects, field indicators of animal health, feed audit exercise at the Feed Intake Research Facility, and gait score training workshop. Evening session will be "Inspectors' Corner – BC Style" with informal discussion. Day 2 (Feb 29) will focus on an update of the Canadian Organic Standards, USDA NOP standards update, and processing topics including Boilers and Boiler Additives – practical demonstration of boilers, filters and types of boiler chemical used. Agenda is under development. As the training agenda is finalized, the agenda and speaker bios will be posted on the IOIA website. Keynote address on March 1 will be offered by Beth McMahon and Gunta Vitins. McMahon, new Executive Director of the Canadian Organic Growers (COG), has been active in the organic sector for several years, recently completing an 8-year term as Executive Director of the Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network (ACORN). She holds a Masters of Environmental Studies with a focus on organic agricultural systems. Vitins is President of Canada Organic Trade Assoc. (COTA) & Industry Chair of Agri-Food Canada's Organic Value Chain Roundtable. She has been spearheading innovative agri-food initiatives in the public and private sectors for over 25 years, focusing on the organic industry for the past two decades. 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.

Webinar: IOIA/OMRI Livestock Inputs Webinar, March 2012

This training is under development and is tentatively scheduled March 14. For more details, contact the IOIA office, or visit <http://ioiaregistration.ganconference.com>.

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

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. 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

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, focuses on the USDA NOP, and includes 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. Agenda is under development and will be posted here when available. Topics include sampling for residue analysis and unannounced inspections. All trainings will be held at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel. PCO is a USDA-accredited certification agency that performs approximately 700 inspections annually in Pennsylvania and adjoining states (New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, and Ohio). For more information about PCO, visit www.paorganic.org.

Watch upcoming IOIA newsletters and this page for details as these and other trainings develop.

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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.