



The Inspectors' Report

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IOIA, COG and OTA Collaborate on Canadian Standards Training

IOIA is collaborating with Canadian Organic Growers (COG), Organic Trade Association in Canada (OTA), Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and regional cosponsors on a training project for producers, processors, inspectors (verification officers), and certifiers. Canadian standards training for all audiences will be provided across Canada from mid-February through mid-March. This project will provide the most comprehensive training available on the new federal organic rules that come into effect June 30, 2009. The project goals are to ensure uniform implementation and to make consistent training widely accessible and affordable for the organic sector.

IOIA will lead the inspector/certifier trainings. These 2-day workshops provide an overview of the new Canadian Organic Regime (COR), plus detailed discussion of all aspects of the new standards, including crops, livestock, processing, permitted substances and labeling. It will include the key differences between the Canadian standards and those of major trading partners. The Canadian Organic Office (COO) provided the content for the COR overview and the labeling segment. The workshop is designed for certification agency staff and experienced organic inspectors (verification officers). Others involved in the organic sector are welcome to attend on a space-available basis.

The first of these trainings will be a 2-day workshop limited to certification agency staff in Toronto on February 11-12. Michel Saumur, COO National Manager, will deliver some key segments of the Toronto training. Saumur has worked with IOIA to contribute and review materials for the course. He has supported the project since its inception at the Guelph Organic Conference in 2008. The last session offered as part of this project will be the 2-day English language workshop held on Mar. 23-24 in conjunction with the IOIA Annual Meeting in Montreal. Cosponsors of the trainings to date are Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia, Alberta Ag and Going Organic network of Alberta, OCIA International, Organic Council of Ontario, and Atlantic Canada Organic Regional Network. Trainings are still in progress in Manitoba and also in Quebec (French language).

For a complete list of trainings, and to access application forms, see www.ioia.net/training.html. [see **Canadian Standards**, page 2]

Pull on Your Tuques and Come to Montréal!

We look forward to seeing many of you in Montréal, Québec, on Sunday **March 22** for the **IOIA Annual General Meeting**, an inspiring key note and an evening of music and dancing!

To compliment the numerous training opportunities March 23-24 (check the IOIA website), your AGM Committee is organising three field trip options on Wednesday March 25, showcasing Québec organic agriculture, culture and food processing. Watch the IOIA website for details!

Bienvenu! Welcome! Bien venido!

Sylvia, Christine and Monique

Inspector/Certifier COR Trainings:

Feb 11-12	Toronto, Ontario [Certifiers Only]
Feb 17-18	Guelph, Ontario
Feb 18 - 19	Manitou, Manitoba
Feb 23-24	Abbotsford, British Columbia
Feb 26-27	Drummondville, Quebec [French language]
March 6-7	Regina, Saskatchewan
March 9-10	Sackville, New Brunswick
March 12-13	Camrose, Alberta
March 23-24	Montreal, Quebec [English language]

*aka Independent Organic Inspectors Association

IOIA Accreditation News

If you wish to apply for accreditation, please contact the IOIA office. The program is open to inspector members of IOIA with at least 2 years of inspection experience. A full description of the program is available on the IOIA website at <http://www.ioia.net/Accred.htm>

Renewal Accreditations - Congratulations to:

Luis Brenes-Ingiana (Crops, Processing)
Sandra Conway (Crops, Livestock, Processing)
Joyce E. Ford (Crops, Livestock, Processing)
Robert Howe (Processing)
Al Johnson (Crops, Livestock, Processing)
Leanne McCormick (Crops, Livestock, Processing)
Monique Scholz (Crops, Livestock, Processing)

Welcome new Accreditation Review Panel Member!

Daniel Smith, D.C. as the non-IOIA member representative. Dr. Smith is a chiropractic doctor and a certified organic producer in California. He is involved in producing organic nutritional supplements.

2009 Directory Updates

2009 Membership Directory Update will not be printed this issue. See the inserted Mini Directory for most current address information.

Please Welcome 2 new inspector members:

John Anthony Caputo
1240 SW Gerold St
Corvallis, OR 97333
UNITED STATES
Home: 541.760.7191
Email: gian@peak.org
[John was our 2007 Rutherford Scholarship Winner]

Elaine Spearing
4451 Garvin Rd
Quesnel, BC V2J 6R1
CANADA
Home: 250.747.3237
Fax: 250.747.3287
Email: elaines@quesnelbc.com

Canadian Standards, from page 1

COG has scheduled 35 1-day producer trainings across Canada, which will cover an overview of the COR, crops, and livestock standards. OTA has scheduled four 1-day processor trainings (Vancouver, Toronto, Toronto, and Montreal). These are geared for the processing industry and will include the overview of the COR, processing standards, and labeling. The 2-day inspector/certifier workshops will cover all topics. For more information, about the processor and producer trainings, see <http://www.ota.com/otacanada/workshops.html> or www.cog.ca.

CAN/CGSB-32.310 and 32-311 (most recently amended Oct 08) were originally slated for implementation on December 14, 2008. The sector was given a reprieve in late 2008 when the implementation date was postponed until June 30. Adding an element to the uncertainty in the transition to full implementation is the lack of an agreement with the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) to make the standards publicly available. When the October 2008 version was released on January 12, the organic sector was stunned to find the associated price - \$200 CAD for each copy of the standards. More news is expected on that development.

Calling All Committee Chairs!

Please submit an annual report (1-2 pages) for your committee to Diane Cooner via email at amani@wildblue.net by March 8. Advance submission will allow time for Diane to develop the poster presentation for the AGM. Include a list of committee members and summary of 2008 activities. Add key projects, priorities, work plans, or photos. Let other members know if you need members, help, or ideas. The poster presentation will save time at the AGM to allow for more membership discussions. And members will have the opportunity to peruse them at their leisure before and after the AGM.

New Inspector Coordinator for MOSA

MOSA is pleased to announce that **Aaron Brin** will be serving as their new inspector coordinator.

After 15 years as an active Independent Organic Inspector, Aaron has taken the position of Inspection Manager at MOSA. He will be working with Staff Inspectors and Independent Contract inspectors to assign inspections, to help them understand the needs of MOSA Certification Reviewers, as well as proper protocols and correct use of MOSA forms. He has started observing MOSA staff and contract inspectors in the field, coaching them to improve their interviewing and reporting skills. MOSA is also developing personalized action plans for continuous improvement for all of their inspectors.

MOSA certifies producers and processors primarily in the Midwest, but they also have inspections from the Great Plains to Ohio. If you are interested in doing inspections for MOSA, especially if you have livestock and dairy experience, you can contact Aaron Brin: abrin@mosaorganic.org 608-637-2526.

In related news, the IOIA BOD sends congratulations and a fond farewell to **Erin Beard**, who is leaving the BOD after serving for 2 years as Second Alternate. Erin is retiring from full-time inspection work in favor of marriage to an organic farmer. We are going to miss Erin very much, but she's got the ironclad good reason!

Congratulations, Aaron & Erin!

IOIA Board of Directors

Bob Durst, P.AgChair
David KonradVice Chair
Gene Prochaska.....Treasurer
Monique Scholz.....Secretary
Stephen BirdDirector at Large
Erin Beard..... First Alternate
Lidia Girón Second Alternate
The Inspectors' Report is the newsletter of the International Organic Inspectors Association. IOIA is a 501 (c)(3) educational organization, whose mission is to address issues and concerns relevant to organic inspectors, to provide quality inspector training and to promote integrity and consistency in the organic certification process. Editor: Diane Cooner, Box 1259, Guerneville, CA 95446 USA. 707-869-3017, fax 707-869-1478. ioiaweb@ioia.net
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Canadian Organic Standards Training

IOIA is collaborating with Canadian Organic Growers (COG), Organic Trade Association (OTA), Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and regional cosponsors on a training project for producers, processors, inspectors (verification officers), and certifiers. Training for all audiences will be provided across Canada from mid-February through mid-March. COG will lead the producer training, OTA will lead the processor training, and IOIA will lead the inspector/certifier trainings. The project includes 7-8 certifier/inspector trainings COG is organizing producer trainings (about 6 in each province). OTA is organizing processor trainings (at least 3, to include Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal). The training schedule is listed on page 1, further updates are at www.ioia.net.

Brandon, Manitoba 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, with assignments due by April 18, followed by a weekend session in Manitoba with a field trip and exam. The weekend session from Wednesday evening through Friday will be held April 29 – May 1, 2008. The course will be held at Assiniboine Community College, 1430 Victoria Avenue East in Brandon, Manitoba, Canada R7A 2A9. Participants have the option to take the course based on Canadian or US Standards. Application deadline is in February. For more information about this training please contact Mary Petersen at Ph: 204-725-8700 Ext 6683 Fax: 204-725-8740 e-mail: PeterseM@Assiniboine.net.

Montréal, Québec IOIA will sponsor Advanced Organic Inspector training and Basic Organic Processing Inspection Training in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, in conjunction with the IOIA Annual General Membership Meeting on March 22. BCS Öko-Garantie GmbH and IOIA will cosponsor training on the EU organic regulations (EC No. 834/2007) on March 21. The new regulations were implemented on Jan. 1, 2009. Guest presenter will be Tobias Fischer, head of the BCS International Department. Two concurrent trainings are available on March 23-24. One will provide comprehensive training to the new Canadian organic standards. The second will include Personal Body Care Products Standards and Inspection; overview update sessions on the Canadian Standards, EU regulations, and Mexican standards; sessions comparing organic and non-organic processes including maple syrup, juicing, soy sauce, and others; and a session in calculating Dry Matter Intake and pasture. This training will be offered as two 1-day options for those who do not wish to attend both days, or who plan to take the Basic Processing training, which is scheduled for March 24-28.

All events are scheduled at Le Cantlie Suites. The hotel is conveniently located at the junction of Rue Peel and Rue Sherbrooke near McGill University, with views of the St. Lawrence River on one side and Mont Royal, one of the city's largest parks, on the other. The hotel is within walking distance to shopping, museums, fine dining, three universities, historic districts and Montréal's famous winding staircases. For more information about the venue, visit www.hotelcantlie.com but please do not reserve accommodations directly with the hotel. IOIA will prepare the rooming list. Studio suites are reserved. Private and shared rooming options are available. Each suite has a small kitchenette. Nearest Airport is Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport, also known as Dorval. Airport code is (YUL). Deadline to apply is Feb. 16. Information and application forms for all trainings are available from the IOIA website.

Prince Edward Island IOIA and Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network (ACORN) are developing Basic Organic Crop Inspection Training based on the Canadian National Standards. This will occur April 13-17 in Summerside, PEI. Following the basic training, there will be a one-day livestock workshop on the 18th and a one-day advanced auditing workshop on the 19th. This workshop training is being sponsored in part by the PEI Department of Agriculture, Organic Producer's Co-operative and ADAPT Council. Placement priority will be given to residents of Atlantic Canada. For more detailed information and the upcoming application for this course, please contact Beth McMahon of ACORN at ph: 506-536-2867 e-mail: admin@acornorganic.org

State College, Pennsylvania IOIA and Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO) will cosponsor Basic Organic Crop and Processing Inspection Trainings, running concurrently on April 20-24. Location for all trainings will be the Ramada Conference Center in State College. For more information about the facility, visit www.ramadasc.com. IOIA will reserve a room block for the course. Nearest airport is State College. State College is nearly equidistant from Pittsburgh, Baltimore, New York City, and Philadelphia, Detailed information and application will be posted at www.ioia.net as soon as available.

Medina, North Dakota IOIA and FARRMS will cosponsor a two-day workshop for processors on April 30 – May 1 in Medina at the FARRMS Training Facility. This course is recommended for processors who are not yet certified or those newly certified. A limited number of spaces are also available for inspectors and certification staff. This project is funded in part by NCR-SARE. For an application form and more details, visit www.farrms.org or call 701.486.3569.

Other trainings in development: Watch upcoming IOIA newsletters and the website IOIA and Midwest Organic Services Association (MOSA) are developing Basic Crop and Livestock inspection trainings in late summer/early fall in Wisconsin. Tentatively, Demeter Association and IOIA will cosponsor Biodynamic Inspection Training in conjunction with the event.

Eric Kindberg Dies in China

The following is a post from the Sustainable Ag Network, from 12/11/2008

Organics has lost a good man

“Eric Kindberg has been a member of this discussion for over ten years, so I thought I would let you all know that Eric died in China last night of liver and kidney failure after about a year with an ailment we are still not certain about. Bile duct cancer has been suspected. I know he was jaundiced and was describing a lot of symptoms that point to severe liver disease. I thought he might have gotten it from contact with liver flukes – a widespread parasite in that part of the world. Now all that is beside the point, except for the fact that it serves as a lesson that quality Western medicine, especially for diagnosis, is imperative.

“I am so upset about this. He was a brilliant guy and an authentic organic farmer. A crucial expert on organic standards and philosophy when it really mattered in December of 1997.

“Eric was on the way home to his family in California for Thanksgiving, but turned terribly ill and could not continue his trip, eventually going from a hotel to a good hospital in Guangzhou - but it wasn't Cedars Sinai.

“Then he went into a coma and just went downhill from there. He was 66 but had the energy and athleticism of a forty year old. A tragic paradox. Sorry to bear this news to you.”

Steve Sprinkel, farmerandcook.com

“I am heartbroken about Eric. This is a real shock and a huge loss to the organic and sustainable farming community here in the US and obviously elsewhere around the world. Read these archives [SANET] to see what a valuable role he has played in the biological farming movement for over twenty years. He was farmer advocate, farm implement designer and prototyper, political and industry activist and one of the most persistent and effective spokespersons and campaigners for organic farming anyone could hope for. In fact he went beyond what most have done and in a tactful, considerate, cooperative way.”

Lawrence London, Chapel Hill, N.C., U.S.A.

A memorial for Eric Kindberg will be held March 28 in Ojai, California.

Diane Joy Goodman

Longtime organic advocate Diane Joy Goodman has died of liver failure due to a chronic condition. She was 61 when she died Nov. 14.

Ms. Goodman she played an important role in the burgeoning sustainable food movement and was the former chair of the California Organic Foods Advisory Board. She was also a member of the National Organic Standards Board and the Organic Trade Association. She helped draft the national organic standards that were released in 2000, and as a consultant helped many farmers make the transition to organic practices and certification.

She was a native of New York City and lived in San Francisco for the last 30 years, except for a brief time when she moved to Washington, D.C., to work on the organic standards legislation.



Goodman family

A memorial was held in San Francisco on Dec. 7

2009 Rutherford Scholarship Recipient – Osiris Abrego

First of all I would like to express my gratitude for the work of the IOIA, the support and encouragement, to students like me.

My name is Osiris Abrego, I am from Panama, and my interest for working in the organic agriculture field is inspired by many reasons. I spend most of my childhood very close to the farming lifestyle, by visiting the family farm in “Marañon” (Cashew Tree). I was able to witness farmers that through work supported their families, kept their tradition, enriched their communities and honored the land.

After attending college in the US, I volunteered and worked at the Josephine Porter Institute for Applied Biodynamics. This experience opened the door for me to see nature and be involved in farming in a new way. Through the Institute I was able to learn and connect and work with



farmers from many places, and find myself in true community.

In the present time, I work independently offering my services as a communicator of Biodynamic Agriculture principles, in the Spanish language, for farms in the US. As my work develops; I would like to work towards the development of healthy and thriving agricultural communities.

Many thanks, Osiris

2009 OCIS Scholarship Recipient – Yanni Liang

I am an organic production and marketing coordinator, living in Wuzhishan city, Hainan, P.R.China. I have been working with Wuzhishan local village peasants on organic farming for over 3 years. I have a sole proprietorship enterprise-Festival Organic Wuzhishan Agriculture Base, which represents local peasants.

My qualified success has been learning from local peasants while providing an organic learning experience to the peasants and developing good paying markets for their products at fancy tourist hotels.

IOIA's training would help me better understand USDA/NOP organic standards and provide a better understanding of organic to the local farmers.

I am planning to attend the Basic Crop Inspector training at late summer/early fall in Milwaukee. If things work out, I will be working as an intern for Organic Valley before the training take place in Milwaukee.

My intentions are: 1) learn as much as I can about organic farming, marketing and organizing farmers etc while I am in US. 2) Attend the training then apply it to practice. 3) Continue the organic farming and set up a green grocery at Wuzhishan, Hainan.

Notes from the ED

By Margaret Scoles

Happy New Year!

As you will note, we are conserving all space possible for the Mini-Directory. So this will be brief. A few highlights—

Membership Directory: The Membership Directory is printed and mailed to all supporting certification agency members, plus other individual members who paid for a copy. We have extras if you wanted a copy and forgot to request one. The on-line directory is continually updated. We encourage members to go there for current contact information and contacts for new members.

Canada: Our year started with a bang with a phone call about 8 a.m. on Monday morning, January 5. **Laura Telford** of **Canadian Organic Growers** was calling to tell us that the funding for the Canadian standards project was coming through after all! We partners (OTA, COG, and IOIA) had agreed that this project couldn't happen if we didn't get funding notification by the end of December. The original proposal was for an ambitious 4-month project. It was virtually impossible as a 2-month project. (Unfortunately, even though the notice came late, the project was required to be completed on the same end date, March 31.) Fortunately, the forward-thinking IOIA Board of Directors had decided in October that a scaled back version of the project was within our scope. Also that the project was important and we couldn't wait for 'maybe money'. IOIA had started in December with a contract to develop materials. That step was the key that made it still seem possible. Add to that the fact that IOIA has 5 active Trainers in Canada. We had the staff we needed to deliver the trainings. Everyone threw themselves into the project. Regional cosponsors put forth heroic efforts toward supporting the project. Less than a month later, we have completed the first phase of the materials development and Train the Trainer. Seven inspector/certifier trainings are scheduled over the space of a month, with two more pending. Our partners have scheduled processor and producer trainings, most of which will be delivered by IOIA Trainers. We even added a training event in Toronto for certifiers with the Canada Organic Office (COO), at the request of **Michel Saumur**, COO National Manager. The last event in the series will be the

workshop in Montreal at the Annual Meeting. At the CHFA - sponsored trader's breakfast and meeting on Jan. 25 in Guelph, both **Joe Smillie** and I mentioned that we wish we could have had a project like this in the US. We were remembering those difficult NOP implementation years back in 2000-2002!

Guelph Organic Conference, Jan 23-25: Guelph was a whirlwind. IOIA moved back upstairs to the main floor. We'd moved downstairs several years ago in an economy mode. We enjoyed a great location with lots of activity. **Tomas Nimmo**, the Conference Manager, joked at the Guelph trader's meeting about perhaps creating an 'IOIA pavilion' after the round of introductions revealed so many IOIA members. **Garry Lean**, **Monique Scholz**, and I were on the IOIA Panel Workshop session "Is this grain crop really organic..?" on Jan. 24. **Dave DeCou**, OMRI Executive Director and friend to IOIA, was the moderator. The Canadian Standards training project pulled IOIA members in all directions. A hard working project team (**Garry**, **Margaret Dickson**, **Kelly Monaghan**) worked in a secluded area doing videotaped interviews to add to the training materials. **Monique** was interviewed in both English and French. A working lunch meeting on Jan. 25 involved the training project team, all IOIA Trainers present, and other IOIA members who are involved in the producer or processor trainings. **Maureen Bostock**, IOIA Inspector Member, is working on producer training materials for COG. I was so disappointed to reach the end of the conference and realize that I'd missed getting her autograph on the new IOIA copy of her book, *Growing Potatoes Organically*. COG was the publisher of this wonderful new resource. Other Guelph highlights were the dinner and awards, the Public Forum (IOIA member **Dag Falck** was on the panel), and the OTA Member party. On Saturday night, a group of IOIA members, plus **Laura Telford** and **Dave DeCou**, enjoyed a dinner out as a modest Cross-Border Social event. A **huge thank-you** goes to those who helped staff the booth, including **Tom Cassan**, **Kelly Monaghan**, **Dr. Bruce Hasspieler**, **Bill Barkley**, **Janine Gibson**, and others.

Expo West, Anaheim, March 6-8: IOIA has a booth, complements of **New Hope**

Natural Media. If you can volunteer to help staff it, please let me know.

See you at the AGM! I look forward to seeing many of you at the **Annual Meeting in Montréal**. I'm pleased that **Sacha and Diane** will be joining us there. Watch our AGM Info on the home page of the IOIA website. We'll update it as the agenda for the advanced training is finalized and the keynote speaker and entertainment are confirmed.

Notes from the Chair

By Bob Durst

This will be a short note. The annual meeting is coming next month and I hope to see a number of you folks at that event and associated trainings. A lot is going on in the organic industry and we are all holding out breaths to see what changes the change in US administration will mean to the US NOP program and staff. A new secretary of agriculture (Tom Vilsak) has just been appointed, but there may eventually be other changes in the staffing that affect us. The Canadian regulations are gearing up and IOIA will be taking a significant role in trainings for these exciting changes. The NSF Organic Personal Care Regulations (NSF 305) are set to be announced any day now. Other personal care regulations from private entities here in the US (OASIS for instance) and in Europe (Cosmo, a consortium of organic certifiers) are also being promulgated. It will be interesting to see how these are accepted by consumers and adopted by industry. Maybe these will bring some order to this very contentious and disorganized area of consumer products. See you in Montreal!



Valeriya Staykova, Lead Auditor with the Canadian Organic Office, staffs their booth at Guelph Conference.

IOIA Annual Report – 2008 – Executive Summary

Prepared by Bob Durst, IOIA Board Chair, and Margaret Scoles, IOIA Executive Director

Note: The complete Annual Report will be posted on the IOIA website (www.ioia.net) and copies will be available at the Annual Meeting on March 22.

Key activities:

- Changed our name to better reflect our constituency and scope.
- Published results of 2007 IOIA Inspector Membership Survey.
- Bi-lingual Annual Meeting in Guatemala.
- Collaborated with Non-GMO Project to provide 4 non-GMO inspector trainings.
- Collaborated with Grolink to provide Community Grower Group training in India.
- Collaborated with Demeter Association to provide biodynamic inspector training.
- Collaborated with OMRI to provide training for inspection of inputs for organic production.
- Made major progress in all basic training curriculums (livestock and processing especially).
- Initiated an ambitious project to provide consistent and widely accessible Canadian Organic Standards training in collaboration with OTA and COG.
- Awarded 2 scholarships to IOIA trainings.
- Participated in All Things Organic™ in the US and Guelph Organic Conference in Canada.
- Initiated the Canadian and Latin American Forums.
- Continued support of OTA, IFOAM, OMRI, COG, Co-op America, Montana Nonprofit Association, and National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture through memberships, subscriptions, or partnership.
- Quarterly newsletter, annual Membership Directory, IOIA Forum, website.

Trainings:

IOIA continued a trend to break previous records for number of trainings and number of people trained. A complete list of trainings and number of participants will be available at the AGM. Training was provided in Guatemala, India, Costa Rica, Korea, China, Indonesia, Japan, Ecuador, Canada, and USA. Languages included English, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, and partial translation to Indonesian.

- Crop Trainings: 17 trainings – 311 participants
- Livestock Trainings: 4 trainings – 48 participants
- Basic Processing: 5 trainings – 91 participants
- Advanced: 6 trainings – 86 participants
- Non-GMO: 4 trainings – 45 participants
- Other: 4 trainings – 108 participants

Finances: IOIA ended the year on the most positive financial note in its history. Cash reserve was increased. See 2008 Balance Sheet on page 7 for details.

Committees:

Full Committee Reports will be available at the Annual Meeting.

Staff:

During 2008, IOIA added the position of Office Manager, a significant step to increase capacity and stability in the IOIA office. US Training Services, a part-time position, was added due to the increase in cosponsor-managed trainings.

Margaret Scoles, Executive Director

Rita Wenzel, Office Manager

Diane Cooner, Newsletter Editor, Website Manager, and IOIA Forum moderator

Sacha Draine, International Training Services

Teri Lindberg, US Training Services

Lynell Denson, Administrative Assistant

Gordon Mulkey, Office Assistant

Susan Colwell, Development Director (volunteer)

Fond farewell to Judy Hessong, a key staff person in the IOIA office for 3 years.

Board of Directors in 2008:

Retiring BOD members: Garry Lean (5 years), Maheswar Ghimire (1 year as alternate and 1 year as full BOD), and Sue Baird (2 years as alternate). New BOD members: Stephen Bird and Lidia Girón (alternate).

Following the 2007AGM decision, the size of the BOD was reduced to 5 full BOD members plus 2 alternates. The BOD met in person at the AGM and 10 times via conference call.

Reseña de la experiencia en el Curso para Inspectores de Fincas Orgánicas

De Juan Francisco González, FECCEG, Guatemala

Estimados amigos de IOIA y ECOLOGICA les agradezco las atenciones y labores realizadas para desarrollar el curso básico de inspectores orgánicos desarrollado del 1 al 5 de diciembre de 2008. En mi experiencia valoro el intercambio de conocimientos y experiencias con los participantes del curso y la visita de campo a plantaciones de hortalizas orgánicas donde los sistemas de control y prácticas son de nivel profesional con áreas de cultivo considerables y que demuestran que la Agricultura Orgánica es viable en cualquiera de nuestros países y con las condiciones y recursos naturales que disponemos.

Admiro el trabajo en equipo que desarrollan las empresas certificadoras, entidades del ministerio de agricultura costarricense y empresas de productores.

La información y conocimientos adquiridos servirán en mi organización y trabajo para mejorar los sistemas de control en proceso de certificación de plantaciones de café que realizamos y exportación del producto. Adelante con la agricultura orgánica!!!

International Organic Inspectors Association

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2008

1/29/09

Cash basis	Dec 31, 08	Dec 31, 07
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Total Checking/Savings	137,688.20	100,692.56
Accounts Receivable	-12,746.95	-12,072.35
Other Current Assets		
Inventory Asset	1,886.94	2,739.04
Petty Cash	100.00	99.53
Undeposited Funds	-5.70	-5,453.90
Total Other Current Assets	1,981.24	-2,615.33
Total Current Assets	126,922.49	86,004.88
Fixed Assets		
Building	35,000.00	35,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	161,922.49	121,004.88
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Equity		
Restricted		
Scholarship Travel Fund	1,036.00	0.00
Total Restricted	1,036.00	0.00
Retained Funds	91,973.08	84,634.43
Contributed Property-FMValue	29,031.80	29,031.80
Net Income	39,881.61	7,338.65
Total Equity	161,922.49	91,973.08
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	161,922.49	91,973.08

Statement is Subject to review and approval by IOIA Board of Directors.

Final copies will be available to members at the IOIA AGM and on the website.

IOIA BOD Conference Call Minutes Highlights

(Please see "Inspectors Only" section of the website for complete minutes. BOD minutes are posted in final form after approval by BOD.)

20 November 2008

Present: Stephen Bird, Bob Durst, David Konrad, Gene Prochaska, Lida Girón (Second Alternate, voting for part of meeting), and Margaret Scoles, ED. Erin Beard, First Alternate, joined the latter part of the call as voting member. Absent: Monique Scholz.

Financial Reports: Treasurer, Gene Prochaska, presented the Treasurer's Report, 3rd Quarter Balance Sheet, and 3rd Quarter Revenue/Expense Budget vs. Actual. The extremely positive 3rd Quarter reports are somewhat misleading because Oregon training income was mostly received in the 3rd Quarter; most expenses will be paid in 4th Quarter. Moved by David Konrad, seconded by Stephen Bird, to accept Treasurer's report. Motion approved.

Question from BOD: Does IOIA charge only what the actual cost of meals and lodging at trainings, or do we make a little profit on it? ED responded that we try to make sure that we cover our actual costs, and this usually means that we make a little profit.

Action Point: BOD directs ED to make sure that a reasonable percentage (5 to 10%) over actual costs is added to the registration fee. This should be adequate to cover all of IOIA's actual costs in dealing with the meals and lodging for course participants, including staff time.

The financial reports ended with a brief discussion: re: signatures required for checks over \$2000. BOD affirmed that this issue needs to be addressed further, given new information that banks will not take responsibility for verifying 2 signatures.

ED Report: Margaret Scoles, Executive Director, referred to her written report, as previously circulated by email. She urged BOD members to help identify potential donors for the Canadian standards.

Action Point: Staff will work on a broad mailing in Dec based on whatever list is developed. A smaller mailing will be made to a list of about 20 potential donors that BOD members will call to follow up on.

Margaret asked the BOD for support in writing the USDA to ask for delay in comment period for proposed NOP Pasture Rule. BOD expressed their support.

Action Point: Margaret to write letter and send to USDA and BOD.

BOD questions on ED report: Bob asks if Margaret could share more about the results of the webinar research. She shares her experience with the Canadian Farm Business Management Council webinar on Nov. 17. Her response was enthusiastic. She sees many opportunities for advanced organic inspector training to occur via webinar. BOD members shared their experiences with e-learning. Dave described a learning opportunity that the Organic Council of Ontario sponsored for processors. People came in from multiple locations to groups to watch a televised speaker. There are many different ways to proceed with e-learning. The BOD supports the concept in general, with no preference for any particular format. BOD suggests looking for sponsors who might be willing to sponsor e-learning due to sustainability carbon footprint, etc.

Action Point: Bob will make inquiries on campus at OSU.

Employee Handbook: The Employee Handbook, as circulated via email prior to the September BOD meeting, was discussed. ED asked for BOD input on a few key points.

Decisions:

1. Compensatory Time. Don't include it. All IOIA employees are either part-time or exempt, so compensatory time is not required or applicable.

2. Need a short policy regarding business use of phone, computers, mail to be added, rather than the long, detailed one provided by the attorney.

Action Point: Rita Wenzel, Office Manager, to insert a brief policy statement regarding business use of IOIA office equipment.

Action Point: Margaret to give Employee Handbook to employees, so they can bring any concerns to the BOD for consideration.

Action Point: Final amendments and approval of Employee Handbook are scheduled for December meeting.

BOD asks if only full-time employees are eligible for sick leave. Yes. BOD asks if IOIA offers any medical insurance benefits. No.

IOIA/COG Grant Proposal: Margaret referred to the written ED report for a summary of the status of the project. Laura Telford of COG has indicated that we could likely get ACAAF funding, but no final word yet. If not funded, IOIA will continue to develop materials, schedule trainings, and release an RFP to do most of the work on a contract basis. We will aim for 4 to 5 two-day trainings geared for inspectors and certifiers. If funded, an in-person Train the Trainer event, 4 one-day processor trainings, and 40-50 one-day producer trainings will be added.

Action Point: BOD directs ED to contact COG and explain that we can't start working on the project or plan an in-person Train the Trainer until after funding is confirmed. Then we need a reasonable amount of time from that point to when deliverables can be expected.

Single Topic Meetings: BOD re-affirmed the value of the October single-topic meeting. General agreement that if IOIA is to really make progress on big topics, like Training Institute, Advisory Board, and Accreditation Program, we should have single-topic meetings throughout the year on them. These could occur once or twice per year on each big topic.

18 December 2008

Present: Bob Durst, Erin Beard (voting), David Konrad, Gene Prochaska, Monique Scholz and Margaret Scoles, ED. Absent: Stephen Bird, Lidia Girón

Treasurers' Report: Gene presented the preliminary 2009 budget, previously distributed by email. It compares 2009 projections to 2008 projections and actual. Some highlights discussed were:

- Donations have been projected as significantly higher, with cautious optimism for our fundraising campaign.
- Fundraising expenses are a new line item, again related to the fundraising campaign.
- Agreement to continue showing net training profits, not the gross training revenues and expenses..
- We discussed whether complex trainings (multiple events at one location) are a good thing. Clearly they are more profitable than single course events. Margaret explained that an event such as Oregon Oct 2008 reached a limit of complexity.
- ED does not expect to increase staff but rather, to increase hours of some current staff members, unless an off-location position is created.

Action Point: Executive Committee should meet for an in-depth discussion on this subject.

- The 2009 budget includes \$10,000 for BOD retreat (similar to amount spent in 2007).
- Anticipated 2008 surplus is twice our previous best. It is reflected in our present cash reserve.
- The need for an audit of the 2008 books was discussed.

As per current audit policy, it was moved by Gene Prochaska and seconded by David Konrad, not to have a full external audit at this time.

- Gene also drew attention to DRAFT WORK PLAN. The January meeting will be devoted to this point.

Action Point: January meeting will be devoted to work plan.

Committees: The Accreditation Committee wishes to merge with the ARP. This will be discussed in conjunction with WORK PLAN in January 2009.

Employee Handbook: The present version has incorporated the requested changes to 7.10. Moved by Erin Beard, seconded by Gene Prochaska, to approve the EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK. Motion adopted.

Training Institute: BOD discussion of the draft. Monique requested that we re-visit the IOIA logo in view of updating it.

Action point: ED to send draft 4 to BOD.

Action Point: Address logo issue in January work plan meeting.

29 January 2009 Minutes are pending approval. Major topics were the developing Canadian Standards training project and the Work Plan.

Criminal Investigation in Peanut Recall

US Federal health officials have begun a criminal investigation into the actions of Peanut Corporation of America (PCA), which they said knowingly sold contaminated peanut butter and peanut products to some of the largest food makers in the nation. The investigation is being conducted by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Justice Department.

Already, more than 800 consumer products have been recalled after eight people died and more than 550 people in 43 states, half of them children, were sickened by salmonella poisoning.

An F.D.A. inspection team that visited the Blakely, Georgia, plant on Jan. 9 discovered that on 12 occasions in 2007 and 2008 tests conducted by the company found salmonella contamination in its products but that it shipped the contaminated products to customers after a retest found no contamination and did nothing to clean the plant.

On January 28, PCA expanded its recall to all products made since Jan. 1, 2007.

"We don't have a good idea of how much of that product is still out there," said Dr. Stephen F. Sundlof, director of the FDA's food center.

The outbreak has President Barack Obama ordering a "complete review" of the FDA. The agency has long been criticized for a wide variety of issues, conflicts, and failures, with the recent, highly publicized peanut butter debacle causing outrage nationwide. Obama did not detail any other issues, but in a recent interview on the *Today* show noted that critics routinely pointed to the recent Bush administration as having "crippled" the FDA with eight years of budget cuts and a refusal to conduct an overhaul of the failing agency.

The F.D.A. also disclosed that in April it refused to allow a shipment of peanut products from the company to be brought back into the US from Canada because it contained metal shavings. The company tried to clean the shipment but failed, and the products were destroyed in November, the agency said.

As a result of that episode, the agency asked state inspectors in Georgia to visit the plant to ensure that no more metal fragments would find their way into products.

The April incident involving the blocked shipment was apparently the first time the F.D.A. was aware that the company was producing peanut products, instead of just peanut butter, at its Blakely plant.

F.D.A. officials said they relied on inspections by the Georgia Department of Agriculture, a common situation.

State inspectors found rust that could flake into food and gaps in warehouse doors big enough for rodents to enter at the plant. But Oscar S. Garrison, Georgia's assistant agriculture commissioner, described the violations as "minor."

"There was really no red flag that gave us concern at the time," Mr. Garrison said.

The recent federal inspection, however, concluded that the plant should never have been allowed to make peanut butter at all because it did not adequately separate raw and finished products, among other problems. Dr. Donald Zink, an F.D.A. food scientist, said state inspectors often visit different kinds of plants and might not know what was needed in a peanut butter facility. This same lack of specialization is true of many F.D.A. inspectors.

The agency found that the Georgia plant had mold on its ceiling and walls, and footlong gaps in its roof. The report also found that even after the company discovered that its peanut butter was contaminated, it did not clean its equipment.

White House press secretary, Robert Gibbs, said, "I think the revelations have no doubt been alarming, that whether it was our own regulatory system or a company that repeatedly found salmonella in its own testing would continue to ship out that product is beyond disturbing for millions of parents."

Among the list of products affected by the latest recall are five organic products: Stock Numbers 551060 through 551064, sold in 35-pound packs as organic natural creamy peanut butter (2 packs), organic old fashioned crunchy peanut butter, organic crunchy natural peanut butter, and organic natural creamy peanut butter.

Christine Bushway, Executive Director of the Organic Trade Assn, noted "This ... is not an organic issue, but rather one that is food industry-wide. These organic products were a small portion of the products produced in a plant that processed a large amount of peanut butter

and peanut butter paste for institutional use."

The way organic foods are grown and processed is among the most closely monitored food system in the world. Organic foods must meet or exceed all federal organic regulations as well as all applicable food safety regulations.

Whole Foods Market blamed contract manufacturers for failing to police PCA. Libba Letton, a spokeswoman for Whole Foods, said the company carefully checked the paperwork for all its products. "For the thousands of products we sell, that's the extent we can go to," Ms. Letton said. "The rest of it is up to the F.D.A. and to the manufacturer."

Nature's Path took the precautionary measure of voluntarily recalling Optimum Energy Bars Peanut Butter flavor because the peanut butter in the product was sourced through PCA. No illnesses have been reported in connection with Optimum Energy Bars and the company believes the risk to be low because the bars are baked. No other Nature's Path products are being recalled.

FDA has created a searchable list of products and brands associated with the expanded PCA recall. This list is available on the FDA web site at www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/peanutbutterrecall/index.cfm and is being updated on a regular basis.

A list of problems observed by FDA investigators during their inspection is available at this link: <http://www.fda.gov/ora/frequent/default.htm>. This list is not a final agency determination regarding compliance. The deficiencies observed indicate that the plant was not compliant with Current Good Manufacturing Practices required by the FDA. These deficiencies are related to cleaning programs and procedures as well as failure to implement steps to mitigate Salmonella contamination in the facility.

Product recalls include some pet food products that contain peanut paste. While the risk of animals contracting salmonellosis is minimal, there is risk to humans from handling these products. It is important for people to wash their hands--and make sure children wash their hands--before and, especially, after feeding treats to pets. The pet food products are also included in the searchable data base of recalled products.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

(formerly Independent Organic Inspectors Association)

IOIA has several publications for sale. Order here or through our website, www.ioia.net.

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- Farming with the Wild: Enhancing Biodiversity on Farms and Ranches; Written by Daniel Imhoff, Watershed Media, 182 p.; 2003; \$20.00
- Organic Dairy Farming, Edited by Jody Padham, Community Conservation, Project coordinated by MOSES, 156 p.; 2006; \$15.00
- Building Soils for Better Crops (2nd Edition), by Fred Magdoff and Harold Van Es. 240 pp. \$20
- COG Organic Field Crop Handbook, 2nd Edition, Expanded and Rewritten. Published by Canadian Organic Growers. An invaluable resource. While preserving the best of the now out-of-print and no longer available first edition, this edition is updated to include info on GMO's, E. coli issues in manure, and many additions to the crop section. 222 pages, spiral bound, \$30.00.
- Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 2nd Edition, published by Sust. Ag Network, \$19.00
- Organic Livestock Handbook, published by Canadian Organic Growers. Edited by Anne Macey, 179 pp, spiral bound, \$30.00
- Organic Tree Fruit Management, published by COABC, 240 pages, \$30.00
- Steel in the Field, published by Sustainable Ag Network, 128 pages, \$18.00
- Introduction to Certified Organic Farming. Published by REAP Canada, 200 pg. 25.00



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Please specify category – all funds payable in US
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- Inspector - \$150
- Supporting Individual - \$100
- Business/Organization \$125
- Certifying Agency - \$275
- Patron - \$500
- Sustainer - \$1000

The Inspectors' Report – 4 issues/yr - \$30

2008 IOIA Membership Directory:

\$15 members \$25 non-members

IFOAM/IOIA Int'l Organic Inspection Manual:

\$45 members \$60 non-members

2009 Calendar

February 25 - 26 National Organic Action Plan Summit - LaCrosse, Wisconsin. The National Organic Action Plan, a collaborative project led by Rural Advancement Foundation Int'l - USA, will convene about 200 participants at a summit to review the results of regional dialogue meetings. The summit will develop a plan to advance policy objectives and innovative marketplace tools that ensure organic agriculture's integrity. It will help members of the organic community take action on federal, state, and local levels. www.rafiusa.org/noap.html#summit

February 26 - 27 USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum 2009. Arlington, Virginia. "Global Agriculture & Rural America in Transition" is the topic for this 85th annual Outlook Forum. The Secretary of Agriculture and government, farm, and industry leaders will discuss the future of American agriculture. www.usda.gov/oce/forum/

February 26 - 27 Tuskegee Annual Farmers Conference, Tuskegee, Alabama. Envisioned by Booker T. Washington as the people's conference, the Annual Farmers Conference evolved over 100 years ago out of a need to improve the conditions of rural Black farmers in the South. The real beginning of agricultural extension. Today, the Farmers Conference is an educational forum designed to address the emerging concerns of farmers, landowners and the rural residents of Alabama and neighboring states. Contact hodge@tuskegee.edu.

February 26 - 28 Organic Farming Conference. La Crosse, Wisconsin. www.mosesorganic.org

February 26 - 28 Organicology: The Study of a Sustainable Food Future. A coordinated effort to meet the diverse needs of our rapidly expanding trade, produced by Oregon Tilth, Organic Seed Alliance, Food Trade Sustainability Leadership Association and Organically Grown Company. Portland, Oregon. www.tilth.org/organicology

February 27 - 28 New Mexico Organic Farming Conference, Las Cruces, New Mexico. Keynote Speaker Paul Johnson, former Chief of USDA's Soil Conservation Service, presents a survey of Aldo Leopold's ground-breaking work on farmstead conservation. www.farmtotablenm.org/fts/category/conference-workshops-trainings/

February 27 - 28 Virginia Biological Farming Conference. Richmond, Virginia. Will Allen will serve as keynote speaker. www.vabf.org/calendar.php

February 27 - March 1 Grow Biointensive Workshop Willits, California. Ecology Action presents a 3-Day Workshop in GROW BIOINTENSIVE® Sustainable Mini-Farming, appropriate to a more self-reliant lifestyle and for work in developing countries. The program will consist of lecture, discussion and demonstration, and will include a full range of information on Sustainability and Efficient Resource Use, Crops and Diet, Fertilization, Compost and Compost Crops, Soil Preparation and Preservation, Seed Propagation, and Income, as well as the perspective to tie all these together. www.growbiointensive.org/workshop.html

March 1 - 3 California Small Farm Conference Sacramento, California. This year's theme is "Farming for the Future." www.californiafarmconference.com/joomla/

March 19 - 21 4th Annual National Farm to Cafeteria Conference. Going the distance and shortening it from farm to cafeteria. Portland, Oregon www.foodsecurity.org/events.html or www.farmtoschool.org/events.php

March 22 - 28 IOIA AGM, Basic Processing & Advanced Trainings, Montreal, Quebec. See page 1 for story.

March 24 - 26 The Sixth Int'l IPM Symposium. Portland, Oregon. www.ipmcenters.org/ipmsymposium09

April 24 - 25 Organic Beekeeping Weekend. With Ross Conrad, Chris Harp, and Mac Mead. This annual event has become a must for many regional beekeepers wishing to keep up with the latest natural and holistic methods. Optional session for beginners. The Pfeiffer Center. Chestnut Ridge, New York. www.pfeiffercenter.org

June 6 The Role of the Horse in the Farm Organism With Mac Mead. The horse is an important source of petroleum-free power for the small farm, as well as fertilizer, and plays a vital role when the farm is seen as an organism. This workshop will include hands-on sessions in caring for and working with draft horses. The Pfeiffer Center. Chestnut Ridge, New York. www.pfeiffercenter.org

June 10 - 11 Changing Lands, Changing Hands: A National Conference on Farm and Ranch Land Access, Succession, Tenure and Stewardship. Educators, agricultural service professionals, agency staff, farm and other non-governmental groups and policymakers are invited to attend this national conference to address the critically important issues of farm/ranch land access, tenure, succession and stewardship. Denver, Colorado. www.farmlasts.org/conference.htm

June 16 - 18 All Things Organic™ - Chicago, IL. North America's only all organic conference and trade show, is the single place to meet the entire organic industry; all the top-level decision-makers in purchasing, processing, supplying, distributing, and manufacturing. www.organicexpo.com/

July 5 - 19 10th Annual International Agroecology Shortcourse Burlington, Vermont agroecology.org/Shortcourse.html

For upcoming IOIA training schedule, please see pages 1 & 3 of this issue.

Keep IOIA Strong - Lend Your Strength And Get Involved!



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