

# The Inspectors' Report



## What's Brewing in Korea?

### Local Food v Trade v Recreation Collides with World Congress

*Lots more than makgeolli, the delicious milky white, sweet alcoholic beverage made from rice, is brewing in Korea. The IOIA ED and BOD Chair sampled makgeolli along with lettuce wraps made from organic lettuce leaves from the farm at a local restaurant. They looked out over the river as they munched, contemplating the complexity of the issues. Local food, taking care of local farmers, rigorous organic standards, bicycling and walking paths – none of these are bad things.*

After the Republic of Korea won the bid in 2008 to host the 2011 IFOAM World Congress, several important things changed. A spokesperson for the Korean Federation of Sustainable Agriculture Organizations, IOIA's training cosponsor in Korea, laid out some of these concerns to participants in the opening remarks to the Organic Workshop on the topic of Grower Group Certification in Seoul on March 27.

**What will happen to organic trade on January 1, 2011?** Korean organic regulations, administered by the Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forest & Fisheries (MIFAFF), were due for full implementation at the end of 2010. These regulations have **no allowance** for equivalency or recognition agreements. A one-year extension softened the urgency but doesn't change the eventual outcome. Product imported into Korea will need to be certified to the Korean regulations, and the certifiers will need to be accredited by MIFAFF. With just five certification agencies accredited to certify processed foods in Korea, it would seem impossible to inspect and certify all of the operations needed. IOIA's Executive Director Margaret Scoles attended the OTA sponsored trade meeting Korean traders and USA exporters at the Expo West show in Anaheim on March 13, at the invitation of **Hal Shenson** of Nature's SunGrown Foods. A flow chart provided to that group shows that up to 46 suppliers could require certification for a bottle of ketchup. About half of the organic products coming into Korea are imported from the USA. Most US certifiers have taken a position against even attempting to comply. Very few inspectors outside of Korea are trained to the regulations, which include requirements for a significant amount of residue sampling for synthetics and GMOs. Within Korea, the government subsidizes the costs of analysis, but cost of those tests would be a barrier outside of Korea. Korean traders are increasingly anxious. One explained during the March Expo meeting that the Korean trade probably wouldn't make or break most of the US exporters to Korea. But the Korean importers who built businesses on the import trade and encouraged the development of the organic market there would not survive the impending sudden halt to trade.

As an approved training body in Korea, IOIA is in a position to provide training via a variety of means and in Korean or English language. However, the logistics and size of such a task would be overwhelming. All parties are hoping for an extended period such as a 'stream of commerce' or similar. John Brewer of the Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, promised to work toward it at the meeting in Anaheim.

**Why did Korea enact such restrictive regulations?** The focus on local food may have been a factor. Koreans take great pride in their distinctive and unique local cuisine. Also, MIFAFF's primary role is to look after the interests of Korean *farmers*, not Korean *importers*. Regulatory change would take time. A change would be equivalent to changing the US OFPA or the Canadian OPR, not a simple thing to do, and certainly not easy or fast. An unfavorable trade climate from outside Korea could translate to lower attendance at the 2011 Congress at best and boycott action at the worst.

IOIA made an in-kind donation to the OTA Export Program of some IOIA expenses of the Asia trip but the delegation returned home un-encouraged about having made a difference on the regulatory scene. On March 31, Executive Director Margaret Scoles visited [see **Korea**, page 22]

### Notes from the Chair

By Bob Durst

It's been quite an exciting and travel filled spring. Because of the crazy schedule I had, my wife and I left Oregon in late February to drive to most of the events listed below. While it was only two months ago, the AGM seems like ages ago. Welcome to the new BOD members **Jennifer Clifford**, **Michelle Sandy** and alternate **Bob Howe** and thanks to former BOD members **Stephen Bird**, **Gene Prochaska** [see Notes, p 4]

### Webinar Schedule

**June 2: Verifying compliance to NOP Pasture Rule**

**June 15: Non-GMO Project Verification Standard Inspector Training**

**July 27: Non-GMO Project Verification Standard Inspector Training**

**See pages 3 & 7 for full details and registration info.**

## 2010 Membership Directory Updates

(Changes made by R. Wenzel 04/28/10)

Please make the following changes to your 2010 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 can be viewed in the 2010 Online Directory.

### Address Changes:

#### Inspectors

Stanley Edwards  
1665 N. 1770 E.  
Logan, UT 84341

Nadene Gurule  
839 North State Street #201  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Amy Lamendella  
415 Ocean View Ave. Apt. B  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
Cell: 408.218.7865  
Work: 831.423.2263 x 24  
Email: amy@ccof.org

Kathleen M. Newkirk  
email: katenewkirk@roadrunner.com

Michelle Sandy  
408 Hankey Mountain Highway  
Churchville, VA 24421  
Home: 540.337.6311  
Cell: 540.290.4409

### Supporting Members:

Lyle Bangart  
Email: bangart1@verizon.net

Fred Crowder  
Agricultural Commissioner  
San Mateo County  
728 Heller Street  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
Home: 605.363.4700  
Email: fcrowder@co.sanmateo.ca.us

### Welcome Returning Former Members (not printed in the 2010 Directory)

#### Inspector Members:

Greg Awai  
3972 Sahtlam Rd  
Duncan, BC V9L 6K3  
Home: 250.597.1126  
Cell: 250.510.3574  
Email: greg@blacktomato.ca

Oscar Gallo Fernández  
Kennedy Calle H #609 y 10 Oeste  
Guayaquil,  
ECUADOR  
Home: 593.4.228.6827  
Cell: 094882471  
Work: 593.4.2286827  
Fax: 593.4.2286827  
Email: oscargallo@gmail.com

Silke Fuchshofen  
96 Chair Factory Rd  
New Lebanon, NY 12125  
UNITED STATES  
Home: 518.794.6392  
Work: 518.708.2244  
Fax: 518.751.2200  
Email: silke@organicsinsights.com

### Welcome New Members:

#### Inspectors

Allen R. Moody  
E10249 Lombard Road  
Westby, WI 54667  
Home: 608.625.4069  
Work: 608.606.5657  
Email: allen56@mwt.net

Marianne Potter  
298 West Cosmo Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43202  
Home: 614.205.0614  
Email: mariannepotter28@gmail.com

Hartmuth Sommer-deRis  
23 Castle Lane  
Great Barrington, MA 01230  
Home: 413.717.1225  
Work: 413.717.1225  
Email: hartmuths@gmail.com

### Welcome New Supporting Individual Members:

Amanda Birk (Shickshinny, Pennsylvania)  
Kevin Cavanaugh (St. Paul, Minnesota)  
Les Dale (Frankenmuth, Michigan)  
Tina Gleim (Wellsville, Pennsylvania)  
Delia Hollbach (Naperville, Illinois)  
Casey Havre (Escalon, California)  
Bea James (Golden Valley, Minnesota)  
James MacKenzie (Portland, Oregon)  
Pamela Orcutt (Leesburg, Indiana)  
Christopher Pogliano (St. Paul, Minnesota)  
Yvette Rambo (Sierra Vista, Arizona)  
Irwin Shattuck (Westby, Wisconsin)  
Dale Stoy (Saline, Michigan)

## Welcome New Certification Agency

Agricultural Services Certified Organic (ASCO)

Katherine Borchard  
Work: 831.449.6365  
Fax: 831.443.9581  
Email: [ascorganic@aol.com](mailto:ascorganic@aol.com)

**WEBINAR:** A webinar is a newly coined word that describes a specific type of web conference. It is typically one-way, from the speaker to the audience with limited audience interaction, although it can also be collaborative, and include polling and question & answer sessions to allow full participation between the audience and the presenter.

**IOIA is now offering webinars on current topics – see page 3 for info on upcoming sessions.**



### IOIA Board of Directors

Bob Durst, P.Ag .....Chair  
Michelle Sandy .....Vice Chair  
Eric Feutz ..... Treasurer  
Jennifer Clifford .....Secretary  
David Konrad.....Director at Large  
Julio Perez.....First Alternate  
Bob Howe.....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](mailto:ioiaweb@ioia.net)

Deadlines  
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Aug 1 & Nov 1.  
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## Upcoming Trainings

**Frankfort, Kentucky May 18 – 28** IOIA will sponsor Basic Organic Crop and Processing Inspection Trainings at the Hampton Inn in Frankfort, Kentucky.

**Fuji, Shizuoka, Japan May 26 - 29** IOIA and JOIA will cosponsor a 4 day Basic Organic Crop Inspection Training using JAS Standards as a reference. The courses will be held in Fuji, Shizuoka, Japan and given in Japanese language. Please contact Mutsumi Sakuyoshi at JOIA for more information about the course. E-Mail:mu-saku@cap.ocn.ne.jp website: www.joia.jp

**Webinar: June 2 Verifying compliance to NOP Pasture Rule:** 9 a.m.-12 PDT, 10-1 MDT, 11-2 CDT, 12-3 EDT  
This essential session for the livestock inspector or reviewer will prepare participants to verify compliance with the new NOP Pasture Rule. Co-presenters are **Garry Lean** of Ontario and **Sarah Flack** of Vermont. The course includes pre-course reading assignments. It is geared for inspectors with an understanding of livestock inspection. How can a producer cheat? What gray areas must an inspector be aware of? How does one inspect rigorously to the rule without going beyond it? The session will review the new regulations and provide inspection tools and guidance to verify them. Topics include basic grazing management; an overview of the various common grazing systems for ruminants; factors that cause pasture Dry Matter Intake (DMI) to go up or down; methods for determining Dry Matter Demand (DMD); and an introduction to making quantitative and qualitative assessment of pasture. The course focuses primarily on dairy cattle operations but also includes information for beef, sheep, and goats. Participants will see examples of DMI calculations and work sample exercises. At the conclusion of the course, participants will have the opportunity to complete an additional assignment to qualify for a Certificate of Completion. Session consists of 2 parts, each 1.25 hours long with a break between. Enrollment is limited to 20. Early registration discount until May 17. Based on demand for the course, additional sessions will be scheduled. To register, see <http://ioiaregistration.ganconference.com>

**Webinars: June 15 Non-GMO Project Verification Standard Inspector Training**  
1st session 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. (PDT) (one hour break) 2nd session 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. (PDT)

**July 27** 1st session 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. (PDT) (one hour break) 2nd session 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. (PDT)

See page 7 for a complete description of this session. To register, see <http://ioiaregistration.ganconference.com>

**Corvallis, Oregon - October 4 – 8** IOIA and OTCO will co-sponsor Basic Crop Inspection Training, Basic Processing Inspection Training, and Advanced Organic Inspector Training (Processing focus) at the LaSells Stewart Center on the Oregon State University campus. Courses will all run concurrently. Demeter Association and IOIA will co-sponsor Biodynamic® Inspection Training the same week. Details and application forms will be posted as soon as available at [www.ioia.net](http://www.ioia.net).

**State College, Pennsylvania November 15 - 19** IOIA and Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO) will co-sponsor Basic Organic Livestock and Processing Inspection Training. Advanced Organic Inspector Training is also planned, tentatively scheduled for **November 13-14**. Livestock and Processing courses will run concurrently.

For more information as these trainings are developed, check the IOIA website training schedule or contact the IOIA office.

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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.

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](mailto:ioia@ioia.net), or visit [www.ioia.net](http://www.ioia.net) to download application forms. The deadline for returning Scholarship applications is October 1. Scholarship recipients are notified by December 15.

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## Notes, from page 1

and Lidia Girón for their service. We had a very fruitful BOD meeting right after the AZ meetings and trainings. The BOD worked on setting the direction of the organization for the next while and trust that you folks will be pleased with the results. You will see some of the fruits of this in the coming months as the Training Institute really starts to take off. We expect to have web-based trainings and special topic courses available. Stay tuned.

After AZ, Margaret and I traveled to Expo West in Anaheim. If you haven't taken the opportunity to go to this show (or Expo East/ATO) you should take the opportunity sometime. It is a chance to see the products that you've certified on farms or in processing plants in their finished and gloriously advertised forms. It's also an opportunity to see way more ways that things could be formulated and processed than you wanted to know about. A couple of days of vacation and visiting with friends and I was off to present at a two day juice workshop in Davis, CA. A couple of more days of R&R and then we were off to Asia.

My wife and I traveled to Korea, heading for a few days vacation in the beautiful island of Jeju. It was advertised as the *Hawaii of Korea*, but in late winter it was still COLD. We saw some incredible places in this world heritage site. We also observed that even in this harsh environment, there were an incredible variety of fresh products available, since so much acreage is under greenhouses. Even a lot of their local highly prized citrus (a tangerine called *Hallabong*) is largely grown in greenhouses. Margaret caught up to us in Seoul where we participated in a two day training of Korean inspectors. We did have a day of sightseeing around Seoul, including visiting an organic farm that is under threat from the government for redevelopment (see page 1). After the training we met with governmental officials regarding the Korean Organic regulations. I have to acknowledge two folks in particular who made our visit to Korea special - **Isidor Yu** and **Raymond Yang**. They were backed by a large group, too numerous to cite individually, from KOIA (Korean Organic Inspectors Association) that did a superb job of taking care of us. Thank you all.

A short flight from Seoul took us to Tokyo at the peak of the cherry blossom season. Fortunately the day after we arrived was a holiday, so we had a chance for a little sightseeing and a wonderful tour and dinner with an organic rice farmer and his family. Officially, we had a day of meetings with Japanese government officials regarding organic regulations and the status of NOP and JAS harmonization. It was quite interesting to learn how some of the holdups have come about. Hopefully, Margaret and I were able to smooth over some of these differences and make it easier for harmonization to occur. This was followed by a one day inspector training. I anticipate improved relationships with our sister organizations in Asia will come from our trip. We also owe special thanks to **Mutsumi Sakuyoshi** and the people at Japan Organic Inspectors Association (JOIA) for all they did to make our stay most memorable. My wife and I were able to spend a few days after the official business enjoying the wonderful cherry blossom season and see some fabulous sites in the Kobe area. This was my first trip to east Asia and I would love to go back and visit again.

A long flight back to the states, still didn't get me back home, as the flight to and from Asia was out of San Francisco. It's a long drive from there to home in Oregon. There was still no rest however as I had to travel to Orlando for the University the following week. Then the week after it was down to the NOSB meeting in the Davis CA area.

I hadn't attended a NOSB meeting for a couple of years and what a change it was. The atmosphere with Miles now in charge was **noticeably improved**. I expect we are in for a lot of very positive changes in the program with the new and larger NOP staff. I won't go into details of what all the discussions were about, but will note a couple of areas that will affect inspectors include **further work on the access to outdoors** and other requirements for poultry houses and the debate surrounding **the use of methionine** in poultry feed. The NOSB is heavily into the mandated sunset review of materials; new work will be on straightening out the issues with accessory nutrients and inerts in pesticides. Other items on their work list include apiculture standards, greenhouse standards, animal vaccines (especially GMO issues with them). Miles stated that

discussions with EPA, FDA and FTC are being initiated to address a number of issues where they have more appropriate jurisdiction, but have never acknowledged organics. It should be an interesting summer (the time frame Miles gave for information regarding these discussions).

I'm finally back home for what I hope is an extended time, especially given that spring is here and there is work to do outside. Ω

## HAITI, Post Disaster, Real Sustainable Development

*Dual Certified Francis Mangoes*

After the January 12th killer quake, the small holder mango growers of Haiti are bouncing back with the help of Mouvman Moun Mango, a small voluntary organization headed by retired organic inspector **John O'Malley Burns**. 3M is translated as the *Movement of Mango People*; if it were the sixties it would be the Peoples Mango Movement. 3M organizes and works directly with the smallest mango growers in 10 areas through out the Haitian mango producing microclimates. It has been a very hard and slow start to the season for the 80 thousand small holder mango grower families. Most rural families were de-capitalized by hosting refugee family members from Port au Prince that sought family, comfort and food for several months after the earthquake. These unforeseen expenses really de-capitalized the rural family savings and ate their seed stock saved for the next corn planting in April when the rains were to start, and consumed what little monies were kept aside for the next seasons' growing expenses.

Mangos are the only cash crop for most of these small farmers with an average of 5 to 8 trees per family. These trees yield about 25 dozen exportable mangos per tree. The growers 3M works with are organized into small grower groups, and most are certified Fair Trade and some are also certified Organic. Each grower member receives a higher price at picking time from the group than they would get in the conventional collection system, and the group gets more from the exporter as well. A Fair Trade premium is also paid at the end of the season. Overall the growers and groups get about 100% more for their mangos thru the dual certified system. Looking at it in hard cash terms it is not very much in our [see **Haiti**, page 9]

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## Notes from the ED

By Margaret Scoles

*In lieu of my usual "Notes", I've committed my space to discussion of two current and important IOIA topics.*

**Certifier-Inspector Dialogue:** The impetus for a certifier-inspector dialogue began in the planning for the Arizona training and grew after lively discussions there. IOIA is seeking to provide a platform for ongoing discussion that can include tricky topics such as professional insurance for inspectors and inspector competency. This platform can also increase the certifiers' role in IOIA. Ultimately both inspectors and certifiers can achieve a high degree of win-win in issues related to inspection and training.

The dialogue begins with talking about needs. Both inspectors and certifiers have many of the same needs, among them the need to limit liability. And both need independent contract inspectors to maintain legal status. It is also in the interest of both certifiers and inspectors to raise the bar for competence of inspectors by creating a more meaningful inspector accreditation system. The current IOIA accreditation program is neither widely valued by certifiers nor drawing wide participation by members. A stronger program could help certifiers identify competent inspectors and improve the quality of inspection. It would also aid inspectors in securing liability insurance, as all potential insurers seem to be most willing to insure accredited inspectors. IOIA's accreditation program is rigorous now. But to truly succeed, accreditation needs to have endorsement of both authorities and certifiers. IOIA seeks to re-define accreditation so that it becomes the norm, rather than the exception. We can only do that if certifiers find the program beneficial and relevant.

Once inspector or certifier concerns are identified, IOIA has the resources to seek legal counsel and review documents on behalf of its members. By speaking on behalf of its members collectively, IOIA can help certifiers avoid duplicating the same conversation with many individual inspectors. And IOIA's members can conserve the time and energy they would need to spend to do it individually. Many members have contacted the IOIA office to express concerns about their ability to comply with some recent requirements from certifiers. IOIA has invested time into working with a potential insurance

broker on professional liability and business insurance for inspectors. The price quoted is lower than that paid by many of the members who are currently insured. However, we are working with independent consultants on review to be sure that if IOIA endorses an insurance policy, it clearly provides a benefit that warrants endorsement. IOIA believes that inspectors should be insured. However, we will not participate in creating an environment where all inspectors are required to have it. IOIA members will be notified of findings by email and newsletter updates.

Meanwhile, the dialogue has begun. Many certifiers are willing not only to extend deadlines and to work with inspectors who are making a good faith effort to comply but to also enter into open dialogue with IOIA about the issues. IOIA has scheduled the first certifier-inspector conference call on May 17. The IOIA Chair, Vice-Chair, and ED will represent IOIA on this call. All other supporting certification agency members will be invited again to consider participating on the scheduled date.

### **Building the IOIA Training Institute:**

The concept was born in 2007 at the Board retreat in Montana. In Arizona, the BOD and I envisioned the Institute conceptually and worked out the framework. First, we looked at what we do. Three ways of doing training were discussed: static, webinar, and in-person. Static resources can be web-based (posted PPT presentations or inspection guides) or hard copy (publications including the IOIA Inspection Manual). All of these types of training require review, maintenance, and updating. They must be validated for content and teachability. And to maintain relevance, they also need certifier perspective in the review for ongoing improvement.

Currently IOIA provides most training at two levels, both delivered in-person. IOIA basic trainings are rigorous in-person trainings with written assessments to pass. Advanced trainings are usually specialty topics and continuing education, usually in-person and without assessment. IOIA will continue to offer both of these types of training. IOIA basic training will continue to be delivered only in-person. Advanced training will continue to be

offered at the IOIA AGM and elsewhere. However, the advent of the technology available to us now facilitates a wide variety of cost-effective continuing education and specialty topic training for inspectors and certification staff. While distance learning has some limitations, it



**BOD Chair Bob Durst and ED  
(aka Fearless Leader) Margaret Scoles**

is "greener", more cost effective for inspectors, and allows drawing from a broad range of potential presenters.

A major area for development is intermediate courses, those topics which all inspectors should know, but where they might not achieve competency by the end of the basic course. A few examples are Audit, Livestock Feed Calculations, and Multi-ingredient Processing. Every inspector who does livestock inspections should understand livestock materials and how to complete a feed audit. However, it is probably not feasible to achieve 100% competence based on the basic course. Likewise, the 'graduate' of the basic processing course is likely not prepared to inspect a complex multi-ingredient processor. A key element of the institute is setting up rigorous courses that follow up the basic courses and that include assessment. While they could be offered in-person, they would more often be presented as web-based. Completion of these courses could become a required step in a formal accreditation process.

The Institute could re-define even basic trainings, with self-tutorial prerequisite classes on the web for participants to better prepare themselves for the basic training. And it could include trainings by other entities such as individuals, institutions, or colleges. The summer work plan will focus on creating a structure so that IOIA can create many courses and training offerings, following the model of development, validation, review, delivery, and when appropriate, assessment of the participants. Ω

## SECTOR NEWS

### NOP Audit Report

USDA's Office of Inspector General released its Oversight of the National Organic Program audit report on March 18 and made seven key findings that needed to be addressed to ensure the integrity of organic agricultural products sold in the United States.

<http://www.usda.gov/oig/webdocs/01601-03-HY.pdf>

Deputy Administrator Miles McEvoy addressed these findings at the recent NOSB meeting, see page 8 for details.

### NOP Publishes Yeast Policy

NOP has published a policy statement allowing the certification of yeast as organic. Yeast is currently listed in Section 205.605(a) of the National List as a 'nonagricultural substance.' However, NOP noted that in guidance for certifiers in 2007, it had approved organic certification of natural flavors, even though they, like yeast, are listed as 'nonagricultural.' NOP's policy statement on yeast notes that "[c]larifying the definition of 'nonagricultural' or other actions, such as removing a substance from the National List, would require action from the National Organic Standards Board," but that as of March 2, yeast may be certified as organic, and yeast produced from certified organic starter culture may be "100 percent organic."

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5082977&acct=nopgeninfo>

### NOP Monthly Reports

The National Organic Program (NOP) has begun posting monthly reports.

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateA&navID=WhoWeAreNOPNationalOrganicProgramHome&rightNavI=WhoWeAreNOPNationalOrganicProgramHome&topNav=null&leftNav=NationalOrganicProgram&page=NOPWhoWeAre&resultType=&acct=nopgeninfo>

### Sust Ag Advocates Make Time's 100 List for 2010

Several notable sustainable agriculture advocates, including USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan, author Michael Pollan, urban farming icon Will Allen, and animal scientist Temple Grandin are rubbing shoulders with pop superstars, international political leaders, former vice presidential candidates, and

world class athletes on Time Magazine's 2010 list of 100 most influential people.

<http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/completelist/0,29569,1984685,00.html>

### Organic vs Cancer

On May 8, the US President's Cancer Panel released a report that exhorts consumers to choose food grown without pesticides or chemical fertilizers, antibiotics, and growth hormones to help decrease their exposure to environmental chemicals that can increase their risk of contracting cancer.

"Exposure to pesticides can be decreased by choosing, to the extent possible, food grown without pesticides or chemical fertilizers... Similarly, exposure to antibiotics, growth hormones, and toxic run-off from livestock feed lots can be minimized by eating free-range meat raised without these medications," according to the report, "*Reducing Environmental Cancer Risk: What We Can Do Now*," submitted to President Obama by Dr. LaSalle Leffall, Jr., an oncologist and professor of surgery at Howard University, and Dr. Margaret L. Kripke, an immunologist at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. In a letter to President Obama, the panel stated "The American people—even before they are born—are bombarded continually with myriad combinations of these dangerous exposures. The Panel urges you most strongly to use the power of your office to remove the carcinogens and other toxins from our food, water, and air that needlessly increase health care costs, cripple our Nation's productivity, and devastate American lives."

[http://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/pcp/pcp08-09rpt/PCP\\_Report\\_08-09\\_508.pdf](http://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/pcp/pcp08-09rpt/PCP_Report_08-09_508.pdf)

### Supreme Court hears arguments on GE

On Tuesday, April 27, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in a case involving genetically engineered herbicide-resistant alfalfa. Monsanto is seeking to overthrow a federal court decision prohibiting the further planting of GE alfalfa. OTA is among the groups that signed on to an amicus brief to uphold the lower court decision. The transcript of the trial is posted online at:

[http://www.supremecourt.gov/oral\\_arguments/argument\\_transcripts/09-475.pdf](http://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/argument_transcripts/09-475.pdf)

### NOSB Nominations

USDA is currently seeking nominations for five seats on the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) whose terms begin on Jan. 24, 2011. Written nominations with cover letters and resumes are due by **July 17**. The five upcoming vacancies include two organic producer slots, two consumer/public interest positions, and one USDA accredited certifying agent position. Details on how to submit nominations are in the Federal Register dated March 22. <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-6188.htm>

### ATO Joins Expo East

Starting in 2010 OTA's All Things Organic™ show will co-locate with Expo East in Boston Oct. 13-16, and will be the branded organic pavilion for North American organic companies exhibiting there to distinguish organic businesses from other natural companies at the show. In addition, OTA will hold its 2010 Annual Meeting at Expo East as well as its popular Leadership Awards Dinner and Dance and its International Reverse Trade Mission.

In related news, Natural Products Expo West, wrapped up its 30th anniversary at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, Calif., with record attendance of nearly 56,000, up five percent from last year.

### New EU Logo



There were a total number of 129,493 votes given for the new logo design to be applied to all organic products across the European Union from July 2010.

### Australian standards

SAI Global in October published the first Australian Standard for organic and biodynamic products. Referred to as AS 6000-2009, it outlines the minimum requirements to be met by growers and manufacturers wishing to label their products "organic" and "biodynamic."

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## Non-GMO Project Verification Standard Inspector Training Webinars

The Non-GMO Project and IOIA have reached an agreement, together with FoodChain Global Advisors, to co-sponsor an Inspector Training Course to the Non-GMO Project Standard. This course will be offered the following days, and will take place via webinar:

- **June 15 – 9a.m. – 11a.m. (one hour break) 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. (PDT).**
- **July 27 – 9 a.m. – 11a.m. (one hour break) 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. (PDT).**

This two-part session will prepare experienced organic inspectors to do Non-GMO Project Verification inspections. The course will be presented twice this summer and additionally upon demand. FoodChain Global Advisors will provide the technical content for the trainings, in collaboration with the Non-GMO Project. IOIA will handle registration and cosponsor the courses.

The first half of the session will introduce the Non-GMO Project Verification Standards and the project itself. The Non-GMO Project describes itself as a non-profit organization, created by leaders representing all sectors of the organic and natural products industry in the U.S. and Canada, to offer consumers a consistent “non-GMO” choice.

The second half of the session will provide more detail on conducting an NGP inspection. **This second session is recommended for inspectors who took a previous NGP training but who have not yet completed inspections for the project.** It is provided as a stand-alone option for a lower cost. Inspectors new to the program must take both sessions. Non-GMO Project inspections are most often completed as dual organic/NGP inspections.

Enrollment is limited to 25. Pre-course reading assignments (sent about 2 weeks prior to the course via email) are included. A Letter of Participation will be awarded to all who participate. Cost is \$200 for the full session or \$100 for the 2nd session only (IOIA member rates).

### Demand for Non-GMO Project Inspections on the Rise

Participation in the Non-GMO Project’s Product Verification Program has been growing rapidly in recent months, accompanied by increased demand for onsite inspections. Created by retailers seeking clear, reliable information for their customers, the Non-GMO Project offers North America’s only third party verification for products made according to best practices of GMO avoidance. Onsite audits are required for verification of all high GMO risk products (those containing major ingredients derived from corn, soy, canola, etc.), and these audits can be done in conjunction with Participants’ annual organic inspection. IOIA collaborated previously with the Project to host four different inspector trainings, and this summer the trainings will be continued in a new, online webinar format.

With all of Whole Foods Market’s 365 brand products now in the process of being verified, and United Natural Foods, Inc (UNFI) calling on all of their vendors to enroll in the Non-GMO Project, growing demand for inspections is expected to continue. The inspections are one component of the Project’s Product Verification Program (PVP), which is overseen by the Project’s technical consultants, FoodChain Global Advisors. The PVP assesses compliance with the Non-GMO Project Standard (<http://www.nongmoproject.org/industry/non-gmo-project-standard/>), a process-based standard that focuses

on traceability, segregation, and testing of GMO risk ingredients.

This October will be the first ever **Non-GMO Month** in stores, coordinated by the Independent Natural Food Retailers Association (INFRA), the National Cooperative Grocers Association (NCGA), UNFI and Whole Foods. The event will

highlight enrolled and verified products, and hundreds of manufacturers are working to get their products verified in time to earn a featured role. For more information about the Non-GMO

Project, including a list of participating companies and the thousands of enrolled products, please see <http://www.nongmoproject.org/>



### California Creamery Earns First Non-GMO Verification

Straus Family Creamery is the nation's first creamery to achieve Non-GMO Verification for all its products and will carry the "Non-GMO Project Verified" Seal on all of its packaging.

The Non-GMO Project is a non-profit collaboration of food producers, retailers and agricultural suppliers united in the belief that consumers deserve to make informed choices about products with genetically modified ingredients.

"The Non-GMO seal emphasizes our commitment to being stewards of sustainability," says Albert Straus, President of Straus Family Creamery. "Our consumers rely on us to provide a clear alternative to industrially produced dairy products."

Non-GMO Project claims that GMOs have been in widespread use for nearly a decade, with steadily increasing risk of contamination to seeds, crops, ingredients and products.

*USAgNet - 04/29/2010*

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## NOSB highlights – April 2010

*A complete transcript of this meeting is posted on the NOP website.*

**Report from NOP:** NOP Deputy Administrator Miles McEvoy outlined priorities including: upholding and enforcing standards; implementing and enforcing the Access to Pasture final rule; developing a strategic plan; revising and improving the NOP website; implementing NOSB recommendations; peer review; quality system management; refining the Program handbook; certifier training; and developing an organic database in which all certified operations are listed.

He discussed key findings from the audit report from the Office of Inspector General (OIG), including the needs for more timely enforcement, pesticide residue testing, improved quality management, and audits of foreign certifiers. Responses to these findings include a plan for residue testing. Test results would be reported to the certified operation, its certifier, the NOSB, and the public. NOP plans to increase the number of unannounced inspections, develop a system of risk-based inspections, and increased market surveillance to verify that NOP compliance with labels.

The Compliance and Enforcement Division has a new goal to close cases involving complaints within 180 days. He provided an update on NOP's work on cosmetics.

**Lisa Brines** did a presentation on corn steep liquor (CSL), including a review of the process by which CSL is produced and the role of sulfur dioxide in its production. NOSB has been requested to provide a formal recommendation at the Fall meeting.

**Nutrient vitamins and minerals:** according to McEvoy, the 2006 NOP interpretation of nutrient vitamins and minerals, which stated that these materials were allowed under 205.605(b), 21 CFR 104.20, and past NOSB recommendations, was incorrect. Therefore, NOP plans to publish draft guidance, with a 60-day comment period, later this year to clarify its current interpretation. It will provide a transition period for businesses to come into compliance with this new interpretation.

In the meantime, NOP requested that NOSB reevaluate its recommendation on nutrient vitamins and minerals, and that companies petition to add substances disallowed under the current interpretation of 21 CFR 104.20. Moreover, McEvoy stated that future NOP policy decisions will be handled through the Federal Register rather than through letters.

**Soil-less Production Systems:** The Crops Committee made a recommendation that production agriculture not based in soil cannot be classified as certified organic. "Observing the framework of organic farming based on its foundation of sound management of soil biology and ecology, it becomes clear that systems of crop production that eliminate soil from the system, such as hydroponics or aeroponics, can not be considered as examples of acceptable organic farming practices." NOSB voted 12 to 1 to accept the recommendation, next to go to NOP for review and possible rule-making.

**Materials:** NOSB voted to re-list most of the materials in Subpart G, although deferred a vote a vote on mulches for crops until its Fall 2010 meeting, and deferred a vote on 8 livestock materials until further technical information is obtained.

**Methionine, a hot topic:** The Board took three votes on methionine: one on the petition to re-list methionine per the terms set forth in the Methionine Task Force's petition; one to re-list methionine until October 1, 2012 at the levels stated in its recommendation; and one regarding a proposed annotation change reducing maximum methionine levels to 2 pounds/ton for layers and broilers and 3 pounds per tons for turkeys and other poultry in the period after October 1, 2012. The latter annotation change also called for methionine to come under the sunset process. NOSB voted 12 to 2 to reject the MTF's petition, 10 to 4 to re-list methionine at specified levels until October 1, 2012, and 10 to 4 to accept the annotation change.

**Inerts:** In its Fall 2009 guidance discussion document, NOSB's Crops Committee requested that inert ingredients reassessed by EPA but not previously authorized for use under NOP remain prohibited in agriculture until they are successfully petitioned for use in

organic production. They presented a guidance document that clarified that position, stating that the use of such inerts must be petitioned and added to the National List only after rule-making. NOSB voted 13 to 1 to accept an amended version of the guidance recommendation.

**Inert gases in packaging:** NOSB voted 13 to 1 to allow the use of inert atmospheric gases in products labeled and sold as "100% organic."

**Voting process:** NOSB voted unanimously in favor of a recommendation to re-establish a two-tiered voting procedure, the first for whether a petitioned material was synthetic or non-synthetic, and the second for or against listing of that petitioned material.

**Sunset Review Process:** The NOSB discussed the meaning of 'Sunset' re-materials listing. Each material must be reviewed every 5 years. If the review and renewal process is not concluded by the expiration date, the material is prohibited. Sunset is not used to petition to add a new substance nor is it used to change an existing annotation.

### Committee Workplan Notes:

Certification, Accreditation and Compliance Committee to develop additional guidance on standards for retailer certification, and guidance on pesticide residue testing, unannounced inspections, and evaluating materials evaluation programs. No vote was taken on the Livestock Committee's Stocking Rate charts. Stocking rates are on the Livestock Committee's work plan for the Fall NOSB meeting.

To view the complete agenda and transcript of this meeting, including McEvoy's powerpoint presentation and all related reports, in PDF format from the April NOSB meeting in Woodland, California, please go to:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateN&navID=NationalOrganicProgram&leftNav=NationalOrganicProgram&page=April2010Agenda&description=NOSB%20Meeting%20Agenda%20April%202010>

*Thanks to OTA for their excellent NOSB Report, from which these highlights were abstracted. Ω*



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## Verifying the new NOP "Access to Pasture Rules" for Livestock

On February 17, the final NOP rules on access to pasture for organic livestock were published in the Federal Register. The rules were the outcome of years of discussion and some argument. The final rule fortunately fixed the more serious problems in the proposed rules that were released late in 2008. Sacrificial pasture and the mandatory fencing of all water bodies was removed from the final version. Origin of livestock was deferred to later. It clarifies once and for all that lactation is not a state of production. The new rule was generally acclaimed and applauded by the organic sector.

The final rule becomes effective on June 17, 2010 with a one-year implementation period. However, operations which apply for organic certification after June 17 must comply fully before certification. Yet to be decided is the final decision on whether to re-consider confinement for 120 days of finish feeding (or 1/5 of the animal's life, whichever is shorter). Public Comment was extended for 60 days after the release of the final rule for comment on the finish feeding exemption. Comment period ended April 17.

Key requirements for producers:

- ◆ Provide year-round access for all animals to the outdoors (with detailed descriptions of the allowances for exemptions).
- ◆ Establish a functioning management plan for pasture, as part of the OSP.
- ◆ Provide ruminants with access to pasture during the grazing session for their geographic location. (with detailed descriptions of the allowances for exemptions).
- ◆ Ensure ruminants derive not less than an average of 30% of their Dry Matter Intake (DMI) requirement from pasture over the course of the grazing season, which is 120 days minimum.
- ◆ Roughage used as bedding must be organic (interestingly, the CGSB Organic Technical Committee is taking public comment in Canada on a proposed rule to allow non-organic bedding based on non-availability, a step in the opposite direction).

NOP has posted numerous helpful resources including a step-by-step guide

to understanding the dry matter intake calculation requirements; a fillable worksheet to perform the DMI calculations easily; reference tables for determining the dry matter demand for each type and class of beef and dairy animal; and a pasture worksheet to help producers establish a rotational grazing system by calculating the pasture acreage, number of paddocks and size of each paddock that an operation will need to balance the forage demands of their animals with the production capacity of the pastures. Got to home page at [www.ams.usda.gov/NOP](http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOP) and look for Pasture Rulemaking.

The NOP completed the last of a series of four Pasture Trainings in California on April 26, with no further trainings planned. Certification agency staff was the primary audience for these trainings, which took place in NY, CO, WI, and CA. Dan Giacomini, dairy consultant and current NOSB BOD Chair, provided several hours of training at the IOIA Advanced training in Arizona.

To increase access to IOIA training on this important subject, IOIA is scheduling webinars for inspectors and certification agency staff. The first IOIA paid-registration webinar will be offered June 2 on the topic. To register, see <http://ioiaregistration.ganconference.com>. The webinar will be co-presented by Garry Lean (Ontario) and Sarah Flack (Vermont). Both Lean and Flack attended the NOP pasture trainings.

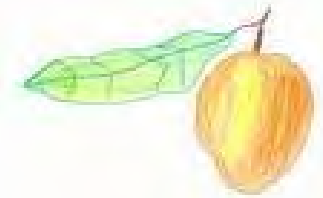
### Haiti, from page 4

American affluent terms, for 8 trees, 200 dz at \$2.00 a dozen or four hundred bucks. But that is 100% of the Annual Per capita income of these rural families. Half of the certified mango \$400 is generated by the added value certifications. 3M helps the groups get and hold these certifications.

The other benefits of the higher price paid to these small holders for their mangoes is the fact that most of the growers who have been in the program for a few years have planted many more mango trees (2x to 5x) on their own and are protecting them and bringing them to fruition. The hardest and most expensive part is keeping unteathered goats, fire and other people at bay from destroying the young trees. This self motivated tree planting is because the growers are getting more value for their mangos thru the certified collection system. The other cash crops of Haiti have either been destroyed by

internal problems (state monopolies, concentration of power in the value chain) or crashed from global price pressure. The Francis mango only comes from Haiti and has a unique and distinctive flavor. It has the best flavor of all, to those who have had a chance to taste it. It is an opportunity for the Haitian farmer to be competitive and make some money.

Mouvman Moun Mango has just finished a three day tour of the groups and various growing areas for the global produce buying team from Whole Foods Market. They are the principal customer of these mangoes. They want to double their purchase this year; there are too few groups in the program now to provide all the quality mangoes WFM can use. There are more groups waiting to get into the certified program. 3M needs more field personnel and resources to expand access to smaller holder groups and consolidate management in existing groups.



Mouvman Moun Mango needs help to keep working towards a sustainable solution for small holders in rural Haiti. Heretofore the works has been funded in part by the exporter paying for the certifications, an administrative staff position to manage the audit trail (we all know how important that is) and some travel expenses. The rest of the costs are covered by your donations and John's volunteer time. Added value certification is surely a growing and sustainable solution to some of the ills facing the Haitian people now. Please help.

Our Deepest thanks to those of you who have donated in the past. See <http://picasaweb.google.com/Old.Goats.Foto.Philes/GoodMangoPictures#>, For some pictures to give you a better idea.

Donate Money to Mouvman Moun Mango at EcoVentures. They are a 501c3 and hence there are certain tax advantages. Checks should be made out to:

EcoVentures Int'l c/o Lauren Frederic, 1519 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 200, Washington DC 20036.

For Electronic Giving please go to <http://www.ecoventures.org/content/view/108/92/> Please specify in both cases the funds are for Mouvman Moun Mango or 3M. Ω

## Arizona Training Highlights

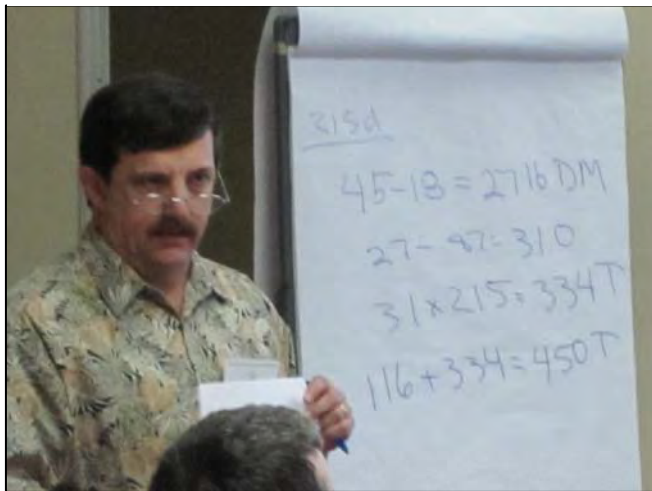
Forty-nine participants (the largest number in IOIA history) participated in one or more sessions at the Arizona training March 4-6. The number of presenters was also a new record and included three members of the NOSB. This training was the first of its kind of IOIA for two reasons: Each half-day session resulted in a certificate, and advanced training criteria did not apply. This was partly to encourage participation by more IOIA members and partly because the specialty standards that were the focus of the training are not advanced topics. Members had the opportunity to take one to six half-day sessions over three days, plus many plenary sessions.

**Aaron Brin** and **Harriet Behar**, husband and wife team and IOIA inspector members (shown at right),

were assisted by Garth Kahl in a highly rated **apiculture** session. All three presenters were members of the ACA Apiculture Working Group which recently completed the new ACA Final draft organic apiculture guidance document. Participants had the opportunity to handle and see beekeeping equipment they shipped in as visual aids. The PPT presentation and supporting documents are available on the IOIA website.



**Patti Bursten-Deutsch and Amy Lamendella - cats that ate the canary? They look like it, don't they?**



Day 1 workshops included Organic Mushroom Production by **Tina Ellor**, NOSB member with a lifetime of fungi experience. This was rated very high and definitely to be a repeat performance, possibly by webinar. Ellor stayed on to attend the entire training. **Paul Cross** of Charybda in New Mexico was paired with **Adrian and Ricardo Crisantes** of Cris-P Produce in Nogales to provide excellent training on what inspectors should look for when inspecting sprouts, microgreens, and greenhouses.

Following the workshops on Organic Apiculture (Brin & Behar) and Aquaculture (**Deborah Brister**), **Eric Mader** of the Xerces Society gave a delightful, highly rated presentation on Pollinator Conservation. Day 1 ended with a presentation on Kosher and Organic by **Steve Sichel** and a Korean regulatory update by **Raymong Yang**, with added comments by **Isidor Yu**.

Attendance was highest for sessions on Food Safety and 'The Age of Enforcement'.

**Dan Giacomini**, left, of Pacific Nutrition-Consulting in California and current NOSB Chair, presented a Pasture Rule update as a plenary session, followed by a more in-depth workshop on verifying compliance and DMI calculations for more than a dozen participants.

As a new member of the NOSB, **John Foster** was the perfect moderator for a discussion of **NOSB hot topics** on Day 2.

Options on Day 3 included **Personal Care Products** with **Bob Durst**. The training was a marathon to fit it all in, but no one complained about the late evening sessions. Typically, IOIA avoids evening sessions at advanced trainings.

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## Arizona Training

**Mark Bradley** (seated on right with BOD Chair Bob Durst) of the NOP was rated as one of the most valuable presenters. He co-presented with Garry Lean on US-Canada Equivalency on Day 1 and addressed the NOP 'Age of Enforcement', on Day 3. He managed to find time to meet with the IOIA BOD on Day on training issues, act as a resource in the Pasture session, and to sit in as a participant on several sessions over the 3-day training. During the equivalency discussion, he explained the difference between export agreements (such as US to Japan and Taiwan); recognition agreements for importing product into the US; and equivalence. When asked to clarify what products the Chilean nitrate agreement applied to, he responded that for the purpose of the inspector audience, the focus was fresh produce. He agreed that the issue had yet to be completely clarified. He was optimistic that this agreement will help make it easier for the US to get other agreements, perhaps with the EU. On the Age of Enforcement, he mentioned that the 3 labeling 'sins' with zero tolerance for using up labels—wrong category (i.e. 'organic' on a MWO product); use of seal when not allowed for that category; and label lacking a certifier name. The fine for those 'sins' can be an \$11,000 fine for every load shipped. He also discussed the problem that certifiers have not been notifying NOP of non-compliances. Calling non-compliances anything other than a noncompliance must stop.



From the office of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Chief **Orlando Correa** and **Gerardo Bostick** (pictured here at left) were an engaging and frequently entertaining speaker team on the topic of "Anatomy of an Agriculture Inspection". Correa explained the DHS border inspection process for produce, discussing risk-based inspection in a way that could be readily extrapolated to organic inspection. The presentation was provided to IOIA for posting on the website. The session was offered as a plenary as the preface to an afternoon focused on Food Safety (co-presented by **John Foster**, Earthbound Farm, and Bob Durst). John did a detailed description of the program Earthbound follows to prevent contamination of salad greens. Durst, the author of the term "Organic Control Point" described HACCP, which is a food safety program, and how organic parallels can be drawn. He noted that

some use the term 'organic critical control point', which is wrong. CCPs relate to food safety; OCPs related to organic integrity. An operation is unlikely to have more than a few CCPs, while they might have many OCPs.

Day 3 ended with a rousing Certifier-Inspector Dialogue, ably moderated by **David Konrad**. It was clearly deemed a success by the inspectors present, with carryover to the AGM the next day.

Area field trips on March 8 extended the learning. **Cris-P Produce** and the **Fresh Produce Marketing Association** of the Americas, both headquartered in Nogales, collaborated on a warehouse tour of fresh produce coming through the Nogales port. **Natalie McGee** of the **Arizona Cactus Ranch** provided both an extra evening session and a field trip. She has developed healthful products made entirely of wildcrafted organic prickly pear fruits. **Green Valley Pecan Growers** and the hydroponic greenhouses at the **Controlled Environment Agriculture Center, U of A**, were other options.

It is the fourth year since IOIA first created a conference format for the advanced training with the AGM. This format was implemented to accommodate more members while retaining seminar-style learning. However, average attendance remains nearly the same. The cost of travel is cited as the key reason for not attending. WE'D LIKE YOUR INPUT REGARDING HOW IOIA CAN increase the benefit without increasing the cost to members - PLEASE DROP US AN EMAIL WITH YOUR IDEAS! IOIA will continue efforts to extend educational offerings with outreach following the AGM, with subsequent web postings, newsletter articles, and webinars. Visit the 'Inspectors Only' section of the IOIA website to find resources to be further developed and posted over the next 2 months. Ω

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## AGM Highlights – Rio Rico, Arizona

Thirty-one voting members, plus 24 proxies, took part in the **Annual General Meeting** on March 7 at Esplendor Resort in Rio Rico, Arizona. Rain poured down all day in place of the desert sunshine promised by the ED. Chair **Bob Durst** said a bit glumly that IOIA should have come to Oregon, where the sun was shining. Spirits were high though, as the meeting was kicked off with excellent energy imparted by the **Tucson High School Mariachi Band**, a riveting keynote, a great organic lunch, and a margarita punch bowl.

Bob presented a condensed version of the annual Report and Committee Reports, and ended with a summary of the BOD's activities. Committee Chairs or other designated members spoke to their reports via a slide per committee.

The ED provided attendees a summary of trainings during 2009. **Isidor Byeongdeok Yu** was recognized by the membership for his involvement with IOIA being recognized by the Korean government as a training body last year.

**Gene Prochaska**, Interim treasurer, gave the Financial Reports. Gene acknowledged **Jack Reams** and **Brian Magaro** for their role on the Finance Committee. Financial Statements were approved. Gene then presented the 2010 budget, which includes a new first for IOIA, a **Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA)** account for Staff employees.

**New Business:** 2011 Annual Meeting Location - Oregon and southeast US have been discussed. Straw poll showed higher support for southeast US.

**IOIA Logo:** Chair, thanks to **Pricilla Reimer**, **Fred Ehlert** and **Diane Cooner** for their work on the Logo Committee. Bob explained the process by which the BOD would finalize a new logo.

**Lively Focus Group:** Membership discussions centered on the ideal size of the IOIA BOD and recent contractual requirements for inspectors, including insurance. In a first, all voted in favor of an **Action Point** for the ED to send **Miles McEvoy** a note of congratulations.

Members discussed suggestions to increase the **size of the BOD** and to consider a bylaws proposal to eliminate one or both alternate positions. In 2007, the size of the BOD was decreased to 5, plus 2 alternates. Some BOD members noted that the BOD felt a bit small at times since then and occasionally a quorum was lacking. Another commented that the BOD usually meets via conference calls, which are more effective with fewer people. Jack Reams moved to increase the BOD to 6 and reduce the alternate to 1. Show of hands from the floor on vote to change the number of BOD from 5 to 6; Vote- 36 yes, 7 opposed, 2 abstentions. Garry Lean moved to have 7 BOD members, no alternates. Jack Reams seconded the motion. Vote- 33 yes, 4 no and 6 abstentions. If BOD is increased to 7, IOIA would have 7 BOD members with two alternates. Then a motion was made for the bylaws committee to eliminate alternates in the bylaws. Vote of membership on the floor, all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

The group next discussed one of the hottest topics of the year, **professional liability insurance** for inspectors. Discussion centered around exploring the possibility that IOIA could make insurance for inspector members available and the more complex issue of whether inspectors or certifiers should carry the liability. The meeting ended at 6 p.m. and the group retired to the Saloon, for more musical entertainment.

**Ballot committee was Gene Prochaska (Chair), Inge Vogelmann and Arthur Harvey.**



**Our New BOD, with a backdrop of the Santa Rita Mountains. L to R: Dave Konrad, Michelle Sandy, Jennifer Clifford, Julio Perez, Bob Durst, Bob Howe**  
←←←



**BOD Chair Bob Durst, left, presents Gene Prochaska, Treasurer for most of his 4 years on the BOD, a parting gift of appreciation.**

**Ken Commins, Executive Director IOAS**, gave an inspiring and stimulating keynote on the topic **“Fraud: detection and prevention”**. He presented the findings of a joint study with the National Cooperative Grocers Association (NCGA). The study resulted in a proposal for a retailer and trade sponsored program to detect and prevent intentional breaches of integrity in the organic supply chain (aka Sherlock).

Commins gave some chilling examples of fraud cases, some uncovered by chance, and noted that as long as the supply chains continue to get longer and more global, fraud concerns will increase.

A nonprofit oversight body would be established to implement the anti-fraud program. The proposed program would be separate from organic certification.

One program element is unannounced visits, a highly effective fraud measure with a proven deterrence effect. He noted that these are unfortunately too often happening on a logistics basis, rather than a risk basis. Five of 7 certifiers participating in the certifying body focus group findings reported having uncovered fraud as a result of unannounced visits. All 7 advocated unannounced visits as an important anti-fraud tool.

Other measures would include mass balance with upstream crosschecks and spot checking uncertified identities such as excluded handlers and importers. Mass balances done in isolation during the organic inspection are time consuming and never conclusive, but upstream crosschecks can be simple and valuable.

Commins spoke to the need to upgrade inspector quality world wide. He reported the results of the survey of certifiers which concluded that

- Quality improved over last 5/10 years
- None of them required inspectors to be accredited
- Only 1 required accounting experience and 2 others provided training
- Average estimate of 55% inspectors able for complex input/output Ω



**Inge Vogelmann, Bob and Terrie Gent, all an integral part of the AGM Organizing Committee in AZ. Not pictured is Abed Anouti, supporting member and VP of the AZ Crop Improvement Association. Terrie found the Rio Rico venue for IOIA and assisted in many, many ways. Bob gave a riveting astronomy presentation after the AGM ended. Unfortunately, most members were too tired to stay up by then, or they lost track of time having a late supper and drinks in the Saloon. Those who went were glad they did, even with cloudy skies that cancelled the planned telescope viewing.**



**Ken Commins, Keynote Speaker, with ED Margaret Scoles.**

*“If we don’t have a good inspection – the finest certification agency in the world can do nothing but make a bad decision”.*

### **Notes from AGM Committee Reports**

**Membership and Nominating Committees** – Chris Kidwell. Nominating committee will be overseen by Chris Kidwell going forward. Kelly will continue to Chair membership.

**Latin American Committee** - Julio Perez-. Want to survey the NGO and certifiers in LA and determine ways to provide training needs in LA. Travel difficult and expensive for in-person trainings. Web page in Spanish and communicating with Brazil are the main goals for 2010.

**Scholarship Committee** - Michelle Sandy. Margaret Weigelt continues as Chair. Following explanation of how Yanni Liang of China received a special travel award funded by OCIS Scholarship., members volunteered suggestions on how to encourage member donations to this fund.

**Accreditation Committee** - No chair and it needs **“your help”**.

**Canadian Committee** - Dave Konrad. Bill Barkley took over in early 2009 as Chair. Committee has become much more active, due to implementation of the COR and Canadian Forum on the IOIA web set up by Diane Cooner. Bill extends invitation to all Canadian members to join the Forum. Kelly Monaghan took over IOIA’s seat as a voting member on the CGSB Organic Technical Committee from Janine Gibson. She was further promoted to become Chair of the Technical Committee.

# IOIA in Asia

## First Stop - Korea

The advanced course in Korea was a team effort between Bob Durst, IOIA BOD Chair and food scientist, speaking to HACCP, CCPs and OCPs; Margaret Scoles, ED, speaking to OCPs in Crop, Livestock, and Processing inspections; Isidor Yu, IOIA Trainer, organizer, facilitator of group exercises, and translator; and Mutsumi Sakuyoshi, who assisted throughout. The training was the culmination of months of planning on the part of KFSAO and KOIA.

It was delivered in English and translated to Korean. Bilingual course manuals were printed in Korean and English. Participants included consultants, certifiers, industry representatives, and inspectors, most of who had been trained in previous IOIA courses in Korea.

During the training, IOIA presented **Han, Jung Yeol** (KOIA President) with a copy of Dr. Hubert Karreman's book, *Treating Dairy Cows Naturally* for the KOIA resource library.



**Isidor Yu - IOIA/KOIA Trainer who made it all possible, from planning the agenda, meals, transportation, and training to translating for the English speaking visitors, always with good humor and enthusiasm.**

**Day 1:** Grower Group inspection and certification was the topic of an all-day workshop on March 27 at NAQS offices, followed by the KOIA Annual Meeting. Mutsumi presented her perspective and experience inspecting grower groups and

explained the Japanese situation. The ED presented the North American perspective, including the recent NOSB recommendation

and the relevance of grower group certification within North America and within imported trade. Amos Lee of Control Union was the final presenter.



**IOIA ED Margaret Scoles with Dr. and Mrs. Leigh, Gee Song of Doalnara Certified Organic Korea on an outing to historic Gyeongbok Palace, built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Photo Credit Raymond Yang**

**Day 2:** Sightseeing at the historic Gyeongbok Palace, among other things!

**Days 3 and 4:** HACCP vs OCPs was the focus of the first Advanced Training in Korea, cosponsored by the Korean Federation of Sustainable Agriculture Organizations (KFSAO), and held at the Agriculture Technology Center.



**Day 5:** March 31: The IOIA group visited the MIFAFF and NAQS offices formally to express appreciation for IOIA's endorsements by the Korean government. NAQS serves as the accrediting body for certifiers doing crop or livestock inspections (60+ certifiers in the country). NAQS also operates as a certifier. MIFAFF accredits the certifiers of processed foods (only 5 certifiers accredited in the country). IOIA Crop and Livestock Inspection Courses have now been approved by NAQS. MIFAFF approved IOIA as a training body for processing inspection in 2009. The IOIA delegation also encouraged a continuing recognition of KOIA. There are no plans at this time for KOIA to train independently from IOIA. However, IOIA, JOIA, and KOIA are committed to worth together to strengthen sister affiliate structure in Asia.

## Project Cherry Blossom

The next stop on the *IOIA in Asia* tour was **Japan** and the offices of the **Japanese Organic Inspectors Association (JOIA)**. JOIA formed in 1998 and has been a supporting certification agency member of IOIA since that time, although they do not certify.

**Yutaka Maruyama**, Chairman of the Board of JOIA, and Trainer **Yoko Mizuno** welcomed the IOIA group at the Narita airport. Yoko hand-delivered everyone to the hotel, conveniently located next to a subway train station and surrounded by temples, shrines, rivers and canals, and other sites in easy walking distance.

**Day 1, April 1, day off:** Yoko arrived accompanied by new friend Eriko Saijo, one of Yoko's English language students and JOIA auditor. Eriko's task was to speak English with the group. About one hour's travel out of the city, the group arrived at Tsukaba Shrine to spend several hours, beginning with an exploration of the Shintu Buddhist shrine and grounds and learning the customs from Yoko. Then up a very steep cable car ride, arriving near the Mt. Tsukaba summit, and finishing the climb on foot. The weather was blustery and a bit cold for the picnic, with remnants of the winter snow holding on. Reversing the trek down, a festival was discovered at the bottom of the mountain. A ceremonial parade was headed up the path to the shrine, and it was one of the two days out of the year for festivals at the shrine. After parade watching, the group loaded up and headed for Ohshima Farm, a producer of specialty colored organic rice. After much hospitality including a supper feast and a tour of the farm, the group headed back to Tokyo.

**Day 2:** Yutaka, Yoko, **Mutsumi Sakuyoshi**, and the IOIA visitors spent about 2 hours meeting with four MAFF staff. **Masato Shimazaki** explained that JAS is in the midst of their 5-year review. Topics of particular interest were alkali-extracted humic acid and lignin sulfonate as a floating agent for tree fruit. Mr. Shimazaki expressed interest in hearing about IOIA's plans for a training institute, and more rigorous inspector accreditation program. He became interested in the topic for the next day's JOIA workshop and decided to attend and fully participate. The afternoon was spent with a short meeting with the JOIA BOD and a presentation on JOIA by Yutaka, followed by a 2-hour meeting with certifiers with a long list of questions, mostly NOP related, and a short visit to the JOIA office.



**Day 2 - Yoko Mizuno, Mutsumi Sakuyoshi, Yutaka Maruyama, Bob Durst, and Margaret Scoles in the JOIA office. Mutsumi and Yoko serve as Trainers and BOD advisors. JOIA welcomed the ED, Bob Durst, and wife Sherry with an amazing hospitality. JOIA dubbed the event "Project Cherry Blossom" and updated members daily on the group's activities via a blog complete with photos. The title was apropos, as the IOIA delegation arrived in the peak of cherry blossom season.**

**Day 3:** JOIA workshop was attended by about 30 participants. It focused on organic control points for processing. Durst opened with an in-depth presentation on HACCP, CCPs, and OCPs. He ended with a juice processing flow chart, coupled with evaluation of the CCPs and OCPs. Scoles started the afternoon with OCPs in Processing, including a few different processes as illustration. She ended with a detailed virtual slide show of goat cheese. This process was selected by the trainer team for its novelty. It was to be a new process for most everyone in the group. After a photo tour of the facility, small groups were organized with the task of creating a flow chart for the process, complete with CCPs and OCPs. A few groups were selected to make a final presentation. The key person to making it all work was Mutsumi, who had just spent 4 days in Korea with Durst and Scoles. She studied the presentations used there, suggested additions, created some new



**Yoko assists a small group during an all-day JOIA workshop on April 3.**

pieces, and drew it all together to make a very effective 1-day workshop. Professional translation was provided. After dinner, the group walked to a nearby city park, which is open during the evening for a lighting show during cherry blossom season for 5 days. Yutaka shepherded the group and no one got lost in the dark. The entire group huddled together under blossom filled trees for the final group photo. Ω

### Japan and JOIA Organic Facts - (Excerpted from Organic Situation in Japan): prepared by Yutaka Maruyama

Organic Production in Japan: .18% of total production  
Current growth rate: less than 1%  
Certification (as of May 31, 2009):  
JAS certifiers: 65  
Certified farms: 1990  
Certified processors: 1,020  
Certified re-labelers: 159  
Certified Importers: 156  
Members: 239 (130 Inspectors, 109 supporting individuals, 39 corporations)  
Membership fee, inspectors: JPY 12,000 (about \$120 US)

BOD members: Yutaka Maruyama (Chair); Setsuko Hata (Vice Chair); Kazuyo Ito, Nobuaki Hariu, Miho Yamasaki  
Office Staff: Riichiro Suzuki, and Kazuko Tsujihata, both part-time.  
Publications: IFOAM/IOIA inspection manual translation; Organic producers/processors handbook, 17 different booklets in Japanese language for inspectors, and JAS/NOP/EU Comparison.  
Meetings: bi-monthly

Budget: JOIA discontinued printing paper copy

newsletters and cut back on staff time to achieve a balanced budget in 2010.  
Additional note: IOIA and JOIA are seeking to define a more appropriate structure, as JOIA is not a certifier. Four IOIA members have IOIA Trainer status. All trainings in Japan are delivered in Japanese language. One of the challenges has been the slow growth of certified organic production and the difficulty in establishing a rate of pay for inspectors that can allow them to work. Most inspectors do a small number of inspections and are otherwise employed or they are retired.

## Canadian Update

By Kelly A. Monaghan

**Standards and PSL Update:** The Canadian Organic Standards and Permitted Substances List are now once again available free of charge via

[http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb/on\\_the\\_net/organic/index-e.html](http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb/on_the_net/organic/index-e.html)

The proposed amendments to the standard and PSL are also available for review at:

<http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb/prgsrv/stdsdev/nsa/pubrevdoc/pubrevdoc-e.html>

Until May 23rd, a public comment period is open for these amendments. All interested parties are strongly encouraged to review the amendments and submit any comments to the CGSB (procedures outlined on above website) for consideration.

After this date, the CGSB will summarize the comments received and provide them to the Voting Members of the CGSB's Technical Committee along with the ballot containing all of the proposed changes. This will ensure that all voting members are aware of the public comments, pro and con, that were received regarding the proposed changes.

**Canada Organic Office:** There have been some personnel changes at the Canada Organic Office since the last IOIA newsletter was published. Stephan O'Neil, Program Officer, has left the COO (that open position has not yet been filled) and James Crawford is the new Acting Director of the Agri-Food Division of CFIA after the departure of Jaspinder Komal.

These changes have challenged the COO at a time when there are a lot of other things on their plate – continued discussions with the USDA's NOP in the hopes of clarifying a number of confusing elements of the Canada / US Equivalency Agreement and working with the representatives of the European Union towards potential equivalency.

**Standards Interpretation Committee:**

The SIC has published two sets of answers to questions received to date on the standards and a third is almost complete. These 33 Q&As are subject to a 60-day comment period and are currently available for review at:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/orgbio/comqueste.shtml>

It is anticipated that ongoing there will be monthly updates from the SIC on questions received and reviewed.

**Canadian International Negotiations:** European Union – Representatives from the European Union will be in Canada for an audit visit in early May and will meet with the Canada Organic Office and several Conformity Verification Bodies, Certification Agencies and operators.

*Kelly Monaghan is the current Chair of the Canadian General Standards Board's Organic Technical Committee. She also acts as IOIA's Membership Chairperson. You can contact her at [www.ashstreetorganics.com](http://www.ashstreetorganics.com).*

### Loblaw and U of Guelph Announce Chair in Sustainable Food Production

Loblaw Companies Ltd and the University of Guelph, announced on April 7 the creation of The Loblaw Companies Limited Chair in Sustainable Food Production. The chair was made possible by a \$3-million gift from Loblaw and will be the centre of U of G's research focus on creating robust food production systems. It will help lead change in food

production systems through education, research, practice and outreach within the context of the essential elements of sustainability: the environment, communities and the economy.

Among other things, The Loblaw Chair in Sustainable Food Production will pioneer approaches for dealing with the increasing challenges in agriculture and food production. This includes leading a national program in sustainable local food production, developing roundtables on the topic and creating an industry advisory group to guide novel curriculum development.

The chair will also assemble a core of researchers in agriculture and food production, lead collaborations in the public and private sectors, serve as a key resource for government food and agriculture policy development, and work to lead and advance the sustainability of agriculture and food production in Canada.

A search for the inaugural chair holder will begin immediately, and the position will be based at U of G's OAC in the Department of Plant Agriculture. Ω



**A cold day at the Pollock Farm (Pat & Larry Pollock) near Brandon Manitoba. Gracious hosts with great guidance for the class participants and Group Leader, Garry Lean (front row, center).**

The Canadian Standard was the focus of the Basic Crop Training - co-sponsored with Assiniboine Community College. The Field trip to the Pollack Farm included - spring spelt and other western cereals, pedigreed alfalfa seed with leaf cutter bees, and vegetable production for the local Brandon market. On-farm spelt dehulling was part of the enterprise.



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## **IOIA/Control Union Curso, Lima, Peru 4 - 8 Enero 2010**

Del 4 al 8 de Enero del 2010, se realizó un curso de capacitación en fincas, organizado por IOIA y por Control Union. Este curso fue realizado en las instalaciones del Programa de Investigación en Hortalizas (El Huerto) de la Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina, en Lima, Perú.

Este curso, contó con la participación del instructor Luis Brenes, quien en todo momento mantuvo cautiva a la audiencia del curso, y que explicó de manera comprensiva y mediante ejemplos, los principales puntos de interés de las normas orgánicas NOP y 834/2007 y 889/2008.

Hasta este curso, llegaron participantes de diferentes nacionalidades, contando con personas que llegaron de México y Ecuador, lo que enriqueció el intercambio de información y de experiencias que hicieron del curso un verdadero lujo.

Los 4.5 días de duración del curso, fueron suficientes e incluyeron una gira de campo, para poner en práctica las habilidades de inspección.

Esperamos poder repetir esta experiencia con otro curso IOIA, que es en verdad una gran herramienta para los auditores.



## **IOIA/BCS Basic Farm Course, Guadalajara Mexico Feb 22-26, 2010**

Del 22 al 26 de febrero del 2010 fue realizado el curso internacional para inspectores orgánicos organizado por el IOIA/BCS/Agroproyectos, realizado en Guadalajara, México. Al curso asistieron 17 profesionales, ingenieros agrónomos en su mayoría y productores o encargados de actividades de producción orgánica para la exportación, asesorías de importantes empresas a nivel nacional e internacional. El Curso contó con el apoyo de la Agroproyectos, quien funge como representante de BCS en México. En el curso se trató de resaltar la importancia de la regulación nacional en el campo de la producción orgánica como mecanismo de control y de homogenización de criterios nacionales. Durante el curso se presentaron muchas oportunidades de discutir temas de interés nacional y que están afectando los procesos de producción, credibilidad y control de los sistemas de producción, lo cual no se puede cambiar si no se cuentan con las herramientas técnicas y de logística. Durante la práctica de inspección fue visitada una empresa certificada dedicada a la producción de hortalizas la cual fue muy abierta en cuanto a la atención y accesibilidad de la información. ¡Muchas gracias a todos!



## **IOIA/BCS Basic Training Guadalajara, Mexico February 22-26, 2010**

by Martha Santizo, BCS Guatemala. The IOIA/AGEXPORT/BCS basic organic training carried out in the city of Quetzaltenago, Guatemala was an opportunity to understand better the way to do business in the organic world based on the rules. At the beginning of the course the participants had an idea of what organic means. Now, they have developed their own criteria based on what they learned in the five-day

course. They shared their experiences, problems and triumphs as producers, agricultural consultants, students, professionals along with the facilitator who once again has given his best performance with relevant information regarding the matter.

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## IOIA Board of Directors Conference Call February 18, 2010

**Minutes Highlights** (for full minutes, see *Inspectors Only* section of IOIA website)

**Attendance:** Bob Durst (Chair), David Konrad, Gene Prochaska, Eric Feutz, and Margaret Scoles, ED. **Absent:** Stephen Bird, Lidia Giron and Julio Perez Secretary: Eric

**Treasurer's Report:** Gene provided a written Treasurer's Report to the BOD with attached balance sheets for 2009. The 2010 budget accepted to present to the AGM. TR accepted.

**Action Point:** ED to modify Budget to combine Curriculum, Equipment, and Training Institute into one line item before AGM.

HRA questions for BOD - The subject of the BOD deciding whether the funds in the HRA should be set up to roll over or a "use it or lose it" policy was discussed along with how and where the funds can be used by the employees. Bob suggests asking the staff how they would want the HRA program to be set up and the BOD will discuss it later as it does not impact on the amount proposed in the draft budget.

**Action Point:** ED to have HRA account set up by February 28.

**AGM:** 2009 Annual Report drafted by Bob and the ED and provided to the BOD. The ED asks what are good topics to discuss, such as the logo, Training Institute. ED-reminder for the committee chairs to survey their committees and invite them to add a slide to the AGM PPT and discuss it in person during the meeting.

**Action Point Table Review:** Do we want to keep the AP table? ED- Thinks we should include timeline in AP table and who is responsible. Bob thinks it would be OK to get minutes done and let staff edit the AP table after minutes are sent to the BOD. Another day or two to get the minutes out won't make a difference.

## IOIA BOD in person March 5, 2010, Rio Rico, Arizona

**Attendance:** Bob Durst (Chair), David Konrad, Gene Prochaska, Eric Feutz, Julio Perez (First Alternate), Margaret Scoles, ED, and Michelle Sandy (board candidate, visitor). Julio will be a voting member for this meeting, Garry Lean (member, visitor). **Absent:** Lidia Girón, Stephen Bird Secretary: Eric

**Logo Design Presentation at AGM** - Decision to determine new logo - present 3-4 options and then let the BOD make final decision.

**Latin American Plan:** Julio noted that focus should be on contacting organizations rather than inspectors. IBD in Brazil could be a huge market. They train their own inspectors (may be in part due to the language). Need to get the LA certifiers on board to demand IOIA training to raise the bar. Don't see the inspectors coming into the fold by just lowering the fees.

### Guests

**1) Advisory Board - John Foster** - topic was a focus in the 2003, 2005, and 2007 BOD retreats. The advisory board can be a force to help IOIA have an even stronger role in training. Seems to be an increase in variability in the inspection process when he actually expected a decrease with the advent of the NOP. Hopes we will solidify an advisory panel. John thinks IOIA needs to be tuned in better to the certifiers. He would like to see IOIA increase their relevance and would like to see IOIA training be the gold standard. IOIA is the only place where a high degree of cross-pollination happens between inspectors from different parts of the countries and different certifiers. To the greater degree that inspectors continue the trend of working only regionally and only for 1 certifier (often getting their training in-house from that certifier) the greater the degree of inconsistency we will see in inspections. IOIA can do a lot to encourage cross-pollination. The advisory board's task would be to collect the data IOIA needs.

**2) Urban Farming Grant - Julia Govis** - ED, we are collaborating with Julia, University of Chicago, and city of Chicago on a grant. If the grant is funded, IOIA's share for advisory would be about \$10,000 a year. Final goal to present a recommendation to the NOSB for urban farming regulations.

**3) IOIA/NOP Training - Mark Bradley** - Discussion on potential IOIA-NOP collaborative training for inspectors. Mark is in charge of accreditation and training with NOP. Mark wants to keep lines of communications open with IOIA.

## IOIA BOD in person March 8 and 9, 2010, Rio Rico, Arizona

March 8, 2010 Meeting 1:20 a.m. – 6:15 p.m. MST

**Attendance:** Bob Durst (Chair), David Konrad, Jennifer Clifford, Eric Feutz, Michelle Sandy, Julio Perez (First Alternate), Bob Howe (Second Alternate) and Margaret Scoles, ED.

Set March 8, 2010 Agenda- Set for the March 8 and 9 in person meetings.

**Board Positions** - Discussion on Executive committee's positions.

Discussion on best days for BOD meetings. Will start with 7:00 PM EST on the third Tuesday of the month (Apr 20).

**Latin America** - Julio, proposed writing up the survey with Lidia to send to the LA certifiers and translate to English so the BOD can review it. Compile responses and bring back to the BOD and go from there in developing a plan.

**Action Point:** Julio will write up the survey with Lidia to send to the LA certifiers and translate to English so the BOD can review it. Compile responses and bring back to the BOD and go from there in developing a plan.

**Insurance/Liability** - States are coming down on certifiers that contract employees who look and behave as employees. Some certifiers are requiring inspectors to have liability insurance. May help to get insurance or establish contractor status if an individual is incorporated. Think it may be worthwhile for IOIA to get into dialogue with certifiers on this issue that potentially could be a lose/lose situation. Julio, suggest getting legal counsel to review the laws and NOP rules to present a position to the certifiers. ED, even if

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certifier owns reports the inspector will always have some liability. Need to inform the certifiers that at this time liability insurance is not universally available. Business liability insurance is relatively easy to get, it is the errors and omissions that is not. If we can provide insurance for accredited inspectors then we could get a lot more applications for accreditation. This ties in with the NOP's movement towards requiring "accreditation" or testing of inspectors.

**Action Point:** IOIA to engage certifiers about insurance for inspectors but solutions are not at hand.

**Logo:** Jennie, is there a plan on how and when a decision will be made? By the BOD.

BOD members discussed the final design selections but reached no consensus for the best new logo. Deferred to later.

Jennie: Will contact Diane about contacting designer of #119.

**ARP:** What are we going to do here? It was hoped that someone during the AGM would have stepped forward. Need to talk to Monique Scholz, who said during the 2009 AGM that she wanted to devote time to the ARP.

**Action Point:** Need to contact certifiers for someone to be on the ARP. Margaret or Bob H.

**Action Point:** Need to get the ARP committee re-staffed. Margaret.

**Brochure:** Has been in the plans for several years. What is the target for the brochure? The target is for larger donors to increase our budget to build a training institute. This needs to show what we do and why we need donations, we are not trying to sell a product. Michelle offers to work on it. She has done lots of their own brochures and web designs.

## **March 9, 2010 Meeting 8:44 a.m. – 5:35 p.m. MST**

**Attendance:** Bob Durst (Chair), David Konrad, Jennifer Clifford, Eric Feutz, Michelle Sandy, Margaret Scoles, ED, Julio Perez (First Alternate) and Bob Howe (Second Alternate).

**Training Institute:** Bob D facilitated the discussions and brainstorming with all attendees for implementing the Training Institute. Ideas for education outreach options for the TI include: Web based, Static, Live. The proposed concept of the TI was developed. The remainder of the meeting focused on developing the concept of the IOIA Training Institute.

IOIA does not own training materials in Spanish but does have Spanish and French manuals. A list of specialty topics for advanced training within the TI was developed from which the group selected three "hot topics" to discuss during this meeting on how to develop for training. These topics included: Livestock DMI, Audit and Materials.

DMI is a "hot" topic. The BOD focused on how to develop it into the curriculum. The TI also needs to ensure ways it can react quickly to new, hot topics. We do have an excellent base of people within the organization to draw from. The TI will need to involve Technical Experts, Teaching Materials Developer, Validators for Content and Teachability, and an Environmental Scan/Needs Assessment that includes certifiers. Tests for each course would validate whether attendees have grasped the training. What is a reasonable time frame for a web based advanced training? Margaret replies approximately three hours. Estimated time to develop training, 20-30 hours. Agree to charge about \$100 for members. Shoot for first training within two months.

ED-Asks for BOD expectation and clarification on direction of the Training Institute. TI was an initiative that came out of the 2007 BOD retreat. Hope and anticipate this will involve more staff and income but is a chicken and egg situation at this time. Budget and staff can be, and have been, increased to begin this. The TI is clearly a part of IOIA's mission. Separate divisions might be needed to accommodate expansion, but IOIA will remain one entity.

**Approximately 11:30 AM** Julio and Jennie leave the meeting to travel home. The BOD continued brainstorming needs of the TI, resources. Need to include dialogue with certifiers.

The subject of forming an advisory board was discussed. IOIA should have opportunities to discuss with certifiers this week at Expo West about industry needs that can be met by the TI.

Development and Maintenance for the TI will need to be contracted while being developed. Who do we see doing the management role for the first training on DMI? Questioned and commented that they should have a working knowledge of inspector training. Need to draft an outlined format and style (template) courses that can be sent out to the contractors to follow.

Will need contractors to be involved with the management aspect. The consensus is that the first training (DMI) can be managed by the ED. Adding more in the near future will require more project managers. Each course will need to have a project manager or project coordinator. Ω

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## **Committee News**

**Committee Member needed** The Accreditation Review Panel needs an inspector member to fill out the committee, and is open to volunteers for chair. This committee reviews inspector accreditation applications twice annually (Mar 1 and Oct 1). Accreditation is granted for 3 years. If you are interested in serving, contact the IOIA office for more information.

### **BOD Liaisons designated for Committees:**

Accreditation: Eric Feutz

Bylaws: Dave Konrad

Canadian: Dave Konrad

Ethics: Jennifer Clifford

Finance: Eric Feutz

Fundraising: Michelle Sandy

Latin American: Julio Perez

Membership/Nominations: Michelle Sandy

Training/Editorial Review: Bob Durst

### **New Committee Chair:**

Garry Lean, Bylaws Committee.

IOIA would like to thank **Arthur Harvey** for **10 years of service** as Chair of the Bylaws Committee.

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## Resources

**Organic Certification Guidebook** - 4th Edition guidebook is now available for free via download from the MOSES website. Hard copies will be available at the end of April, and are also free. This 32-page guidebook includes answers to general production questions, a discussion on approved materials, and much more. Preview the online edition and print out the answers you need. <http://www.mosesorganic.org/guidebook.pdf>

**Local Harvest: A Multifarm CSA Handbook** Written by former CSA growers Scott Franzblau and Jill Perry, *Local Harvest: A Multifarm CSA Handbook* offers clear and straightforward guidance on an innovative practice that is helping CSAs stay strong and viable over the long term: cooperative marketing.

The 126-page book details how farmers can use CSA cooperatives to best market their produce, including advice on staffing, volunteer boards, distribution, legal topics and other practical information. Download for free or order print copies (\$3.99 plus \$5.95 s/h) online <http://www.sare.org/publications/csa.htm> Call 301/374-9696, Or send check or money order to SARE Outreach, PO Box 753, Waldorf, Maryland 20604-0753.

**Call to Bust Up Big Ag** The USDA and Department of Justice are hosting workshops on the impacts of corporate concentration on agriculture. A new IATP factsheet looks at the role of NAFTA in accelerating agribusiness concentration with testimony from farm groups in Mexico, Canada and the United States. <http://www.iatp.org/iatp/publications.cfm?accountID=451&refID=107275>

**USDA posts updated U.S. certified organic acreage and livestock data** Certified organic acreage in the United States reached more than 4.8 million acres in 2008, according to updated data posted by U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service (ERS) on the web. U.S. total organic cropland reached 2,655,382 acres in 2008, while land devoted to organic pasture totaled 2,160,577 acres. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/organic/>

**FDA posts Q and A on "organic" cosmetics** In a March 8 Question and Answer posting on its web site, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) outlined the position that organic cosmetics must meet USDA regulations for the organic claim and all FDA regulations for cosmetics.

<http://www.fda.gov/Cosmetics/ProductandIngredientSafety/ProductInformation/ucm203078.htm>

**New GOTS online database now available**

Approximately 1,500 companies with a total of 2,811 facilities in 55 countries around the world were certified to the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) in 2009, according to the online database that was launched last week. <http://www.global-standard.org/>

**2010 Non-GMO Sourcebook** Evergreen Publishing, Inc., has released The 2010 Non-GMO Sourcebook. This annual publication is a "farm to fork" directory of more than 700 suppliers of non-GMO and organic products and related services (GMO testing, Identity Preservation, and certification). Evergreen also publishes The Organic & Non-GMO Report, a monthly journal that helps farmers and food manufacturers respond to the challenge of GM foods. The sourcebook can be ordered for \$27.95 by phone (641-209-3426; 800-854-0586) or online ([www.nongmo-report.com](http://www.nongmo-report.com)).

**Organic Monitor publishes report on organic personal care** Organic Monitor, a British company, has a 60-page report for £909 (US\$1172) on organic personal care around the world, " *Technical Insights: A Critical Assessment of Natural & Organic Cosmetic Standards*" . It covers standards from Ecocert, NaTrue, Soil Association, BDiH, ICEA, OASIS, NSF, NPA, IBD, and the new European Cosmos initiative and notes that differences between the most popular standards in each region remain wide. <http://www.companiesandmarkets.com/Summary-Market-Report/technical-insights-a-critical-assessment-of-natural-organic-cosmetic-standards-191925.asp>

**NOP posts a listing of re-certified operations and those suspended or revoked** NOP has made available a list of previously certified organic operations whose certifications have been suspended or revoked since January 2010, as well as

a separate list of operations whose organic certification has been reinstated. This information is available by visiting NOP's web site, and clicking on the link to Accreditation and Certification. NOP will continue to update this information each month as it receives information from accredited certifying agencies.

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/nop>

**USDA publishes general crop insurance report**

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) has posted a general report on crop insurance for organic producers, as required by the Farm Bill (Section 12023). The 14-page report (with ten pages of technical attachments) is now available online at

<http://www.rma.usda.gov/pubs/2010/organics.pdf>

**Organic Center v Hudson Institute**

The great debate between Dennis Avery of the Hudson Institute and Charles Benbrook of The Organic Center, on whether organic really is better or just a marketing ploy, was captured on video, watch it at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfQ5QRACLUa> [bottom line – yes, it IS better!]

**Everything is Totally Green** There is a great article on Corporate Greenwashing of the Food supply, in the Yankton Press & Dakotan – reprinted in full on our website, [www.ioia.net/latestnews](http://www.ioia.net/latestnews)

**NASS releases 2008 Organic Production Survey data**

The 2008 Organic Production Survey conducted as a follow-on to the 2007 Census of Agriculture counted 14,540 organic farms and ranches in the US, according to figures released Feb. 3 by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Represented were a total of 4.1 million acres, of which 1.6 million acres were harvested cropland and 1.8 million acres were pasture or rangeland. Of those farms, 10,903 were certified to the U.S. NOP and 3,637 were exempt from certification because their sales totaled less than \$5,000 annually. NASS has posted a four-page fact sheet about the findings [http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online\\_Highlights/Fact\\_Sheets/organics.pdf](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/Fact_Sheets/organics.pdf)

as well as the whole report, [http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online\\_Highlights/Organics/index.asp](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/Organics/index.asp)

## Court allows planting of GE sugar beets

A federal district court judge on March 17 denied a request by organic seed growers, conservation and food safety groups to ban the use of genetically engineered sugar beet seeds until an environmental review of the seeds can be completed.

Judge Jeffrey White's decision allows growers in Colorado and other states to continue planting Monsanto Co.'s genetically engineered Roundup Ready sugar beet seeds when planting season arrives in May.

Last fall, a federal court in California ruled that the U.S. Department of Agriculture failed to adequately study possible environmental and economic risks that the genetically engineered beets might cause. A court-ordered review is under way by the federal Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

While Judge White sided with Monsanto in rejecting the temporary ban, he said the "parties should not assume that the court's decision to deny a preliminary injunction is indicative of its views on a permanent injunction pending the full environmental review that APHIS is required to do."

The judge said he was allowing planting to go forward in 2010 because a lack of conventional seed might lead to a sugar beet shortage. In Colorado, about 40,000 acres of sugar beets were harvested last year, mostly from genetically engineered seeds.

Opponents of Roundup Ready seeds said they planned to seek a permanent injunction against their use at the next court hearing on July 9.

"Based on today's ruling, we are encouraged that Judge White will order permanent injunction relief," said Paul Achitoff, attorney for Earthjustice, in a statement. "We will ask the court to halt the use of genetically engineered sugar beets and seeds until the federal government does its job to protect consumers and farmers alike."

Commercial production of Roundup Ready sugar beets can result in genetic contamination of organic and conventional crops, increased use of Roundup and other herbicides, and loss of consumer choice to buy products with sugar not derived from GE beets.

A similar lawsuit blocked the planting of "Roundup Ready" alfalfa seeds in 2007, voided the deregulation of the seeds and

blocked future sales until a U.S. environmental study was conducted. The case is now on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court's decision in this case could have far-reaching impacts that may ultimately weaken federal environmental laws. A court ruling overturning the injunction before the EIS is final would allow GE alfalfa to be planted, thus threatening organic alfalfa with GE contamination. It could also set a precedent against courts ordering injunctions for potentially environmentally threatening substances that have not undergone an EIS.

## GE Corn Causes New Plant Pest

Large-scale cultivation of GE corn is causing the spread of a new pest in the US Corn Belt. The **western bean cutworm** infests the tips of the corn cobs. Massive damage is being reported from those regions where the corn MON810 (sold as YieldGard by company of Monsanto) is grown on a large scale.

The GE corn is clearly suppressing the competitor of the western bean cutworm and thus creating an ecological niche for this insect.

"Several reports show that the damage is increasing from year to year," explains Christoph Then, executive director of Testbiotech and author of a report reviewing the issue. "But not much information is given to the farmers about the causes. The agrochemical companies are mainly interested in using this as an opportunity to sell other genetically engineered corn and insecticides that are highly toxic."

On behalf of Greenpeace, Testbiotech analysed many reports on the spread of the western bean cutworm and exchanged opinions with several experts. The cause of the spread of the new pest is hardly known to farmers in US, despite the fact that the western bean cutworm has spread through the whole Corn Belt since the year 2000. Farmers have only been told how to identify infestation and which insecticides they can use. No warnings were given on the dangers of large-scale MON810 cultivation. Instead, companies like Monsanto are trying to sell new varieties of GE corn such as 'SmartStax' that produces six different insecticides in its plant tissue. The report is available to download at [www.testbiotech.org](http://www.testbiotech.org)

## Bayer admits GMO Contamination Out of Control

Drug and chemical giant Bayer AG has admitted that there is no way to stop the uncontrolled spread of its genetically modified crops.

Two Missouri farmers sued Bayer for contaminating their crop with modified genes from an experimental strain of rice engineered to be resistant to the company's Liberty-brand herbicide. The contamination occurred in 2006, during an open field test of the new rice, which was not approved for human consumption. According to the plaintiffs' lawyer, Don Downing, genetic material from the unapproved rice contaminated more than 30 percent of all rice cropland in the United States.

"Bayer was supposed to be careful," Downing said. "Bayer was not careful and that rice did escape into our commercial rice supplies."

The plaintiffs alleged that in addition to contaminating their fields, Bayer further harmed them financially by undermining their export market. When the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the widespread rice contamination, important export markets were closed to U.S. producers. A report from Greenpeace International estimates the financial damage of the contamination at between \$741 million and \$1.3 billion.

Bayer claimed that there was no possible way it could have prevented the contamination, insisting that it followed not only the law but also the best industry practices. The jury disagreed, finding Bayer guilty of carelessness in handling the genetically modified crops. The company was ordered to pay farmers Kenneth Bell and Johnny Hunter \$2 million.

"This is a huge victory, not only for Kenny and me, but for every farmer in America who was harmed by Bayer's LibertyLink rice contamination," Hunter said.

According to Hunter, the company got "the wake-up call they deserved."

Bayer is still being sued by more than 1,000 other farmers from Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

*David Gutierrez, staff writer, NaturalNews*

## Korea, from page 1

the MIFAFF office with Bob Durst, Mutsumi Sakuyoshi, and Isidor Byeondeok Yu. They expressed their concerns about the availability of organic products in the face of implementation. Mutsumi explained how Japan had handled equivalency with other countries. Deputy Director Kim, Il-Sang asked if the group could make a suggestion for what could be done. Scoles responded tentatively, "Change the regulation?" Although it wasn't intended as a joke, the response was a burst of good hearted laughter.

**Change in government administration at the top levels.** The Paldang Region, considered the birthplace of organic in Korea, was the venue selected for the IFOAM Congress. The Seoul government and the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation started the organic farming project to protect the watershed and the Paldang water supply. Organic farming began in the 1970's and 80's. Hansol community was founded about 20 years ago. Paldang Consumer's Coop was founded in 2001, followed by the non-profit Paldang Saengmyung Salim Organic Corporation in 2003. The operation formalizes a producer-consumer relationship similar to a CSA. By 2006, the operation included 94 farms, 17 employees, and about 3000 consumers. Intensive production of high quality vegetables, strawberries, and herbs reached a sales figure of 6.5 billion won/year (roughly 6 million US\$) in 2009. The farm offers children's educational programs and is a popular eco-tourism site for city visitors. While IOIA's Korean delegation visited the farm, city children were picking strawberries and making jam with organic sugar and delight. Each would go home with their own jar of organic strawberry jam. Locating the IFOAM conference in this region, IFOAM attendees would be able to visit and tour the farm as one of the most significant organic production areas in Korea.

Now, with the change in administrations, this entire area is slated for demolition before the IFOAM Congress to allow creation of a recreational park for walking and bicycling. The park slated for construction is part of a larger country-wide "Restoration of the Four Major Rivers' Project", a key project of the new administration. As many governments find funds to encourage local and organic foods, reduce food miles, and increase consumer contact with agriculture, this is clearly a step in the opposite direction. It will be devastating to the farmers involved, with everything potentially and poignantly happening on the eve of a World Congress which has a theme of small holder agriculture. In IOIA's visit to the National Agricultural Products Quality Management Service (NAQS), IOIA Chair Bob Durst asked what, if anything could be done. The response was sympathetic but guarded. Government officials couldn't speak against the project. Meanwhile,

local activism is very high, even extending to hunger strikes. Two thousand Catholic monks organized there to protest on March 27. Protest banners hang on the greenhouses in view of major highway.

**Last, but not least, the economic climate of the organic market changed considerably during the past two years.** The double digit growth of 2008 in the US and Canada slowed to single digits. The Korean government has taken strong initiative to make agriculture greener in Korea. But the higher cost of organic products is felt by consumers everywhere.

IOIA plans to participate in the IFOAM World Congress and sponsor a meeting of Asian inspectors there. IOIA will tentatively sponsor inspector training as well. Only the next 16 months will tell what the organic climate will be like by the last week of September 2011.

*Interested in supporting the Paldang protest? See: [www.sobbul.com](http://www.sobbul.com). IOIA has also posted IFOAM's letter to the President of the Republic of Korea on the IOIA website. Signed by IFOAM World Board President Katherine DiMatteo, it is a well-done and clear position statement.*

## Bees and CCD

A new survey by USDA found that up to 33.8% of the managed honey bee colonies nationwide were lost between Oct. 2009 and April 2010. Beekeepers said starvation, poor weather and weak colonies going into winter were the top reasons, according to the survey, conducted by the Agricultural Research Service and Apiary Inspectors of America.

This is an increase from overall losses of 29% reported from a similar survey covering the winter of 2008-2009, and similar to the 35.8% losses for the winter of 2007-2008. Researchers say that continued losses of this magnitude are not economically sustainable for commercial beekeepers.

The 28% of beekeepers who reported some of their colonies perished without dead bees present, a sign of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), lost 44% of their colonies. This compares to 26% of beekeepers reporting such dead colonies in the 2008-2009 winter and 32% in the 2007-2008 winter.

### Key Discovery Strengthens Linkage Between Pesticide Use and CCD

Scientists around the world have been trying to identify the risk factors driving honeybee Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). There is near-universal agreement that the problem remains severe; many factors can trigger CCD, and of these, several appear to depend on a weakened bee immune system; and, exposure to pesticides, and in particular the persistent, systemic neonicotinyl insecticides are likely to be involved in many CCD episodes.

In an important breakthrough, scientists in Europe have discovered a major new, widespread exposure pathway through which bees are ingesting neonicotinyl insecticides in



**A Korean organic strawberry farmer at the Paldang Cooperative explains his dire situation. His greenhouse will probably fall to construction equipment within the year, unless the activists and farmers are successful with their protests.**

virtually all intensively farmed regions – honeybee sources of drinking water. In October, 2009 at a scientific meeting in Paris, Hedwig Riebe summarized recent research on this new exposure pathway (Riebe, 2009).

In the morning and throughout the growing season, essentially all plants emit water in the form of guttation drops. Guttation drops come from inside plant cells, and can carry with them, into the outside world, natural or man-made chemicals that are present in plant cells, such as residues of systemic pesticides that have moved, as they are designed to do, throughout plant tissues. The latest results from European research found 20 parts per billion of neonicotinyl insecticides in guttation droplets, almost certainly enough to deliver a dangerous dose to nearby bees.

Inside hives during warm spring and summer nights, bees are hard at work fanning the hive with their wings to help keep the queen comfortable and the brood safe. Each morning at first flight, the bees are dehydrated and thirsty, and seek out a nearby source of moisture. The drops on leaves in nearby fields, typically a mixture of moisture from guttation and dew, are a favorite first stop and common source of hydration. If the field was planted to a seed treated with a neonicotinyl insecticide, or if the field/crop has been sprayed with a neonicotinyl, the bees will be exposed to some level of systemic neonicotinyl insecticide.

In some cases this exposure will prove deadly, as documented in 2009 European research. In other sub-acute exposure cases, the bees ingest enough neonicotinyl to weaken their immune system, or disrupt their sense of direction and ability to navigate, or both. These sub-acute impacts are widely recognized factors contributing to or occurring during CCD.

*Source: "Exposition Paths of Neonicotinoids," Dr. Hedwig Riebe, DBID, Paris, France, October 12, 2009, [http://www.organiccenter.org/science.pest.php?action=view&report\\_id=161](http://www.organiccenter.org/science.pest.php?action=view&report_id=161)*

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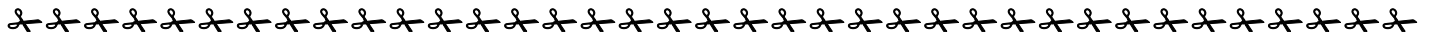
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- Building Soils for Better Crops (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition), by Fred Magdoff and Harold Van Es. 240 pp. \$20
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## Keep IOIA Strong - Lend Your Strength And Get Involved!

### 2010 Calendar

**June 3 – 5** PIERS 2010: Conference on the Environment New York City, NY.  
<http://www.pace.edu/pace/dyson/research-and-resource-centers/academic-centers-and-institutes/piers/summer-2010-conference/>

**June 12 – 13** From the Ground Up workshop series Milwaukee, WI. Growing Power in conjunction with the USDA's Risk Management Agency and the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program present: Growing Your Community Food System "From the Ground Up"  
[http://www.growingpower.org/from\\_the\\_ground\\_up!.htm](http://www.growingpower.org/from_the_ground_up!.htm)

**June 15 – 16** 2010 Workshop on the Economics of Local Food Markets The 2010 Workshop on the Economics of Local Food Markets will be held at the Trump Plaza Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey, <http://www.narea.org/2010/>

**July 18 - 21** 2010 SWCS Annual Conference. Join your colleagues in St. Louis for the 65th annual conference of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Includes workshops, concurrent sessions. St. Louis, MO

<http://www.swcs.org/10ac>

**July 31 - August 1** 2010 Florida Small Farms Conference, Osceola Heritage Park, Kissimmee Florida, near Orlando Benefits to small farmers include: - Discover the latest products and technologies.

<http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/floridasmallfarmsconference/2010/index.shtml>

**August 1 - 6** 19th World Congress of Soil Science. The 19th World Congress of Soil Science will be held in at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. Brisbane, Australia.

<http://www.19wcss.org.au/>

**August 2 - 6** USCC Compost Operations Training Course. The US Composting Council is pleased to bring its new Compost Operations Training Course to upstate New York. 40hr, 5 day course includes lectures, hands-on activities, and field trips. Cobleskill, NY.

<http://www.compostingcouncil.org/education/training.php?>

**August 3** Conservation in Action Tour 2010 Williamsburg-Richmond, Va.

<http://www.conservationinformation.org/?action=article&id=68>

**August 25 – 27** Looking ahead: Organic Dairy Conference. Madison, WI. Organic Valley will host an Organic Dairy Conference, designed as an educational event for stakeholders in the organic dairy community, To receive further details, contact [Aaron Miller](mailto:Aaron.Miller@organicvalley.com) (608-625-3453).

**September 12 – 15** Goat Conference: Strengthening the Goat Industry Topics: -Nutrition and Pasture Management -Herd Health and Management -Marketing and Processing -Reproduction and Biotechnology -Genetics and Breeding -Food Safety and Food Science. Tallahassee, FL.  
<http://www.famu.edu/goats/UserFiles/File/%20Goat%20Conference%20Promo%20for%20Website.pdf>

**August 1 - 6** 19th World Congress of Soil Science. The 19th World Congress of Soil Science will be held in Brisbane, Australia at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. Brisbane, Australia  
<http://www.19wcss.org.au/>

*For a complete listing of upcoming IOIA trainings,  
please see page 3 of this issue*