

The

Inspectors' Report

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Notes from The Chair

By Brian Magaro

An issue of importance.

IOIA will see a change in Board structure in 2005. Exactly how that change will look depends on YOU, the members.

A bit of history: A little over a year ago, the BOD decided that the position of Alternate to the BOD had become obsolete. With the new procedure of setting conference calls well in advance, Alternates are rarely asked to serve. Rather than encouraging leadership, Alternate service seemed not the wisest use of member resources. In fact, it almost seemed to discourage moving on to run for the Board. Alternates rarely became BOD members. Thus began the famous mango and coconut story. The BOD requested that the Bylaws Committee produce a mango (Bylaws amendment to eliminate Alternates) and the membership got a coconut (Bylaws amendment to eliminate one alternate and instead have a First and Second Alternate, with First Alternate participating in all BOD meetings) for a vote. In spite of animated discussion at the Annual Meeting in Costa Rica, and a resounding 'no' vote of those present, the Bylaws amendment passed when mail ballots were counted. The BOD recommended and the membership supported that we needed one year to implement the change. One concern for the BOD was fiscal. The budget did not include a 12.5% increase to cover an 8th person on conference calls and at the AGM.

Our year is about up. The Bylaws require that the number of Directors be set at the AGM. We are deciding how to elect or appoint a First and Second Alternate at the Annual Meeting. Alternates are to [see Notes, page 4]

IOIA and NCAT Land RMA Funds for Organic Education

At recent annual meetings, IOIA members urged the IOIA Board and staff to increase efforts to tap into grant funds for developing training materials. Efforts were increased this year and they paid off. IOIA and the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) collaborated to submit two funding proposals. One has been funded by the USDA Risk Management Agency. IOIA will receive over \$40,000. NCAT leads the project, to be completed by mid-2005.

NCAT, through its federally-funded ATTRA project, has responded for 17 years to the needs of organic and sustainable agriculture producers for clearly written, scientifically based, and practical information on production methods, marketing techniques, and organic compliance issues.

NCAT and IOIA will work with RMA in a cooperative agreement to develop decision-making and record-keeping tools to reduce the transition and compliance risks of organic crop producers. The greatest financial risks for organic producers occur during the initial three to five years of transition. Transitional producers have lower biological and economic resiliency and lack of organic farm management experience. Transitioning farmers also face risks associated with understanding and documenting compliance with organic regulations. Outreach will focus on the states which have special challenges, with relatively few active organic certification agencies, inspectors and certified operations. Producers lack access to organic research and extension service support. The same warm, moist southern climate that provides producers with long growing seasons and a wide variety of soil-building crop rotation options also favors high pest populations and nutrient loss through runoff and erosion. The predominately rural population in these states also limits the available organic markets.

The project will develop Organic transition decision-making tools, Organic certification record keeping tools, and Organic systems management information. These tools will address the unique regional challenges, help producers document their farm management practices, and provide values for losses incurred during a disaster. Project materials will be made available nationally through NCAT and IOIA Web pages, State Organic Program offices and organic certifying agencies working in these states, and on-going educational efforts including workshops.

Are you an inspector or a certified producer in the identified region? If so, **IOIA would appreciate your assistance!** We need your help especially in completing the Inspector Questionnaire, serving on the advisory committee, and identifying certified organic and transitioning producers and inspectors who might be willing to do phone interviews, host farm tours for workshops, or serve on the advisory committee.

If not, **IOIA still would like your input.** Please complete and return the Inspector Questionnaire that will be posted to the IOIA Inspector Listserve by January 1. If you didn't receive one by Email, please contact the IOIA office. All transitioning producers experience similar risks, so the info you provide will be useful in developing the materials whether or not they are region-specific. ♣

What's Inside...

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Plus Resources, training,
training, training!, GMO's,
calendar,

....and More!

In Brief...

Nominations Sought

January 19 is the deadline for nominations for candidates for the BOD of Directors. Please submit your candidates name to Chris Kidwell, Membership Committee chair, ckidwell@tcoek12.org

Also needed are:

Membership and Latinamerican committee chairs

Committee Reports

Reminder to all committee chairs – your annual committee reports are due by January 19 for inclusion in the Board Chair's Annual Report.

2005 AGM Meeting in BC

Mark your calendars!

The 2005 IOIA Annual Meeting will be held March 19 at the Granville Island Hotel, Vancouver, British Columbia.

The AGM is set in a beautiful location: On the waterfront, next to the Public Market (theatres, artists, exceptional restaurants); Lovely and Comfortable Accommodations: Hotel features jacuzzi, sauna, meeting rooms with natural light, sleeping rooms with high speed internet.

To see more about the location, visit www.granvilleisland.com but **please do not make reservations directly with the hotel.**

Entertainment and keynote still under development.

Don't forget to contribute items for the FUNdraising **Auction** or plan to buy. If you cannot attend the AGM but would still like to donate items, please send them to:

Lisa Pierce

2055 East Road

Denman Island, BC

CANADA VOR 1T0

Phone: 250-335-9000

Fax: 250-335-9012

email: dtearth@uniserve.com

Packages can be shipped by Postal, UPS, or FedEx.

There will be an Advanced Training on March 17-18 (Livestock Focus), and a Community Grower Group Training on March 18 (1-day only) – please see page 3 for full details.

Membership Updates

Membership Directory Updates are too numerous to print in this issue. The 2005 Membership Directory will be available in January and the On-Line Member Directory updated. The 2005 Hard Copy Directory will be mailed to all Supporting Certification Agency Members (included in dues) and to all other members for a printing/ mailing cost of \$15 per hard copy. In addition, IOIA will publish the first mini-directory (address and contact info only) as an insert into the first issue of the newsletter in 2005. All IOIA members receive the newsletter.

Reminder: Directory Updates

Please get your directory update information to IOIA as soon as possible, if you haven't already. Inspector Members can use your passwords to update address, contact, academic, inspection experience, and personal statements yourself. (If Stan Hildebrand and I can manage this, anyone can do it...right, Stan?) If you've lost or forgotten your password, we can't access your old one, but we can readily send you a new one. IOIA will update training information and accreditation status for all members.

Welcome New Members

INSPECTORS:

Greg Awai (Victoria, BC, CANADA)
Claire Desmarais (Yukon, CANADA)
Maheswar Ghimire (Chitwan, NEPAL)
Philip B. Hale (Wilmington, OH)
Dennis Ray Jipson (Graceville, MN)
Shanti Leinow (Paulden, AZ), changed from Supporting
Matthew Miller (Ankeny, IA), changed from Supporting
Danielle Rizhanovsky (Victoria, BC, CANADA)
Elaine Spearing (Quesnel, BC, CANADA)
Christian Thommen (Limon, COSTA RICA)

SUPPORTING BUSINESS MEMBERS:

FJS Consulting (Davis, CA)
Priority Seed Production, LLC (Yuma, AZ)

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:

Felipe Javier Bermudez Robles (Grayslake, IL)
Anne Dickerson (Kittery, ME)

Marg Dickson (Cameron, ON CANADA)
Joel Hoffman (Wellsville, NY)
James Harrison (Ipswich, MA)
David Konrad (Barrington, IL)
Ken Kessler (Pangman, SK CANADA)
Daniel Lawton (Providence, RI)
Dennis Martin (Providence, RI)
René Marín Castillo (Managua, NICARAGUA)
Patricia Neiner (Rebersburg, PA)
Dhun B. Patel, Ph.D (Little Egg Harbor, NJ)
Amanda Pitchford (Brewster, MA)
Ron Pither (Mayne Island, BC CANADA)
Herman A. Sanchez (Louisville, KY)
Ian Smiley (New Haven, VT)
Janet M. Thumm (Robesonia, PA)
Jim Van Deren (Cloverdale, CA)
Jhon Erik Velasquez (Lima, Peru)
Inge Vogelmann (Queen Creek, AZ)
Margaret Yole (Saskatoon, SK CANADA)
Wendy Zeihl (Weyburn, SK CANADA)

SUPPORTING CERTIFICATION AGENCY MEMBERS:

Global Organic Alliance (changed from Supporting Business)

NOTE: Full Committee Reports will return in our next issue.

IOIA Board of Directors

Brian MagaroChair
Garry LeanVice Chair
Jack Reams.....Treasurer
Ann Baier.....Secretary
Dag Falck.....Ex. Comm
John Foster.....Member-At-Large
Luis Brenes.....Board Member
Doug Crabtree.....Alternate
Ann Lameka.....Alternate
Karen Troxell.....Alternate

THE INSPECTORS' REPORT is the newsletter of the Independent Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA). 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. Editorial Staff: Diane Cooner, Box 1259, Guerneville, CA 95446 USA. Phone/fax 707-869-3017, ioiaweb@ioia.net

Deadlines are Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1 & Nov 1. Relevant articles are welcomed. We strive for accuracy, but the Editor and IOIA cannot be held responsible for errors or omissions.

Published quarterly on recycled paper.



Upcoming Trainings

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

IOIA will sponsor Advanced Organic Livestock Inspector Training at the Granville Island Hotel on **March 17-18** immediately before the next IOIA Annual Meeting on March 19, 2005 (AGM news on page 2). The training will include a full-day field trip to Bradner Farms of Abbotsford, about 40 miles east of Vancouver.

Bradner Farms is recognized as a state-of-the-art organic livestock operation including Holstein dairy, egg production, and egg hatchery. The operation milks about 400 cows at three sites, keeps an average of about 750,000 poultry birds of which about 5% are certified organic, and processes all organic feed on farm. The full-time veterinarian and feed specialist on staff will each provide a presentation during the tour. In-classroom presentations will include dairy nutrition, feed audit trail exercise, and lameness issues in dairy animals. Agenda is under development. Speakers from both the humane certification program in BC and the US-based Certified Humane program have been invited. Preliminary reading material and exercise will be distributed to registrants in advance.

The Advanced training is open to all applicants who have completed farm inspector training. However, applicants must meet the minimum criteria for IOIA advanced training to receive a Certificate of Completion. These include attendance at 2 or more trainings and a minimum of 20 inspections in 2 years or 30 inspections in one year. Requests for exceptions to these criteria are considered. All other applicants are welcome to apply to audit the course. However, preference will be given to experienced inspectors who meet the criteria for acceptance before auditors are accepted. The course will be limited to 35 applicants; the group will split for the field trip day.

An additional half-day optional opportunity will be provided on **March 16** in the afternoon for those who desire basic livestock standard training. Those who have not had Livestock training previously and those who want a refresher are encouraged to attend. This session will include 2 hours of NOP Livestock Standards review, followed by about one hour focusing on the specific differences between NOP and COABC standards, plus discussion and exercises. Info and application will be posted at www.ioia.net as soon as available. Alternative, non-livestock focus training ideas will still be considered for Vancouver. So far, the only topic requested from IOIA members, other than Advanced Livestock, is Community Grower Group inspector training. A one-day CGG course is being developed in collaboration with Luis Brenes of Costa Rica, who will serve as trainer. A minimum of 10 registrants is required. This will be a one-day, special certificate course.

If you are interested in this special training, please contact IOIA.

Tokyo, JAPAN

IOIA and JOIA (Japan Organic Inspectors Association) will sponsor Basic Organic Farm Inspector Training and Basic Organic Process Inspector Training to be held **February 18-20, 2005** and **March 13-15, 2005** respectively, in Tokyo, Japan. Mutsumi Sakuyoshi will be the trainer for the Farm Inspector course and Ekuko Asano will be the trainer for the Process Inspector course. Both courses will be instructed in Japanese using JAS (Japanese Agricultural Standard) for reference. JOIA will handle registration. For more information please contact: mutsumi.sakuyoshi@nifty.com or 81-45-313-1071 phone/fax.

Las Cruces, New Mexico

IOIA will sponsor Organic Farm Inspector Training at the Marriott Spring Hill Suites in Las Cruces, New Mexico on **April 6-9** and Process Inspector Training **April 10-13, 2005**. Certification agencies are invited to present information about their programs and meet prospective inspectors on April 9 after the Farm training concludes. Each course includes a field trip to a local certified organic operation. Nearest major airport is in El Paso, Texas, about 45 minutes away and accessible by shuttle. Las Cruces is also served by the Las Cruces International Airport. Las Cruces is the 2nd largest and fastest growing city in New Mexico. It is located at the foot of the Organ Mountains and along the banks of the Rio Grande. Popular area attractions include Stahmann Farms, the worlds largest family owned pecan orchard, and the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, the largest agriculture museum in the United States. Some exhibits feature ancient tools and living quarters of the first farming tribes in the state, recognizing the regions 3,000 years of farming history. These courses are being developed in collaboration with New Mexico Organic Commodity Commission. Info and application will be posted at www.ioia.net as soon as available. Contact the IOIA office for further information.

Organic Fiber Processing Training

IOIA and the Organic Trade Association are still developing a cosponsored Advanced Organic Inspector Training (Fiber Processing focus). This training will be open both to experienced inspectors and to interested persons from the organic industry. It will include a tour of a fiber processing facility, field trips to see value-added cotton manufacturing, and an introduction to the new OTA Fiber Council standards. Originally scheduled for April 16-17 in Lubbock, TX this training was postponed until 2005. If you are interested in this course, please contact the IOIA office or review the detailed General Info about the course at www.ioia.net.

Future Trainings: The Idaho Department of Agriculture and IOIA are in discussion to develop Basic Organic Livestock Training in Boise, Idaho during 2005. Watch upcoming IOIA newsletters and the website for details as this and other trainings develop.

Notes, from page 1

have staggered terms. We still have 2 alternates completing terms, so it might not be necessary to elect any alternates. However, action will be needed this year or next to effect the staggering of the terms. Meanwhile, should we budget for 8 persons to participate on the BOD? One suggestion is to proceed with the election of 7 Board Members and no Alternates, but to request that the members support decreasing the number of BOD members to 6. This has zero fiscal impact and fully implements the Bylaws Amendment passed last year.

The Bylaws require that the membership set the number of BOD members at the annual meeting. The possible proposal to have the BOD reduced by one and have the first alternate be on all BOD activities will keep the budget regulated at the same level. To keep the BOD at the current 7 and the first Alternate be included on all activities of the BOD will increase the budget as indicated above. This is not an impossible hurdle but is it necessary? The BOD is looking to you for comments.

Please send any comments you wish to my email, magarob@aol.com :•

A Note from Phoebe....

I wish to let all the Board Members, Inspector Members and Supporting Members of IOIA know what a wonderful group of people they are.

I became an employee of IOIA in December of 2001. I was hired on because of the knowledge I carried with me of computers. I had no idea of what IOIA did. Over the past three years I have learned a lot about Organic and Sustainable Agriculture. I have enjoyed many organic foods since that time as well. I have learned about the health benefits and reasons



to choose organic. In addition to learning more about the organization I learned about people. I have visited with many of you over the telephone lines, e-mails, and

some even in person. I have enjoyed each and every one. I apologize to those of you that received phone calls from me at 3:00 AM because you were in a different time zone and I didn't think before I dialed. Mind you all I was always treated kindly and with respect no matter what time I made the call.

I was very well taken care of by Margaret and had many words of reassurance last December when my daughter was in an automobile accident. I have been through many personal trials since beginning my work at the IOIA office all of which Margaret helped me through. Margaret is a very dear person as well as a hard Working Woman. The organization is very fortunate to have her be part of it. I feel very fortunate to have had the chance to get to know her and work with her in the office.

I close with many good wishes and farewells to all as I will be discontinuing my duties as the office assistant in the IOIA office. I have been offered a position at the bank and have chosen to go back to work full-time. This is a decision that surprises even myself but I am happy about it and my time has come to move on. Thank you everyone for the past three years and best of luck in the Organic Business World.

Thanks for everything,
Phoebe Amsden

....And Introducing Judy Hessong

Phoebe Amsden, Office Assistant since late 2001, announced in September that she would be leaving IOIA.



We advertised and Judy Hessong, retired elementary school teacher from Broadus, stepped in immediately as temporary help. She has been with us since. You'll enjoy her Texas accent on the phone. She works 2 days per week or more as needed, which will include a lot of extra days in December and January as we complete the end-of-the-year tasks, update membership, and print the 2005 Membership Directory.

Notes from the ED

By Margaret Scoles

Dues and Directory: We are in the midst of the annual flood of dues and membership directory updates. **Thank you to everyone who paid dues so promptly this year.** I was concerned. We were a week late in mailing out the invoices and other info, but I believe dues are coming in more promptly than any time in memory (and as you know, my memory does go back a ways...). Most members are electing to send in more than the \$100 required dues, which will really help the bottom line for 2005. Too early to tell, but it seems members appreciated not receiving another dues increase this year. If you didn't receive your dues mailing, please let me know immediately. Members this year were offered several options, including a \$5 Membership Raffle (half of the money generated will be used to refund membership dues for the name(s) drawn on December 25). **Changes this year** - hard copy newsletter will be included in the 2005 dues for all members, but all members will need to pay extra to reserve a copy of the hard copy Membership Directory (except for Supporting Certification Agency Members). Supporting Certification Agency Members will continue to receive hard copies as part of their dues.

If you've misplaced your password to update your own on-line entry (address, contact, academic, personal statement), please let us know. It is easy to send a new one. If you update your own entry, you need not send hard copy changes.

In my annual letter to the members, I asked those who were not renewing to let us know why. So far, 2 members had contacted to let us know they're dropping. This really helps us and saves time, as we try to follow up with all members who don't pay dues. One member said they were disappointed a year ago when IOIA charged separately for the newsletter and directory. Even though that decision was reversed this year, they were still dropping as they felt those, especially the newsletter, were the major benefits of membership. Another said that they would not continue inspecting, plus they were disappointed that IOIA did not live up their original hope by expressing interest in standing up to certifiers on behalf of inspectors.

Annual Meeting and Auction: Watch for notices on the IOIA Forum and upcoming mailings with more details about the Annual Meeting. **Please plan to participate in the auction.** Our first (and only) such auction in Sonoma, CA in 2002 raised enough money to defray virtually all of the Annual Meeting costs that year. Not sure what I will take this

time (the hand-dug wild Echinacea and home-made venison jerky went well last time, but somehow I don't think they'd be easy to haul across the Canadian border). Travelers are advised to check well in advance for passport requirements: A handy link is: <http://travel.state.gov/travel/canada.html>

Certifier Mailing: Thanks to Chris Kidwell, IOIA Membership Committee, for his efforts in spearheading the project to mail all NOP Accredited Certifiers (a list of nearly 100) a letter from IOIA. This mailing included an invitation to join IOIA for those not already members, a brochure, and a supporting member application. The letter was drafted and re-drafted with BOD input. It was intended to raise the visibility of IOIA and IOIA training; encourage inspector evaluation feedback; get press out on the on-line searchable database and the new 2005 mini-directory in the works; and solicit input and participation by certifiers. This project followed up on Long Range Strategic Initiatives from 2000 and from membership input from the Annual Meeting this year.

New Office Assistant: See page 4.

Expo East, NOSB, and New Jersey trainings: I was out of the office for the middle half of October. The schedule sounds frenetic but actually worked well, especially due to BOD member support in Washington and Al Johnson's support in NJ. I flew to Philadelphia, and joined Stan Edwards and Al. Al drove us to Appel Farm. We had the classroom set up by and were ready for registrants by the time they arrived that evening and even had time to experience a NJ Diner (huge amounts of very good food for a reasonable price). During Day 1 of the Farm training, the Trainers graciously let me do the most fun talk, "Techniques in Organic Inspection" and I enjoyed time in the classroom. Al drove me to the Wilmington, DE train station EARLY the next AM and I arrived at Union Station just in time to hurry across the street to OTA's Congressional Day. I was not in time to take in the last of the NOSB meeting, which happened that morning as well. But fortunately Jim Riddle, brand new NOSB Chair, gave us a great update on Washington

happenings back in NJ, where he filled in as a speaker on Day 1 of the Processing training. Following OTA's briefing, which included a thorough review of their extensive education packets (including wonderful color coded maps that showed organic activity by state), I joined the other 3 Montanans and visited the office of Senator Max Baucus. Then we split up. They went to see our representative and I visited Senator Conrad Burns's office and met the new Ag Aide. In spite of my apprehension (the aide for the previous 2 years had been a local young woman from Broadus), I really enjoyed reviewing the materials that OTA had prepared and starting from scratch with the new aide who had almost no understanding of what 'organic'

meant. The stand-up, brown-bag luncheon with about 400 people in a room meant for about 100 simply can't be described. We all invited the aides but no one could come this year from the MT offices. After dinner, there was just time to grab a Metro ticket, check in at the hotel, and connect with Garry Lean, Vice-Chair, then stop for about 45 minutes in the very new Museum of the American Indian (opened in late Sept) as I walked back to the wrap-up for the OTA event. Garry, John Foster, and I attended the "Spirit of Organics" dinner in the Museum for Women in the Arts and hobnobbed. Originally, Brian Magaro had planned to attend, but due to flooding in PA right before the Expo, John Foster stepped in for him. Garry and John were excellent support at the Expo. We took turns staffing our tabletop booth in the non-profit section and visiting/interacting as much as possible among the hundreds of booths. IOIA members stopping in included Anne Mendenhall, Jim Fullmer, Maarten Samsom, and Jim Riddle. Gerald Hermann, still Vice-Chair but now also acting Executive Director for IFOAM, came to our booth to do a fascinating hour or more laptop introduction on



eCert (the paperless inspection / certification system) for Garry, Lynn Coody, and me. Mostafa Chtaini of Morocco and Washington DC (last 25 years) stopped by for a long visit. We picked up where we'd left off on earlier phone conversations. He invited IOIA to participate in the Middle East Natural Products Expo in Dubai on Dec 5-7. Already over-budget for both staff travel and time out of the office, I didn't seriously consider that. But he made an offer I couldn't refuse, so after the show we mailed a 'lite' version of the IOIA display to him to display for free in Dubai. He is interested in a Training for Trainers in the Middle East through the Institute of Veterinary and Agronomic Science in Morocco. English training would be OK, but the training would need to be disseminated in French (a perfect place to use the IFOAM/IOIA French Manuals). Mostafa would like to be our contact with the Moroccan government. I left Garry stranded for hours, although he did manage to attend a talk by Chuck Benbrooke. I sat at the

OTA booth and discussed the Fiber training with Sandra Marquardt (very new news, Sandra is no longer OTA's Fiber Council Coordinator). I ran into Stephanie Wells and learned all about the new Canadian OTA. I thanked many of the vendors for their support for organic food donations and packed off a bag of good stuff for the NJ training. I was interested to visit the Russia Natural Products booth, after my trip to Russia last year. However, it was strictly wildcrafted products from Siberia...very interesting, but not the ag connection that I'd hoped to find. The only presentation I attended was the US government agency update. A little more building and discussion occurred re: the training that needs to happen in Uganda but nothing definite yet. Garry and I headed back to NJ for the ISO and Basic Process trainings fairly early on the 3rd day of the Expo. John stayed to staff the booth. Garry, John, and I decided it was time for a re-vamp and they've begun work on that. At the conclusion of all 3 trainings (ISO 9001 was the last to end), Garry drove us to Harrisburg, where we stayed at Brian's home, and combined business and pleasure until the next AM, discussing Board and IOIA issues.

Not much news from the NOSB, other than the change in officers (see separate article) and a distinct change in the [see ED on page 22]

CERTIFICATION NEWS

Canadian Revised Standard Gets Positive Nod

The Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) has released the vote tally on a revised national organic standard: 61% affirmative, 17% negative, two percent abstentions, and 19% unreturned ballots. Under CGSB policy, consensus requires at least 60% of ballots to be returned, with at least 50% of votes in the affirmative. CGSB now will correct language that does not match CODEX rules and technical format errors.

Organic Fiber Processing Standards 'Review only' License Available

A "Review Only" license for OTA's Organic Fiber Processing Standards is now available at no cost for companies wishing to review a copy of the standards in their entirety. Please encourage all parties interested in standards for organic fiber processing to obtain a copy. Based on the current level of interest, it is clear that OTA's standards will soon become the standard of integrity in the industry. To complete the "Review Only" license agreement, go to www.ota.com/pics/documents/FSReviewLicenseAgreement.pdf.

India Sets Up Organic Cell

An Organic Farming Cell has been set up in the Indian Department of Agriculture and Co-operation to implement the National Programme for Organic Production, a new scheme for production, promotion, market development and certification of organic products. A number of horticultural products like fresh and processed vegetables and fruits and also tea, coffee, spices, cotton, oil-seeds and pulses, etc., will be promoted under the Programme. More information is available at www.apeda.com/organic/index.html.

NOSB NEWS

Changes With A Lighter Attitude

The persistent public attention brought by Consumers Union and others regarding the April Directives seemed to pay off, as the October meeting ran smoothly with plenty of active dialog between NOP staff and NOSB members. NOP staff also remained

present for the public comment periods, and answered many questions from the board and public. In addition, in a welcome change from the last meeting of April 2004, the USDA National Organic Program staff announced they supported a number of the NOSB's policy interpretations, and pledged to collaborate more closely with the Board.

Nominees for NOSB

Barbara Robinson reported that over 70 people applied for five openings on the NOSB that will be available as of January 24, 2005. Board members scheduled to retire include: Mark King, retailer; Kim Dietz, processor; Becky Goldberg, environmentalist; Dennis Holbrook, (resigned) farmer; Owusu Bandede, farmer. The NOP declined to make the list of applicants public, or predict when any announcements will be made.

Another major round of change will occur in January 2006, when slots for two farmers, two consumer / public interest, and a certifying agent are open.

Executive director for the NOSB

Due to industry pressure, Congress has specified in the last two appropriations bills that NOP should hire an Executive Director for the NOSB, as stated in the OFPA. Barbara Robinson reported that all agencies have limits on spending for advisory boards under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. AMS has been granted permission to increase the amount spent on the NOSB and has determined that the ED must be a federal employee, must report to a federal employee, and cannot work directly under the Board. The job announcement will be posted for 30 days with the pay scale at level GS 9-11-12 (\$40- 60,000).

NOP Audit The NOP stated they received a "draft final" report on October 5 – from ANSI (American National Standards Institute). This organization, known for its work promoting and facilitating voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment systems, has been contracted to perform an audit of the NOP accreditation process. NOP is planning to review and respond to the findings, and then ANSI will determine whether this response meets findings, and issue a final report. NOP said they would issue the draft report and the NOP response by end of November. The NOP also announced they plan to have a regular audit, though perhaps on a biennial basis. Prior to this, NOP had not

indicated this type of audit would be ongoing. According to the OFPA and the regulation at 205.509, the NOP is required to establish a peer review program, to annually evaluate the adherence to accreditation procedures as specified in the regulation and under ISO – 61. Robinson said the report found a lack in documentation of procedures and in communication to certifiers, but it did rate the accreditation staff as exemplary. NOP has recently hired Mark Bradley, formerly of the Audit and Compliance Branch at AMS, and he will assist in the audit review.

Board Reorganization

Jim Riddle was elected as chairman, with Kevin O'Rell as vice chair. Goldie Caughlan was elected as Secretary. Riddle said planned projects for the NOSB include refining the materials review process and helping develop the NOP organic regulations for pet foods, aquatic animals, apiculture, greenhouses, and mushrooms.

Next Meeting

The Board agreed to hold the next meeting from **March 1-3, 2005** in Washington DC.

NOTE: This issues' NOSB News was excerpted solely from the excellent new publication, The Organic Observer. The first issue is 12 pages long and can be viewed in its entirety in the Members Only section of the IOIA website. Annual electronic subscription is Very Reasonable at \$35 – We encourage all members to subscribe. See page 23 for subscription info.

NOP NEWS

Update on Harvey Lawsuit Challenging National Organic Standards

The lawsuit was filed 2001 the day after the NOP was implemented and is currently in the U.S. Court of Appeals in the First Circuit, Boston, MA, that will rule on whether or not the national organic standards violate the Organic Foods Production Act. The appeal, brought by blueberry farmer and organic inspector Arthur Harvey against Ann Veneman (now former Secretary of Agriculture), includes seven separate counts alleging that USDA's organic standards are different from what Congress wrote in the Act. The court could hand down its decision at any time. The Organic Trade Association reports that it cannot assess the implications of this lawsuit until the court issues its decision. However, the decision could significantly affect NOP regulations applying to processors, wholesalers, distributors and dairy farmers. In advance of the decision, all interested parties are encouraged to read the materials posted at <http://www.ota.com/lawsuitinfo.html>.

GENERAL NEWS

OFRF Research Advocacy Bears Fruit

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's recent announcement of \$4.6 million in competitive grant awards for organic farming research culminates a decade of policy analysis and advocacy by the Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF). The USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) announced September 29 that the new Integrated Organic Program funded 11 organic research projects around the country. According to the program's manager, Dr. Thomas Bewick, "This funding is only possible because of the hard work done by OFRF to promote grant programs in organic agriculture."

COOL and CAFO Amendments Stopped

The National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture sends out thanks to all US citizens who made calls and sent emails to Congress. Neither the amendment to gut Country Of Origin Labeling (COOL) by making it voluntary, nor the amendment to exempt factory farms (CAFOs) from requirements to report hazardous emissions and substances, made it into the FY Omnibus Appropriations Bill.

IFOAM Appoints New ED

Gerald A. Herrmann, Germany, has been appointed as the new Executive Director of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM). The appointment is for a one year period during which the search for a permanent ED will be conducted. This move came after the resignation of Zadok S. Lempert as ED at the recent meeting of the IFOAM World Board in Seattle, USA.

Organic Leaders Meet in Bonn

Eighty participants from 50 countries representing the worldwide leadership of IFOAM met in Bonn, Germany for 5 days in November for an International Summit on Furthering the Organic Market. They discussed IFOAM's future objectives and strategies for furthering organic development and growth of the market and the modernization of the IFOAM Organic Guarantee System. The Summit was the most important event on

Nebraska Governor Named to Head USDA

US President Bush has nominated Nebraska Governor **Mike Johanns** to head the US Dept of Agriculture, which duties he will assume pending Senate approval. This development follows the recent resignation of Anne Veneman from that post.

As Governor, Johanns has promoted an agenda of property tax relief, less government, building the economy, protecting families, and ensuring the health, safety, and success of Nebraska's children.

Mike Johanns was born in Iowa and raised on a dairy farm. He graduated from Osage (Iowa) Community High School, St. Mary's College in Winona, Minnesota, and earned his law degree from Creighton University in Omaha.

Some of his major enacted initiatives include:

- \$85 million in surplus state sales and income taxes dedicated for direct property tax relief over two years and an expanded homestead exemption for seniors, veterans, and the disabled;
- reductions in the size and cost of the Governor's office staff, elimination of the Washington lobbyist, restrictions on the use of state cars, an emphasis on e-government and technology applications.
- incentives for business growth and job creation in rural and urban areas of Nebraska and an emphasis on value-added agriculture;
- in the area of health care, boosted the state's investment in mental health services, extended Medicaid coverage to the treatment of breast and cervical cancer for low income women, and directed the state's share of the national tobacco settlement to health care needs including developmental disabilities, public health, mental health and biomedical research; and promoted adoption of foster children, a record number of children covered by health insurance, dramatically increased investment in early childhood education, increased state funding for K-through-12 and special education costs, and criminalized the offense of child enticement

Johanns has led five delegations of Nebraska government, business, and agriculture leaders on trade missions (mainly to promote biotechnology) to eight countries including Japan, Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, Australia, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Brazil, and Chile. He has also been a very strong advocate for Nebraska agriculture producers.

In 2000, Johanns was selected as the lead governor for agriculture including the re-authorization of the federal farm bill for the Western Governors' Association. In 2001, he served as chairman of the 25-state Governors' Ethanol Coalition. In 2002, he chaired the Midwest Governors Conference, and served as co-chair of the Governors' Public Power Alliance and Governors' Bio-Tech Partnership.

So why did Bush pick someone who seems to make so much sense? Besides the biotech connection, Johanns has come under criticism for promoting conservative Christian beliefs while governor.

the roadmap preparing IFOAM's next General Assembly, which will be held in September 2005 in Adelaide Australia.

OTA Opens Office in Canada

The Organic Trade Assn. has taken a step towards establishing "OTA Canada" by opening an office in Ottawa. The space, shared with Canadian Organic Growers, is located at 323 Chapel Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7Z2 and staffed by Canadian Council liaison Stephanie Wells. (phone: 613-787-2003; fax: 613-236-0743; e-mail: otacanada@ota.com). In other news, Agriculture & Agri-Foods Canada has assigned Joe Southall, director of commercial affairs for the

Canadian Food Inspection Agency, to be lead specialist on developing the Canadian organic regulation.

UK Organic Dairy Industry Initiative Launched

The Organic Milk Suppliers Cooperative (OMSCo) has launched a new initiative aimed at developing collaboration and partnership across the organic dairy industry in the UK. The initiative, which is backed by Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) funding, aims to engage with the supply chain and encourage new forms of partnering and cooperation between producers, processors and retailers. For further info visit <http://www.omscoco.uk>.

Hong Kong Training Report

By Luis Brenes

Hong Kong basic farm and processing inspection trainings were held with the co-sponsorship of the Hong Kong Organic Resource Center. HKORC is devoted to the promotion of organic agriculture in Hong Kong and has developed their own organic standards based on a careful review of NOP, EU, IFOAM and other national and private standards. Training was provided by Luis Brenes and Mutsumi Sakuyoshi based on HKORC standards.

Excellent support was provided by HKORC staff, Sharon, Joyce and Toby, guided by its director Dr. Wong. Participants included not only professionals from Hong Kong related to food production, inspection and agricultural and forestry disciplines, but also people related with NGOs and even a participant from India, Sandeep Bhargava, this year's IOIA Organic Community Initiative Scholarship recipient.

Farm field trips were organized with the cooperation of the Agriculture, Forestry and Conservation Department (AFCD), that has launched a project to promote organic agriculture among farmers, provide technical assistance and internal control system. The processing field trip was supported by the Vegetables and Marketing Organization, an innovative organization that markets organic products in Hong Kong and also hosted the field trip to its fresh vegetables packing line.



Nothing Outrageous in Hong Kong (except, perhaps, for Costa Ricans and Indians learning to eat using chopsticks!)

Thanks From IOIA's 2004 OCIS Winner

Sandeep Bhargava was the winner of this year's IOIA Organic Community Initiative Scholarship. He attended the recent training in Hong Kong that was presented by Luis Brenes and Mutsumi Sakuyoshi. He sent this letter of thanks to IOIA.

Dear Ma'am,

I am thankful for the opportunity provided by IOIA to get trained at the training sponsored by them and for the scholarship permitting me to attend the training at Hong Kong.

The training at the Hong Kong was very good, well planned and exhaustive. The time of the four days of farm and four days of Process inspection training were utilised very well. The trainers, Mr. Luis Brenes and Ms. Mutsumi Sakuyoshi were well experienced, the method of their training was also very good, in fact the way Luis explained the organic standards made it very easy to understand them. The way he explained the pest control methods was unbelievable and I have not seen any of the trainers explaining the same in such a easy way. The course material prepared by them, the slides and presentations, was excellent. They have the thorough knowledge of the subject. Mutsumi, despite her problem in explaining the things in English, through her expressions and presentations



was very effective. They shared their experience with the trainees.

I enjoyed the training and learned a lot. Gaining this experience will help me in promoting organic agriculture in the Indian subcontinent.

I am thankful to Dr. Wang for allowing me to attend the training, the HKORC staff particularly Sharon, Joyce and Toby for providing the support to me before and during the training. Without their active support I would have been unable to attend the training. I am also thank full to Dr.Chen Yi-min, Vicky and all other participants of both the organic Farm and Process training.

In the last, I can say that Hong Kong is a wonderful place and people of Hong Kong are very nice and good. And last but not least I am thankful to you and the IOIA Board for providing me this scholarship opportunity.

With best regards, Sandeep Bhargava



Taiwan 2004 – Typhoons, Translations, and Tests in the Tropics

By Jim Riddle

The 2004 IOIA Taiwan training, held August 30 – September 3 in Tou-liou, Yun-lin province, was sandwiched between typhoons Aere and Songhda. Shortly before the course, Aere hit the north end of Taiwan, dumping up to 1800 cm (about 6 feet!) of rain. Luckily, Tou-liou is in west central Taiwan, so we were spared. Songhda gave us a scare after the course, but veered to the north, hitting Japan, missing Taiwan.

Nineteen students attended the 5-day farm inspector training, with 16 receiving Certificates of Completion. I was the Training Coordinator, ably assisted by Angela Caudle of Quality Certification Services (QCS) and Dr. Nan Jing Ko of the Integrated Agricultural Development Foundation (IADF).

IADF has translated the general and farm inspection sections of the IFOAM/IOIA manual into Chinese, along with the NOP rule. The course was taught to the NOP rule, and a farm inspection checklist with comments form developed for QCS was used for the field trip inspection.

Great emphasis was placed on the Exit Interview during the pre- and post-field trip discussions, and students completed Exit Interview forms that were graded as part of their field trip inspection reports.

The field trip to a pamalo (citrus) orchard provided numerous issues for lively discussion after the course. Once again, I managed to take digital photos of issues of concern, which helped focus the post-field trip discussion.

The concept of the outrageous statement award continues to be elusive, possibly due to translation challenges. Most of the entries were rather philosophical, but the award ceremony was again held at an evening dinner after the course ended, helping elevate everyone's spirits.

The winner, Chen Feng-Yuan, said, "In Chinese, "Organic means opportunity, non-organic means no opportunity. So organic is conscious wisdom to bring health to everyone. Then we should hug and make a silly face." (This was not actually a quote from the course, but it combined wisdom and humor, and the crowd loved it!)

Other entries included:

- This was an exhausting and a memorable week.
- The instructor has funny body actions.
- Jim is full of vigor and has a lot of "body language".
- Organic agriculture is real nice and beautiful, therefore in the certification process the inspector should avoid becoming a detective. If you live in harmony and follow the regulation you can be an inspector. Jim talks funny. Jim is competent.
- Jim said, "During the field trip, there were some fighters jets that flew over the farm. If they had dropped bombs, that would have endangered the farm's organic integrity."
- When discussing wild crops, Jim said, "If they cut down the wild papaya trees to harvest the fruit, that would have been destructive to the environment."

Besides being exhausted, evaluations showed that students were quite pleased with the course and they offered some valuable comments to improve the course.

Plans are underway to organize livestock and process inspector training courses in 2005, depending on available funds. The rest of the manual will need to be translated, along with new PowerPoint presentations, exercises, field trip report forms, and tests.

Hopefully future courses will not be scheduled during typhoon season!



Taiwan Class of 2004



A vigorous Jim Riddle with OSA winner Chen Feng-Yuan and Angela Caudle



Mutsumi Sakuyoshi, center, and Luis Brenes, seated, with one of the farm workgroups, Taiwan Training

Quotable Quotes

Washington — Tommy G. Thompson, the secretary of health and human services for the 2001-2004 Bush Administration, announced Friday that he was resigning, and he expressed grave concern about the threat of a global flu epidemic and the possibility of a terrorist attack on the nation's food supply.

"For the life of me," he said, "I cannot understand why the terrorists have not attacked our food supply because it is so easy to do."

Saturday, December 4, 2004

IOIA Training Aloha Style

By Rick Martinez

The Hawaiian Organic Farmers Association (HOFA) co-sponsored an IOIA farm and processor training at the beginning of October on the big Island of Hawaii. I must say that it was very difficult duty going to this drab location with terrible weather and nothing interesting to do...NOT!!!

Kelly Brange, the director of HOFA did a marvelous job of organizing this event held at the Kalopa State Park near the northeastern shore of the Island. The park facilities were very Spartan but the natural surroundings of the park were incredible, with nature trails leading through the lush mountain forests. And the food was marvelous, with Kelly as our personal chef extraordinaire.

We had both a farm and processor inspector training beginning September 30th and ending on October 7th with 25 attendees for the farm course and 17 for the processor course. The attendees were a mix primarily of Hawaiians with a sprinkling of Californians, a surprising number of Cheeseheads (from Wisconsin) and attendees from other states as well as a contingent from Guam. The instructors were myself (Rick Martinez) and Harriet Behar (adding to the representation of cheeseheads).

The farm course featured the standard farm curriculum supplemented with an excellent soils presentation by Hector Valenzuela, from the University of Hawaii. We were fortunate to have two farm tours, one of Pinner Creek Farm, a 5 acres ginger and tumeric farm as well as Hamakua Organics a CSA farm with a wide array of crops and a stunning ocean view.

The processor course did not feature any guest speakers but did have very interesting field trips. One was to Island Organics, a small facility that manufactures a variety of interesting tropical products such as fruit leathers, dehydrated bananas, and Macadamia nut butter to mention a few. The other processor field trip was to Hamakua Macadamia Nut Company, a Macadamia nut processing facility.

Following tradition, we have several very good contenders for the Most Outrageous Statement Award. The winner were: for the farm course Roy Yamakawa- When discussing the definition of crop rotation, he stated another way of looking at this is: Croptus Interruptus

And for the processor course Michael Flynn- When asked what happens if your CIP isn't documented per your SSOP Mike Flynn responded "Then you'd be SOL". The processor course had a notable runner up in Nancy Griffith when asked "What's an exit interview? That's when you kiss him goodbye".

I must again thank the HOFA staff for the tremendous job of organization, kindness and aloha spirit. I also must thank the attendees for each bringing their own special talents and experiences that combined to make this a very special event.



So what's with the hand signals? Part of the exit interview?

ISO, from page 13

2. For attendees: This training is the first step and required to become a RAB certified Auditor. Attendees of this course and future similar courses (if any) can apply for Provisional Auditor status with RAB. To attain Provisional Auditor Status, an additional application, a resumé showing experience in quality auditing (includes organic inspections), personal reference, and fee of about \$200 must be submitted to RAB. Provisional auditors must complete a minimum number of ISO audits (20 or more depending on educational background; one must be witnessed). Auditors can proceed to the status of Lead Auditor, the highest RAB accredited level, by meeting the criteria for number of audits. For more info: www.rabnet.com.

3. IOIA will contribute to the dialogue with the ISO Technical Committee that seeks to create ISO Guidelines for Organic Auditors. As this work proceeds, it is likely/possible that RAB accreditation will become available for organic inspectors.

4. A subset group of the attendees proposed that current organic inspection experience be accepted by RAB as organic audits of a quality system. Although this is probably a stretch -- if successful, this could help organic inspectors get RAB accredited without doing separate ISO audits. They spent an intense evening working on an analysis of the similarities between ISO 9001 and NOP, not aware initially that extensive work was done in 2002 by IOIA. Harriet Behar, Co-Trainer for that training, and David Burdick of Sustainable Systems, who spoke at the Advanced Training that year in Sonoma, CA completed a matrix of the two standards. Unfortunately, it was presented somewhat out of context and has sat dusty since in the IOIA computer files. Perhaps it was ahead of its time and now it is time to dust it off?

5. Further collaboration between IOIA and AQS as training organizations?...:a

Montana Hosts First Advanced Training

by Margaret Scoles

Twelve experienced inspectors, including a strong contingent from the Idaho Department of Ag, and one good-sport auditor (Meg Moynihan of the MN Department of Agriculture), completed Advanced Organic Inspector Training in Great Falls at the Ursuline Centre. Most of the time was spent on field trips outside the historic facility—a good thing. Montana had her first cold snap and the radiant steam heat wasn't quite functioning yet after summer maintenance. This was a very cool training in more than one way.

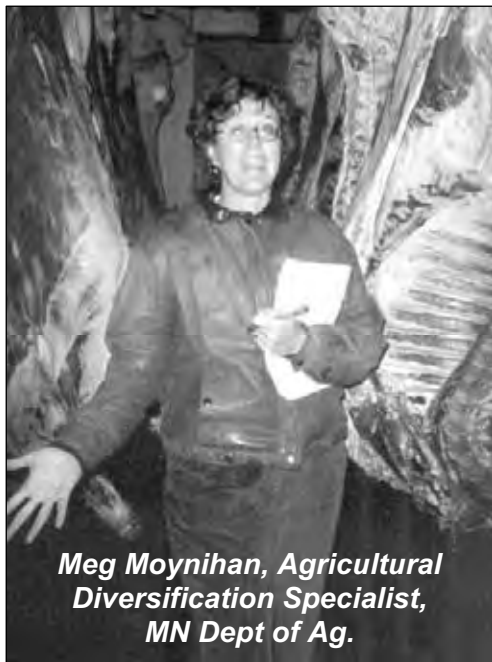


Advanced Training Group with Paul Steinlage in hard hat

The training began with a full morning a few blocks away at the General Mills flour mill (certified organic since 1993). The mill produces organic and non-organic wheat flour and durum semolina. Paul Steinlage, Milling Manager, gave an excellent step-by-step PowerPoint presentation of flour milling and then the GM process, with an 'organic spin' on everything. Paul Steinlage holds a degree in Milling Science and Management with an emphasis in Operations. A wonderful resource person, he fielded dozens of questions. He started with a history of the mill, then milling basics to follow a wheat kernel as it is broken into fractions of flour, wheat, and germ. We were fortunate and grateful (except for the sole bearded attendee among us) to get a complete impromptu tour of the entire mill from grain cleaning through packaging and warehousing. Paul demonstrated many key clean-out points. We were awed and a little deaf by lunch.

After a hearty Montana roast beef dinner, the afternoon went quickly. First afternoon speaker, Steve McDonnell of Circle S Seeds, gave us a 'virtual tour' of his facility. McDonnell has a lifetime of experience with identity preserved grain. He remained undaunted through inspector questions, focusing on organic control points and cleanout issues to preserve organic integrity. He urged attendees to look carefully at incoming and cleaned grain samples as a tip to detect fraud where non-organic grain might be substituted for organic. We grabbed our snacks (the group grumbled about the pace) and headed out for a field trip to Mickey's Pack, a certified organic meat slaughter plant a few miles away. Randy Ritter, our tour guide was helpfully candid and answered yet dozens more questions. We followed the process flow through the plant from receiving ante-mortem pens to the freezer. Subgroups were assigned different handling aspects to identify organic control points. This was a non-vegetarian group. We went straight from the packing plant to an organic Montana T-bone dinner.

Stanley Edwards was a great asset to this training. He introduced a grain audit balance exercise and showed how he uses Excel spreadsheets to report the results of his audits. After allowing attendees to grapple with the exercise for the evening, he showed his Excel tool and his conclusions the next day. This tool was further refined during the visit to the Montana Flour and Grains, in Fort Benton, which took all of Day 2, except for a nice lunch break at Bob's RiverFront and a stroll along the Missouri River riverfront. A draft IOIA audit trail form for collecting and reporting audit trail information was introduced, and attendees were given a hefty packet of audit trail documents to try it out.



Meg Moynihan, Agricultural Diversification Specialist, MN Dept of Ag.

The session at Montana Flour and Grains was voted nearly unanimously as the most valuable part of the entire course. After a tour of the grain handling and whole grain flour mill by plant manager Andre Giles, we broke into 3 groups and followed real-life audit trail investigations in 3 small groups with the plant staff members Nancy Jappe and Ronda Jensen. I'd visited the plant before the training and we'd selected the exercises and made sure that there were a few 'wrinkles' in the audit trail for the groups to find. Stanley worked with the station that used the Excel tool to audit spring wheat for a month.

The course had few wrinkles, other than surviving the chill of the unheated building. Unfortunately, Donna Rise, from the MT Dept of Ag (another auditor) discovered the first morning that she was allergic to flour milling dust and couldn't complete the course. Fortunately, she showered immediately and recovered quickly. Food was nearly 100% MT organic produced and rated high ("a little heavy on red meat...").

Outrageous Statement Award winner was Suzanne Pfeffer of Idaho. She produced about half of all entries statements and received an IOIA cap for "He asked me what I do, and I say, 'Agricultural Law Enforcement',...which is not entirely a lie" and "A little bit of power gets me excited."

New Jersey Basic Farm Training

By Stanley Edwards

A group of 19 students gathered at the rustic but beautiful Appel Farm Arts and Music Center of Elmer NJ, to be submerged in the NOP crop production standards. We were a diverse group consisting of certification agency staff, government employees, and the usual mix of enthusiastic individuals from around the globe. While the weather held during our class room days, we were greeted to the Southern NJ climate with a rainy but pleasant field trip day. Farming in the area is being squeezed out by developments, as with many places in the USA. However, the farms visited were great examples of how



some farmers manage to hold onto their way of life, by marketing their high quality goods to the new comers. Class was held in a dance studio, and we managed to block off one of two walls of mirrors. The projection screen consisted of a cloth partition (borrowed from my cousin who happens to live in Elmer!), and a bed sheet, propped up on three chairs and a painting easel. Although we stressed at the beginning of the course that there was an outrageous statement award, submissions were not made until the very last day, when I had to beg the class to uphold this IOIA tradition. This resulted in a flurry of papers, including this first statement from Dr. Duhn Patel: Do chickens really have knuckles? To get back at his co-worker, Mike Cagna for putting him in the box, Dr. Patel immediately submitted the winning statement, back dated to the first day of class: Who is Sandy Loam? When he realized that he won the statement, Mike specified that this was out of context (they all say that)...

New Jersey Process Inspector Training

By Margaret Scoles

Fifteen people from the US, Canada, and Costa Rica attended the Basic Process Inspector Training in Elmer, NJ at Appel Farm October 17-20. New Jersey Department of Agriculture cosponsored the course. Al Johnson, assisted by Margaret Scoles for part of the training, served as Trainers. Support speakers included Jim Riddle, new Chair of the NOSB, on Organic Handling Standards; Joe Montecalvo, PhD, on Sanitation; Richard Spigler of EcoLab on Structural Pest Control; Erich Bremer, formerly of NOFA-NJ and now with the NJ Department of Agriculture; and Julie Elmer of the Rutgers Food Innovation Research and Education Center. Julie and Erich also attended the course.



Following the frozen organic edamame line through the immense Seabrook Bros & Sons freezing operation provided an audit trail challenge for the group and an excellent field trip.

The caliber of this group was extraordinary. Several attendees were already very experienced as farm inspectors and others were taking this as their first training but came with a strong background in food science or processing industry. Two attendees came from the Canadian Seed Institute. Eighteen people were signed up for the course. Two cancelled at the last minute due to medical emergencies and one became exhausted after the Farm course and dropped out, a grim testament to the extreme rigor of IOIA courses. The small class size, Spartan accommodations, and excellent organic food greatly enhanced the training experience and camaraderie. Trainer Al Johnson did the most talking, so not too surprisingly in spite of his gentle ways, had 50% of the entries and won the OSA. His winner: "Pest management servicing is during production hours so crack and crevice spaying is done directly into the crack so as not to create a mist". (You sort of had to be there...). 'Cracks' and 'crevices' seemed to cause a lot of 'cracking up' during this training. David Konrad's reference to the plant visit-"The Snipper is why the Rabbi was there." was a close 2nd. Margaret was a distant runner-up with "No problem: we can do the Seabrook inspection in 3 hours easily".

IOIA Sponsors ISO 9001:2000 Lead Auditor Training

By Margaret Scoles

Eighteen adventuresome people attended the first ever IOIA sponsored, RAB accredited, 36 hour, ISO 9001:2000 Lead Auditor Training. Mark Ames and Bob Sommerdorf of AQS Management Systems presented the course at Appel Farm in Elmer, New Jersey on October 18-22. That is news in itself. The group was an excellent cross-section of the organic community. The course was supported by about a dozen inspectors; several certification agencies including OTCO, CCOF, GOA, QCS, SCS; and one consultant. The fact that all of those who finished the course received Certificates of Completion attests to the caliber of the group and to IOIA, and is further good news.



Boldly going where IOIA has not gone before: ISO Training Attendees - Left to Right Back Row: Sean Feder, Joe Montecalvo, Arthur Harvey, Alison Clayshulte, Mark Ames, Karen Troxell, Krista Wanser, Garry Lean, Angela Caudle, Thierry Pommerleau. Left to Right Front Row: Lois Christie, Laura Kennedy, Joyce Ford, Rick Martinez, Garth Kahl, Billy Hunter, Mike Ziegler

To receive a Certificate, attendees must attend all sessions, participate fully, and score at least a minimum grade on the test. Sommerdorf and Ames said they had never had a group that asked such 'deep and penetrating questions'. It probably isn't news to IOIA members that breaks got shorter and shorter to cover the material and allow for a million questions. Most attendees knew little about ISO 9001 before they received their standards to study in advance. But the group bravely and voraciously tackled the new material and exercises that were better geared for manufacturing auto parts than organic food.

The concepts and techniques were all useful....Study the rules (referred to as clauses); prepare audit checklists based on the clauses, sample documents and examination of the quality manual as a team; conduct the opening meeting; conduct the audit and gather evidence; conduct the closing meeting; and finally report the findings and tie to the appropriate clauses...tips on dealing with noncooperative clients and how to deal with major non-conformances when they are found. Sound familiar? One huge benefit of the exercises noted that differed from most of our work as organic inspectors was the value of 'team auditing'.

The synergy within the group was incredible. Many attendees said that what they'd learned things would be useful in organic inspection work. Representatives of certification agencies said they learned lots about setting up a quality system, writing a quality system manual, and preparing to be audited. Others said they'd learned ideas to improve their teaching techniques. The quality of the instruction was great. Day after day of PowerPoint text was broken with humor and interactive, simulated real-life audit exercises to keep the group engaged. The group broke into smaller groups to practice auditing and being audited. A practice test provided a sobering checkpoint midway through the course. Most attendees described the final open-book test (timed to 2 hours) as difficult.

Mark Ames, president of AQS, serves on a committee that is developing AG9000 ISO Standards. He gave a preview of his work as a bonus after class one day. When asked how long the presentation would take, Ames replied, "With most groups, 30 minutes. With this group, all bets are off." It took an hour.

The course was intense and the attendees serious. Surprisingly, even though the course was twice as long as other Advanced courses, there were few OSA entries. Sommerdorf and Ames were co-winners of the Outrageous Statement group. When Mark was explaining how to compare observed with the standard and identify non-compliances, he said, "Look for the mirror test showing that it is the opposite", Bob quipped, "so I'm good looking?"

What's in the future for IOIA and ISO?

1. More future trainings? This was a great first effort and a valuable membership service to both Inspector and Supporting Members. Most attendees said they would prefer exercises geared toward food processing. AQS can provide such training. AQS and IOIA will likely collaborate to offer further classes. However, due to the high cost of the course, it is imperative that we meet minimum number of attendees. It likely won't be offered again in 2005. If you are interested in taking this course in the future, please contact IOIA. One possibility would be in conjunction with the 2006 Annual Meeting somewhere in the US. AQS has also developed a Blended Learning Course which combines web based, on-line instruction, with two days on-site. This course would cost less but much of the benefit of group activity would be lost. [See ISO, page 10]

Board of Directors Conference Call - August 19, 2004 – Highlights of Minutes

BOD members present: Ann Baier, Luis Brenes, Dag Falck, Garry Lean, Brian Magaro, Jack Reams.

Long-range Planning: Discussion continued on Action Point from 14 March 04 minutes: Summarize and recommend 3 or 4 organizational priorities and specific goals or products that we will have accomplished by next year's AGM. The Board will decide upon priority goals and first steps or milestones to be accomplished by the next AGM. **Action Points:** Brian will compile and send out a compilation of all BOD members' priority recommendations by email in preparation for the next meeting. Long range planning will be included on the agenda of each Board meeting with a specified time limit.

Ann, BOD liaison to the **Training Committee**, reported that she'd requested input from current TOC members with respect to the potential Conflict of Interest represented by the membership of Trainers on the Training Oversight Committee after the May BOD meeting. She received input from two members.

CAPS, the ad-hoc committee of the training committee, is currently without a chair effective as of Lisa's resignation. Committee members are Ann, Harriet, Janine, Stanley, John O'Malley Burns, Margaret, and possibly Lisa. This subcommittee and the training committee are not active at this time.

Discussion: The **Training Manager** submitted a written Implementation Plan for procedures Lisa and Margaret have developed. The Board recognizes that a) upgrading the quality and consistency of IOIA's training programs, b) improving efficiency of management procedures, and c) managing the appearance of conflict of interest are three critical elements for IOIA to maintain/improve the relevance of our organization in a changing environment. By approving the Implementation Plan, the BOD recognizes Lisa and Margaret's authority to manage trainings efficiently, including making arrangements with cosponsors and decisions about Trainer selection. The Training Implementation Plan significantly changes the methods of oversight of training. Most notably, the Plan proposes an alternative to the TOC system used to date, and recommends that the training approval and Trainer selection process be a staff function not overseen by Trainers. The Board acknowledges and appreciates the dedication and service that has been provided by members of the TOC who are also Trainers. Trainers currently on the TOC will be thanked for their service and informed of the Board's decision to approve the Implementation Plan. The Board will review plans for oversight of these tasks, to include monthly written reports by the TM and ITM and reporting of highlights to the Board by a Board liaison.

We discussed the need for an IOIA curriculum that includes not only an agenda and manual (as we have currently) but also lectures and presentations. The questions of ownership, copyright, rights to use curriculum, and compensation for its development and presentation need further clarification. The Board recognizes the importance of using appropriate adult education methods.

The BOD approved the **Training Implementation Plan** prepared and presented by the TM and ITM effective Oct. 1, 2004. **Action Point:** The Board Liaison to the Training Committee will send a letter to the TOC summarizing the above discussion and decision.

Committees:

Ethics Committee supported keeping the \$50 fee for Inspector Complaints in response to the BOD's request for a recommendation on the fee. The Board agreed to accept their recommendation and make no changes to the fee structure at this time.

Membership: Margaret and Garry will continue to work with Chris Kidwell to prepare a mailing to all NOP Accredited Certification Agencies to increase awareness of IOIA, its work and trainings, and invite their membership.

Margaret reported that the dates IOIA chose for the 2005 AGM conflict with Natural Foods Expo West in Anaheim. The Board expressed their support for sticking with the chosen dates. ♣

IOIA: What We Are and Want To Be By Doug Crabtree

Over a year ago, I created a minor furor on the forum by suggesting that the IOIA needed to undergo a paradigm shift. The shift that I suggested, and which I still feel is necessary, was from an organization focused primarily on training new inspectors to one primarily dedicated to professional development. I posed the following question on the forum:

- a) Is the IOIA an association of professionals committed to personal and organic industry improvement? Or,
- b) Is the IOIA primarily a training organization serving certifiers by providing a steady flow of new inspectors at low cost?

In response to my question, Margaret Scoles suggested a third option:

- c) Is the IOIA an association of organic inspectors committed to addressing issues and concerns relevant to organic inspectors, quality inspector training and promoting consistency and integrity in the organic certification process?

So, the basic question is: What do you want your IOIA to be? Certainly, the IOIA is, and has always been, a training organization. Training is what brought most of us to the IOIA to begin with. Training continues to be a strength of the organization. I am not suggesting that we abandon training. I am suggesting that we expand the audience for IOIA trainings. There are many more producers, handlers, retailers, extension agents, agricultural service providers, certification agency personnel and accreditation program staff that need organic training than there are persons wanting to become organic inspectors. The same basic curriculum can be used, with minor adjustments, to train any of these groups.

The advantages of expanding the audience for IOIA trainings are three-fold. First, bringing training to non-inspector groups avoids the conflict- inherit in basic inspector training- of training our replacements. While organic agriculture continues to expand, both in acres and number of producers, this has not translated into a great need for more inspectors. So, training new inspectors often has the unintended consequence of either putting existing inspectors out of work or reducing the pay offered to inspectors. Simple supply and demand dictates that increasing the supply of inspectors will reduce the prices offered to all inspectors.

Second, training non-inspectors allows the IOIA to support the organization through fees charged to outside groups. Part of the problem with the broader mission suggested by c) (above) is that there are not enough organic inspectors or enough income among inspectors to support an organization that provides the services we all want. Trainings for non-inspector groups can and should be →

Highlights of September 30, 2004 Board of Directors Minutes

Full BOD minutes are available on the IOIA website in the "Inspector Members Only" section when approved by the BOD.

November minutes have not been approved yet.

BOD members present: Brian Magaro, Garry Lean, Ann Baier, Jack Reams, John Foster, Dag Falck

John Foster was welcomed to return to the BOD.

Decision: Set inspector membership dues for 2005 at \$100, including the hard copy newsletter. Within one issue of the newsletter will be an IOIA membership contact list. Full hard copy directories will be available for \$15. The full hardcopy membership directory will continue to be a membership benefit for certifier members. IOIA will request a voluntary assessment of \$1/inspection from all inspector members.

Long Range Planning is an important part of the BOD's work and will be included on the agenda for all meetings.

Minutes of the Aug. 18 conference call were accepted.

Dag Falck gave an Informal Canadian Committee Report.

Training Committee: Ann reported that letters were mailed on behalf of the BOD to the TOC and the Trainers regarding changes in the composition of the TOC and the Training Implementation Plan, respectively. Two trainers who had served on the TOC responded to the letter. Ann will respond to them in writing. The BOD is still receiving input about training oversight. A subcommittee will meet and further work to clarify oversight.

Highlights of November 18, 2004 Board of Directors Minutes

BOD members present: Brian Magaro, Garry Lean, Ann Baier, Jack Reams, Luis Brenes, Dag Falck

Financial Reports: BOD acknowledged/celebrated success with the RMA proposal (nearly \$50,000—but none until 2005). Business Plan that links IOIA's Missions and Goals with adequate income and fundraising is needed. BOD agreed that it would benefit IOIA to solicit BOD candidates who are strong in fundraising. Treasurer's reports anticipated a potential negative balance for 2004. General governance costs, membership fee income and training income to be discussed.

Long Range Planning: Action Point: Luis volunteered to write a summary in a few pages that will link the LaVeta BOD retreat 2000 to Broadus BOD retreat 2003 to IOIA's developing Business Plan. Everyone will send material to Luis. Jack begins with Business Plan by Dec. 8. Luis, Dag, and Brian will develop a draft by Christmas with goal of a completed draft by the Jan. 20 meeting.

Bylaws Discussion re: implementation of the First/Second Alternate amendment adopted at the AGM 2004. Action Points: Garry, as Vice-Chair, will speak with Margaret and Arthur Harvey, Bylaws Committee Chair, as he assists Chris Kidwell, Membership Committee Chair in preparing the nominations slate. Brian will ask the 2 current Alternates for recommitment to serve. Minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Training Oversight Discussion. The BOD agreed that the TOC needs a new definition but did not reach a decision on how to best accomplish oversight. Action Point: Ann, as BOD Liaison for Training Committee, Luis, and Margaret will meet to better outline the alternatives for the decisions that need BOD attention.

Decision: The BOD approved the Training Manager's recommendations for changes in the Trainer and Cosponsor Fee schedule, except that paid travel time is not limited to 2 days per training. Changes will increase trainer fees for most enrollment levels and better define payments for trainings where two trainers are required. BOD directed Training Manager to build a surcharge into the training fees for cosponsors to be used for professional development and to simplify the manner that IOIA fees are quoted to cosponsors.

Latin American Committee is currently inactive (since Lidia's resignation). Action Point: Luis will contact all of the committee members and see what they need, and would like to do with the committee, and then make a recommendation.

Decision: New Membership Procedures, as proposed by Membership Committee, were approved.

Decision: The BOD approved the ACA Mailing. Margaret was directed to ensure complete overlap between NOP's ACA list and IOIA's Supporting Certification Agency list.

IOIA, from previous page

priced so as to bring sufficient income to the IOIA to support services to inspector members. Finally, providing training to a broader audience, including diverse groups of non-inspectors, is the best way to extend our influence within the organic industry. All of these groups need training, and the IOIA, with our extensive experience in providing basic organic training to inspectors, is ideally positioned to provide the training. By establishing IOIA as the training organization for the entire organic industry, we would greatly enhance the reputation of the IOIA and increase our ability to promote consistency and integrity in the organic certification process.

Once we expand the audiences for IOIA trainings, the logical next step is to expand the organization itself to provide membership for other organic professionals. My vision for the future of IOIA is for us to become a true professional association for all persons involved in organic agriculture. By doing so, we could sit down together at our meetings and make real progress toward improving the certification process. Rather than inspectors speaking among ourselves about ways to change certifiers or accreditation bodies, we could have those persons in the organization, at the same table and in the conversations. That is the way we will have real influence and bring about real improvement in the field that we all care so much about.

So, I urge all members to think about what IOIA is, what you want it to be and how best to grow, support and promote our organization. Please contact any member of the board or check in on the IOIA Forum with your thoughts and ideas. 🍀

The Republic of Georgia

By Bob Howe

I have recently returned from a 16-day volunteer assignment with the goal of helping to bring organic certification to the Republic of Georgia. I traveled to the Capital city of Tbilisi and through much of western Georgia. This article is a recap of what I saw and felt about my visit there.

Geographic

The Republic of Georgia is an enigma to most Americans. It is situated, geopolitically, in one of the most strategic locations in the world. The country is referred to as on the "Silk Route", an appellation that was historically derived because of this keystone position and the fact that trade between the East and West had to travel through Georgia. Georgia's western border, on the Black Sea, is some of the most spectacular coastland to be found anywhere. Much of the commerce in the western and central Eurasian continental area has come, at one time or another, through Georgia at the ports on this seacoast. The Russian Federation borders Georgia on the north and to the northeast. Most of the trade of goods at the present time takes place between Russia and Georgia. South over most of the western half of this border is Turkey, south central is Armenia and southeast is Azerbaijan.

The People

The history of Georgia is rich. This country and its people have withstood occupation and subjugation for much of their existence, yet the spirit of the people and their sense of country has survived. My experience there was a step back in time, but in the present. The people and the way they live, in the 21st century, causes an outsider, particularly an American, to ultimately gasp at their anachronistic yet estimable ways.

The understanding of this aspect is easier once we look at what they have been through in recent history. The main reason, I think, why we know so little about Georgia has to do with the fact that the country was absorbed into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics after the Communist revolution. This caused Georgia to become more

or less invisible as a country. During that period the states in the Soviet Union were made to become interdependent and independent of outside commerce and influence, as much as possible. Georgia is and has been largely an agrarian economy. Very little manufacturing existed prior to their becoming part of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union, in its efforts to take advantage of resources and provide a productive opportunity for each citizen, introduced a lot of industry into Georgia, much of it extremely polluting to the environment. In one example, Georgia became the center for assembling aircraft. The parts for the aircraft were made in other states and shipped in to Georgia. In exchange, Georgia, because of its agrarian capability, was set up to be somewhat of a breadbasket for the other states. Many other examples exist, but it suffices to say that when Communism failed and the Soviet Union collapsed, the interdependence of the states came to an end. Georgia was now a country with huge factories, but nothing to use those factories for. Further, they no longer had a market for many of the agricultural products they had been supplying throughout the Soviet Union. Sometime around 1989 Georgia declared independence from the Union. The first president served for about two years before being replaced by Eduard Shevardnadze. Shevardnadze served during a time when the Georgian economy suffered and lost 70% of its value. His government made huge internal and external policy blunders and graft and corruption spread throughout. The factories, being no longer useful, were stripped of their machinery and any part of the infrastructure of value. I saw many large shells of what were once vital factories. Some of them were as large as any factory I have ever seen in the United States, but sitting idle and suffering slow deterioration from the elements. The people, left without their jobs, and who had lost most if not all of their savings when the banks defaulted, (and this is the impressive part), fell back onto their strength of heritage, and survived. I saw many donkey carts in the areas outside of the Capital city of Tbilisi. The carts were pulled by horses, cows, water buffalo and donkeys, and by people. When I asked about the carts I was told that they did not exist 15 years ago. The rural communities relied on their knowledge of growing food and

banded together in an ever-tighter community to make sure they would survive. The communities I visited, many of them small villages, were more like extended families, where everyone worked and cooperated for their community. My meeting with these farm families in this tiny community was the real beginning of my growing insight into the Georgian spirit.

There is much more that can be said about these people, how they live, where they live, how they get about, and so forth. It suffices to say that they are open to receiving advice and help, and they will take advantage of the advice and help and not ignore it. They are intent on bringing Georgia into the world free market and they are positive about bringing it to that point, and as quickly as possible. The devastated infrastructure, poor roads and difficult transportation and generally poor existence of the people makes this a daunting task. Shevardnadze was ousted from office during a peaceful coup in November of 2003. Their new president, Mikheil Saakashvili, is respected and very well liked by the people. It is hard to say just how much of the spirit I observed among the Georgian people is resulting from their recent and first real freedom in nearly ¾ of a century, and how much is really because of who they are and where they come from, their heritage.

The Farms

During the Communist era arable land was divided rather equally among the farmers. The average farm is somewhere around 1 hectare, roughly 2 acres. Most, if not all farms have livestock of some sort, usually one or more cows and horses. Pigs, chickens and sheep are common. The farms are quite sustainable, saving their own seed, spreading manure on the fields; graze their animals all the time during good seasons and make some attempts at crop rotations with legumes planted periodically on many. I observed that every spare bit of land was cultivated, including up to and around homes and buildings. No chemicals have been used because they are not available and because the farmers could not afford them if they were. Some areas in the country appeared to have large farms and I was informed that some had had chemical fertilizers applied. Much of the country is mountainous or at least very rolling with fairly steep slopes. Cultivation is largely done by hand, with the aid of horses. Weed management is labor intensive. Harvesting is also by hand, except in some locations where a combine is available. The equipment, if any, looks very old. The combines are reminiscent of what we refer to as early self-powered thresh-

ing machines. Tractors used are of a different configuration than what has been in use in the US for many years, and they are very old, or appear to be. Obsolescence does not seem to be an accepted place for machinery. Everything is repaired, in some fashion, and made to keep running.

Much in the way of farming methods needs to be explained to many of the farmers in Georgia. For example, there is a tendency to produce corn on the same fields year after year. I saw cultivation on the slope in several locations, rather than contour and strip. When I asked about this practice I was reminded of how the farm land had been divided up, and that the fields given to each farm were very narrow and long. Cultivation on the contour in these fields would leave a large portion of the field in headlands. The scientists I interviewed at the Institute in Batumi are aware that many practices need to be changed. They are hoping that services similar to our agricultural extension can be initiated there when resources become more available.

Crops are mostly hard corn, which is used to feed both animals and the people. They also produce soybeans and a variety of vegetables. Citrus grows in much of the area in the west, which is subtropical, also figs. Grapes are grown by nearly every Georgian (ergo the homemade wine), and nuts including chestnuts, hazelnuts and walnuts. Several other fruits are grown. I saw cabbages that were huge, in harvest at the time I was there. Also, I noticed that there was no insect damage. Being suspicious I thought that there might be some sort of pest management, but I was assured there were no persistent pest problems.

Organic Certification

There is no organic certification in the Republic at this time. I was pleased to discover and have the opportunity to meet with two groups that are working to generate markets for Georgian farmers and to bring organic certification to the country. One of the groups, "Elkana Biological Farming Association", a non-profit, has a membership of about 200 farmers. They are working to aid farmers to improve growing methods and to provide them with market opportunities in the coun-



Four Generations Husking Corn, Republic of Georgia

try. Also, they are setting up a fund, through outside benefactors, to provide low interest loans to the farmers. The second group, "Caucacert", is a local group that hopes to become an organic certification agency. They have a small staff, including one inspector, and are using standards developed by Elkana and patterned after IFOAM standards. Training is somewhat vague and apparently was done by guidance from Naturland and through trips to organic sites in some European locations. By and large, these two groups are very motivated. I spent some part of my time there providing them with recommendations and information on how to go about establishing an internationally accredited certification entity, and how to get some farms certified in the interim. The understanding of organic certification, for the most part, is minimum and very misunderstood. The government is faced with huge priorities that obviate any assistance from them for the efforts, and the farmers are not fiscally able to afford certification on their own. The lack of a certifying body and only one inspector, who is not yet mentored, makes the task difficult. The two groups are beginning to dialogue with some of the accredited agencies to, hopefully, establish an affiliation in Georgia. They believe that the best way to promote Georgian agriculture in the free market is through organic certification. An official at USAID (United States Agency for International Development), in Tbilisi, told me that certification in Georgia was

not respected due to the fact that any form of certification there, in the past, was bought through graft and had no validity. This has to be overcome and, I believe, an accredited certification body from outside the country needs to be involved.

The small size of the farms, and the minimum income from sales that can be recognized, led me to the conclusion that Smallholder groups would be the most effective and cost minimizing way of introducing organic certification in Georgia. I worked with a group of 10 farmers with a crop of Stevia, and a potential processor in Tbilisi for extraction from the Stevia. When I left, I had provided them with a plan for organization of the group as a Community Grower Group in contract with the processor, a company called LTD Biotech (the use of the term "biotech" in this country is not intended to indicate GMO, as they have prohibited GMO production in the country, by law). They have all the information necessary to form the group and initiate an application for certification to NOP and EU1092/91, as well as JAS equivalency. The Institute in Batumi is acting in their behalf as technical advisors on the production at the farms, and the methods for extraction of the steviacides at the processor. They have, also, been seeking markets for the extract in US and Europe, and have established some potential markets.

Volunteer opportunities

There are other opportunities, similar to mine, to visit Georgia and provide assistance on a volunteer basis. All expenses are covered for the visits.

[See **Georgia**, page 22]

Resources

New COOL Resources Country of Original Labeling - enabling consumers to know where their food comes from, and to make informed choices about supporting U.S. grown -was one of the concrete legislative victories won during the 2002 US Farm Bill. Two new resources on this are:

Separating Fiction from Truth: How the Voluntary COOL Bill will Impact the U.S. Cattle Industry, is a fact sheet developed by R-CALF.

Eating Blind: Why Congress and the Meat Industry Don't Want You to Know Where Your Food Comes From. Together, these documents are rich in info and ideas for framing these important issues. You can see them at www.sustainableagriculture.net/CompandC.php

UK Organic Seed Site Organic farmers now have access to a website (www.organicXseeds.co.uk) which provides info on the availability of organic seeds within the UK. A complementary web site is that of the Centre for Organic Seed Information (www.cosi.org.uk).

Proceedings: European Organic Farming Stats A comprehensive book on the current challenges related to organic farming statistics has now been published as part of a European Commission funded project. The EISFOM-project (European Information System for Organic Markets) aims to build up a framework for reporting credible organic production and market statistics. The proceedings of the first EISFOM European conference held in Berlin in April 2004 include more than 50 papers. See it at: www.orgprints.org/00002935/.

CORE Organic Project A project called "Coordination of European Transnational Research in Organic Food and Farming", or CORE Organic, is a new European initiative to enhance quality, relevance and resource utilisation in organic food and farming research. The initiative comprises 11 European countries supported by the EU-commission. Since the

present organic research effort is characterised by small research communities, often scattered and fragmented both geographically and institutionally, CORE Organic aims to gather a critical mass and through coordination and collaboration enhance quality, relevance and utilisation of resources in European research. Further Info is available at <http://www.core-organic.org/>

Carcinogenic Compound Dbase A new table contains info about the potential carcinogenic compounds formed during food preservation and cooking, specifically nitrates, nitrites, nitrosamines, heterocyclic amines (HA), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). It is hoped this database will help food developers quantify dietary exposure to these compounds, and to analyze their relation to the risk of cancer. Standard food composition tables do not include these compounds.

Researchers from EPIC-Spain, the Spanish branch of the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC), conducted a literature search on the Medline and EMBASE databases for available published data on the food concentration of these compounds.

The table is based on 139 references from 23 different countries, and includes 207 food items for nitrites, nitrates and nitrosamines, 297 food items for HA, and 313 for PHA.

Food info in the table includes cooking methods, preservation methods, cooking doneness, temperature, and time, while compound information covers type, quantity, analytic methods, and sampling methods. The table may be downloaded free of charge at <http://www.epic-spain.com/libro.html>

Final Report from the First World Conference on Organic Seed is now available online in MS Word and .pdf format at: <http://www.ifoam.org/orgagri/OSC-Final-Report.doc> OR <http://www.ifoam.org/orgagri/OSC-Final-Report.pdf>

Farmcentre Online This is a great publication out of Canada. They offer a free subscription service, check it out at www.farmcentre.com. They still offer free hardcopies within Canada.

New Organic Major at the University of Guelph The University of Guelph Senate has approved a new program in organic farming. Undergraduate students will now be able to take a major in organic farming. For more info, contact Prof. E. Ann Clark, eaclark@uoguelph.ca or Prof. Stewart Hilts, shilts@uoguelph.ca at the University of Guelph. Also, Alfred College (Alfred Ontario) will be converting its farm to become the center for organic dairy research for the University of Guelph.

Organic Eprints Archive The Organic Eprints archive is a tool to further develop research in organic agriculture. The main objectives are to facilitate the communication of research papers and proposals, to improve the dissemination and impact of research findings, and to document the research effort. In accordance with these objectives the archive is designed to facilitate international use and cooperation.

The archive will accept many kinds of papers: preprints (pre-review), postprints (post-review) and reprints (published) of scientific papers, conference papers and posters, theses, reports, books and book chapters, magazine articles, web products, project descriptions, and other published or unpublished documents.

The only criteria for acceptance are that the documents are relevant to research in organic agriculture, that they have a finished form that is ready to enter into a process of communication, and that the required metadata information is correct. <http://orgprints.org/>

New MIT Food Series MIT Press has a new book series entitled *Food, Health and Environment* and is eager to consider new manuscripts. See <http://departments.oxy.edu/uepi/MITPress/food.htm> for a brief description of the series.

They are now accepting manuscripts and hope to build a strong community food security focus that can link the different titles that get published. They are interested in academic as well as more activist or "practitioner" (to use the academic phrase) manuscripts for the series. Contact series director Bob Gottlieb at (gottlieb@oxy.edu) if you have a manuscript, a proposal, or a query about a possible book.

USDA Agbiotech Intellectual Property Dbase Check it out at: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/AgBiotechIP/>

Hedgerow Farmscaping Manual Now available online from Community Alliance With Family Farmers, www.caff.org

Proceedings: California Conference on Biological Control IV & Organic Production

The proceedings of "California Conference on Biological Control IV," available as a web download (22 MB) and on CD-ROM, is an excellent resource on biological control, with theme topics on:

→Bottom Up Effects in Biological Control: The Role of the Soil Environment in Pest Suppression

→Habitat Manipulation and Management for Biological Control

→Legally Compliant Organic Pesticides: Compatibility with Natural Enemies

→Economic Success in Biological Control: Barriers and Solutions

See the Post-Conference website:

<http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/biocon/California%20Conference%20on%20Biological%20Control%20IV.htm>

•PDF Download (22 MB)

<http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/biocon/CBC%20IV%20Proceedings%202004.pdf> 152 pages

•Conference Program with titles and speakers

<http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/biocon/CBC%20Program.pdf> 4 pages

The second part, "*California Organic Production and Farming in the New Millennium*," containing additional key papers, is published separately as a 165-page proceedings.

New, Updated ATTRA Publications The ATTRA National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service is pleased to announce the availability of the following new and updated publications.

• Tree Fruit: Organic Production Overview

• Potting Mixes for Certified Organic Production

• Organic Crop Production Overview

• Field Bindweed Control Alternatives

• Oilseed Processing for Small-scale Producers

• Enterprise Budgets and Production Costs for Organic Production

These and nearly 250 other FREE publications are available to American farmers, ranchers, educators, and others involved in commercial agriculture in the U.S. Call 1-800-366-

9140 (toll-free) to request copies, or visit www.attra.ncat.org. For Spanish-language assistance and publications, call 1-800-411-3222.

10 Ways to Fix Agriculture Trade

Global trade in agriculture is a mess. The mix of national policies and multilateral rules has sent commodity prices plunging. Farmers around the world have been forced off their land because they can no longer make a living. While much of agricultural trade policy is focused on the World Trade Organization, the WTO has failed rural communities around the world by not incorporating binding commitments toward the human right to food and the establishment of a resilient rural sector as a basis for development.

A new fact sheet from the Institute for Ag Trade & Policy outlines 10 proposals for lifting prices for farmers to sustainable levels and fixing the agricultural trading system. The fact sheet is available in English and Spanish at www.iatp.org.

Canadian Subsidy Directory This publication contains more than 2600 listings of grants and loans offered by government departments, foundations and associations. The American Grants and Loans Directory is also available for the United States. The publication is sold for: \$69.95. More info at: 450-224-9275

2004 USFDA Produce Safety Plan

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has unveiled its 2004 produce safety action plan, entitled "Produce Safety from Production to Consumption: 2004 Action Plan to Minimize Foodborne Illness Associated with Fresh Produce Consumption." It is posted at www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/prodpla2.html.

Organic Farmers' Co-op Launches Web-Based Meat Tracking System

Farmer Direct Co-operative Ltd., an organic farmers' co-operative based out of Regina, Saskatchewan, has become the first company in North America to launch a web-based tracking system for meat products.

Through the fairDeal tracking system (www.fairDealfood.org/Tracking.htm) and fairDeal Best Management Practices (www.fairDealfood.org/BMP.htm), Farmer Direct addresses the rising consumer demand for safe, ethically produced, high quality food.

"Through the development of our web-based tracking system customers can now conveniently visit the farm online. They can see where their meat purchase came from, view pictures of the herd and learn how their meat was raised", states Kim Schulz, Sales Manager. "Clients can also view the farm's organic certificate plus the packer's organic and CFIA certificates."

In the wake of the BSE crisis, the Canadian beef industry determined that a tracking and traceability system was needed. Independently, this small farmers' co-operative went ahead and designed the innovative, web-based fairDeal tracking system.

Other Farmer Direct products that can be traced back to the farm through the fairDeal include flaxseed, lentils, peas, beans and durum. All food with the fairDeal seal is Certified Organic, from a farmers' co-operative and fairly traded. To learn more about the fairDeal please visit www.fairDealfood.org. To learn more about Farmer Direct Co-operative please go to www.farmerdirect.ca.

For a demonstration of the system please go to www.fairDealfood.org and enter the following lot numbers: 1202-04-FGL, 1173-04-GP, 1120-04-LGL, 1347-04-BF, 1116-04-DW, 1214-119+121-BUF and 1357-04-BEF.

For more info contact Jason Freeman, Sales and Marketing Manager, 306 352 2496. Email: jason@farmerdirect.ca

Redesigned Eat Well Guide The Global Resource Action Center for the Environment (GRACE)GRACE and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy have just redesigned and re-launched the Eat Well Guide - www.eatwellguide.org - an online directory of sustainable meat, poultry, dairy and eggs.

The Eat Well Guide allows consumers to enter a zip code and be directed to farms and stores that sell sustainable foods in their neighborhoods.

OACC E-zine The Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC) invites you to see the current issue of Organic Friends' E-zine at the following URL:

<http://www.organicagcentre.ca/FriendsE-zines/>

Organic Friends' E_Zine is a monthly email publication which highlights the most recent up-dates on the OACC website.

Certified Organic Food Directory 2005

available to pre-order for \$39.95 through www.naturalfoodnet.com

Anti GMO Provisions Defeated in 3 of 4 Calif. Counties

Initiatives banning biotechnology or GMO crops in some California counties failed in three of the four locales that had them on the Nov. 3 ballot.

Voters in Butte County rejected the biotech ban by a margin of 61% to 39%, while those in San Luis Obispo County defeated the measure by a margin of 59% to 41%. Voters also rejected a proposed biotech ban in Humboldt County, which had been declared unconstitutional even before the election.

In Humboldt County, supporters had dropped their efforts after there were complaints that the ballot language had inaccurate scientific descriptions and had called for the jailing of farmers growing GMO crops.

In Marin County, an anti-biotech measure won approval as expected via a 61% to 39% margin.

The Farm Bureau spin was typical. "We thank the voters for supporting the family farmers of Butte and San Luis Obispo counties," California Farm Bureau Federation President Bill Pauli said. "Flexibility in crop choices benefits both farmers and consumers. Family farmers take great pride in growing healthy and affordable food for consumers. We grow what consumers demand." [He obviously hasn't been to the UK lately.]

Although the Humboldt measure was disavowed by its original proponents and suffered defeat, the Arcata City Council subsequently passed an anti-GMO ordinance. By a unanimous 4-0 vote, Arcata, located in Humboldt County, passed Ordinance 1350, which adds a chapter to the Municipal Code to declare the sales, distribution, propagation, cultivation, raising or growing of genetically engineered organisms a public nuisance and subject to criminal enforcement. Check it out at:

<http://www.calgefree.org/documents/ARCATAORDINANCE.doc>

Gene Flow Conference Proceedings Posted by Pew

In late 2002, researchers reported traces of transgenic corn in Mexican maize. Because transgenic corn had been banned from Mexico, this

announcement triggered an international debate about the science and public policies related to unintended gene flow.

To help address the many questions and concerns raised by this issue, the Pew Initiative on Food and Biotechnology (PIFB) and the U.S.-Mexico Foundation for Science (FUMEC) held a two-day public conference in September 2003 in Mexico City, titled *Gene Flow: What Does It Mean for Biodiversity and Centers of Origin?* Proceedings from the conference are now available on the Pew Initiative website in both English and Spanish translations.

To view the English proceedings, go to <http://pewagbiotech.org/events/0929/Proceedings-English.pdf>.

To view the Spanish proceedings, go to <http://pewagbiotech.org/events/0929/Proceedings-Spanish.pdf>.

US Farmers planted 1/3 of U.S. corn acres to GMOs in 2004

WASHINGTON — A new nationwide survey of U.S. corn farmers found that they planted only 34.4% of their total corn acres to biotech varieties in 2004. Five hundred farmers were polled in the sixteen top corn producing states that represent 92% of 2004 corn acreage for harvest, according to an Aug. 12 USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Crop Production Report. Farmers surveyed had at least one hundred acres of corn. The 500 farmers reported planting 208,414 total acres to corn, with 71,633 of those acres, or 34.4% planted to GMO varieties, compared to the 32.2% that those same farmers reported planting to GMO varieties in 2003. The states included in the survey were: Iowa, Ill., Neb., Minn., Ind., Ohio, S. D., Wisc., Kan., Mo., Mich., Ky., Texas, Colo., N. D. and Pa. A March USDA prospective planting survey of corn farmers, done before corn planting was underway, projected that 46% of corn acres would be planted to GMO varieties in 2004.

"This survey suggests that U.S. corn farmers may well be taking the concerns and demands of foreign consumers and importers into account in their planting decisions by holding their GMO corn acres to only about a third of the total acres they planted to corn this year," said Dan McGuire, CEO of the ACGF. "Given the corn supply and demand reports issued in Mid-August by the USDA showing only 1.925 billion bushels of corn exports this marketing

year and with new crop corn prices in the \$1.80 per bushel range in South Dakota, U.S. corn farmers are right to be concerned about the U.S. holding on to foreign markets. Low corn prices have not delivered increased corn exports as promoted by advocates of current farm and trade policy. Plus, attempts by the U.S. government and agribusiness to force foreign markets to accept biotech corn varieties has not been a customer-oriented strategy to say the least. It appears that the majority of U.S. corn farmers are putting the customer first and factoring that into their seed choices." Aug. 16, 2004 — CropChoice news

New Report from BioTech Infonet

"*Genetically Engineered Crops and Pesticide Use in the United States: The First Nine Years*" is now posted online. The abstract is at: <http://www.biotech-info.net/technicalpaper7.html> The PDF Link takes you to the 53-page report. http://www.biotech-info.net/Full_version_first_nine.pdf

Farmers' Guide to GMOs

Just released by the Farmers' Legal Action Group (FLAG) and Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA (RAFI-USA), this publication is required reading for all farmers, processors and anyone that is involved with organic and non-GMO crops. David Moeller and Michael Sligh, in this 53 page document, go over all the sources of information, describe the various kinds of legal proceedings, give farmers tips on avoiding contamination and provide one of the best resource lists available.

Copies of the *Farmers' Guide to GMOs*, the first comprehensive look at the subject, are available free at www.flaginc.org and www.rafiusa.org

"After almost a decade of commercial production, we have reached that point," Moeller said, "where every farmer has a stake and has to be fully aware of the legal ramifications. No farmer should buy seed for next season without having a grasp of the information contained in this Guide."

Labels Will Be Required on GMO seeds

Vermont's Secretary of Agriculture has decided to require companies that sell genetically engineered seeds in Vermont to include "a plain English disclosure" on labels that includes the phrase, "these seeds have been genetically engineered." In a clarification of an earlier decision on the closely-watched issue, Steve Kerr also will require companies to specify what traits have been conferred through biotechnology.

In a November interview, Kerr said that his agency will send a letter to biotech seed companies in the next few days with instructions for compliance. Kerr added, "I hope they are going to pay attention to the law because we are dead serious about it." Kerr said he found it necessary to specify language for the labels after seed company representatives cancelled a meeting with him on the subject, which was slated for Nov. 1. "They didn't want to come in on the schedule I suggested," he said. "I wanted to make sure labels are properly done this year. I don't want any excuses from (seed companies) that we didn't give them enough time." Kerr defended his decision not to specify labeling language earlier by saying that he wanted to see what seed companies would propose on their own. "I don't want these companies to decide that Vermont, or its Secretary of Agriculture, is so unreasonable that they're just going to walk away from a small market," he said. "We have a lot of farmers who rely on these (genetically engineered) traits. I have as much of an obligation to them as I do to organic farmers who don't want to use these things." "I take this as quite a responsibility," he said. "It's the first public disclosure law dealing with this technology. We better be careful and do it right, because I hope and suspect other states will copy what we've done."

New National Survey Shows Large Percent Require GMO Segregation

A new survey of 1,194 grain elevators across the United States, conducted by the American Corn Growers Foundation (ACGF) Farmer Choice – Customer First program found that nearly one-quarter (23.7%) reported that they are requiring segregation of biotech corn from conventional corn varieties. Over twelve percent reported offering premiums for non-GMO, conventional corn varieties over GMO biotech varieties. The premiums reported range from five to thirty cents per bushel. Nine elevators reported that they are discounting GMO corn. Grain elevators were surveyed in the eighteen states of Ark., Colo., Ill., Ind., Iowa, Kan., Ky., Mich., Minn., Mo., Miss.,

●Record Corn Crop Together With Lower Prices = Less Gross Corn Income Per Acre On Average
●2003/04 U.S. Average Corn Yield Per Acre 142.2 x \$2.42 Average Price Per Bushel = \$344.12 per acre
●2004/05 U.S. Average Corn Yield Per Acre 158.4 x \$1.95 Average Price Per Bushel = \$308.80 per acre
●Per Acre Income Drop...2003 to 2004 = \$35.32 less per acre
**Source of yields and prices: U.S.D.A. WASDE-415-10 Report of Oct 12, 2004*

Neb., N. D., Ohio, Pa., S. D., Texas, and Wisc. The telephone survey was conducted in August and September, after corn harvest had begun. ACGF Chairman Gale Lush of Wilcox, Neb. said, "I have seen some reports that biotech corn varieties are responsible for the record yield this year. I disagree! I plant both conventional and biotech corn varieties. The growing season and management, not biotech genetics, are primarily responsible for 2004 yields. Let us not forget that corn is piled on the ground across the Midwest. Even with the higher average corn yield, gross income per acre is \$35.32 less than 2003 because of the lower average price of \$1.95/bu. forecast this month by USDA. GMO corn helped cause lower prices by sending lucrative European and Asian corn customers to U.S. export competitors."

New Report Highlights Huge Gaps in GM Crop Science

A new report on the impact of GM on the genetics of the modified crops by an independent group of scientists has highlighted huge gaps in scientific knowledge and the need to greatly improve scientific assessment procedures before GM crops are licensed.

The report, by the group EcoNexus¹, is based on the peer-reviewed scientific literature and USDA documents. It examines the consequences of genetic modification events for the integrity of transgenic plant genomes² and suggests that significant genetic damage can arise. The consequences can include:

- * large scale genetic rearrangements of host DNA at transgene insertion sites
- * many hundreds to thousands of individual mutations scattered throughout the genome of each new transgenic plant.

The authors³ suggest that these changes are caused through genetic engineering itself, i.e. by transgene insertion and the procedures plant cells are subjected to in order to insert the transgene.

Most crop plants are a complex mixture of biologically active chemicals with both positive and negative health effects, they may be bred from inedible ancestors and many have poisonous tissues or organs. Consequently, food safety of edible crops relies crucially on genetic stability and predictability rather than being an inbuilt property of crop plants. Therefore, the discovery of these genetic changes arising from GM, the authors suggest is highly significant and has major implications for the safety of transgenic crops. The report analyses crops that are already on the market around the world based on documents obtained from the USDA. It finds that regulators fail to require adequate analysis of transgene insertion sites and that there is no mechanism to detect random genetic damage induced by transformation.

These omissions appear to result from failure to appreciate the magnitude of genetic damage sustained by transgenic plants. They indicate that there are massive gaps in the regulatory systems which are supposed to ensure transgenic crops are safe and that regulators have been guilty of making dubious assumptions about the similarities between transgenic crops and plants developed by traditional plant breeding.

Commenting for EcoNexus, one of the report's authors, Dr Jonathan Latham said: "This genetic unpredictability should be treated very seriously indeed. Once inserted, the mutations highlighted in this report cannot easily be eliminated from transgenic crops and nor can their consequences for food safety and the environment easily or reliably be determined. Consequently, they present a major challenge to the plant biotechnology industry. Their elimination will require major changes to plant transformation methods".

This new report, *Genome Scrambling – Myth or Reality? Transformation-induced mutations in transgenic crop plants* is 36 pages long and is available as a pdf file at www.econexus.info

(1) EcoNexus is a not-for-profit public interest research organisation and science watchdog. It is based in the UK and collaborates with a diversity of networks nationally and internationally.

(2) *Genome, the sum total of the genetic material (DNA) of an organism.*

(3) *It is written by Dr. Allison Wilson, Dr. Jonathan Latham and Dr. Ricarda Steinbrecher*

Contact: Jonathan Latham 01531 670 313 or Email: A.Wilson@econexus.info

ED, from page 5

tone of the meetings, following the fall-out over the April Directives. The NOP staff expressed willingness to solicit and consider input from the NOSB and to work toward developing rule changes as needed.

It was good to hear that Mark Bradley is back with the NOP, now as Accreditation Specialist. Attendees of the 2001 Guelph Advanced Training will remember him as one of our speakers.

Grant Proposal in the Works: IOIA and NCAT submitted a proposal to develop training materials for certification agencies, technical service providers, and producers last summer. It wasn't funded. However, the review panel gave positive feedback and Tom Bewick, Program Director of the Integrated Organic Program of the Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program, recently facilitated a conference call between the NOP, IOIA, and his office. The NOP and IOIA agreed to collaborate on a proposal to be submitted to CSREES for the next funding cycle.

Voice Mail: IOIA has Voice Mail! When we first set up the office in Broadus in 1999, it wasn't possible to have a phone, fax, automatic switch, and voice mail all at the same time. But I decided to try again, since so much of our equipment has been updated in the interim. I determinedly slogged through several people at Range Telephone Co-op until we learned we **could** have Voice Mail, provided only half of the service is activated. Fortunately, this is the part we needed...**so now, when you call the IOIA office and the line is busy, voice mail kicks on and you can leave a message.** Thanks, Maarten, for suggesting that I try one more time.

IOIA at IFOAM Summit in North America: On behalf of IOIA, Lisa Pierce participated in the Organic Networking Summit, "Evolution of Organic Organizations in a Changing World" on Skagit Bay, in north-western Washington state on September 17.

September NRCS Training in MT: IOIA is collaborating with AERO (Alternative Energy Resources Organization) and NCAT on Organic Training for the NRCS staff in Montana.

NRCS is funding the project. I traveled to Livingston on Sept. 14 to present a 2-hr classroom workshop on organic beef, assisted by Wes Henthorne of the B Bar Ranch as guest speaker, followed by a field tour at the nearby Ferry Creek Ranch (a certified organic beef operation producing grass-fed Galloway beef). This project will continue for another year.

Guelph Organic Conference January 20-23: IOIA stepped back this year from formal sponsorship of the Guelph Organic Conference, due to a substantial increase in fees, but we will once again staff a table. IOIA mailed out brochures to the membership in informal support of the event. This year's theme is "Local Organic....A Global Solution". If you are in Guelph, please check out our booth!

Scholarship: The Scholarship Committee remains an exemplary committee. This year, Nancy Ludwig took over as chair, and is assisted by Bob Howe, Carlos Escobar, Margaret Weigelt, and Jonah Popoff. They are scrutinizing this year's applications for the Andrew Rutherford Scholarship and the Organic Community Initiative Scholarship. Sandeep Bhargava, our first OCIS Award winner to use his scholarship, attended the Hong Kong training. Diane Alejo, the first OCIS winner, still hopes to attend a Livestock training but has yet to use her award, due to prohibitive travel cost from Argentina.

Accreditation: Accreditation is unfortunately not yet processing applications in a timely manner. IOIA staff and BOD is committed to processing all 2004 applications before the year closes. We will provide all support possible to the ARP.

Strange T-shirt Saga: IOIA was sitting on a hefty inventory of T-shirts. Sales are slow (by the way, this is a good time to plug T-shirts, if you don't have one or yours are getting faded...). Recently I received an inquiry from Nigeria requesting a price for 50 T-shirts. I was a bit suspicious/skeptical (why would Nigerians want IOIA T-shirts when I can't sell them to my own members?!) so I took extra precautions. I did give a discount of \$2 each for such a large order. I requested credit card payment in advance and we checked at the Post Office about insurance. I learned they would only insure up to \$200. So Judy processed the credit card, prudently waited 5 days, and then we shipped the

T-shirts in 5 separate boxes. We received a follow-up order (FedEx, now, please) along with a request for 50 cell phones. I responded that we were not a retail store and couldn't source cell phones. I called FedEx about the shipment and was told that due to rampant credit card fraud in Nigeria they would only accept cash to ship the order. FedEx suspected fraud, said IOIA was very fortunate if we actually received payment and urged me to check with VISA to see if the card was stolen. Based on the card number, they gave me the phone number of the issuing bank (which turned out to be in Israel). After a quick fax and return fax, I received a request from that bank not to accept the card. I received one more message from Nigeria and I answered back in summary what I'd done and learned and in a non-accusatory manner, simply said that I needed more info from the actual cardholder. Haven't heard a word since....but if you are ever in Nigeria and see a lot of IOIA T-shirts running around, now you know the rest of the story.

IOIA Caps and Patches: It is time to order new caps and, I think, time to bite the bullet and "buy organic". Our caps so far were not organic fabric. Choice of colors is limited, though, in organic cotton, so I've requested samples of everything. We have almost zero inventory at the moment, but hope to have new caps by January 1. We still have lots of patches.

Pain and injury: I think often of Mary Wilson, Monique Scholz, Margaret Weigelt, and Marina Buchan these days. I was involved in an auto accident on October 30 and discovered that 'whiplash' is truly not an imaginary term coined by lawyers. Physical therapy, muscle relaxants, massage, and anti-inflammatory meds for me....but nothing compared to the pain that Monique, Mary, Margaret, and Marina have to deal with, though.

Georgia, from page 17

Anyone who might be able to offer assistance can contact me at earthorganic@aol.com and I will provide information about the agency I worked through.

This article is a short excerpt from a much longer one written by Bob and available to read in its entirety in the Members Only section of the IOIA website. Some photos are on the site, many more will be available after the first of the year.

Of Interest

<http://worldometers.info/>
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This is a quarterly newsletter published by Emily Brown Rosen, started to follow primarily the regulatory issues happening at NOSB and NOP and provide a forum for more communication on organic issues. She plans to schedule issues before and after NOSB meetings, to provide an update on issues pending and reports after the meetings.



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2004 - 2005 Calendar

December 12 – 14, Eradicating Poverty Through Profit - An International Conference on the Private Sector and the Public Good, San Francisco, CA
Info: www.wbcds.org

January 19 – 22, 2005, EcoFarm Conference, Pacific Grove, CA. Info: www.eco-farm.org or call (831) 763-2111.

January 22, Farm Bill Workshop, in cooperation with EcoFarm. This workshop is billed as a sort of 'Farm Bill 101' and will present perspectives on Farm Bill advocacy by many groups. Workshop scheduled for Saturday, January 22, from 8:30 -10:00am. Info: see EcoFarm listing.

Jan 20 – 23, The 24th Annual Guelph Organic Agriculture Conference, Ontario, Canada. www.guelphorganicconf.ca
See ad on page 23.

January 21 - 23, The Practical Tools and Solutions for Sustaining Family Farms Conference. Annual Southern SAWG Conference, New Orleans, LA. Info: www.ssawg.org

January 28 - 30, Organic Community - Diversity from Soil to Plate, Syracuse, NY. Northeast Organic Farming Association-NY. Over 50 workshops for beginning and experienced farmers & gardeners.
Info: www.nofany.org/index.html

February 18-20, IOIA/JOIA Basic Organic Inspector Farm training, Tokyo, Japan. See page 3 for details.

February 20-22, National Campaign Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
Info: www.sustainableagriculture.net

February 24- 26, 16th Annual Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference, La Crosse Center in Downtown La Crosse, WI. Info at: 715-772-3153; fax 715-772-3162; info@mosesorganic.org

February 24-27, BioFach, Nuremberg, Germany. Info: info@nuernbergmesse.de
www.biofach.de

March 5 – 6, 2005 Annual OEFFA Conference, Johnstown, OH. Info: www.oeffa.com

March 13-15, IOIA/JOIA Basic Organic Processing Inspector training, Tokyo, Japan. See page 3 for details.

March 17 – 18, Organic Inspector Training, Vancouver, British Columbia. IOIA will sponsor Advanced Organic Inspector Training at the Granville Island Hotel on March 17-18 immediately before the next IOIA Annual Meeting on March 19. IOIA and Fraser Valley Organic Producers Association will also cosponsor Organic Livestock Inspector Training in Vancouver in conjunction with these events. See page 3 for details or go to www.ioia.net

March 19, IOIA Annual General Membership Meeting, Granville Island, British Columbia. Info: www.ioia.net

April 6 – 9, IOIA Organic Farm Training, Las Cruces, New Mexico. See page 3 for details.

April 10 - 13, IOIA Process Inspector Training, Las Cruces, New Mexico. See page 3 for details.

April 29 – 30, Organic Beekeeping Workshop, Chestnut Ridge, NY
This is a workshop for active beekeepers as well as beginners and it includes a hands-on session.
Info: www.pfeiffercenter.org

May 1 – 3, All Things Organic – OTA Trade Show. McCormick Place, Chicago, IL.
Info: www.organicexpo.com,
organicexpo@divcom.com,
or call 207-842-5504

May 7 – 10, Int'l Organic and Agroecology Products Fair, São Paulo Brazil. Contact Maria Cristina Botelho, (55 11) 4689 3166,
cristina@francal.com.br

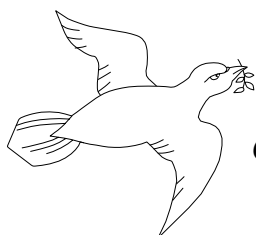
July 29 – Aug 20, Organic Agriculture Development Advanced International Training Programme, Sweden. Participants for shall come from developing countries in Asia. Info at www.grolink.se

September 19-23, 15th IFOAM World Congress, Adelaide, Australia. Info: Fax: +61 8 8339 7800, <http://www.nasaa.com.au/ifoam/>.
E-mail: ifoam2005@nasaa.com.au

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