

The

Inspectors' Report

VOL 15 NO 1 WINTER 2006

PUBLISHED BY THE INDEPENDENT ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

Notes from The Chair

By Luis Brenes

It is always good to realize that Nature has no borders, that the Earth is just one, no matter how many countries we might have. For example: Monarch butterflies and hundreds of bird species have a multinational citizenship as they fly South to winter over in Latin American countries to later head North to the US and Canada.

Well, I came North from Costa Rica to the IOIA meeting in La Crosse as an IOIA member but I have now returned South as the IOIA Chair (it is incredible what the cold and chilly weather can make us do...). So, as you all now have a new Chair that is willing to serve you, let me first introduce myself.

[See **Notes**, page 4]

Food Uniformity Bill Passes in the US House Despite Widespread Opposition

Despite opposition from many environmental, health and consumer rights organizations, 39 state Attorneys General, 7 state Governors, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, the Association of Food and Drug Officials, the National Conference of State Legislators and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, the United States House of Representatives passed H.R. 4167, The National Uniformity for Food Act, on March 8th.

Pushed forward by the food industry under the guise of promoting "uniformity" of food safety and labeling laws in the U.S., the bill requires all state food safety laws to be identical to the requirements of the Federal Food and Drug Administration. If the FDA has not passed a regulation on a food threat, then all state regulations on that threat would immediately be [see **Safety**, page 4]

Inspecting to the NOP, Today and Tomorrow

Comments by Mark Bradley, Assistant Deputy Administrator, USDA-NOP, Washington, DC

Mark Bradley spoke twice to inspectors in La Crosse, Wisconsin - once to the Advanced Inspector training group and again to kick off the 2006 IOIA AGM. Inspectors had the opportunity to send questions in advance. Bradley spoke directly and frankly and didn't dodge many questions.

Inspectors should start brushing up their resumés. Bradley said that as USDA begins the second round of accreditation, they will scrutinize the qualifications of everyone involved: reviewers of applications, decision makers, certification committee members, and inspectors. Bradley underscored the importance of good inspection. "Inspectors are the basis for everything." Their scrutiny will include looking for relevant and positive experience, education, and training. Bradley said, "Two out of three ain't bad," clarifying that 2 out of 3 applies to categories of qualifications and that to be able to demonstrate qualifications in all three areas is the ideal. Qualifications limited to only education, only experience, or only training would not be well received. No, a related education degree won't be required.

However, resumés should include relevant field of study and relevant course work. As for training, inspectors were pleased to hear him state "IOIA Training is excellent". He mentioned other relevant training such as Quality Systems auditing. Most certifiers were accredited about 5 years ago, so this second round (2007) of accreditation is significant both in number, and in cost. The first round was provided by USDA; this round will be at actual cost.

Certifiers are busy preparing their applications this year. Freedom from conflicts of interest will also be important. The NOP sees two separate functions, that of Evaluation (desk audit and on-site inspection) and Decision Processes (initial acceptance of application, certification recommendations, and final decision). They must be kept separate.

Bradley said the most common problems leading to loss of certification were use of non-compliant materials and failure to follow the Organic System Plan. He clarified that the NOP rule's exemption allowing treated seed applied only to US federal and state phytosanitary laws. No, if another country's government mandates the treatment of seeds with prohibited materials, that doesn't mean crops produced from that seed could be NOP certified. He urged inspectors to thoroughly document while on-site the "who, when, how much, why, where, and when" for any material that is prohibited or questioned.

He reminded the group of the orderly process by which rules are changed and can be changed--Identify Regulatory Objectives, Comment, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Comment, Proposed Rule, Comment, and finally the new Rule.

Bradley seemed sensitive to the current climate in the community. Ending on a positive note he said, "There's a whole world waiting out there for the organic industry to self-destruct. We are not going to let that happen." ∞

What's Inside....

AGM Wrapup.....p2
Annual Report.....p6
Scholarship Winners.....p9

**Plus trainings, minutes,
New Books for Sale,
GMO's, Resources,
Calendar,**

....And More!

More on IOIA AGM

There were so many wonderful photos taken at this AGM that we don't have room to put them all in this issue, so we're putting a special page on the website instead – go to our homepage, www.ioia.net, and look for **2006 AGM News** for a full spread.

Membership Directory Updates...

Will not be printed this month. See insert in this issue for most current info.

Accreditation renewal

Robert Howe has renewed his accreditation in Crops & Processing.

Erratum

Please note that in our last issue the Accreditation update was listed for 2003. It should have read **2005**. IOIA apologizes for the error.

Volunteers Wanted

Do you have a special talent?

IOIA has a Wish List:

- Grant Writers
- Fund Raisers
- Fund Raising Ideas
- People with experience in curriculum development or adult education
- Members who will volunteer as representatives with organizations IOIA is involved in (i.e. IFOAM, OTA)
- Translators
- Advertising Skills

Contact the IOIA office if you'd like to get involved!

IOIA Caps Now Available in More Colors! Choose from black, stone (off-white), khaki, forest green or navy. Our caps are made of 100% organic cotton and sell for \$20. See page 23 for ordering details.

Things Change

And not always to suit everyone. IOIA has lost 2 longstanding members, Larry Lack and Chip Kraynyk, due to politics in the organic arena. To view their farewell letters in full on our website, please go to the newest section of the IOIA website, From Our Members, at www.ioia.net

2006 AGM WrapUp

Forty IOIA members plus 8 proxies and 3 supporting members participated in the Annual Meeting, held at La Crosse Center, Wisconsin, on February 23. **Mark Bradley** presented the keynote address just prior to the meeting. Most business was completed before lunch, with election immediately afterwards. Lunch was shared with 'Organic University Day', the pre-conference session for the UMOFC. In response to member input at recent AGMs, more time was scheduled for lively membership discussions, which ran for nearly 2 hours. Attendance was not hampered by the frosty location, with a severe cold snap just preceding the events. Snow was piled high and temperatures were below zero as many members headed for Wisconsin. The first AGM in the Midwestern US since 1997, attendance was very strong among Midwestern inspectors who were not deterred by the frosty weather. One in six IOIA inspector members lives in the Midwest US.

Bob Howe, inspector member, introduced the concept of a Bylaw change that would stipulate an amount of volunteer time that a member would be required to contribute in order to maintain active member status. Discussion will likely continue.

The members supported searching out a location for the 2007 AGM somewhere in the sunny southwestern US in late February or early March.

Membership Discussion Summary:

Curriculum Development and Trainers fees: Brian brought up the importance of the curriculum development especially in light of the suggestion of an increase in pay for IOIA trainers mentioned earlier in the meeting. He said that IOIA might need to charge more for trainings. He thought that if everybody (IOIA Trainers, BOD and others) works together as team to make IOIA trainings better and more valuable that they will be more profitable for industry, the trainees, IOIA and the trainers.

IOIA response to OTA action: There was a question regarding IOIA's response to the action of the OTA and their process. Brian said that OTA's ED phoned the IOIA ED, and Brian spoke with the OTA Chair. It was suggested that what direction OTA takes might determine if IOIA remains an OTA member. It is important to stay at the OTA table to remain engaged. It was suggested that

IOIA take a straw poll on members' position to renew or not renew OTA membership. IOIA's Mission Statement IS our political stance. We can disagree and still renew the OTA membership. The IOIA BOD and Brian and Margaret have a first draft of a response to OTA Chair. Brian explained that in his conversation with the OTA Chair the OTA did not feel they did anything wrong; it was an attempt to restore what was the original intention of OFPA (Pre-Harvey). It was noted that some in the organic community have a different perspective of the OTA action.

New Coalition Group: There is a new group meeting to build a coalition with the intention of representing voices other (farmers, consumers, environmentalists) than Big Business. It is important for the whole organic community (even though there are differing goals and objectives) to be engaged, especially with respect to the Farm Bill. Possibly IOIA could in some way be connected with the Consumers Union, which has 6.5 million members.

IOIA Dues and fees: The IOIA inspection assessment fee was discussed. IOIA received more revenue with 2006 dues increase than with the assessment scheme. If IOIA members all commit to be on Forum and [continued on page 3]

IOIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Luis Brenes.....Chair
Garry LeanVice Chair
Gene Prochaska.....Treasurer
Marina Sexty Buchan.....Secretary
Ann Baier.....Director
Ann Lameka.....Director
John Trinterud..... First Alternate
Maheswar Ghimire..... Second Alternate
Maarten Samsom.....Member-At-Large

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

Manitoba, CANADA IOIA and Assiniboine Community College (ACC) are sponsoring both Basic Organic Farm Inspector course and Basic Organic Livestock Inspector course again in 2006. These are Distance Education courses that started March 3 and run until April 21, 2006. See www.ioia.net for full info.

St. Paul, Minnesota IOIA and Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) will cosponsor Organic Livestock Inspector training the week of **May 22-26, 2006** at the University of Minnesota. The course will be limited to 15 participants and use USDA National Organic Program (NOP) standards as a reference. Please contact Jon Anderson at ande8172@tc.umn.edu or 612-625-7766 for more information.

JAPAN Japan Organic Inspectors Association (JOIA) has scheduled IOIA Organic Farm Inspectors training to be held **June 1-3, 2006** and IOIA Organic Process training to be held **June 4-6, 2006**. Both courses will be instructed in Japanese using JAS as organic reference standards. Mutsumi Sakuyoshi will be the instructor for Farm course and Ekuko Asano will be the instructor for Process course. The location of the courses has not yet been determined. For further information please contact the instructors at Mutsumi.sakuyoshi@nifty.com or maruyama@abc-food.co.jp.

Eltham, JAMAICA IOIA and Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement (JOAM) will offer Basic Organic Farm Inspector course at the Ministry of Agriculture Training Center. The course is planned for **June 2006** and will use JOAM standards as reference. Further information about the training can be obtained from either Dwight Robinson or Tracey Logan at 876-927-1202 or dwight.robinson@uwimona.edu.jm.

Binghamton, New York IOIA and NOFA-NY Certified Organic will cosponsor Basic Organic Farm and Livestock Inspector Trainings at the Regency Hotel in Binghamton, New York **September 20-27, 2006**. Farm training will be followed by Livestock training. If enough interest is shown, Basic Processing Inspector Training will also be provided, to run concurrently with the Livestock training. Info and application for the trainings will be posted at www.ioia.net as soon as available. Contact the IOIA office for more information.

San Diego area, California IOIA and Quality Assurance International (QAI) will cosponsor Basic Farm and Processing Inspector Trainings, running concurrently, in the San Diego area of California. **Tentative date is November 6-9, 2006**. This event might include Advanced Training. Details are under development. Info and application for the trainings will be posted at www.ioia.net as soon as available. Contact the IOIA office for more information.

Future Trainings: Watch upcoming IOIA newsletters and the website for details as other trainings develop.

IOIA Scholarships Available for Organic Inspector Training

IOIA accepts applications for the annual Andrew Rutherford Scholarship Award, which provides full tuition for an IOIA-sponsored organic inspector training course during the following year. The Scholarship does not cover transportation or other expenses.

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

The current Scholarship cycle just ended, please see page 9 for news on 2006 recipients. For application materials and information on IOIA training programs, visit www.ioia.net. The deadline for returning Scholarship applications is October 1.

AGM from page 2

contribute to the IOIA ITAP web site so inspectors would have answers to technical questions, it would be indispensable. Everyone could choose a topic and send in their technical paper to a Forum committee.

Membership: Not everyone who takes IOIA training becomes an IOIA member. Once IOIA trainees pass the course they don't need IOIA. Not every inspector thinks they need to raise the bar; they see no perceived benefit to joining IOIA because they are working. IOIA should offer reviewer / decision maker training. Most organizations have a lifetime membership: IOIA could offer a \$1000 lifetime membership to raise the needed funds for curriculum redesign, a multi level i.e. age reduction lifetime or a \$2000 lifetime membership.

'Lifetime' Inspector Asset of the Year Award: Joyce Ford was recognized for her work in the early years of IOIA when the IOIA office was housed in the home of she and her husband Jim Riddle from its beginnings until 1999, and also thanked for her part as MOSES president in obtaining such a great venue for the 2005 AGM.

2005 Inspector Asset of the Year Award: Fred Ehlert

Fred has donated much time to foster the development of inspector training for organic fiber processing, including his sessions at the Costa Rica Advanced Training in 2005 and the Texas fiber training during 2005. He was nominated by Margaret Scoles, ED.

Scoles presented the awards, accompanied by organic cotton T-shirts, in keeping with the first such award, Tony Fleming's "What Would Tony Do?" 2002 Sonoma World Tour shirt. Joyce received a 2006 La Crosse World Tour shirt with no additional phrase, with Scoles saying, "There are not words adequate to express our thanks for what you've done and continue to do for IOIA".

Ehlert's shirt appropriately proclaimed "What Would Fred Wear?" [more on **AGM**, page 22]

Notes, from page 1

An agronomist with post grad studies in Plant Protection, I became involved in organics in 1992 while working with potato farmers in an IPM extension project. Farmers asked me to help them explore organic production and I reluctantly accepted only to discover less than a year later that organics became part of my mind and soul. An inspector since 1995, I have been blessed by the opportunity to inspect in many developing countries in Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia. I understand the challenges faced by organic farmers but also the ideals and needs of organic inspectors.

Invited to join the BOD, I was elected in Vermont in 2003 and re-elected in Vancouver in 2005. In the last three years I have had the honor to team-work close together with the other Board members. Our main question and challenge was to envision the future of IOIA: Where are we coming from? What does the actual situation look like? Where shall we as an organization be heading in the future?

In our last issue of *The Inspectors' Report* you have read the highlights of the Strategic Planning Retreat we had in Santa Cruz, CA last fall. IOIA has identified two top priorities and the BOD will address them with your participation and involvement. Please find on page 8 of this issue the final results of this planning process as presented to the membership in our meeting in La Crosse and feel free to comment and contribute.

And stay tuned, as in the coming issues of our newsletter and the Forum we will be informing you on specific ways you can contribute to the growth and promotion of IOIA. But don't wait until somebody tells you what we need from you: organic principles are by definition proactive and not reactive. I look forward to your creative contributions that will promote member to member cooperation and will make the value of being an IOIA member continue its vital growth.

Luis
Brenes,
Costa Rica



Safety, from page 1

voided.

And, since states regulate many food safety issues not covered by the FDA, many food safety laws will be voided and replaced with no law at all.

The bill passed the house with a vote of 283 to 139 even though there has never been a hearing in either the House or the Senate on this bill.

While special interests trumped public interest in the House on March 8th, US citizens still have a chance to stop this dangerous legislation in the Senate. At least 7 Senators have already come out in opposition to the Food Uniformity bill. US Senators need to know that there is strong opposition to any attempts to strip state's abilities to protect and inform their own citizens concerning food safety and labeling issues. Members are invited to explore this issue at

www.ga3.org/campaign/fooduniformity
house_passage
and take appropriate action as they see fit.



ED, from page 5

let me know.

Stockman Grass Farmer: On Feb. 3-4, I attended the Stockman Grass Farmer Organic Grass-finished Production School in Denver. I presented the session on Organic Livestock Certification and was inundated with questions from the 100 participants from over 28 states. Most of those who attended said they hope to be certified for organic livestock within the next few years. SGF paid my way and IOIA earned a nice honorarium. Meeting **Allan and Carolyn Nation** in real life was a treat and the collaboration was a nice way to follow up our NCAT-RMA work in Mississippi.

Accreditation: On schedule. Thanks again to **Stephen Grealy** for his work as ARP Chair.

Grants: Several potential follow-ups to our RMA collaboration in 2005 are developing. **Sue Baird** and Gene Prochaska were two of our subcontractors and both have sleuthed out other potential

collaborative efforts that would source grant funds.

ED Evaluation: Completed prior to AGM. Although getting evaluated is always a bit stressful, it was validating to have a self-assessment turn out very close to the BOD's assessment.

Note to past BOD members and Welcome to new BOD members: Thank you Brian and thank you Jack for your constant support over the past many years. I will look forward to our visits when we don't have to just 'talk shop'. I'm especially happy that Brian's daughter had the good taste to marry a Montana cowboy and live in our beautiful state. So I expect that I'll still see Brian once in awhile. Little did we know when we elected Maarten Samsom and John Trinterud that we were electing gourmet cooks. The post-AGM dinner at Maarten's hotel room was an extraordinary gift to all of us. Welcome to Gene Prochaska, who willingly took on one of the most difficult jobs, that of Treasurer. (I spend almost as much time on the phone with the Treasurer as with the BOD chair). É

Welcome to the 2006-2007 IOIA Board of Directors

Following the election and annual meeting on Feb. 23 in La Crosse, Wisconsin, the members below were elected:

Board of Directors:

Garry Lean (Ontario)
Gene Prochaska (Indiana)
Maarten Samsom (Vermont)
John Trinterud, First Alternate (California)
Maheswar Ghimire, Second Alternate (Nepal)

The Board met on Feb. 24 in La Crosse and organized as follows:

Chair: Luis Brenes (Costa Rica)
Vice-Chair: Garry Lean
Treasurer: Gene Prochaska
Secretary: Marina Buchan (British Columbia)
Executive Committee Member at Large: Maarten Samsom (Vermont)
Director: Ann Baier (California)
Director: Ann Lameka (Oregon)

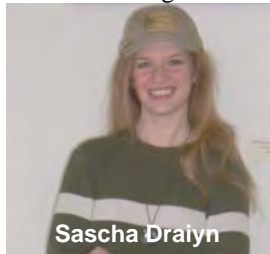
Farewell and thank you to outgoing Board members Brian Magaro, Jack Reams, and Karen Troxell (alternate). ∞

Notes from the ED

By Margaret Scoles

Happy New Year to All! I'd like to start out with a Big **Thank you to IOIA members:** IOIA received a record number of donations from members in 2005. Thank you! You helped contribute to the best bottom line in IOIA's history. Please brace yourself for what could be a negative bottom line for 2006, as we re-invest some of that surplus into IOIA's curriculum upgrade, to establish an Advisory Board, and work to implement other long-range objectives. It was great to see that membership did not decline with the dues increase.

Office Changes: We've expanded! IOIA now has the entire Prairie Winds Trading Co. building. The office reorganization is 90% complete. I am enjoying IOIA's first new computer, purchased with some of the cash surplus at the end of 2005. Backup ability has improved and we can now burn CDs. We also purchased some new (to us) office furniture. We are much better prepared to host any international visitors who might show up.



Staff: IOIA welcomes Sascha Draiyne, our newest part-time staff, to the office. Sascha

is from Switzerland. She came to Montana several years ago to see the west and fell in love with a Broadus cowboy. They married and have lived here since. Her fluency in 4 languages (German, French, Spanish, and English) is a great asset to IOIA and filled a critical gap. We were maxing out Judy, who prefers to work half-time at most. Sascha also wanted part-time work so it worked great for us.

Extra-provincial Registration in Canada: IOIA is undergoing the process of registering in BC as an extra-provincial

society. This will hopefully facilitate access to grants, allow IOIA to seek funds in Canada, improve our visibility in Canada, and improve the credibility of both IOIA and our Canadian members with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. **Thank you to Lisa** for doing the ground work. Please see page 11 for news on IOIA's contribution in Canada.

Training Notes: I was one of about 30 inspectors who attended the OCIA JAS workshop in La Crosse. I enjoyed being a full participant in the first ever **IOIA Train the Trainer Workshop** in La Crosse, coordinated by Lisa Pierce, with primary presenter **Elvira Perrella** of BC. The best part was sharing ways and learning to make IOIA trainings more hands-on and interactive. I will represent IOIA as a Trainer at one of our first in-house inspector trainings (this seems to be a rapidly growing interest for IOIA), Advanced Organic Inspector Training for the CO Dept of Ag inspectors on March 21-23. During that same week, IOIA will provide a 1.5 day in-house Organic Dairy Inspection Workshop for Dairy Marketing Services in New York.

The **Wisconsin Trainings** overflowed. We ran the ISO 9001:2000 training at break-even, with only 9 participants, as a membership service. AQS Management Systems provided the training, our 2nd collaboration. The first such training was in 2004. Inspectors who attended, as before, said they really enjoyed taking the course with their peers, rather than strangers unfamiliar with our work. IOIA usually has a large basic training in the spring and another in the fall. This year, we will be sponsoring two in the fall (NY in September and CA in November). I'm hoping that this will free up some time to work on larger IOIA projects.

Other Wisconsin Notes: La Crosse was Networking Extraordinaire! We shared our meals with the OCIA AGM. **Jim**



Our ED at her new desk in her spacious office!

Riddle presented during the Advanced Training to the combined OCIA AGM, IOIA Advanced, and Train the Trainer group. **Keith Kadrmas** and I co-presented a session on how OCIA Chapters and Inspectors can work better together at a Chapter Workshop. They asked for the handout to add to their chapter newsletter afterwards. **Emily Brown Rosen** and I co-presented a session on Materials for the UMOFC. **Mark Bradley's** certifier session occurred next door to the IOIA AGM. I tried to see the UMOFC Trade Show one evening, but I went about 15 feet in 30 minutes. The party at **Jim and Joyce's** on the evening before the AGM was a bash to remember. **Joyce** totally deserved the standing ovation she received for the lifetime **Inspector Asset of the Year** award the next day. Somehow, she managed to participate fully in the Train the Trainer Workshop, serve as president of MOSES, and provide a feast to celebrate Jim's birthday in their home the night before the AGM.

Guelph Organic Conference: Special thanks to **Leanne McCormick**, who coordinated the IOIA booth, and to the other IOIA members supported her. We received several inquiries to follow up.

MT Nonprofit Association: We joined. Our first year's dues were \$100 and our membership discount saved \$250 on Directors and Officers Liability Insurance. They are a great resource for IOIA.

All Things Organic, Chicago, May 2006: IOIA was pleased to receive a complementary booth again this year from OTA. If you are interested in wearing one of the IOIA badges and helping to staff the booth, please [see ED, page 4]

Membership Directory Available!

The On-line version has been updated and hard copies printed and mailed. IOIA mails free copies to all Supporting Certification Agencies. If you would like a copy and failed to reserve one, please let us know. We printed extra copies. Cost is \$15 to members.

2005 IOIA Annual Report

Submitted by Brian Magaro, IOIA Chair

IOIA's mission is to address issues and concerns relevant to organic inspectors, to provide quality inspector training, and to promote consistency and integrity in the organic certification process.

Issues and Concerns relevant to organic inspectors During 2005, IOIA printed the first mini-Membership Directory as an insert in the IOIA newsletter, *The Inspectors' Report*. The on-line, real-time, version has replaced the hard copy for most members. IOIA continues to provide hard copies of the Directory to all supporting certification agencies.

IOIA resumed providing the hard copy of *The Inspectors' Report* to all categories of members, after a one-year experiment in 2004 of distributing it electronically to all members, with an extra fee for hard copy. Most of our members were clearly not ready to go paperless. The *Report* was especially important this year to keep members updated on changes in USDA regulations pre and post-settlement of the Harvey lawsuit and the surprise congressional changes in the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) in late 2005.

IOIA continues to maintain the Inspector member discussion group (IOIA Forum), which is widely acknowledged as one of the most valuable benefits of membership. Inspector members have access to a growing list of resources from our "Inspector Members Only" section of the website. IOIA also maintains a "Job Board" on the website.

IOIA continues to maintain membership in Grolink AB and the agreement that makes *The Organic Standard* electronic newsletter available to our members for a nominal fee. More than 25% of inspector members subscribe.

Promoting consistency and integrity IOIA continues to maintain a promotion budget. IOIA reprinted the IOIA brochure in 2005. We published a promotional ad in the annual CRAAQ publication in Quebec. IOIA attended three major organic events in the US and Canada with our booth display. We attended and staffed a booth at the Guelph Organic Conference in Ontario in January; "All Things Organic", the Organic Trade Association show in Chicago in May; and the Organic Matters conference in Manitoba in November. IOIA hosted a "Meet Arthur Harvey" session at the ATO booth. IOIA was represented at the New Hope Expo East in Washington, DC by members Helene Bouvier, Bob Durst, and Jim Riddle. IOIA collaborated for the first time with Acres USA. This collaboration resulted in organic inspector training in Indianapolis. Our Executive Director was an invited speaker at the Acres Conference and the Montana Organic Association Conferences last year.

- IOIA spoke out as an OTA member, with a letter to the Organic Trade Association (OTA) Board of Directors that questioned the process by which OTA and others persuaded the US Congress to change OFPA.
- IOIA continues to support the development of Canadian organic standards development work through the Canadian Committee budget
- IOIA continued to support OTA, IFOAM, OMRI, COG, and Coop America through membership dues. IOIA also joined as a partner with the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture and became a member of the Montana Nonprofit Association, an excellent new resource for IOIA.
- IOIA wrote letters of recommendation for Miles McEvoy and Emily Brown Rosen as NOSB appointees.

In a major new effort, IOIA partnered with the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) to provide training resources, materials, and workshops for farmers and technical service providers in five states of the Deep South (Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky). The project was funded through a cooperative agreement with the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA). Inspector members **Sue Baird, Elaine Ferry, Paul Dutter, and Gene Prochaska** worked with IOIA to make this project a success. One outcome was 'The Southern Organic Resource Guide' (available on-line at the ATTRA website, www.attra.org). The project provided assistance to the region at a time when it was devastated by hurricanes. Although it redirected a significant amount of energy at the IOIA office, this project was the single greatest factor in IOIA's most positive bottom line in history. IOIA acknowledges **Ann Baier** for her part in the completion of this project, in her dual role as IOIA Board member and NCAT staff.

Training: IOIA and our team of Trainers led IOIA inspector trainings around the world including Japan, British Columbia, Taiwan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, New Mexico, Idaho, Utah, Texas, Pennsylvania, and Indiana with 371 persons trained. This included 49 experienced inspectors or auditors of the advanced trainings and 30 workshop participants (Crop Standards, Livestock Standards, and Community Grower Groups). IOIA sponsored a Community Grower Group Workshop in Vancouver with Luis Brenes as Trainer.

IOIA cosponsored with OTA and the Texas Organic Cotton Marketing Cooperative (TOCMC) the first Organic Fiber Processing Inspector Training, held at the TTU International Textile Center in Lubbock, Texas. Participants included experienced inspectors and others from the organic fiber processing industry.

IOIA also cosponsored one of its first in-house organic inspector trainings, Basic Processing inspector training for Utah Department of Agriculture and Food inspectors.

IOIA strengthened alliances with the USDA National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) by subcontracting to do organic livestock tours and workshops through the Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO). These types of trainings help IOIA to diversify revenue and gain recognition in the industry.

Interest in IOIA inspector training remains strong. IOIA continues to provide Basic Farm, Livestock, and Processing courses, and often cosponsors training events with private certification agencies or state programs. IOIA collaborates with Assiniboine Community College to provide inspector training courses in Canada using distance learning. IOIA provides training with 3 different models: IOIA-managed (those managed entirely out of the head office of IOIA); Cosponsor-Managed (those managed by IOIA's International Training Manager, **Lisa Pierce**, working closely with regional cosponsors); and in-house trainings (may be either IOIA or Cosponsor-Managed). Most IOIA trainings follow the Cosponsor-Managed model. During 2004, the Board began to implement a plan to

streamline IOIA's administrative procedures for trainings. Writing the management procedures was contracted to Lisa and her work was completed last year. That work included comprehensive internal manuals for Cosponsors, Trainers, and management in the IOIA offices, as well as documents about IOIA training appropriate for public consumption. Training Fees were revised to more accurately cover actual costs to IOIA, Trainers, and the International Training office.

IOIA eliminated the former position of Training Manager. Margaret Scoles serves now only as one position, the Executive Director. The year 2005 ended with plans for IOIA's first Train the Trainer Workshop, scheduled in La Crosse, Wisconsin in early 2006 for IOIA Trainers. This workshop is funded partially by a professional development fee incorporated in the revised training fee schedule for trainings.

Finances Financial health of IOIA at the end of 2005 is the best in history. After the past two deficit years, we've successfully implemented the International Training Manager position while weathering the transition to training fewer new inspectors. In 2005, IOIA operated within the budget, committed to several significant additional expenditures such as a Board planning retreat in California and an IOIA office computer, and still ended with a net income of nearly \$26,000. The Board committed one-half of these funds to inspector training curriculum development and one-half to replenishing reserves.

After two years of mediocre support by members for the concept of an assessment fee per inspection, the Board eliminated the fee assessment for 2006 and raised dues across the board for inspectors. IOIA members are to be commended for not only maintaining their membership, but for also keeping Inspector membership higher again this year and contributing a record level of donations (over \$3000 including the Annual Meeting benefit auction).

Jack Reams, Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee, will present a detailed budget for 2006 at our AGM.

Staff Margaret Scoles continues full-time as Executive Director and Training Manager, assisted by Judy Hessong as part-time Office Assistant. Judy has proven herself to be a valuable asset in the day-to-day functions of IOIA. Sascha Drayne, originally from Switzerland, is our newest part-time office assistant. She brings a valuable skill to IOIA with fluency in four languages.

IOIA recognizes and once again acknowledges that as International Training Manager, Lisa Pierce's hours in 2005 continued to exceed the expected time for her position. She has contributed a significant amount of volunteer time. Lisa's role now includes the promotion of the IOIA training program. IOIA made the decision to apply for registration as an extra-provincial society in British Columbia, with IOIA's International Training Office designated as the contact point. Lisa represented IOIA at meetings with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and in Morocco on a trip to explore organic inspector training there.

Diane Cooner continues to do a super job as Newsletter Editor and Website Manager. Increasingly the website is IOIA's 'face' to the public. IOIA mails out few hard copy information packets, as inquiries are directed to the website and applications, forms, and info are available for direct download. Diane also moderates The IOIA Forum (inspector list serve). Diane's work to develop the technical advisory feature for the "Inspectors only" section of the website was temporarily on hold, waiting for IOIA's new web hosting service. The switch was accomplished during 2005 and her work is back on track.

Committees The Training Committee, formerly chaired by Janine Gibson, stood down in 2005 to make room for a restructured Training Advisory Committee, to include a cross section of IOIA trainers and other committee members selected for specific expertise. This committee is under construction, under the oversight of IOIA Board liaison Ann Baier.

The reins of the Membership Committee were handed from Chris Kidwell to David Dahmen. A big thank-you goes to David for his work as Nominations Committee Chair. The Membership Committee Chair doubles as Chair of the Nominations Committee Chair. IOIA's Inspector member category increased modestly again this year and reflects a slow but steady flow of new Supporting Individuals into the Inspector category after they have appropriate inspection experience. All categories of membership increased.

The Scholarship Committee this year reviewed 5 applicants for our inspector scholarship and 6 applications for the Organic Community Initiative Scholarship. Congratulations to this year's Andrew Rutherford Scholarship winner, Ingrid Varela Benavides of Costa Rica, and to OCIS Scholarship winner, Sonia Carlo, of Puerto Rico. The IOIA Board approved a second OCIS Scholarship for this year, in recognition of good finances. Md. Moshir Rahman of Bangladesh received this award. The 2004 Rutherford winner, Cheryl Laxton of British Columbia, attended advanced training in Vancouver, BC. IOIA extends a special thank you to new Chair, Margaret Weigelt and to outgoing Chair, Nancy Ludwig.

The Ethics Committee, chaired by Joyce Ford, had another quiet year with no formal inspector complaints.

The Accreditation Committee, with Chair Jake Lewin, oversees the IOIA inspector accreditation program. The Accreditation Review Panel reviewed 9 applications for crops, livestock and/or processing accreditation. Twenty-five IOIA members are accredited. A huge thank you goes to Stephen Greal, new ARP Chair in 2005, and the other ARP members (Ami Greenberg, John McKeon, Linda Kaner, and Monique Scholz) for processing last year's applications in record time.

The Latin American Committee currently lacks a Chair. Director Luis Brenes is communicating with Latin American inspectors for their input to develop a recommendation. Carlos Escobar of Colombia will be writing a regular Spanish column this year in *The Inspectors' Report*.

The Canadian Committee, currently co-chaired by Janine Gibson and Leanne McCormick, participated in development of the Canadian Standards, supported the IOIA training program in Canada, contributed to the Canadian Organic Initiative Project, and staffed the Guelph Organic Conference booth. Canadian inspector members are particularly concerned that IOIA help keep them relevant under the developing regulations regarding inspectors as CFIA assumes their role in oversight of organic inspection.

The Bylaws Committee, Chaired by Arthur Harvey, proposed no Bylaws Amendments in 2005. However, IOIA found one of the most recent changes (2006 AGM) to be particularly timely. The Bylaws change to designate First and Second Alternates, with the First Alternate participating in all meetings, made for a smooth transition to fill a Board vacancy during 2005. First Alternate Ann Lameka had participated fully in Board meetings and was prepared to step in when needed.

[see **Report**, page 8]

Report, from page 7

The Communications and Marketing Committee Chair is Bob Howe. Bob will present a bylaws proposal for discussion at the 2006 AGM which would require some volunteer participation by each member to maintain active status.

Joe Montecalvo chairs the Editorial Advisory Board. Dr. Montecalvo sought and received support from IOIA for updating his sanitation and food science manuals, which he allows IOIA to reproduce for sale.

This list of committee activities is far from comprehensive. IOIA appreciates all volunteers. Poster sized committee reports were displayed at the AGM again in 2005 (special thanks to Diane).

IOIA BOARD

In 2005 the Board met by frequent conference calls and one business meeting in Vancouver. IOIA was proud to host our Annual Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia in 2005.

There were some changes on the BOD of Directors during the 2005. In spite of those, changes this BOD remains the most international one IOIA has ever had. A minority of the current Board are from the US. Canadian Marina Sexty Buchan replaced Canadian Dag Falck. John Foster resigned mid-term and his position was filled by First Alternate Ann Lameka, who will serve another year to fill out his term. Special thanks are due John for his service on the Board for 1 ½ terms and to Ann for stepping up to the plate. One board member is up for re-election this year and has expressed his desire to continue to serve IOIA: Garry Lean – current Vice-Chair.

BOARD RETREAT

A 4-day Strategic Planning Retreat was held in Santa Cruz, California. Margaret Scoles and Lisa Pierce were active participants. **Details of the retreat are outlined in the Inspectors' Report Fall 2005.**

An important component of the meeting was a listening session. Four IOIA members including the Membership and Accreditation Committee Chairs and representatives of CCOF and the Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) addressed the BOD. Key discussion points included – accreditation, training for non-inspector audience, inspector labor pool and making the reviewers job easier.

Key activities identified during the retreat were to:

- Reconstruct curriculum for basic farm, livestock, and processor trainings, geared toward advancement of inspectors toward industry recognition of inspector accreditation.
- Create an Organic Inspection Guide
- Establish an IOIA Advisory Committee
- Develop Training for other Audiences

Work on these plans is already taking form and will be priority for the coming year.

Board members who will not be running in the 2006 election are **Jack Reams** - Treasurer who has served the BOD for the last 4 years and myself (**Brian Magaro**) having served on the Board since 2000. Jack has been an inspiration and a pillar of focus in assisting making sound financial decisions over the last several years. His strong will with a splash of well grounded common sense will be missed. For myself it has been a pleasure to have had the opportunity to work with the Board over the last 6 years, and I plan to continue my participation within IOIA on at least one committee. Your Board works hard for you and as long as you are a member they deserve your support. ∞

IOIA 2005 Financial Statement

Dec 31, 05

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

CD Savings 3,069.18

Montana Checking 20,725.89

Montana Paypal 1,406.73

Vermont- Chittenden Bank 32,251.09

Total Checking/Savings 57,452.89

Accounts Receivable

Accounts Receivable -2,038.59

Total Accounts Receivable -2,038.59

Other Current Assets

Inventory Asset 3,371.12

Petty Cash 125.00

Undeposited Funds 2,091.00

Total Other Current Assets 5,582.12

Total Current Assets 60,996.42

TOTAL ASSETS 61,001.42

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Opening Fund Balance 442.57

Retained Funds 34,981.41

Net Income 25,577.44

Total Equity 60,996.42

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 61,001.42

2006 Scholarship Winners

By Margaret Weigelt, Scholarship Committee Chair

IOIA is pleased to announce the winners of the 2006 Scholarships. The Andrew Rutherford Scholarship winner is **Ingrid Varela Benavides**, of Costa Rica. The Community Initiative Scholarship has been awarded to **Sonia Carlo**, of Puerto Rico. This year, the Board of Directors authorized an additional Organic Community Initiative Scholarship, which will be going to **Md. Moshiur Rahman**, of Bangladesh. Winners receive a tuition waiver, meals, and lodging at any IOIA course during the year. The award does not include travel. It was not an easy decision. Careful consideration was given to each applicant. The Scholarship Committee would like to thank each of the applicants.

Ingrid Varela Benavides

Ingrid hails from Costa Rica. She has a Master degree in Organic Agriculture and a Bachelor degree in Tropical Biology, both from the Universidad Nacional, Heredia. She is currently working with the Natural Restoration Foundation, La Garita Alajuela, in the Direction of the Tropical Wild Life Rescue Center.

"Since I can remember I am very close to agriculture and biology, the two fields are in my heart, and I don't know a better manner of complement of both activities than organic agriculture. That was the reason I chose to study biology and organic agriculture, too.

"During the time I was in the university I knew about IOIA and the work of an organic inspector. I think this activity mixes ecological and agriculture principles and knowledge.

"I want to be near the organic agriculture field, as an organic inspector, as an investigator or even as a producer. The training will help me to look for a job as an organic inspector.

"As a biologist I have interest in health and microbiology of soil. I worked with nematodes as indicators of the soil health. Some agricultural practices affect the nematode communities and that effect could be measured. I know that the study of nematode community can be useful for assess the organic production, and the effect of some agricultural practices.

"I have a solid compromise with the agriculture and with the life, I think organic production is not only a business, it's an important activity that can change the life of the people on Earth."



Sonia I. Carlo Acosta

Sonia comes from Puerto Rico. She holds a Bachelors degree in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez Campus. In 2003, she founded Southwest Agricultural Organic Committee, Inc. (C.A.O.S. Inc) a non-profit organization that educates local farmers in natural and organic methods. C.A.O.S. Inc also brings together and organizes these farmers to sell and distribute their produce in a monthly market. As a successful farmer, she has spent the last three years working with the Puerto Rican organic movement that is slowly developing into a viable community. Sonia currently owns and operates a seven acre herb farm in Cabo Rojo utilizing organic methods.

"As a natural leader of the organic community, it is my duty to educate local farmers trying to switch to organic growing methods, as well as link them to consumers that are willing to purchase their fresh produce. If trained in USDA organic standards, I will be able to encourage local farmers to grow organic produce to sell not only locally, but globally at a fair exchange.

"In the next five years, I wish to achieve the creation of an agricultural exchange network with the use of the internet. This project eliminates the middle man and helps farmers in distributing their merchandise globally; this required to obtain the USDA organic seal of approval. The farmers are guaranteed that their products will be sold at a fair price and they will have the benefit to distribute their organic products globally.

"I have a passion for agriculture and the environment and I believe that mankind's and our planets future depends on the farmers of tomorrow."



Md. Moshiur Rahman

Md. Moshiur is from Bangladesh. He has a Bachelors degree in Agriculture and a Masters in Horticulture. Since 2004, he has been working with Proshika, A Center for Human Development, as Associate Coordinator in the Social Forestry Program under the Natural Resources Department, where he supervises and provides assistance to technical staff. He has a total of six years experience as an agriculturist and social development worker for a number of national organizations. In Bangladesh, the priority concern is with poverty alleviation in rural contexts, economic and financial sustainability, and capacity development in natural resources management. Rahman is a registered Agriculturist with Agriculturist Institution of Bangladesh, and has also published numerous ag-related research papers.

"I would like to submit myself as a candidate for the training programs. My present job responsibilities need to scale up my capability in organic farming. So, this type of training can bring development of lifestyle of organic farmers. My future plan is to assess the needs and problems of organic farmers in rural Bangladesh, and to find ways to resolve the crisis. This training will provide an impetus to implement my future dream to develop such projects aimed at poverty alleviation through ecological farming systems. I could serve our country as a national stakeholder of agro-based industries, marketing and production.



SECTOR NEWS

FY07 budget includes 50% increase for NOP

The National Organic Program was one of few USDA programs to receive a funding increase in the proposed FY07 budget. Requested funding increased from \$2.026 million to \$3.13 million to support staff required for increased regulation writing, certifier training, and enforcement.

Appeal Summaries Online

The NOP has posted summaries of all compliance appeal rulings made since the national organic standards were implemented in October 2002. See the document at www.ams.usda.gov/nop/Compliance/AppEalsSummaries/Oct02-Jan06.pdf.

NOSB seeks comments on colors, flavors

The National Organic Standards Board is seeking public comment by April 10 (send to Katherine.Benham@usda.gov) on recommendations supporting the continued use of food color additives and flavors in organic handling operations. For more info, see

www.ams.usda.gov/nosb/NOSBRecommendations/NonsyntheticColorsFlavors.pdf

Aquaculture Report Online

The NOSB Aquaculture Working Group Interim Final Report is available for public comment: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/TodaysNews.html> (look under Feb. 7). Deadline for comments is April 10.

Avian Flu Prevention Measures Hit Free-Range Poultry

In an effort to curb the spread of avian influenza, the Swiss government has placed free-range poultry under house arrest, reports [swissinfo](http://www.swissinfo.org). Free-range poultry producers are being forced to find alternative means of caring for birds used to foraging outdoors each day. Both individual poultry producers and Kagfreiland, an organization that issues an organic label, worry that since the free-range designation will become meaningless under the ban, product quality and consumer trust will suffer. Meanwhile GRAIN, an international non-governmental organization which promotes the sustainable management and use of agricultural biodiversity based on people's control over genetic resources

and local knowledge, has issued a report that says small-scale poultry farming and wild birds are being unfairly blamed for the bird flu crisis. The report *Fowl play: The poultry industry's central role in the bird flu crisis* says the transnational poultry industry is the root of the problem and must be the focus of efforts to control the virus. In the United States, USDA has posted an Avian Influenza page on its Web site, offering news and fact sheets with further information. www.swissinfo.org

USDA releases study on the effect of Harvey ruling, congressional amendments

The USDA has released its report to Congress on the impact of the Harvey v. Johanns court decision and congressional amendments restoring the National Organic Program to pre-lawsuit status. Congress had directed the Secretary of Agriculture to undertake a study when it passed the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2006 last November.

Looking at the court's decision prohibiting synthetics in processed organic products, the study showed that many in the organic industry believed the loss of those synthetics on the National List that had previously gone through the National Organic Standards Board approval process would have resulted in potential economic losses totaling billions of dollars. "The losses would extend from farm to consumer, with a decline in the demand for raw farm products and a loss of confidence by consumers in the USDA organic seal," according to the report.

In addition, USDA estimated that the loss of the 80-20 feed exception for dairy could result in potential losses ranging from \$1 million to \$5 million annually for all organic dairies. Although the action by Congress did not restore this provision, it did amend the act to allow crops and forage from land in the third year of transition to organic status to be fed to animals during the 12 months prior to the milk and milk products being sold as organic.

The study found that rather than adversely affecting the organic industry, processors, farmers or consumers, the NOP had been a positive and contributing force to its growth.

"The amendments passed by Congress effectively restored order to the organic business community by permitting contracts to be upheld and production to continue unimpeded by eliminating uncertainty over labeling and other regulatory changes that would have had to occur by June 2006," USDA's report notes, pointing out that any changes to the NOP regulations would still need to go through public notice and comment rulemaking, in effect ensuring that the recent congressional action did not weaken national organic standards and left in place a public process for addressing any concerns.

USDA used data from a number of agricultural economists in studying this issue. The 22-page report is posted at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/NOPCongressStudy10606.pdf>.

OTA Announces New ED

The Organic Trade Association has announced the hiring of Caren Wilcox as their next Executive Director.

Wilcox has extensive experience in agriculture and public policy, and has served in both the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. government. She brings skills in a number of areas important to OTA including developing effective communications and public policy programs, association membership development, and strategic planning. She was the first Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety at the USDA, and has served as a senior advisor to the Ranking Member on the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee, where she worked on such issues as sustainability, food security, specialty crops and water and energy.

During her work at the USDA, she became very familiar with the National Organic Standards. All in all, her career has given her unique insights into a wide range of organizational and management issues and the interaction of the public and private sectors.

Wilcox will assume direction of a solid association with a strong foundation and an experienced professional staff established during the past 16 years under outgoing executive director Katherine DiMatteo's leadership.

OTA delivers organic appropriations recommendations to Congress

On March 2, members of the Organic Trade Assn. (OTA) delivered OTA's organic appropriations recommendations to 99 percent of the House and Senate Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee members. They reported that congressional offices were generally positive about organic agriculture and trade. FY07 organic appropriations are supported by a wide range of stakeholders including the Organic Farming Research Foundation, National Organic Coalition, the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, and the Organic Consumers Association. More info at <http://www.ota.com/> under Policy.

Food CGMP Summary Online

On November 2, 2005, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a report, authored by its Food Current Good Manufacturing Practice (CGMP) Modernization Working Group, entitled "*Food CGMP Modernization - A Focus on Food Safety.*" Of primary significance, the report contains recommendations to revise the food CGMP regulations to include new requirements for training, allergen controls, *Listeria monocytogenes* control, written sanitation procedures, and maintenance and inspection of records. In addition, the working group recommended that FDA consider applying food CGMPs to establishments engaged in the harvesting, storage, or distribution of raw agricultural commodities. The report also advised FDA to seek comments on the scope of requirements for training programs, allergen controls, raw fruits and vegetables, written sanitation procedures for HACCP and CGMP programs, and the use of time-temperature relationships to control microbial growth. A memorandum summarizing the report and evaluating each recommendation is posted on the IOIA website in the 'Inspectors Corner' section.

OTA's organic fiber processing standards now online

The review-only copy of OTA's Organic Fiber Processing Standards is now posted online and is available to everyone. Please remember that in order to become

certified to the standards, you still need to fill out a fiber license agreement and obtain a full copy of the standards. Both the review-only copy and the fiber license agreements are available by visiting www.ota.com/polls/21.html.

OTCO Announces Fiber Cert Program

Oregon Tilth is pleased to announce the launch of their Organic Fiber & Textile Handling certification program. OTCO's integrated program bridges the gap between organic fiber crop production and finished organic textile products sold to consumers worldwide. Oregon Tilth has launched its organic fiber and textile handling certification program to certify operations to OTA's American Organic Standards for Fiber and Textile Handling. For more info contact OTCO at 503.378.0690 johnf@tilth.org or www.tilth.org

CCOF Partners with Wild Farm Alliance

Calif. Certified Organic Farmers announces a joint biodiversity conservation project with Wild Farm Alliance. The organizations will jointly create a program to promote and develop biodiversity conservation guidelines for organic farmers. The two organizations say organic growers have lacked clear guidelines on protecting biodiversity resources in the past. Recently, CCOF was named the largest domestic certified of organic growers in the nation by USDA. The organization certifies over 1,200 firms in the organic food chain, including more than 1,000 organic growers. In 2005, CCOF had 218,000 certified organic acres.

Job Opening at MOSA

Certification Specialist
Midwest Organic Services Association, Inc. (MOSA) in Viroqua, WI, is looking for a qualified individual to join the staff as a full-time Certification Specialist. The following qualifications are needed:

- Experience in a sector of the organic industry, a farming background or comparable educational background
 - Good computer and communication skills, written and verbal
 - Ability to work in a well-organized manner, with attention to detail
 - Demonstrated ability to work well in a group
- Responsibilities include:

We Get Letters

Dear Margaret,
I just received your contribution to the Canada Organic Initiative Project. I know that the IOIA is not a wealthy organisation, so I really appreciate the cash. Your contribution of \$343 (CAD) will be matched with an equal in-kind contribution from the organic sector participants. This amount of \$686 will then be matched with an equal amount of cash from the Organic Sector Development Program (Canada/BC gov), providing for an overall cash contribution to the project of \$1029. It really helps!
Thanks again,
Paddy Doherty
Canada Organic Initiative Coordinator

- Reviewing certification applications and products used
 - Working as part of the Certification Team
 - Customer service for Associates
- Interested individuals are invited to contact Susan Perry at MOSA – 608-637-2526, 122 W. Jefferson St., mosa@mosaorganic.org – for details and to obtain an employment application.

Job Opening at HOFA

Help Wanted, in Hilo: Part time Certification Coordinator with Cert.inspector experience, USDA organic rules and regulations, organic farming preferred. A multi-tasker and independent worker. Competitive salary, D.O.E.Flex hours, 8-12/week. Fax cover letter, resume, references by the end of April to (808) 969-7759, or e-mail hofa@hawaiiorganicfarmers.org No phone calls or walk-ins please

Riddle Lands at UM Outreach

The University of Minnesota's Southwest Research and Outreach Center (SWROC) has been a leader in the study of organic agriculture and ecology for over 15 years. **Jim Riddle** and **Carmen Fernholz** are joining the SWROC staff as organic agriculture coordinators. Fernholz, from Madison, Minn., will be the organic agriculture coordinator for research management; Riddle, from Winona, Minn., will be the organic agriculture coordinator for outreach. Based out of SWROC, their duties will involve other organics-related activities throughout the University system and at other research and outreach centers. ∞

Prodigy Sheep Breeds Worm Resistance

At a time when even conventional farmers are looking to reduce their dependence on agricultural chemicals, one sheep in Walcha, New South Wales, is attracting a lot of attention. And it's catching the eye of many in the organic industry too.

When woolgrower Rob Biddle took over most of the flock from the Walcha Ram Breeders' Group, little did he know that a genetic prodigy was among them.

When Biddle became involved in the Merino Validation Project, he learned that the ram known as 75 had a whopping faecal egg count (FEC) trait score of around minus three. What this means is that 75 is showing remarkable genetic resistance to worm infestations, greatly reducing the need for chemical drenching. And the good news is he is passing it on to his offspring.

The FEC Estimated Breeding Value (EBV) for all his yearling progeny is a staggering minus 2.81. This compares with -0.09 for all other Merino rams.

Merino Genetic Services manager, Dr Alex Ball, said 75 was notable for the fact that he not only had inherently high parasite resistance, but was a good wool sheep too - the ram is in the Validation Project's top one per cent for staple length - and that his traits are repeatable.

"When we class his progeny, about 80 per cent go straight into the top ranking based on SRS selection characteristics," Biddle said.

"We hope other studs will use him not only for his FEC ranking but also his other outstanding traits, wool, eye muscle depth and correct body structure."

According to Biddle, even before the remarkable worm resistance was discovered, 75 was first selected as a wool sheep using SRS guidelines. He is structurally correct and has magnificent wool length; shorn as a 3 year old he cut 220mm of wool for 12 months - more than twice the growth rate of most merinos in his micron range.

His ability to pass on his wool traits to his progeny has been nothing short of remarkable, according to Biddle. He consistently throws sheep of the highest standards in wool. Growers who have artificially inseminated 75 into their flocks have consistently said how soft and long the wool from this ram is compared with other sires.

Biddle says that organic growers looking for natural control methods for worms are beginning to enquire about 75. Their feedback has been that many more growers would benefit from its genetic traits.

For information and for other growers assessments of 75 and his lambs contact Rob Biddle on 02 6777 8182 or 0427 228830. *by Dom OBrien, BFA Newsletter*

Global demand for ethanol sends sugar soaring

As oil prices go so goes sugar. Now seen as a petroleum substitute as well as a sweetener, sugar has become a more valuable commodity. Sugar prices have risen from nine cents a pound a year ago to 17.35 cents recently on the commodities market. Brazil, the world's top sugar producer requires 25% of its auto fuel to contain ethanol. By 2010, global demand for ethanol is expected to quadruple to 20 billion gallons. US price-supported sugar is not likely to be a major component of US-produced ethanol but domestic corn prices are already rising because of the ethanol demand and some officials now wonder if the US can produce enough corn for both food and fuel.

Dean Shareholders Seek Answers on Organic

Lobbing the latest salvo in the organic dairy wars, two socially conscious investment firms have filed a shareholder proposal asking Horizon Organic Dairy's parent company to make its organic practices more transparent.

Boston Common Asset Management and the Needmor Fund, based in Toledo, Ohio, have asked Dean Food's board of directors to appoint an independent committee to review its policies and procedures for sourcing raw milk for its organic dairy products. The committee would also determine whether those procedures promote the spirit as well as the letter of the rules governed by the NOP. There is "widespread concern," the proposal noted, that Horizon's practices "violate consumer trust, seriously jeopardizing share value."

"Since Dean Foods has owned Horizon, we've done nothing but increase the number of organic farms ... and increase our commitment to [organic advocacy and trade groups] and increase the price we pay to farmers," said Kelly Shea, director

of government and industry relations for Horizon.

But the criticism against Dean isn't new. Last year, the Cornucopia Institute, an organic watchdog group in Cornucopia, Wis., filed formal complaints with the U.S. Department of Agriculture against Horizon and Boulder, Colo.-based Aurora Organic Dairy. The complaints alleged that by virtue of their size, those dairies aren't complying with the NOP's access-to-pasture requirement. "It takes a long time to move the animals in and out, and if you have to rotate pastures—logically, you just can't move them to pasture," if a dairy has thousands of cows being milked three or four times a day, said Mark Kastel, senior farm policy analyst at Cornucopia, in an earlier interview.

In January, Cornucopia announced it had surveyed the dairy industry and would release a report, now slated for mid-March, rating U.S. organic dairy operations. The announcement provoked a media maelstrom, generating heated responses from large organic dairies, organic certifiers and the Organic Trade Association, and stirring up debate in the organic community.

As a result, Boston Common and Needmor have also asked Dean to report how the company intends to respond to increased public criticism of its large-scale dairy farms. "Concerns include environmental impact, humane animal husbandry practices and economic-justice issues pertaining to family farming," according to the shareholder proposal. Steve Heim, director of social research with Boston Common, which held 19,000 shares of Dean at the time the proposal was filed, said neither Kastel nor Cornucopia was involved in filing the proposal.

The proposal noted that media coverage of the controversy has "damaged the reputation of Horizon products and caused some outlets to discontinue their distribution."

"What we were actually pressing with the proposal is the potential for [harm to] not just the share value of Dean Foods but the brand value of Horizon Organic," Heim said.

Shea said that any loss of distribution is a result of Kastel's media blitz and store visits, and that she was "stunned" when the proposal was issued, noting that the firms' concerns were "brought to their attention by Mr. Kastel" but that Horizon

and Dean had since worked closely with the shareholders to address those issues. "We had actually been talking to them. ... We've had a real open relationship with the shareholders. ... We talked through it with them and really tried to educate them that the [NOP] standards are the toughest in the world, whether it's a 100-cow farm or a 1,000-cow farm. And they didn't know a lot of that, and we said, 'Let's continue this discussion.'"

Shea added, "I quite frankly don't know why they chose to do their press release because when we left [after a Feb. 17 meeting] it was quite cordial."

But Heim said Dean's response has been less than transparent. "They're objecting to putting [the shareholder proposal] in the proxy statement. We believe the information is important for shareholders to assess how Dean is responding to the situation and the potential harm to the Horizon Organic brand."

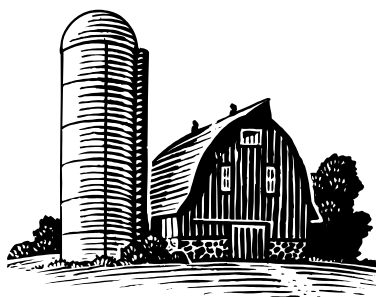
"I think that what [Dean] didn't want to put in was the call to have an outside independent group oversee all the procurement decisions," Shea said. "If you're not doing anything wrong and you're functioning with honor, why do you need to involve a group from the outside to oversee what you're doing? We're bound by the strictest rules in the world."

More Info on Special EQIP Funds

On December 12, 2005, NRCS announced that more than \$10 million in **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** funds will be used to assist limited resource and beginning farmers and ranchers nationwide to implement conservation practices on their land. This funding has since been allocated among individual states. NRCS will offer cost-share rates of up to 90 percent for all conservation practices and a \$10,000 limit on each contract for eligible farmers and ranchers. A beginning farmer or rancher is defined as an individual or entity who: (a) Has not operated a farm or ranch, or who has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years. (This requirement applies to all members of an entity.); and (b) Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch. A limited resource farmer or rancher is defined as (a) A person with direct or indirect gross farm

sales of not more than \$100,000 in each of the previous two years (to be increased beginning in fiscal year 2004 to adjust for inflation using Prices Paid by Farmer Index as compiled by NASS), and (b) Has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, OR less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years (to be determined annually using Commerce Dept. data).

USDA offers an online *Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher Self-Determination Tool* that you can use to see if you meet the definition. Farmers or ranchers interested in applying for these special EQIP funds should contact their state or local NRCS office. For more info contact Robert Molleur, the National Small, Limited Resource, and Beginning Farmers Program Manager for USDA-NRCS, at 202-720-6521.



Defining Organic Agriculture for the World - A Call for Submissions

Now is the time for your input!

At the IFOAM General Assembly in September 2005, the GA passed a motion to establish a succinct Definition of Organic Agriculture. This definition must explain what Organic Agriculture is, reflecting its true nature and the Principles in a concise way.

Therefore, IFOAM is now collecting definitions of Organic Agriculture to give us the full diversity of thoughts on how to define Organic Agriculture. We will combine these definitions, identify keywords, and give them to the Task Force, appointed by the IFOAM World Board, who will then submit a first draft. We envision two rounds of comments. The World Board will approve the definition and submit the Definition of Organic Agriculture to the General Assembly 2008 for ratification. For more details on this process please see http://www.ifoam.org/organic_facts/definition_organic_agriculture.html.

UNCTAD, UNEP and IFOAM Join Forces for Regional Organic Standards in East Africa

The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) have announced a joint project to facilitate the development of an East African Organic Standard, which will help to make organic products from East Africa more recognizable on supermarket shelves throughout the world.

The UNEP/UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF) project Promoting Production and Trading Opportunities for Organic Agricultural Products in East Africa, launched in Kampala on October 19, 2004, established a Regional Standard Technical Working Group (RSTWG). Comprising representatives from standards bodies, certification bodies and the organic sector from the three countries, the RSTWG held its first meeting in Kampala on October 24, 2004. It met again in Arusha on March 6, 2006 to discuss the contents of the standard. The RSTWG will now be strengthened by IFOAM's full-fledged support.

IFOAM has also launched the East African Organic Standards (OSEA) project. OSEA will provide resources to conduct national consultations and field-testing of the standard. Once the standard has been approved, IFOAM will also support the development of a joint inspection protocol and consumer education campaign through the OSEA.

This new partnership was announced on the occasion of the CBTF Regional Workshop for Organic Agriculture, March 7-10, 2006, in Arusha, Tanzania.

Participants in the workshop included representatives from Ministries of trade, environment and agriculture as well as standards bodies; the East African Community; national organic agriculture networks, including farmers and certifying bodies; research institutions and universities; national and international organizations involved in organic agriculture; and international experts.

All draft papers are available on the CBTF website at <http://www.unep-unctad.org/cbtf/openArusha.htm>. ∞

Snow and Cold Temperatures for Farm Field Trips in Indiana!

By Jim Riddle

Twenty four people attended the IOIA/ICO Organic Farm Inspector Training in Indianapolis, IN December 4-7, 2006. Joyce Ford was the trainer, with able assistance from Margaret Scoles. Garry Lean, new IOIA trainer, gave a terrific presentation on Assessing Soil Fertility Management Programs including a handout on weeds as indicators of soil conditions. The course was held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in conjunction with the Acres USA Conference, which was held later in the week. A big thanks to Cissy Bowman and Aaron Zeis at ICO for their sponsorship and assistance for this training. Also many thanks to Val Carr and our chef who made organic meals in our hospitality suite.

Two small groups went to One Sky Farm, owned and operated by Jeff and Melissa Evard. Although it was hard to assess soil fertility at 10°F and with a light snow covering the soil, we did a great job with a sample balance of red beets, verifying organic seeds and inspecting several on-farm greenhouses. A third group toured the Roger Sharrit farm. The area received 7 inches of snow later in the week.

Notable at this training were more interactive exercises for almost all presentations. New exercises were designed by Joyce Ford specifically for this training. They include exercises for understanding an organic farm plan, audit trail exercises for designing lot numbers, determining whether the product can be tracked from sale back to fields of production and comparing crop yields with sales/expected yields, risk assessment, and determining issues of concern for the exit interview. Her favorite was a scenario for the inspector professionalism and ethics presentation: *You live in the Midwest and it's snowing outside. You are asked by the certifying agent to go to Hawaii and do the inspection of a pineapple operation. What Should You Do and Why?*

Roger Sharrit, one of the farmers who we toured as our field trip won the Outrageous Statement Award, with this entry: When asked how he determined whether the fish emulsion he was using was allowed, he said: "It comes from Fertrell. My certifier just loves Fertrell. I think if Fertrell had 2,4-D with their name on it, they'd allow it!" Roger was sent an IOIA t-shirt, an organic chocolate bar and a jar of Joyce's raspberry jam.



The Gang of 24



All twelve students passed the IOIA Process Inspector Training course held Dec. 4-7, 2005, in Indianapolis, IN, with flying colors! The field trip inspection occurred at Hubbard & Cravens Coffee Co. The class had an excellent post-field trip discussion. Trainer Jim Riddle was ably assisted by Margaret Scoles and Garry Lean



Michelle Sandy won the Outrageous Statement award at the Indiana Process Inspector training by quietly stating, "I have a question, but it may be stupid." Jim Riddle responded, "Please speak up, especially if you have a stupid question!"

Second place went to inspector trainee, **Cory Zurcher**. During the Approved Materials presentation, he said, "If it says 'oid' use goggles and a mask!" Cory received a jar of jam (Joyce and Jim's homegrown berries and organic sugar). Congratulations to both Roger and Cory!

Although it was hard to get those inspection reports completely written, people worked diligently and learned a lot!

IOIA Returns to Hong Kong

By Luis Brenes

After conducting successful basic farm and process inspection trainings in 2004, Hong Kong's Organic Resource Center requested IOIA to deliver them again. To encourage participation of students, and as petitioned by the co-sponsor, trainings were scheduled on New Years' holiday week. Basic Farm Inspection training was held on Dec 28-29 and processing on Jan 2-3. Thirty two students filled out the class with comments, questions and excellent participation. Field trips to two certified organic vegetable farms allowed students to interact with farmers and practice their inspection skills. A wrap up session with group leaders allowed feedback and information sharing.

The organic food market is growing in Hong Kong, as trainers were able to witness by simply shopping at nearby supermarkets. Consumers can get locally grown organic vegetables, fresh produce from the US, chocolates from the UK, or biscuits from Italy. The variety of organic food choices available in the supermarkets put in evidence the growing interest of local consumers. The Organic Resource Center, part of the Hong Kong Baptist University, is the first local certifier and the first organization in Hong Kong in creating organic standards.

IOIA thanks the Organic Resource Center and looks forward to continuing support of the development of a strong organic sector through training of qualified and skillful inspectors.



Farm Training Group



Process Training Field Trip



The field trip is finished, but don't be so happy, you still have to write the report!

OSA: This is the first time ever that the winner was nominated almost unanimously by participants. His phrase was in more than 5 papers although with slight differences. Congratulations to Chris Leung Kam Fai for making such an impact!

I will become a farmer one day, when I have enough money.

I would like to be a farmer when I am rich.

I will go farming if I am rich.

I will be a farmer if only I become rich.

Chris said he will be a farmer if he is as rich as possible.

You need to be rich before trying to be a farmer.

I will be an organic farmer if I am rich (in the future).

Honorable mention goes to Kenny Law - What I eat is decided by my mother



Mutsumi Sakuyoshi with Sharon Chan and Luis enjoy New Years dinner

The processing field trip visited a packing house to inspect the operation. Mr. Kenneth Law of VMO (left) hosted the field trip.



Seven Countries Together in Costa Rica!

By Luis Brenes

During Jan 23 to Jan 27th, IOIA hosted a Basic Farm Inspection Training in Costa Rica cosponsored by BCS Öko Garantie office for Central America and the Caribbean. Thirty five enthusiastic participants from El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Bolivia, México and the Dominican Republic attended the first-ever 5 days training (IOIA basic farm trainings are usually 3.5 days long). More time allowed for more exercises and no evening sessions.

With excellent hosting from BCS, this training allowed a field trip in small groups (7 students) to 5 different vegetable farms in the Alfaro Ruiz area, thanks to the kind cooperation of APODAR (Asociación de Productores Orgánicos de Alfaro Ruiz). Thanks APODAR!

The Basic Farm training was followed by an Advanced training focused on standards "gray areas" discussion (NOP and EU). EUREPGAP fresh fruit protocol was also presented and compared with NOP standards.

BCS is looking to promote more inspection training in Latin America through IOIA, as it is urgently needed to upgrade inspectors' qualifications in the area. IOIA looks forward to help in this effort and to welcome more Latinamerican members to join our organization.



**BBQ at don Jorge Benavides home –
El Bbq en pone el hogar de Jorge Benavides**

Curso básico de formación de inspectores de fincas orgánicas

Curso avanzado para inspectores

San José, Costa Rica del 23 al 29 de enero del 2006

Gracias al esfuerzo conjunto del IOIA y BCS Öko Garantie, fue posible la realización del sexto curso básico de finca para formación de inspectores en Costa Rica y el curso avanzado de Inspectores con énfasis en el análisis en aspectos no detallados en las normas así como la relación con la normativa EurepGap. Los cursos fueron impartidos por el Ing. Luis Brenes y el Ing. Humberto González.

En el curso básico se contó con la presencia de 35 participantes de diferentes países de Latinoamérica, entre ellos México, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bolivia y Perú, además de República Dominicana. El curso avanzado contó con la presencia de 25 inspectores y en ambas actividades se contó con profesionales con amplia experiencia en el campo de la producción orgánica así como inspectores internacionales en el curso avanzado. Este curso tuvo la particularidad de aumentar la cantidad de días de trabajo en el curso básico (1.5 días adicionales) lo que permitió un mayor espacio de discusión y análisis de los procesos lo cual fue muy bien aceptado por los participantes. Adicionalmente se aumentó la cantidad de guías y fincas para realizar las prácticas de inspección, esto para facilitar las entrevistas e intercambio de información.



**Wrap up on the risk assessment session –
Envuélvase para arriba en la sesión del gravamen de riesgo**

Para BCS ÖKO Garantie fue de gran satisfacción el haber realizado esta actividad en conjunto con el IOIA. BCS ÖKO Garantie logró una vez mas cumplir con los objetivos planteados y promover el profesionalismo en el conocimiento y aplicación de las normas de certificación en agricultura orgánica. Esperamos realizar próximamente otros cursos en los diferentes países dentro del area de trabajo de nuestra representada.

Algo comenta de asistentes:

"Creo que el curso de inspectores orgánicos tuvo una fuerte influencia en 3 aspectos de mi vida personal y profesional: Reforzó mis conocimientos sobre agricultura orgánica, Reafirmó mi postura de trabajo en pro de cultivos más sanos y libres de pesticidas sintéticos y finalmente me hizo querer más mi profesión, pero por supuesto, fundamentada en principios de equidad y beneficio social, totalmente respetuosos de nuestro entorno natural."

Raúl Pineda Clará

Más comenta:

"Por este medio deseo agradecerles la excelencia con la que fue impartido el curso de inspectores de finca IOIA/BCS.

La cantidad de materia fue mucha, pero fue dada en una forma tan agradable que logramos absorber mucha información a la vez que disfrutamos de los 5 días que compartimos juntos. En los cafés de media mañana y en los almuerzos, el comentario siempre constante fue la satisfacción que nos causó el estar recibiendo un curso de tan alta calidad."

Ingrid Ayub

"Me pareció una excelente experiencia, por lo estructurado del programa y la calidad de los instructores. Además que obtuve una visión diferente de lo que es la agricultura orgánica certificada, pues las normas son las que de una forma u otra le dan las pautas de manejo al agricultor."

Ing. Leonardo Sáenz É



Cheers! Sharing a home-made liquor right before the audit trail . . .What about our Codes???

Aclamaciones! Compartir una derecha hecha en casa del licor antes del rastro de intervención. .

¿Qué sobre nuestros códigos???

compromisos de todos aquellos que queremos, no solo ganar un dinero extra, velar por el cumplimiento de un sinnúmero de estándares orgánicos; sino contribuir con el desarrollo y fortalecimiento de un movimiento orgánico sólido, viable y responsable social, económica y técnicamente. Esto es el más allá de las normas.

Así pues, todos están invitados a ser parte de este comité como una de las oportunidades más valiosas para construir una Asociación Independiente de Inspectores Orgánicos con un poco de sabor latino!

En segundo lugar, escribamos juntos. En este nuevo espacio podremos ampliar temas de nuestro interés con perspectiva regional. Comentarios, ideas y opiniones pueden ser dirigidas a conexionecologica@yahoo.com

Bienvenidos! a IOIA, al Comité de Latinoamérica, a su espacio en español.

Esperamos hagan parte del Comité de Latinoamérica escribiendo a conexionecologica@yahoo.com o ioia@rangeweb.net É



Farmer Juan Jose Paniagua explains the preparation of compost tea - El granjero Juan José Paniagua explica la preparación del té del estiércol vegetal

La Voz de América Latina

Por Carlos Escobar

Gracias a las actuales directivas, Latinoamérica se abre un espacio en la Asociación Independiente de Inspectores Orgánicos (IOIA por sus siglas en inglés). Es la hora de comenzar a comunicarnos en nuestro idioma. Hay mucho por hacer por la asociación, por la profesión, por el movimiento orgánico latinoamericano.

En primer lugar, debemos reactivar nuestro **Comité de Latinoamérica**. Aquel espacio que, admirablemente, fue liderado por Lidia Gaivironsky de Argentina. A ella, gracias. Pero es la hora de nuevas caras, nuevos objetivos, nuevas metas, nuevas estrategias, nuevas acciones. Nuevos



Field trip in Costa Rica - Disparo al campo en Costa Rica

IOIA Board Meeting Minutes Highlights *December 15 and 20, 2005 - January 24, 2006 - February 9, 2006*

Full Board of Directors Meeting, December 15, 2005 Conference Call

Current Financial Status Report

Treasurer Jack Reams reported that he expected approximately a \$20,000 dollar surplus at year-end. Margaret advised that \$10,000.00 should be put back into IOIA reserves and the remaining for curriculum development. She said that there is about \$15,000.00 left in "real" reserves. Based on the workings of IOIA a minimum of \$25,000.00 should be in reserve for the organization to be healthy. The average annual operating budget of IOIA is approximately \$100,000.00. Margaret was directed to purchase the new computer system by the end of the 2005 calendar year.

2006 Draft Budget

Jack said that the proposed 2006 budget is a balanced one. The International Training Manager's (ITM) salary is to be listed separately in future budgets as a Training Expense. Jack and Margaret will present an updated budget during the next BOD meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2006.

Request from some Latin American Members – Dues

It was suggested IOIA consider a fee structure based on costs and benefits to Latin American members. Other ideas discussed included 'Sponsor an IOIA member', develop regional groups based on the idea of grower group certification as this would be consistent with the current Latin American farmer / inspection scenario, develop more 'sister' groups similar to JOIA (in Japan). It was noted that this is a fee structure issue not a membership issue. It is the BOD's intention is for Latin American members to have more access to IOIA benefits. Luis will contact Latin American inspectors to discuss IOIA membership, and will come back to the BOD with a proposal for equitable membership and fees.

BOD Retreat - Follow up

There was discussion regarding the importance of carrying the BOD Retreat Action Items forward and how this should be accomplished. All BOD members should give Luis feedback on his 2-page 'Statement of the Problem'. During the next conference call the BOD will do a four-page summary and each BOD member will know which Action Items s/he is responsible for.

2006 AGM

Margaret said that there were at least six nominees for IOIA Board to date. The deadline to mail out the ballot is January 9th. Margaret will contact the nominees regarding the voting system that will be used. There are no proposed bylaw amendments this year.

Response from OTA

Brian said he spoke with Phil Margolis, the President of the OTA Board of Directors. Brian plans to summarize his phone conversation with the OTA President, send it to the President of OTA for any 'corrections' and then to Margaret for editing then to the BOD and finally to the IOIA members.

ED Report, including Training update

- Legal counsel was sought before Brian could sign off on the IOIA application to BC as an extra-provincial society. Margaret clarified that the Canadian entity (Canadian IOIA office) the designated attorney IS simply your designated contact; which is currently Lisa Pierce. There is a one-time fee of \$100.00, plus \$30 name search, and an annual fee of \$15.00.
- Final Report on RMA/NCAT/IOIA Deep South Workshops
- Manitoba's "Organic Matters" conference is scheduled for Nov. 12.
- Montana Organic Association conference is scheduled for Nov. 11-13 in Billings. This conference, the 3rd annual, was very successful with over 200 attendees. Brian Magaro stepped in to help out with the benefit auction.
- IOIA will have a table at the Guelph Organic Conference, January 28-29, 2006. Janine reported to Leanne McCormick, Lisa, Margaret, and Garry that she had been asked by the Organic Regulatory Committee (ORC) to chair an Inspection Subcommittee meeting that took place on Oct. 14 in Toronto.
- Accreditation Committee: ARP Chair Stephen Grealy succeeded in reaching determinations on all fall accreditation applications within 2 months of the application deadline. This is virtually a record and is a great change from the past years. Well done Stephen!

Joe Montecalvo Request

The Board agreed to support Joe Montecalvo in his request for \$500 to update his food service and sanitation manuals. IOIA will have rights to reproduce and sell them. These can also be used in the IOIA curriculum and available for sale by IOIA.

Curriculum Proposal

Margaret circulated information for discussion prior to the BOD meeting. Garry offered to oversee the project as he has experience with curriculum development. It was noted the need for detailed specifications in the contract(s) and terms of reference, deliverables, and due dates. The BOD will reconvene on Tuesday December 20th to discuss curriculum development further.

Full Board Conference Call, December 20, 2005

Meeting called by Jack Reams – Treasurer and Chair of this meeting

Year-end Cash Position

Jack said that he anticipates a year-end cash Balance of \$20-\$24,000.00. There was a brief discussion on how much should be placed in reserve to ensure adequate cash flow for the typical calendar year expenses. Jack recommended that the BOD consider placing \$10,000.00 in reserves. The BOD agreed in principal and will make a final decision at the next BOD meeting.

Staff Salaries

Jack noted that the ED is responsible for decisions on staff salary, with the approval of the BOD, so long as it included in the annual budget. A line item for staff salaries should be included in the annual budget. The Board discussed staff salaries. The Board agreed to increase the ED salary to \$28,000.00 as a basic cost of living increase.

Curriculum contract

The BOD discussed moving ahead on the Development of a new Inspector Training Curriculum that the BOD agreed upon during the November 2005 BOD strategic Planning Retreat. The BOD committed to move forward with the first stage of the Curriculum development with a ceiling of \$12,000.00 pending the outcome of Jack and Garry's meeting with the ED and the ITM. Jack and Garry will negotiate a contract for the Development of a New Curriculum for the Farm / Crop trainings.

Budget for 2006

There was discussion regarding the usual protocol for the presentation of the past years financial report and the budget for the upcoming year. The Treasurer will present the 2005 financial statement at the AGM. The membership will vote on this report. As well, the Treasurer will present the 2006 Budget to the membership at the AGM for information and discussion.

January 24, 2006 Full Board Conference Call

2006 Budget

The Board endorsed the Jack's proposal for the presentation of a balanced budget at the 2006 AGM in LaCrosse. The final review of the proposed 2006 budget is to take place during the Feb. 20 pre-AGM meeting.

IOIA Office

Margaret reported that due to circumstances beyond IOIA's control the IOIA office rent and utilities could increase by \$3,700.00 per year. She noted that IOIA has been fortunate in the past to have the office space in Broadus at such a reasonable rate. The BOD discussed whether IOIA should rent part or all of the office space offered. Margaret will continue to explore office space options in Broadus.

2005 Financial Statement

Jack circulated the 2005 Financial Statement prior to the BOD meeting. He noted that the RMA project was profitable for IOIA and complimented Margaret on a job well done.

BOD Retreat – Follow up

Prior to the meeting Brian circulated by e-mail his findings about the possibility of inspector bonding. He said that we need to know if there is a statue in place in the NOP wherein inspectors could be held responsible for misdeeds. The BOD brainstormed how best to summarize the four major items agreed upon at the BOD Strategic Planning retreat in Santa Cruz. It was suggested that a ten power point slide presentation along with a one-page handout at the AGM would be the best way. The BOD agreed that the AGM membership discussions should include the major topics from the BOD retreat.

2006 Pre-AGM BOD meeting

The Pre-AGM meeting will take place on Feb 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel. The BOD acknowledges that the meeting will be a time to work on the retreat summary and presentation, as well as the financial and annual reports.

Post AGM Meeting

The Post AGM meeting is to take place on Feb 24.

Curriculum Contract

Prior to the meeting Margaret sent the BOD information comparing 'in house versus outsourcing' a contract(s) for the redesign of the IOIA Inspector Training Curriculum. The BOD discussed the advantages and disadvantages the scenarios. Jack, Garry and Margaret plan to write a \$12,000 contract for redesigning the Basic Crop Curriculum.

Executive Director Evaluation

Garry and Jack completed the Executive Director evaluation. Jack and Garry noted that there were no major discrepancies between their evaluation and the ED's self-evaluation. The BOD thanked Jack and Garry for the work and applauded Margaret for her high scores in every area of her evaluation.

Canadian entity-extra-provincial office

Margaret said that the extra provincial society application is being revised and will be resubmitted.

ED Report

- The Scholarship Committee recommended that only one (OCA) Organic Community Initiative Scholarship be awarded, which would be increased to \$1000 to include some travel expenses in addition to tuition.
- Margaret purchased a Dell 80 GB with a wide flat screen monitor and CD burner for the IOIA office.
- Leanne McCormick is spearheading the IOIA presence at the Guelph Organic Conference on behalf of the Canadian Committee. Checks were sent to the Canadian Committee Co-Chair, Janine Gibson (\$200) for her to attend the Guelph meeting and Paddy Doherty (\$300) of the Organic Regulatory Committee, a cross sector organic industry committee.

February 9, 2006, Full Board Conference Call

Prior to this BOD meeting there was a BOD phone conference call for the purpose of gaining clarity on ITM and Curriculum Development. The BOD realized that it needed more clarity on what outcomes are expected and what would be a realistic timeframe for redesigning the various components of the inspector training curriculum. Garry and Margaret plan to work on creating the contract for the curriculum development project. É

Resources

The European Commission Joint Research Centre has posted a report, *New case studies on the coexistence of GM and non-GM crops in European Agriculture*, at www.jrc.es/home/pages/eur22102enfinal.pdf.

Papers are being sought for the 1st IFOAM International Conference on Animals in Organic Production, to be held Aug. 23-25 at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul, MN. Submit abstracts by **March 28** to jriddle@hbc.com. For more information, contact Neil Sorensen at IFOAM (n.Sorensen@ifoam.org).

Comparison published on European Union and U.S. organic markets

Although the organic markets in EU member states and the US are nearly the same size in terms of retail sales, the U.S. and EU governments have adopted markedly different policy approaches to the organic sector. The EU, for instance, actively promotes the growth of the organic sector with a wide variety of policies designed to increase the amount of land farmed organically, whereas the United States largely takes a free-market approach. To read a comparison, go to www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/February06/Features/feature1.htm.

New Guide to Ranchland Conservation

A partnership between American Farmland Trust and Coleman Natural Foods has resulted in the publication of a new guide to tools and resources that can help farmers and ranchers conserve their land, augment productivity, and implement holistic land stewardship practices. The guide is aimed at agricultural landowners of the Rocky Mountain region - Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, California, Arizona, and New Mexico. Titled *Rocky Mountain Agricultural Landowners: Guide to Conservation and Sustainability* (http://www.farmlandinfo.org/documents/30427/FINAL_Rocky_Mountain_Guide.pdf, PDF / 936 kb), the guide includes sections on farm and ranch land protection, conservation and stewardship programs, sustainable ranchland management practices, and other resources.

http://www.farmlandinfo.org/farmland_preservation_literature/index.cfm?function=article_view&articleID=30427

Pesticide Calculator and Food Additive Fact sheets on Web Two websites provide useful tools to help evaluate how many synthetic toxins are in the food we consume on a daily basis. <http://www.foodnews.org/> provides a tool that works out how many pesticides are in some conventionally grown fruits and vegetables, and compares them with organically grown equivalents. Go to the above website and click on the **Produce Scanner** link.

<http://www.fedupwithfoodadditives.info/> provides a list of fact sheets to help find out which food additives to avoid most, and the symptoms that can result from consuming them. Go to the website and click on the **Fact sheets** button.

Quick Environmental Footprint Calculator

Two environmental organizations have together developed a website that quickly and easily calculates your ecological footprint. It tells you if you are consuming more than your 1.8 hectares of productive land and water, which is how much each person has when the world total is divided among the world's population.

Everyone should try this, and pass it on to friends. This is the question you will find the answer to - how many planets would it take to support the world's population if we all lived like you?

www.myfootprint.org/

Oklahoma State University Co-Op Extension has produced a free manual and tutorials for how to adapt the inexpensive, user-friendly Quicken accounting software for agricultural operations. Online materials are available at www.agecon.okstate.edu/quicken.

The Energy Incentive Act of 2005 contains the Domestic Production Activities Deduction. It is available to any business in the USA that manufactures, produces or GROWS tangible personal property (clothing, goods, or FOODS produced for wholesale sales). It is new as of 2005 and is available until 2010. Check it out with your tax advisor.

Mulch Alert If you use mulch around your house be very careful about buying mulch this year. After the Hurricane in New Orleans many trees were blown over. These trees were then turned into mulch and the state is trying to get rid of

tons and tons of this mulch to any state or company who will come and haul it away. So it may be showing up in Home Depot and Lowes at dirt cheap prices with one huge problem; **Formosan Termites** will be the bonus in many of those bags. New Orleans is one of the few areas in the country where the Formosan Termite has gotten a strong hold and most of the trees blown down were already badly infested with those termites. Now we may have the worst case of transporting a problem to all parts of the country that we have ever had. These termites can eat a house in no time at all and we have no good control against them, so tell your friends to avoid cheap mulch and know where it came from.

Prices for organic chickens as well as shelled eggs will be reported

USDA's Ag Marketing Service plans to list organic chicken in its weekly price report (www.ams.usda.gov/poultry/mnrcs/RetailReports/RtlChick.htm) for retail promotion of chickens. The weekly price report for shell eggs already includes USDA certified organic eggs (www.ams.usda.gov/poultry/mnrcs/RetailReports/RtlEgg.htm). The information is collected from weekly supermarket ads representing 17,000 stores in the lower 48 states. Promotional activity provides users with a means to analyze and anticipate marketing and consumer trends.

Fast Facts from Rodale The Institutes long-running comparison of organic and conventional cropping systems reports:

• If only 10,000 medium sized farms in the U.S. converted to organic production, they would store so much carbon in the soil that it would be equivalent to taking 1,174,400 cars off the road, or reducing car miles driven by 14.62 billion miles.

• Converting the US's 160 million corn and soybean acres to organic production would sequester enough carbon to satisfy 73 percent of the Kyoto targets for CO2 reduction in the U.S.

• U.S. agriculture as currently practiced emits a total of 1.5 trillion pounds of CO2 annually into the atmosphere. Converting all U.S. cropland to organic would not only wipe out agriculture's massive emission problem. By eliminating energy-costly chemical fertilizers, it would actually give us a net increase in soil carbon of 734 billion pounds.

http://www.newfarm.org/depts/NFfield_trials/1003/carbonsequest.shtml

Publication Helps Food Producers Respond to GMO Challenges

The Non-GMO Report *focuses on solutions to the biggest threat to natural and organic foods—genetic engineering.*

Genetically modified foods have created many challenges for the food industry. Consumers are concerned about the safety of GM foods, which contain genes from bacterium and other species, raising risks of new toxins or allergens. Windborne pollen from GM corn can cross-pollinate with non-GM and organic corn, causing economic losses for farmers of those crops. Food manufacturers face challenges finding non-GM ingredients for their products due to the widespread use of processed GM corn and soy ingredients. Retailers are in the dark about the GM foods because, unlike many other nations, the United States and Canada do not require labeling of GM foods.

Useful information

Fortunately, there is a resource to help food producers respond to the challenges of GM foods. *The Non-GMO Report* is the **only** monthly publication that helps food producers meet the challenges and capitalize on the growing market for non-GM foods.

The Non-GMO Report aims to provide more than just news, says editor and publisher, Ken Roseboro. "We aim to help food producers prevent GMO contamination, connect with buyers of their products, locate sources for non-GM grains and ingredients, and keep them up-to-date on all the issues surrounding GM foods," he says.

Each issue features articles about non-GMO market opportunities, global GMO news, consumer attitudes, GM food labeling news, and profiles of companies successfully producing non-GM products.

Natural and organic food manufacturers and retailers find *The Non-GMO Report* especially helpful. "An Organic Trade Association survey of its members found that GM foods are the biggest threat to organic," says Roseboro. As a result, *The Report* features many articles on the impact of GMOs on organic and ways to prevent the impacts.

World's only "farm to fork" directory of non-GM products

Another resource that food producers find useful is *The Non-GMO Sourcebook*, the world's only "farm to fork" directory of suppliers of non-GM products. Published annually, *The Non-GMO Sourcebook* features more than 550 worldwide suppliers of non-GM products, including seed, processed corn and soy ingredients, specialty grains and oilseeds, minor ingredients and processing aids, and food products. *The Sourcebook* also lists suppliers of related products and services, such as GMO testing, identity preservation, organic certification, and other services that support non-GMO production.

For more info on these resources, call 1-800-854-0586, email ken@non-gmoreport.com or visit www.non-gmoreport.com.

This article originally appeared in a recent Issue of The Non-GMO Report. You are invited to stay informed by subscribing. There is a reduced rate for IOIA members of \$59/year.

Farmers and Others Sue US Government over GMO Alfalfa

A coalition of farmers, consumers and environmental activists filed suit against the U.S. government in February over its approval of a biotech alfalfa that critics say will spell havoc for farmers and the environment. The lawsuit contends that the U.S. Department of Agriculture improperly is allowing Monsanto Co. to sell an herbicide-resistant alfalfa seed while failing to analyze the public health, environmental, and economic consequences of that action.

The suit asserts that the GM alfalfa will probably contaminate conventionally grown alfalfa at a fast pace, ultimately forcing farmers to pay for Monsanto's patented gene technology whether they want the technology or not.

The group says biotech alfalfa would also hurt production of organic dairy and beef products as alfalfa is a key ingredient in cattle feed. And the suit claims farmers could lose export business, valued at an estimated \$480 million per year, because buyers in Japan and South Korea, major importers of U.S. alfalfa, have indicated they would avoid buying U.S. alfalfa once the GMO variety is released.

Alfalfa is very easily cross-pollinated by bees and by wind. The plant is also perennial, meaning GMO plants could live on for years.

By Carey Gillam, Reuters, February 17, 2006

WTO Prelim Ruling Favors U.S. Biotech Companies Over Precautionary Regulation

A preliminary ruling issued by a World Trade Organization (WTO)'s dispute resolution panel would be a major step back for the democratic rights of national and local governments to set their own environmental and human health regulations when there is scientific uncertainty, reports the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy.

The ruling, which has not yet been made public, concerns a U.S., Canadian and Argentine government challenge of a European Commission (EC) regulatory system that delayed the commercialization of genetically-engineered (GE) crops until further scientific evidence of their environmental and health safety was available. The EC system has approved GE crops for commercialization since the dispute was filed in 2003.

"Beyond GE crops, the WTO ruling as reported sets a broad precedent to inhibit the ability of WTO member states to set food safety, public health and environmental health

measures where there is scientific uncertainty about the adequacy or quality of data submitted for commercialization approvals," said Steve Suppan, IATP Research Director and author of a background on the case.

If the lengthy ruling remains unchanged before its final publication, it will likely be used as a legal tool against GE bans passed in European Union member states, in several Asian and African WTO member countries, and even in a few U.S. counties.

The reported WTO ruling at least indirectly challenges the authority of the United Nations Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which authorizes its member countries to take a precautionary approach to regulating GE crops when there is scientific uncertainty. While the dispute plaintiffs are not among the Protocol's 131 member states, dozens of WTO members are, so the ruling could conflict with their Protocol commitments, including those implemented at a national and local level.

The WTO ruling comes on the heels of a scathing USDA Inspector General report which found that the USDA did not require inspections of field tests of experimental GE crops, didn't assure that crops were destroyed after the tests were finished, and often didn't even know where the tests were being conducted. Several independent reviews of the U.S. regulatory system regarding GE crops have found significant deficiencies. The National Research Council published critical reviews of the U.S. regulatory process in 2000, 2002 and 2004. The flaws of the U.S. regulatory system and the unknown risks of GE crops are outlined in an amicus brief filed in the WTO case by the Center for International Environmental Law, IATP, Friends of the Earth - U.S., Defenders of Wildlife, and the Organic Consumers Association. It is available at: tradeobservatory.org.

"The WTO dispute panel is set up to view regulations strictly in a framework designed to facilitate trade, not to realize public or environmental health objectives," said Suppan. "The U.S. government and the biotech companies may claim that the ruling proves that GE crops are safe for human consumption and the use of GE seeds is an environmentally beneficial agricultural practice. But the case covers no such thing: much less does it support the profoundly flawed U.S. regulation of GE crops."

It is unlikely the case will increase U.S. food sales to Europe. Europe still requires labeling of GE crops, and there is overwhelming consumer sentiment for GE-free foods there. U.S. wheat growers, recognizing that European and Asian consumers do not want GE crops, successfully blocked the approval of GE wheat in the U.S. in 2004. However, there is a real danger that the ruling could be used to force sales of GE products in developing countries, who have less leverage to stand up to political pressure from the United States government. *February 7, 2006, www.iatp.org*

AGM, from page 3

Jack Reams served as Treasurer for his entire 6 years on the Board. He was pleased to receive a framed calligraphy and dried flower "Thank You" certificate that acknowledged both him and his wife, Marlene, who partners with him in all of his many roles, including organic inspection work. Jack and Marlene also received a joint farewell gift from the other BOD members and IOIA to 'dine and dance' on a cruise ship in Vancouver.

Why is Outgoing Chair Brian Magaro laughing? Perhaps because he is relieved to not be chairing IOIA after 3 years as Chair and 6 years on the BOD? No...not at all. Vice-Chair Garry Lean has just presented him with a framed calligraphy and dried flower "Thank You" certificate,



Future cowboy (?) Brian

and the BOD has sprung their surprise gift on him. Brian complied with their request to tell the members the story about when he first came to Montana to visit the IOIA office in 2002 for an internal audit. The clerk at the rental car desk in Rapid City, SD asked him why he was going to MT. He replied, "I'm gonna be a cowboy". She looked him up and down and said "I don't think so...". Here's how the Board presented his gift from IOIA and the BOD for a pair of handmade boots, by projecting faked photos of him riding a horse and a bucking bull.

Luis Brenes, very-soon-to-be-new-Chair of-IOIA, presents a synopsis of the 2005 Santa Cruz BOD retreat. In summary, the strategy can be summarized as "Set the bar, write the set of qualifications, create a requirement for it, then provide the means to achieve it through basic and continuing education". The idea is to offer the world better inspectors so industry will look for IOIA inspectors, thereby adding value to IOIA membership.



Luis at the BOD retreat



Brian's Fundraiser for IOIA – He is offering a hand-crafted, original design solid walnut file holder for your desk. It is designed not to tip backward, spilling files. 15" base with a 10" back. Yours for the low price of US\$30.00(+ 4.00 shipping) with \$20.00 going to support you....by supporting IOIA. You can order direct from Brian at magaroforum@aol.com



Outgoing Treasurer Jack Reams presents the Financial Reports



Fred Ehlert accepts the Inspector Asset of the Year Award



Margaret is laughing because now it's Mark Bradley's turn to receive the Outrageous Statement Award. She's been smarting ever since she won the OSA for exclaiming to him that 'it's not like you're God' at an advanced training. Bradley says he's told the story dozens of times across the country.



Joyce Ford is all smiles when she received her Lifetime Achievement, Inspector Asset of the Year award

Announcing the first North American Summit on Organic Production and Marketing

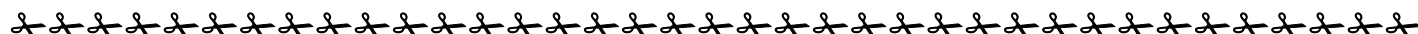
May 7 – May 9, 2006, in conjunction with the All Things Organic™ trade show , Chicago, Illinois.
Networking events with industry representatives - Contact with key government officials, business leaders, and scholars

Summit topics include:

A Look At Organic From The US Government's Perspective
Overview Of Canada's Proposed National Organic Regulations
Overview Of Mexico's Federal Organic Programs - Perspectives On Organic Agriculture Research
USDA's Tools for Your Organic Business - The 2007 Farm Bill
Advancing The Organic Marketplace From Local To Global
Looking Beyond Organic Food: Emerging products and standards
Plenary: Organic On The Fast Track - Round Table Discussion: The Public Private Partnership
Contact Ray Green at Rgreen@cdfa.ca.gov - Register for the Summit at www.organicexpo.com

Hosted by the Organic Trade Association (OTA) in partnership with
the National Association of State Organic Programs (NASOP)

WE'RE SOLICITING INPUT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR WEBSITE:
PLEASE EMAIL TO IOIAWEB@IOIA.NET WITH YOUR SUGGESTIONS.
THANK YOU!



INDEPENDENT ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

Please Type or Print Clearly

MAIL TO IOIA, PO Box 6, BROADUS, MT 59317-0006 USA

IOIA has several publications for sale. Order here or through our website. Please add 10% for Shipping and Handling.

%Farming with the Wild: Enhancing Biodiversity on Farms and Ranches; Written by Daniel Imhoff, Watershed Media, 182 p.; 2003; \$20.00

%**New!** Organic Dairy Farming, Edited by Jody Padham, Community Conservation, Project coordinated by MOSES, 156 p.; 2006; \$15.00

%Building Soils for Better Crops (2nd Edition), by Fred Magdoff and Harold Van Es. 240 pp. \$20

%COG Organic Field Crop Handbook, 2nd Edition, Expanded and Rewritten. Published by Canadian Organic Growers. An invaluable resource. While preserving the best of the now out-of-print and no longer available first edition, this edition is updated to include info on GMO's, E. coli issues in manure, and many additions to the crop section. 222 pages, spiral bound, \$30.00.

%Food Plant Sanitation and Safety, by Dr. Joe Montecalvo, 184 pp, \$50.00

%Introductory Food Science, Dr. Joe Montecalvo, 187 pp, \$50.00

%Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 2nd Edition, published by Sust. Ag Network, \$18.00

%Organic Livestock Handbook, published by Canadian Organic Growers. Edited by Anne Macey, 179 pp, spiral bound, \$25.00

%Organic Tree Fruit Management, published by COABC, 240 pages, \$30.00

%Steel in the Field, published by Sustainable Ag Network, 128 pages, \$16.00

%Introduction to Certified Organic Farming. Published by REAP Canada, 200 pg. 25.00

NEW! Caps Now in 100% Organic Cotton!

Color choice of black, stone (off-white), khaki, forest Green, navy

IOIA Caps - \$20.00 - Please specify color 1st choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

IOIA Tees - \$20.00 - Please specify size L % XL % XXL %

IOIA Sew-On Patch - \$7.00 ^ OR 3/\$20 ^ OR 5/\$30 ^

See our Caps and Tees in the *Books & Goods* section of our website, www.ioia.net

Name _____

Address _____

Business Address _____

Business Phone _____ Home phone _____ Fax _____

Check Enclosed - Total Amount \$ _____

Visa ^ Mastercard ^ Account # _____

Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

I am interested in the following:

IOIA Membership Application
All members receive our quarterly newsletter. All members may receive a hard copy member directory for \$15 each.

Please specify category - all funds payable in US \$ - All dues are annual

%Inspector - \$125

%Supporting Individual - \$75

%Business/Organization \$100

%Certifying Agency - \$250

%Patron - \$500

%Sustainer - \$1000

%The Inspectors' Report -
1 year subscription
(4 issues) \$30

%2006 IOIA Membership
Directory - \$25

IFOAM/IOIA International
Organic Inspection Manual:

%\$45 members

%\$60 non-members

2006 Calendar

March 23 – 26 Natural Products Expo West, Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, CA. Info www.expowest.com

March 28 – deadline - A "call for papers" For the Int'l Conf. on Organic Livestock, see Aug 23 entry. Please submit your one to two page abstracts, describing your ideas for presentations and/or posters, accompanied by a brief CV, not to exceed two pages. Please be aware that papers are welcome on production and marketing issues, in addition to research studies. Successful applicants will be notified by May 1.

April 4 Utah Department of Ag. and Food organic program will be hosting a series of trainings for organic producers, processors and handlers. The training involves the writing of an organic system plan that is descriptive to meet the organic regulation. Contact: Camille Anderson, camilleanderson@utah.gov, 801-538-7106. Southern Utah University, 351 W. University Blvd., Cedar City, Utah Hunter Conference Center Vermillion Cliffs Room 8:30 a.m.

April 4 – 6 St. Louis, Missouri. The Fifth National IPM Symposium. Symposium sessions will address state of the art strategies and technologies to successfully solve pest problems. www.ipmcenters.org/ipmsymposium/

April 15 – October 15 Santa Cruz, California. 2006 Farm & Garden Apprenticeship. The Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food System offers training in the concepts and practices of organic gardening and small-scale farming. www.ucsc.edu/casfs

April 24 - 27 Lima, Peru. Organic Exchange - 2006 Latin America Regional Supply Meeting. Contact Terry Young at terry@organicexchange.org or 510.597.9949.

April 28 – 29 Chestnut Ridge, New York. Organic Beekeeping Workshop. A workshop for active beekeepers as well as for beginners including a hands-on session. Lots of practical advice and demonstrations. www.pfeiffercenter.org/

May 3 - 4 Bosnia and Herzegovina. The 1st IFOAM Conference On Organic Wild Production. This conference will focus on the harvesting of wild vegetable products from forest, 'natural' lands, pastures and uncultivated land in the agriculture landscape. It will concentrate on current production that enters the organic market stream, but will also extend to other concepts, such as Fair Trade, sustainable forest management certification and Good Manufacturing Practices. Organized in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). www.organicwildconference.org

May 6 - 9 Chicago, Illinois. "All Things Organic" Conference and Trade Show. As the only exclusively organic event in North America, All Things Organic™ serves up more organic exhibitors and products than any other industry trade event. <http://www.organicexpo.com/>

May 6 – 9 Chicago, IL. North American Summit on Organic Production and Marketing. The Organic Trade Association (OTA) in partnership with the

National Association of State Organic Programs (NASOP) will host the North American Summit on Organic Production and Marketing at All Things Organic! The first of its kind, the Summit will provide a collaborative forum. <http://www.organicexpo.com/summit.shtml>

July 9 – 15 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 18th World Congress of Soil Science. Theme, "Frontiers of Soil Science: Technology and the Information Age", the technical program will focus on soil science advances with an emphasis on remote sensing, geographic information systems, landscape analysis, and more. <http://www.18wcsc.org>

July 20 – 22 Colorado Springs, Colorado. Grazing America: The American Grassfed Association's Annual Conference <http://www.americangrassfed.org/index.html>

August 23-25 St. Paul, MN. First ever Int'l Conference on Organic Livestock, organized by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) and hosted by the University of Minnesota. www.ifoam.org

September 20 – 27 Binghamton, NY. IOIA Basic Farm and Livestock inspector trainings. See page 3 for info.

November 6 – 9 San Diego area. IOIA Basic Farm and Processing Inspector trainings. Co-sponsored with QAI. See page 3 for info.

Keep IOIA Strong – Lend Your Strength And Get Involved!



INDEPENDENT ORGANIC
INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION
PO Box 6
BROADUS, MT 59317 USA
(406) 436-2031
IOIA@IOIA.NET WWW.IOIA.NET
