



ANNUAL
REPORT 2020



IOIA Rises to the Challenge of A Global Pandemic

Message from the Chair

Last year was an amazing and busy time to be Chair of IOIA. **Covid-19** brought a whole new world to inspecting. We rose to the **challenge** in many ways to support our members, beginning with a committee of three volunteers (Patti Bursten Deutsch, Amanda Birk and myself, aptly called PAL's) to support inspectors with remote inspections. The work of PAL's paralleled that of the ACA Working Group which produced a Best Practice "**Contingency Plans for Verifying Compliance** when On-site Inspections are not Possible". These two initiatives responded to the urgency of the pandemic with lots of overlap and many hours. PAL's morphed into a Town Hall Committee with more members. We created guidance documents for remote inspections for processing and for requesting and gathering documentation from applicants. Patti and I made a video demonstrating ways to do remote inspections (I was the applicant and Patti the intrepid inspector --we had a lot of fun!). This committee grew with even more volunteers who gave many, many hours in creating a webinar training for remote inspections. I must recognize here the time donated by so many. Garth Kahl put in much time as we co-created this training. I am proud that this training has been translated into Spanish and is currently being used in several countries through a partnership with **CIAO'** (Comisión Interamericana de Agricultura Orgánica), about 20 countries who have government regulated organic programs. Rachel Cherry Myers came up with the idea for a different format of presentation via a website that allows the inspector to choose where, when and what trainings they want to take. I put in about 300 volunteer hours in creating these trainings and working with the Town Hall Committee. Thank you, Amanda Birk, for chairing this committee and to Terrance "T" Layhew for moderating the Town Hall. The Town Hall helped to support and increase our membership and build **community**.

We rose to the **challenge** of the pandemic with **creativity** and **cooperation** with our many partners. The efforts of our trainers, members, **committees**, and staff were simply HEROIC! Our Training Institute remained strong with 867 participants in 60 training events with 28 unique courses in 4 languages. I took our new Organic **Cosmetics** webinar. This is all amazing considering that the globe was basically in lockdown for months. We brought the inspectors' voice and perspective as we commented on the National Organic Program's Strengthening Organic Enforcement Draft Rule and the National Organic Standards Board's Human **Capital** Discussion Document on Inspectors and Reviewers. Our Annual Meeting in 2021 (record-breaking attendance) was held virtually, and while I was in line for my vaccination at San Diego's Petco Park parking lot!

It has been an amazing experience serving as your Board **chair**! I will continue to serve on the Mentorship and Fundraising committees. IOIA has so many important and exciting projects in the works! I am proud of all our **collaborative** efforts and honored to have served during this important time.



Lois Christle

IOIA's Training Institute trained more people in 2020 than in 2019! ...during a global pandemic.

Our innovative new formats for live online basic training and remote inspection training garnered IOIA a grant from Covid-relief through the state of Montana. IOIA trainers and staff generated training videos to replace on-site field trips. IOIA's in-person training came to a pause in February 2020 and is expected to resume in 2021.

Thailand; Hong Kong, China; USA; Mexico; Japan



Basic Crop Inspection Training - Mexico

5 on-site trainings
in
5 countries

867
Training
Participants

↑ 13%
over 2019!

En Español, 65 people from 17 countries attended live webinar Remote Inspection training. CIAO worked in collaboration with IOIA to develop the Spanish version of the Self Directed Remote Inspection Training.

Remote Inspection Protocols **169** people trained in **17** countries!



of New Courses:
8

- New Courses in 2020 - Basic – 100 Level Courses**
- NOP based Live Online Basic Inspection Training – Crop
 - NOP based Live Online Basic Inspection Training – Livestock
 - NOP based Live Online Basic Inspection Training – Processing
- Intermediate -200 Level Courses**
- Remote inspection training – English – self directed
 - Remote inspection training – Spanish – self directed
 - Dairy Feed Audit -self-directed format
- Advanced – 300 Level Courses**
- Train the Trainer – (Asia Pacific Region)
 - Organic Cosmetics webinar

13 cosponsors in 2020



**Japan
Organic
Inspectors
Association**



AGROCALIDAD
AGENCIA ECUATORIANA
DE ASEGURAMIENTO
DE LA CALIDAD DEL AGRO



Quality World
Mexico



Asia Pacific Committee



PepsiCo



**香港有機資源中心
HONG KONG ORGANIC RESOURCE CENTRE**

Policy Committee

This committee coordinates IOIA's response to key industry topics and surveys the membership, focusing on issues directly affecting inspectors.

- Prepared 2 rounds of comments to NOSB including extensive comments to the Human Capital Discussion Document.
- Commented to NOP regarding the draft Strengthening Organic Enforcement rule.



Above: Training in Hong Kong, January 2020



Asia Pacific Committee

Left: Asia Pacific Committee (6 members from 6 countries) delivered Grower Group training and Advanced "Train the Trainer" in Thailand.



The historic ACA/NOP/IOIA Training in San Antonio, Texas.

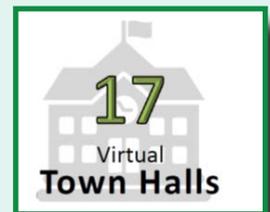
For the first time, independent contractors were welcomed to the NOP certifier training, due to IOIA's efforts. The event included field trips, the Annual Meeting, advanced training, and "Conversation for a New Decade" with Sarah Brown, IFOAM North America; Michael Sligh, Alliance for Organic Integrity; and Nathaniel Powell-Palm.

Responding swiftly and decisively to Covid

IOIA and the Accredited Certifiers Association developed a best practice "Contingency Plans for Verifying Compliance when On-site Inspections are not Possible", and advocated for remote and hybrid inspections when on-site inspections could not be done safely.

IOIA built Community and Supported Inspectors

- **Town Hall** - Epidemiologists, Accountants, Certifiers, NOP Deputy Director, inspectors roundtables. Many members said they found it key to helping them deal with the pandemic; 20 to 70 members attended.
- IOIA met with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to advocate for inspectors.
- Kelly Monaghan fills our seat on the Organic Technical Committee in Canada.
- Started an improved Inspector's Forum online discussion group.
- Initiated a new digital newsletter, remote inspection training, and membership outreach all in Spanish.
- Remote Inspection Training was offered free to inspector members. IOIA saw a corresponding jump in inspector membership.
- IOIA members generously Supported fundraisers for the family of inspector Reynaldo De la Rosa and Mexico earthquake victims.



Reynaldo De la Rosa and Mexico earthquake victims.

- Information Management System project neared completion. A new modern website will include a member portal that will streamline training registration and membership dues.
- Launched Mentorship Committee to help onboard new inspectors.



Terrance Layhew launched a new career as IOIA's favorite moderator.

- Explored an Inspector Coop to address inspector working conditions.

Organic Integrity Learning Center Enhancement Project

- In response to Covid, the Board and ED met with NOP Deputy Administrator Dr. Jennifer Tucker. That conversation led to a contract which kept inspectors working, safely, at a critical time; **70% of the funding went to 20 IOIA inspector contractors.**
- From the joint press release - "...organic inspectors, some of whom can't travel right now. To maximize the benefit of these inspector's expertise, a collaborative team (USDA NOP, A P Ventures, LLC, and IOIA) launched a project to pull in experienced organic inspectors to develop new learning content for the OILC."

Although space does not allow listing the names of all 218 Inspector and 92 Supporting Individual members, IOIA wishes to extend a SPECIAL THANK YOU and to especially acknowledge that your continued support is what sustains our unique organization.

SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

Accredited Certifiers Association
Bay State Organic
County of San Diego
CROPP/Organic Valley/Organic Prairie
Australian Certified Organic
Good Earth Foods
Maryland Dept of Agriculture
Montana Department of Agriculture
NASAA Certified Organic
New Jersey Department of Agriculture
New Mexico Dept of Agriculture
Natural Food Certifiers, Inc.
Organic Materials Review Institute
Organic Producers Association of Manitoba
Quality Certification Services
Ranck and Associates, LLC.
Regenerative Organic Alliance
Rodale Institute
Richard D. Siegel Law Offices
The Fertrell Company
Utah Department of Agriculture & Food
Van Drunen Farms
Wolf, DiMatteo + Associates, Inc.
Yolo County Agriculture Department



IOIA supports IFOAM-NA thru membership dues; our ED serves on their Board of Directors; and we hosted their meetings and webinars in 2020.

SUPPORTING CERTIFICATION AGENCIES

Agricultural Services Certified Organic (ASCO)
California Certified Organic Farmers, Inc. (CCOF)
Centre for Systems Integration (CSI)
Clemson University
Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA)
Ecocert ICO, LLC.
Global Organic Alliance, Inc. (GOA)
Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA)
International Certification Services (ICS)
Japan Organic Inspectors Association (JOIA)
Kentucky Dept of Agriculture (KDA)
Kiwa-BCS Oeko-Garantie GmbH
MOFGA Certification Services (MCS)
Midwest Organic Services Association (MOSA)
MN Crop Improvement Association (MCIA)
Nature's Int'l Certification Services (NICS)
NOFA-NY Certified Organic, LLC.
Ohio Ecological Food & Farm Association (OEFFA)
Oregon Tilth Certified Organic (OTCO)
Organic Certifiers, Inc.
Organic Crop Improvement Assn. - Int'l (OCIA)
Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO)
Pro-Cert
Primus Auditing Services
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
SCS Global Services
TCO Cert
Vermont Organic Farmers, LLC (VOF)
Washington State Dept of Agriculture (WSDA)

SUSTAINERS

Driscoll's

PATRONS

Aurora Organic Dairy

Trainers

Harriet behar, Wisconsin, US
Luis Brenes - San Jose, Costa Rica
Philippe Descamps - Cahuita, Costa Rica
Bob Durst - Oregon, US
Silke Fuchshofen - New York, US
Janine Gibson - Manitoba, Canada
Humberto González - Alajuela, Costa Rica
Garth Kahl - Washington, US
Garry Lean - Ontario, Canada

Yutaka Maruyama - Tokyo, Japan
Kelly Monaghan - Toronto, Canada
Lisa Pierce - British Columbia, Canada
Nate Powell-Palm - Montana, US
Mutsumi Sakuyoshi - Fuji Shizuoka, Japan
Monique Scholz - Quebec, Canada
Pam Sullivan - New Hampshire, US
Isidor Yu - Gyeonggi, Republic of Korea

Scholarships



2021 Andrew Rutherford Award - Claudia Arellano, Sonora, Mexico

I am a Bio Food Processes Engineer. I worked directly with certifying organizations for 7 years approximately, in these years I was in charge of giving trainings about certification to the staff in production and in the field, including doing mass balance exercises and audit trails for our product.

I would like to join a certifier body or agency as an auditor, where I can continue to develop my understanding and continue my trainings and broadening my knowledge of the food industry. The next trainings that I will take will help me to increase my knowledge and will apply in my future employment, like being able to better analyze and perform an audit, which is one of my goals to fulfill.

2021 Organic Community Initiative Scholarship - Laura Gutiérrez, Jalisco, Mexico

I graduated in July of 2019 with a Bachelor's Degree as an Agricultural Scientist from the University of Guadalajara, in Jalisco, Mexico.

The last semester of my university career I left the city to do an internship with an agricultural company. This allowed me to be a part of real agriculture in which the main objective was to have high productivity, which is understandable, but not when done with unsustainable practices. As I became interested in what seems to me like a good alternative (organic agricultural practices), I began to investigate other types of management. First objective is resource preservation, always keeping respect for ecosystems in mind. Second, but not less important, is to form a community of people interested in the preservation of resources (farmers) and healthcare with pesticide and GMO-free food (consumers). We can make the organic market a more attractive alternative for producers.



International Organic Inspectors Association Balance Sheet (Cash Basis)

As of December 31, 2020

ASSETS	Dec. 31, 2020	Dec 31, 2019
Current Assets		
Total Checking/Savings/CDs	399,241.19	390,311.21
Accounts Receivable	-224.08	50.92
Total Other Current Assets	20,410.16	108,660.55
Total Current Assets	419,427.27	499,022.68
Fixed Assets		
Total Building	38,768.86	38,768.86
Other Assets		
Accumulated Depreciation	-20,012.23	-18,854.19
TOTAL ASSETS	\$438,183.90	\$518,937.35
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Equity		
Contributed Property-FMValue	29,031.80	29,031.80
Restricted (Scholarship Travel Fund)	1,598.00	1,598.00
Retained Funds	488,307.55	486,250.23
Net Income	-80,753.45	2,057.32
Total Equity	438,183.90	518,937.35
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$438,183.90	\$518,937.35

NOTE: The Board of Directors approved a balanced budget for 2020, with the expectation of a -\$85,000 bottom line. Members at the 2020 AGM were told that we expected to invest approximately \$85,000 in the Information Management System Technology upgrade, so we might have a -\$85,000 bottom line for 2020. The actual bottom line was -\$80,753.45. About half of that went to the technology upgrade. The other half can be attributed to training shortfall due to Covid and no in-person training events after February. Without a solid cash reserve, we could not have continued our programs. IOIA is accessing and using Covid resources. A Covid grant from State of Montana for \$12,500 was helpful. The OILC Enhancement Project contract offset much of the loss of income in IOIA's Training Program.

Board of Directors



The IOIA Board in Texas, February 2020 Definitely a Working Board in 2020!

L to R - Lisa Spicka, Maracuja Solutions, retreat facilitator and IOIA Industry Relations Director; Margaret Anne Weigelt (Special Past Chair); Chuck Mitchell; Lois Christie; Rachel Cherry Myers; Janine Gibson; Heather Donald; and Ryan Sitler. Philippe Descamps could not join in person.



Thank You, Jonda Crosby, Training Services Director for the past 9 years (2011-2020). Key projects included curriculum work, food safety, webinar, live online, and self-directed learning course development. We wish her our best as she continues with inspection, review and training work.



Margaret Scoles



Sacha Draine



Teri Lindberg



Diane Cooner



Sue Hall



Jennie Olson

Staff

In 2020 IOIA implemented for the first time the Executive Assistant position, and hired Teri Lindberg. We effectively shifted our training models to deal with the Covid disruptions, served the community, and stayed responsive to our members.



Cecilia Earley

867
Training
Participants

 **13%**
over 2019!

60
Training
Events

28
Unique
Courses

of New
Courses:

8

Remote
Inspection
Protocols

169 people trained
in **17** countries!

Courses
in

4 languages

Community Connections

Alliance
for
Organic
Integrity

2

new
Global Partnerships



344
Members

in

16

Countries



5 on-site trainings
in

5 countries

17

Virtual
Town Halls

**Join
Us!**

Connect, learn, and engage
with a global network of
organic professionals.

Learn more at:

<http://www.ioia.net/membership>