

The

Inspectors' Report

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Notes from The Chair

By Garry Lean

June 7, 2007

As I walked down to the office last night, I stopped and looked out over the north pasture. The air was full of locust bloom and across the field there was a fire-fly light show – the true start of summer here in central Ontario.

There is lots happening in the organic world and this edition of the newsletter has plenty of food for thought. The Board is gearing up to spend a few days in Montana this fall. We need your thoughts, ideas and suggestions as we turn the next corner for IOIA.

I picked a book from the shelf this morning – **“Home Place – Essays on Ecology”** by Stan Rowe. A recommended read to help develop an understanding of the evolving world of organic agriculture and give some guidance on thinking ecologically.

Was the last night's light show an analog of organic inspectors out in the organic world?

*"To see a World in a grain of sand,
And a Heaven in the palm of your hand,
And Eternity in an hour ...
A skylark wounded in the wing,
A cherubim does cease to sing.
The wild deer wandering
here and there,
Keeps the human soul from care."*

[This is included in Stan's Essay **“Beauty and The Botanist”** p. 89 of Home Place 1990, ISBN 0-920897-78-9 (pbk)]

AGM Encourages International Scope for IOIA

On March 4, at the 2007 AGM in Encinitas, CA the following motion passed with an overwhelming majority.

Motion: Moved by Kelly Monaghan and seconded by Jack Reams

“that the attendees of this meeting recommend to the IOIA membership to change the name to incorporate the word International.”

The Board of Directors supports this motion. We're asking here for your input as an inspector and a member of IOIA.

Why a Name Change?

- International better reflects the increasingly international nature of the organization in both membership and range of activity.
- To quote the AGM Discussion Group on this topic, “Independent is where we came from, International is what we are now and where we are headed in the future.”
- IOIA inspector membership has changed since its inception.
- IOIA will be better able to grow globally and perceived less as an American organization.
- Moving into the international arena helps insure independence.
- Paves the way for branch offices in other countries.

Questions to Answer

- How will this affect our status as a non-profit with the IRS or our articles of incorporation? Our attorney is currently reviewing these questions. **One option (the easiest) is to change the name using ‘dba’ or ‘doing business as’**
- Preliminary estimate is less than \$1000

Steps in the Process

- Gather input from members on preferences for specific names. Members suggested an on-line survey to vote a selection of name options. Please let us hear from you!
- Summary discussion to be included in the next issue of the newsletter.
- Based on membership support, Bylaws Ballot will be prepared by the BOD, submitted to Bylaws Committee for review, and then sent to voting members by mail. This could occur with the regular October 1 mailing to members.

A bit of history: Then and Now

When IOIA organized in 1991, ‘independ-
[See Scope, page 4]

What's Inside....

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Plus ED Notes, Minutes,
Resources, Calendar....
...And More!

In Brief...

New Accreditations (Spring 2007)

Congratulations to:

- ♦ Thomas Cassan (Crop, Livestock, Processing)
- ♦ Kelly Monaghan (Processing)

OMRI - Product Review Coordinator

The Organic Materials Review Institute runs an internationally recognized evaluation program for material inputs used in organic agriculture and food processing. Also, the organization operates a valuable information service, which distributes lists of products and materials suitable for use in USDA certified organic production. They are looking to fill a key position on their team.

Overview of position:

The primary responsibility of this position is to review applications and assist in the product review program. The review program determines which input products are allowed. Allowed input products may display the OMRI Listed® seal, signifying that they are suitable for use on USDA certified organic operations. Qualified candidates for this position will have some background in agricultural, biological, chemical or food science with knowledge of regulatory policy, project coordination, the organic industry, and organic certification.

To apply, go to <http://omri.org/jobs>

NOFA Seeking ED

Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA-NJ), based in Pennington, NJ, is seeking an entrepreneurial executive director to build on its 22-year history of promoting organic and sustainable agriculture in New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania and to lead a bold, new five-year initiative that will dramatically expand opportunities for organic/sustainable producers. Ideal candidates for this position will share our commitment to organic/sustainable farming practices and will have the requisite drive, management, fundraising and leadership skills to guide an organization through a period of rapid growth. <http://www.nofanj.org>.

Please see full job profile at: www.transitionguides.com/NOFA-NJ.htm

2007 Membership Directory Updates [effective 5/31/07]

Please make the following changes to your 2007 Membership Directory. *Any changes are italicized.* Other parts of the addresses remain the same unless noted. Any additions or corrections to information categories other than addresses and contact numbers will be listed in the 2008 Hardcopy Membership Directory or can be viewed in the 2007 Online Directory.

Address Changes:

Inspectors:

George Danner
Email: gdanner@merr.com

Marjorie Harris
Email: marjorieharris@telus.net

Alfred Wylie
Email: Wyliea001@hawaii.rr.com

Supporting Members:

Sharon Colbenson
Email: mncolbys@hickorytech.net

EuGene Nelson
Email: iesnelson@citizens-tel.net

Supporting Business Members:

Yolo County Agriculture Department
John Young (New Contact)

Welcome Returning Former Members (not printed in the 2007 Directory)

Inspector Members:

Roger London
#104-333 10th St.
New Westminster, BC V3M 3Y2
CANADA
Home: 604.515.2615
Email: raggardon@hotmail.com

Cyril Welsh
20 Allen Lane
George's River, NS B1Y 3J8
CANADA
Home: 902.794.8625
Work: 902.794.8625
Email: cyrilwelsh@syd.eastlink.ca

Welcome New Members:

Inspectors:

Joseph J. Klein
P O Box 181
Dickeyville, WI 53808
Home: 608.568.3298
Work: 608.778.8811
Email: jnklein@yahoo.com

Dr. Jenella Loye
Cell: 530.902.8289
Upgrade to Inspector

Welcome New Supporting Individual Members:

Adderson, Loretta (Lake Orion, MI)
Anderson, Dan (Champaign, IL)
Bennett, Saunders C. (Pittsboro, NC)
Bradway, Christopher (Eugene, OR)
Caputo, John Anthony (Corvallis, OR)
Crail, Lars (Kelseyville, CA)
Driver, Lindsay B. (Raleigh, NC)
Droscha, Jeremy J. (Charlotte, MI)
Dzejachok, Susanna (Cleveland, OH)
Elder, K. Michael (Sierra Vista, AZ)
Hottle, Ryan (Granville, OH)
Hong, Siu-Ming (Tomi) (Weymouth, MA)
Hoyt, David (Viroqua, WI)
Irwin, Bronwyn (Bethesda, MD)
Kummerle, Kip (West Union, OH)
Larson, Julie (Postville, IA)
Menze II, Orlend (Parkers Prairie, MN)
Nam, Linda (Dover, TN)
Nelson, Amanda Lee (Chestertown, MD)
Paterno, Philip L. (Powell Butte, OR)
Peters, Lisa A. (Fogelsville, PA)
Roach, Robert (Salinas, CA)
Rakita, Brian (Louisa, VA)
Rickert, Randy (Lodi, CA)
Schoenfeldt, Thomas I. (Redford, MI)
Shapiro, Dana (Chicago, IL)
Sharp, Doug (Marion, KS)
Stancil, Brad (Pendleton, SC)
Tan, Long Wan (Urbana, IL)

IOIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

St. Ann, Jamaica

IOIA and The Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement (JOAM) will cosponsor a Basic Organic Farm Inspection course at the Eltham Training Centre in St. Ann. The course is to be held **June 11-15, 2007**. The JOAM standards will be used as reference. Please visit the JOAM website at www.joamltd.org or contact Tracy Ann Logan at 876-842-2177(telephone), 876-977-1075 (fax) or at tracyann.logan@joamltd.org for further information. Detailed information and application forms are currently posted at www.ioia.net.

San Jose, Costa Rica

IOIA and ECOALIANZA will cosponsor a 2-day Advanced Organic Inspector Training using USDA National Organic Standards as well as JAS and EU Standards. The course will be held in San Jose, Costa Rica from **June 15 - 16, 2007**. Instruction will be conducted in Spanish. Please contact Milena Barrantes at tel. (506) 815 3748, fax: 506 292 8941 or e-mail ecoalianza@gmail.com

Hongsung-gun, South Korea

IOIA and Korean Federation of Sustainable Agriculture Organization (KFSAO) will cosponsor a Basic Organic Crop Inspection Training in Hongsung-gun, Korea from **July 3 - 7, 2007** and a Basic Organic Processing Inspection Training from **July 9 - 13, 2007**. The course will be instructed using the Korean national organic standards (Law of Environment-friendly Agriculture) and is directed toward residents of Korea. The course will be instructed in English with translation to Korean language provided. Please contact Isidor Yu of KFSAO at e-mail: community02@hanmail.net

San José, Costa Rica

IOIA and Eco-LOGICA will cosponsor 4.5 day Basic Organic Inspector Farm Inspection training using USDA National Organic Standards as a reference. The course will be held at ICAES Coronado in San José, Costa Rica from **August 6 – 10, 2007**. Instruction will be conducted in Spanish. Please contact Milena Barrantes or Guillermo Saborio at phone: 506.280.6592, fax: 506.224.6676 or e-mail: mbarrantes@eco-logica.com and gsaborio@eco-logica.com for further information.

Hongsung-gun, South Korea

IOIA and Korean Federation of Sustainable Agriculture Organization (KFSAO) will cosponsor a Basic Organic Livestock Inspection Training in Hongsung-gun, Korea from **September 11 - 15, 2007**. The course will be instructed using the Korean national organic standards (Law of Environment-friendly Agriculture) and is directed toward residents of Korea. The course will be instructed in English with translation to Korean language provided. Please contact Isidor Yu of KFSAO at e-mail: community02@hanmail.net

State College, Pennsylvania

IOIA and Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO) will cosponsor Basic Organic Crop, Livestock, and Processing Trainings in **mid-November** in central Pennsylvania. Crop and Processing trainings will run concurrently, followed by Livestock and Advanced inspection trainings. Dates and location will be posted at www.ioia.net as soon as available. IOIA and BCS will cosponsor advanced inspector training in conjunction with the basic trainings. One day of the advanced training will be in-depth training on the European regulation, presented by BCS staff from Germany.

Guatemala

IOIA will sponsor Advanced Organic Inspector Training on **March 3-4, 2008** in conjunction with the 2008 Annual General Membership Meeting on **March 2, 2008**. English and Spanish language trainings will be offered. See page XX for more info.

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.

Both prospective and experienced inspectors are eligible to apply for the Rutherford Scholarship. It is awarded to an individual on the basis of need and potential as judged by the IOIA Scholarship Committee. Applicants can choose to attend any IOIA-sponsored training. The Scholarship pays for tuition, room and board but does not cover transportation or other expenses.

The late Andrew Rutherford was a farmer, organic inspector, and organic agriculture researcher from southern Saskatchewan. He served on IOIA's initial steering committee and then several years as a Founding Board Member.

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

For application materials and information on IOIA training programs, contact Margaret Scoles, IOIA Executive Director/Training Manager, IOIA, P.O. Box 6, Broadus, MT 59317-0006, Email ioia@ioia.net, or visit www.ioia.net to download application forms.

The deadline for returning Scholarship applications is October 1. Scholarship recipients are notified by December 15.

Scope, from page 1

dence' was a core principle. 'Independent' perhaps meant different things to different people, but the founders incorporated the word with pride. Most IOIA inspector members were independent contract inspectors who worked for more than one agency. 'Independent' also underscored the distance maintained between inspectors and the applicants and between inspection and certification. To some inspectors, 'independent' is still key to '3rd party inspection'.

IOIA in 1991 was 44 Inspector Members and 2 Supporting Members (both based in the USA). IOIA was a North American organization. Inspectors represented only 3 countries: USA (80%), Canada 16%, and Mexico (4%).

Things have changed since 1991.

- IOIA has grown to 224 Inspector Members from more than 16 countries and speaking at least 20 languages.
- IOIA's supporting members include individuals and businesses in 6 countries, and certification agencies in Canada, Germany, Australia, and USA.
- IOIA has a special relationship with the Japan Organic Inspectors Association (JOIA). IOIA and JOIA have collaborated for nearly 10 years on training in Japan.
- Many IOIA Inspector Members now are staff inspectors, work for only one agency, or do other non-inspection, but related work (i.e. reviewing files for certifiers, serving on certification teams).
- IOIA has provided or cosponsored with regional groups more than 200 inspector trainings, of which nearly half occurred outside the US. In 1993, IOIA provided its first inspector training (2 courses in the US). In 2006, IOIA provided 26 courses in 10 countries. In 2007, IOIA will cosponsor at least 8 Spanish language trainings, plus Japanese language trainings, and partial translation courses in Korea.
- The IFOAM/IOIA International Organic Inspection Manual is published in Spanish, French, and English.

IOIA is experiencing a new era. We are presently training member inspectors in

global venue. How do we wish our association name to reflect our current and future scope? Please let us know your views on this important matter by contacting us thru the website – look for the link 'Name Change' on our homepage, www.ioia.net

*Submitted by the IOIA Board of Directors,
May 31, 2007*

Mark your Calendars for the 2008 AGM in Guatemala!

Latin America hosts the IOIA Annual General Meeting about every four years. Next year, it's that time again. Inspector member **Lidia Girón** is working in Guatemala to assist IOIA in planning the event.

Date: March 2, Sunday PM

Location: Retalhuleu, in southern Guatemala, about 2 hours west of Guatemala City (the airport to fly to). The university will coordinate transportation to the location for the meeting and advanced training.

Climate: Anticipate very warm (86°F/38°C high and 68°F/20°C low) and humid.

Lidia says there are lots of flowers, birds, and trees and she also says, "Yes, I think we will need air conditioning". That will be a pleasant experience for most of us chilly northerners who will enjoy the preview of spring.

Hotel: Check out www.irtra.org.gt to see the venue (Spanish language only).

Lodging will be in the San Marin and Santa Cruz hotels.

Guatemala Attractions: A popular regional trip in northern Guatemala is Tikal National Park. The park's 57,600 ha/142,000ac are covered with old-growth forests of varied plant life including monkeys, coatis and deer.

Over 300 species of birds have been studied in the park and reptiles are abundant. The park's natural environment blends with the architectural ruins of the ancient city of Tikal, perhaps the most important Mayan urban center in its time. It is the only place in the world named World Cultural Heritage Site and World Natural Heritage Site by UNESCO. [info gathered from www.planetware.com]

Other events:

- Spanish and English language advanced trainings are planned on March 3-4.

- Plans for basic training in Spanish language are being explored.
- Depending on interest, IOIA might plan an excursion to regional tourist attractions, perhaps including Tikal.
- OCIA International will host the 2008 AGMM Feb. 25-March 1 in Oaxaca, Mexico. The IOIA AGM has been scheduled to allow for coordination with that meeting without a conflict. É

ED, from page 5

Alas, a short-lived addition. He left us in early May for a 'real' full-time job in IT in Sheridan, WY where he could use his degree. We send him with a huge thank you for his upgrades in IOIA's computer system, from a wireless computer network, better modem, automatic back-up, cleaned up computers, etc. **Gordon Mulkey** has stepped in as an all-around part-time Office Assistant. He helps in all tasks, from making photocopies to answering the phone, and helping with general maintenance.



Gordon quips, "Only been here 2 weeks and I already got a raise," from his elevated position on scaffolding, as he paints the front of the IOIA office. Gordon comes to IOIA with a degree in Business Administration & Accounting, a lifetime of experience in retail, 12 years of recent experience in maintenance, and a great attitude. One of his first tasks was to read the last issue of The Inspector's Report, the IOIA Brochure, and the IOIA website from cover to cover. He started highlighting acronyms after reading a few pages. "I've never seen so many acronyms in my life!" É

Notes from the ED

By Margaret Scoles

All Things Organic: A trip to Chicago was sandwiched between the Ohio and California trainings. **This was the best trade show yet for IOIA.** A huge thank-you goes to OTA for our complementary booth in the non-profit section. The company was great. We were located near OMRI and next to OFRF and IFOAM. Many thanks to Bob Durst, who helped everywhere and who approves of public transportation as the way to get around. Also, thanks to the IOIA booth volunteers: **George Danner, Fred Ehlert, Patti Bursten Deutsch, Helene Bouvier, Fred Ehlert, Maarten Samsom, Kelly Monaghan, and Brian Canfield.** We added some new members, reconnected with some former members, and answered lots of questions. We attended the OTA Welcome Party and the OTA Annual Meeting, where we learned about the newly launched www.gotoorganic.com feature of the OTA website. This is a great new resource for inspectors who want to direct inquiries from potential applicants to publicly available resources. It features two tracks, one for crops/livestock and another for processing.

Bob, as BOD Vice-Chair and Training Liaison, and I visited with certifiers. We promoted IOIA's different training models, including customized in-house inspector trainings appropriate for reviewers and other staff. IOIA training is an easy 'product' to promote. UT Dept of Ag promised to send in a Training Request for in-house processor inspector training. Kentucky Dept of Ag started the dialogue to provide Livestock training but indicated that they would like to leave it open for other attendees. We had inquiries about training in the Philippines. These are just a few. **Lori Wyman**, IOIA member and OTA employee, is enthusiastic about resurrecting Good Organic Retailing Practices (GORP). We made progress on the developing fall trainings in Pennsylvania. BCS Oko-Garantie has requested to cosponsor with IOIA a serious advanced training on the European regulations. That will take one day. We need inspector input on what the other day should be. Ideas?

While most of my time was spent on the floor of the show, I attended a few

educational sessions. I heard **Mike Johanns**, USDA Secretary, and was encouraged by his reports of more dollars for organic certification cost share, research, and statistics. The USDA presented an update on the NOP. Another session included updates on Aquaculture, Pet Foods, Personal Care, and Fiber. **Mark Bradley** took the time to visit our booth and to pick up the thread of dialogue begun last year on developing the 'Body of Knowledge' for organic inspection. This would be basically the definition of a quality organic inspector.

A special treat was a dinner with the BOD members who were in Chicago: **Bob, Catherine Cash (there with the Virginia booth), and Sue Baird.** Another was dinner out one night with **Maarten Samsom.**

Trainings: As this issue of the newsletter attests, I've been focused on trainings for the first half of the year. It was a bit startling to cancel a Basic Livestock training in California because of low enrollment, but that was mostly offset by having 38 people for the Crop Course. So instead, we met the demand by having 2 Crop courses. On May 20, I returned to the office for the summer. Except for a few excursions to do a dozen or so inspections, I'll be here to enjoy one of the wettest Montana springs in the last decade. We have strawberries behind the office for morning breaks, a few tomatoes by the back door, and a jalapeño pepper for salsa thriving in the front flower pot. And my garden is finally planted. I wish you a great gardening season!

It was great to work with **Monique and Garry** on the trainings in Ohio and Sonoma, although more than a bit humbling to completely lose my voice for 3 straight days in Ohio. We made major progress on finalizing the crop course curriculum and some progress in livestock curriculum. IOIA currently relies on basic organic inspector trainings as a major revenue source. It is my opinion that until we diversify our funding sources, we are not likely to make the advances that are needed in advanced organic inspector training and continuing ed. I also believe that the need to solidify standardized basic crop, processing, and livestock curricula is urgent. That will continue to be a major focus for this year. **International training** growth also exploded this year, promising a record

year for Spanish language trainings and Asian trainings.

Potential collaboration with Grolink in India: Grolink has presented a proposal for the Indian Department of Agriculture (APEDA) to provide training over 3 years. If the proposal is accepted, IOIA will partner to provide the inspector training, and Grolink will provide the training on certification.

Finances: The Broadus bank where most of our accounts are located has been sold. Rocky Mountain Bank will soon be First Bank of Sidney. I attended the Open House in a suit and delivered an IOIA business card and brochure to the new owners. They were surprised to find out that they 'inherited' IOIA but seemed genuinely interested. At this moment, we are the most thriving Main Street business in Broadus—one of the few to be adding staff and paying everyone a living wage. Sidney and Broadus are both in eastern MT but about 200 mi. apart. This is a surprising reversal of the usual global trend to bigger and bigger. First Bank of Sidney is a family owned bank, with Broadus as its only branch. We went smaller, not bigger.

Whole Foods Animal Welfare Audit Training, Austin, TX, June 11-14: Watch for a full story in the next issue. I will be one of a group of about 15 inspectors and 10 certification agency representatives to attend. I was pleased to be invited and to have my way paid to attend, even though I accepted with the caveat that I can't do many inspections and might not be cost-effective. It seemed like a good idea to attend, as we continually improve IOIA's training. It feels a bit odd to be receiving a binder and reading material and to not have to do anything but study up. It is rare that I get the luxury of being a participant with no other tasks. But a good "odd", to be sure!

A Building for IOIA? Hooray! Watch for full details in the next newsletter, as IOIA completes the transaction to take on ownership of our office building. Our landlord family is donating the building, the largest single donation received to date. Just when I was thinking it wasn't important to be a non-profit!

More Staffing Changes: Ben was a great addition to IOIA. [See ED, page 4]

SECTOR NEWS

CGG Turmoil Back to Simmer

In response to the uproar precipitated by NOP Mark Bradley's announcement regarding Community Grower Group certification (see our last issue V16N1, cover story), IOIA formed an ad hoc committee to focus on the issue. Luis Brenes, former Chair of IOIA, was appointed to chair the committee. Maheswar Ghimire serves as liaison between the committee and the IOIA board.

About the same time, OTA organized a Group Certification Task Force to include all affected sectors. Margaret Scoles, ED, participated on the organizing conference call and requested that IOIA be given a chance to participate, as the voice of inspectors. OTA agreed and IOIA appointed Luis as our voice on that Task Force. IOIA is sponsoring Luis's participation on conference calls with OTA. The IOIA Board also agreed to spend the Latin American Committee budget to help sponsor Luis's trip to Washington, DC for meetings on May 10-11. Other sponsors were OCIA International, EcoLOGICA, Ecocert, BCS Oko-Garantie, and Control Union.

Brenes provided the BOD with a comprehensive report of the meeting, which included educational meetings with key people in Congress and technical meetings with USDA people [Deputy Administrator Barbara Robinson; Administrator and Associate Deputy Administrator at the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) Mark Bradley; USDA Under Secretary Bruce Knight; USDA Secretary Mike Johanns].

On May 2, the USDA NOP issued the following notice to all USDA Certifying Agents:

After speaking with the Chair of the NOSB, Andrea Caroe, about grower groups, we have come to the following determination in the National Organic Program, effective immediately:

- 1) *NOP will do rulemaking to address the concerns that we have in the Program, but*
- 2) *NOP will also collaborate with the Board about this – this will be a topic on the fall meeting agenda for the NOSB.*
- 3) *In the interim, we have the 2002 NOSB recommendation on grower group certification (PDF). We will re-publish this on the website under "Today's*

News." ACAs are reminded that as long as they use the NOSB recommendation for interim guidance, no enforcement action will be taken by the Program related to grower group certification. The NOSB recommendation is quite detailed in scope.

As discussed, there may be some areas of the NOP regulations which might be amended, or suggested for amendment, which would require public input through notice and comment rulemaking. NOP will consult with the Board on these areas, prior to drafting rulemaking, but certainly during the rulemaking period.

Brenes says, "We focused on key senators and congressmen that participate in Ag commissions. Most meetings were short (30 minutes) to inform on what is a CGG, what is an internal control system -ICS- and the recent challenges placed by NOP. We also asked for their point of view, questions and concerns. Major goals were to inform, clarify any misconceptions, and get their support if any rule change is needed. The second type of meetings was more technical and was mainly focused with USDA staff. We tried to understand their concerns and have a clear picture of what will be needed to reach to a solution that satisfies everybody needs."

US House May Prevent States from Protecting Food Supply

The US House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture has begun the process of writing the 2007 Farm Bill. Of grave concern is language added and approved by the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry that preempts state restrictions of foods or agricultural products deregulated by the USDA. The added language reads,

"no State or locality shall make any law prohibiting the use in commerce of an article that the Secretary of Agriculture has inspected and passed; or determined to be of non-regulated status."

The preemption language has been traced to Iowa Representative and Subcommittee Chair, Leonard Boswell. His intention is to prohibit state and local policies banning the sale of products approved by USDA and other regulatory agencies. The broad scope of the language would affect state and local prohibitions on the cultivation of genetically modified crops, bans on the

sale of rBGH milk, and the outlawing of foie gras for starters.

At a time of pervasive food contamination and consumer displeasure with the social, ethical, and environmental aspects of food processes and production, the addition of a few lines tucked into an immense bill could weaken carefully adopted consumer protections.

In addition, the preemption language raises concerns that states would be barred from taking action when a food safety threats arise. For example, states could be barred from calling for recalls or prohibiting the sale of tainted meats, peanut butter, or other foods that have passed USDA inspection. Advocates favoring the preemption language include United Egg Producers, National Pork Producers, National Milk Producers Federation, and the National Cattleman's Beef Association.

The Farm Bill will be voted on by the House Committee on Agriculture before going to the House floor and then on to the Senate. To follow the 2007 Farm Bill as it moves through the US House at www.agriculture.house.gov/inside/2007FarmBill.html

Dairy Stripped of Organic Label

In a rare enforcement action, a large dairy in California's Central Valley has been stripped of its organic certification because of apparent violations of federal organic standards.

The certification of the Vander Eyk Dairy in Pixley, located halfway between Fresno and Bakersfield, was suspended by its certifier, Quality Assurance International, according to the U.S.D.A.

A spokesman for QAI, which had certified Vander Eyk since 2002, confirmed that the suspension took place May 16, but would not say why. Nor would the Department of Agriculture. The suspension did not become public until June 6, 2007, when "Organic Inc." author Samuel Fromartz wrote about it on his blog, *Chews Wise*.

Vander Eyk dairy, a major supplier of milk in the California market, has been a flash point for organic advocates' criticism that some large organic dairies trying to capitalize on the high prices organic milk can command were nothing better than factory farms.

The issue has brought consumer pressure on organic brands that buy from the large

confinement dairies, including Horizon, which counted Vander Eyk as one of its 350 "family farm" suppliers until December 2006.

Vander Eyk, run by Case Vander Eyk Jr., manages 10,000 cows, at least 3,500 of them under organic rules -- a large number for any dairy.

A major issue has been when, if ever, the cows feed on pasture. The organic rules require access to pasture, but they don't specify how much or for how long. Widely circulated photos of the Vander Eyk Dairy and the Aurora dairy in Colorado show barren, brown feedlots and barns with no pasture in sight.

A government regulator who had reviewed the case against Vander Eyk said there were several violations, according to Mark Kastel, executive director of Cornucopia Institute, an organic dairy watchdog nonprofit, who spoke with the official Wednesday.

"Our understanding is they lost their certification for multiple problems associated with record keeping," Kastel said. According to the official, Kastel elaborated, the dairy "couldn't prove that all his cows were organic, or that the feed he was giving them was organic." In addition, the official mentioned pasture as a problem, he said.

Citing a confidentiality agreement with Vander Eyk, QAI wouldn't talk about the violations but said the dairy can ask for reinstatement of its organic status with any organic certifier. The Department of Agriculture would have to approve recertification.

Horizon Organic, a brand of Texas-based Dean Foods, stopped buying milk from Vander Eyk six months ago because of quality issues, according to spokeswoman Molly Keveney. She would not elaborate.

Source: www.SFGate.com

OCIA Canada Appoints Taylor

OCIA Canada has announced the appointment of **Arnold Taylor** to the position of Business Development Co-ordinator for Canada.

Arnold will be working with organic producers, processors, brokers and traders across Canada to promote the benefits of using OCIA Canada for all their certification needs. It's a position he appears to have been preparing for most of his life, from his 9 years of full time sales experience to his 15 years of experience operating a large certified organic grain and beef operation at

Kenaston, Saskatchewan. Arnold is well known across Canada for his work as Past President of the Saskatchewan Organic Directorate, Chair of the Organic Agriculture Protection Fund, and for his past and current work on developing Canada's National Organic Standard and Regulation. Arnold was recently elected President of the Canadian Organic Growers. He is also involved as a volunteer at every level of OCIA, from serving on his chapter's certification committee to being elected by the members to the International Elections Committee.

USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) releases National Program Research Action Plan

Based on stakeholder input collected at an October 2006 "customer workshop," this document summarizes the scope of ARS research for the Agricultural System Competitiveness and Sustainability National Program (NP 216) over the next five years. The recommendations include nine specific organic research topics under the general areas of agronomic crop production systems, specialty crop production systems, and integrated whole farm production systems.

Overall, the document illustrates how this program within ARS is taking an interdisciplinary, systems approach to seeking "holistic solutions" to agricultural production problems as requested by their stakeholders. According to Dr. Jeffrey Steiner, National Program Leader for NP 216, a more detailed work plan for organic systems research will be issued later this year.

The Action Plan and other information on ARS organic activity is accessible at www.ars.usda.gov/research/programs/programs.htm.

NOSB Votes on Aquaculture, Cloning, and Section 606 Mat'ls

The National Organic Standards Board met in Washington, D.C., March 27-29 and voted 1) to recommend that cloned technology be excluded from organic production (with plans to further collaborate with NOP on related issues such as products from cloned animals); 2) to accept amended aquaculture standards, with refinements expected soon; and 3) to add 17 agricultural materials and an additional 21 agricultural colors to Section 606 of the National List.

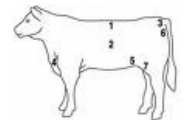
USDA Appeals Creekstone BSE Judgement

Creekstone Farms Premium Beef responded May 30 to an appeal filed by the USDA of the March 29, 2007 federal court decision handed down in Creekstone's favor regarding voluntary testing for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) commonly referred to as "mad cow" disease.

The March 29th decision by Judge James Robertson of the US District Court for the District of Columbia, concludes that it is unlawful for USDA to prevent Creekstone from testing its cattle for BSE. Judge Robertson's order stayed the decision until June 1, 2007 to allow the USDA an opportunity to decide whether to appeal.

Dennis Buhlke, Creekstone's President and CEO had these comments regarding the USDA's appeal. "In refusing to allow Creekstone Farms to respond to its customers' preference for beef from animals that have been tested for BSE, the USDA is doggedly pursuing a course that scientists, consumer groups, trade associations and business, and members of Congress regard as a bad policy. "While Creekstone Farms has taken a lead role in this effort, it is not alone in believing that the government should not prevent private companies from voluntarily testing cattle for BSE."

Mr. Buhlke added, "Although we are disappointed, we are not surprised by USDA's decision to appeal. Beginning in February 2004, Creekstone has tried to work with USDA to find a way to voluntarily test its cattle for BSE. For more than two years prior to filing our lawsuit, we attempted to work cooperatively with USDA. However, Creekstone Farms will continue to pursue our right to test even in the wake of this latest action by the USDA."



And In Related News...

US Ag Secretary Mike Johanns announced on May 22, "I'm pleased to report that the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has formally classified the US as a controlled risk country for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). This classification confirms what we have always contended-that U.S. regulatory controls are effective and that U.S fresh beef and beef products from cattle of all ages can be safely traded due to our interlocking safeguards."

205.606 Could Increase from 5 substances to 43 in Near Future

On May 15, the NOP posted a proposed rule to amend the NOP National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List) regulations to enact recommendations submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture by the NOSB during public meetings held May 6–8, 2002, in Austin, Texas, and March 27–29, 2007, in Washington, DC.

Consistent with the NOSB recommendations, this rule proposes to add 38 substances (some with annotations), to the National List, §205.606 Non-organically produced agricultural products allowed as ingredients in or on processed products labeled as “organic.” This was a direct result of the Harvey vs. USDA lawsuit, which clarified that all non-organic ingredients needed to be on the list. Non-organic ingredients not on the list may still be used in “made with organic” products.

Deadline for public comment was May 22, 2007, just a week later. In the Federal Register notice, the USDA explained the painfully short comment period. “These 38 substances will be prohibited for use in organic products beginning June 9, 2007, unless they are added to the National List. Loss of the use of any of these products would disrupt the trade of food products currently being labeled as “organic”. Therefore, the continued allowed use of these products as ingredients in foods labeled as “organic” is necessary to prevent possible significant business disruption for organic producers and handlers.”

Inspectors should be alert to further notice of this impending rule change.

Proposed additions to the list 205.606

- (a) Casings, from processed intestines.
- (b) Celery powder.
- (c) Chia (*Salvia hispanica*).
- (d) Colors derived from agricultural products.
- (1) Annatto extract (pigment CAS #1393–63–1)—water and oil soluble.
- (2) Beet juice (pigment CAS #7659–95–2).
- (3) Beta-carotene (CAS #1393–63–1) derived from carrots.
- (4) Black currant juice (pigment CAS #'s: 528–58–5, 528–53–0, 643–84–5, 134–01–0, 1429–30–7, and 134–04–3).
- (5) Black/Purple carrot juice (pigment CAS #'s: 528–58–5, 528–53–0, 643–84–5, 134–01–0, 1429–30–7, and 134–04–3).
- (6) Blueberry juice (pigment CAS #'s: 528–58–5, 528–53–0, 643–84–5, 134–01–0, 1429–30–7, and 134–4–3).
- (7) Carrot juice (pigment CAS #1393–63–1).
- (8) Cherry juice (pigment CAS #'s: 528–58–5, 528–53–0, 643–84–5, 134–01–0, 1429–30–7, and 134–04–3).
- (9) Chokeberry—Aronia juice (pigment CAS #'s: 528–58–5, 528–53–0, 643–84–5, 134–01–0, 1429–30–7, and 134–04–3).
- (10) Elderberry juice (pigment CAS #'s: 528–58–5, 528–53–0, 643–84–5, 134–01–0, 1429–30–7, and 134–04–3).
- (11) Grape juice (pigment CAS #'s: 528–58–5, 528–53–0, 643–84–5, 134–01–0, 1429–30–7, and 134–04–3).
- (12) Grape skin extract (pigment CAS #'s: 528–58–5, 528–53–0, 643–84–5, 134–01–0, 1429–30–7, and 134–04–3).
- (13) Paprika (CAS #68917–78–2)—dried, and oil extracted.
- (14) Pumpkin juice (pigment CAS #127–40–2).
- (15) Purple potato juice (pigment CAS #'s: 528–58–5, 528–53–0, 643–84–5, 134–01–0, 1429–30–7, and 134–04–3).
- (16) Red cabbage extract (pigment CAS #'s: 528–58–5, 528–53–0, 643–84–5, 134–01–0, 1429–30–7, and 134–04–3).
- (17) Red radish extract (pigment CAS #'s: 528–58–5, 528–53–0, 643–84–5, 134–01–0, 1429–30–7, and 134–04–3).
- (18) Saffron (pigment CAS #1393–63–1).
- (19) Turmeric (CAS #458–37–7).
- (e) Dillweed oil (CAS #8006–75–5).
- (f) Fish oil (Fatty acid CAS #'s: 10417–94–4, and 25167–62–8)—stabilized with organic ingredients or only with ingredients on the National List, §§ 205.605 and 205.606.
- (g) Fructooligosaccharides (CAS #308066–66–2).
- (h) Galangal, frozen.
- (i) Gelatin (CAS #9000–70–8).
- (j) Gums—water extracted only (Arabic; Guar; Locust bean; and Carob bean).
- (k) Hops.
- (l) Inulin—oligofructose enriched (CAS #9005–80–5).
- (m) Kelp—for use only as a thickener and dietary supplement.
- (n) Konjac flour (CAS #37220–17–0).
- (o) Lecithin—unbleached.
- (p) Lemongrass—frozen.
- (q) Orange shellac—unbleached (CAS #9000–59–3).
- (r) Pectin (high-methoxy).
- (s) Peppers (Chipotle chile).
- (t) Starches.
- (1) Cornstarch (native).
- (2) Rice starch, unmodified (CAS #977000–08–0)—for use in organic handling until [date two years after effective date of final rule].
- (3) Sweet potato starch—for bean thread production only.
 - (u) Turkish bay leaves.
 - (v) Wakame seaweed (*Undaria pinnatifida*).
 - (w) Whey protein concentrate.

Resources

The Farm Bill Digest is a new weekly news digest that tracks the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture's 2007 Farm Bill Priorities. Go to: www.sustainableagriculture.net/farm_bill_signup.php to sign up.

New How-To The Organic Trade Association (OTA) has launched HowToGoOrganic.com, a web site for producers and processors transitioning to organic. The web site is designed as a clearinghouse of North American resources for farmers and businesses interested in becoming organic or in creating new organic enterprises. www.organicnewsroom.com/2007/05/the_organic_trade_association_1.html

NOSB seeks an environmentalist USDA's National Organic Standards Board has a position open for a person representing environmental concerns. This five-year position will run from Jan. 24, 2008, to Jan. 24, 2013. Complete written nominations, with resumes, must be submitted before Aug. 17. For more info, contact Katherine E. Benham (202-205-7806; katherine.benham@usda.gov).

Organic Price Report AMS seeks comments on new price report: USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service is producing a new organic price report, the Eastern Cornbelt Organic Grain and Feedstuffs Report www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/hq_ls105.txt. AMS is seeking any comments to improve this report (www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/hq_ls105.txt). For more info, contact James A. Bernau (515-284-4460; jim.berna@usda.gov).

IFOAM Revisions The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) is revising its Organic Guarantee System to provide more access to it for producers, standard-setting and certification bodies, and governments. As a result, beginning mid-April, it will be seeking comments on the IFOAM Benchmark for Standards, a document that is a result of the revision of IFOAM Basic Standards (IBS). The first draft will be released for public comment soon. Watch the <http://www.ifoam.org/> web site for this release.

New OMRI policies The Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) has

announced it has adopted revised review program policies and standards, which will go into use starting May 7. The new policies and standards were developed in order to seek accreditation under ISO Guide 65.

The National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture's print newsletter is available on line as a pdf at www.sustainableagriculture.net/docs/S/SpringSummer2007.pdf In addition, they have developed a Farm Bill Hero campaign with weekly email updates and timely alerts about priority issues. More info and a sign up link is available at www.sustainableagriculture.net/BeAFarmBillHero.php

The Seed Map, a project of USC Canada, ETC Group, and IDRC, is a teaching and advocacy tool designed to show the state of global agro-biodiversity today. Anyone can use it - teachers, gardeners, policy makers, and more. The map identifies key threats to the world's seed and biodiversity systems, and highlights regions where peoples' movements are fighting to protect biodiversity - and winning.

The Seed Map comes with an easy to understand, full-size (26"x39") world map as well as access to an interactive website*, and a CD* of that website for ease of reference. The Seed Map and associated materials are free; however, for orders within North America and Europe payment for postage is required. The map is available in English, French*, and Spanish*. To order, visit www.usc-canada.org, email seedmap@usc-canada.org, or call 1-800-565-6827 ext.228 (613-234-6827 in Ottawa).

*Available later in 2007

Food Fight: A Citizen's Guide to the Farm Bill

www.watershedmedia.org/foodfight/overview.html

Low Cost Website Development for Farmers www.smallfarmcentral.com

A to Z Guide to Political Interference in Science by the Union of Concerned Scientists', www.ucsusa.org/scientific_integrity/interference/a-to-z-guide-to-political.html

Targeted Grazing Handbook Available Online www.cnr.uidaho.edu/rx-grazing/Handbook.htm

University of Arkansas Extension Introduces Organic Production Resource Manual

www.aragriculture.org/horticulture/Organic_Resource_Manual.pdf

Some Pollinator Populations Declining, Says Report

[//www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=11761](http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=11761)

Reports Spotlight Role of Farms in Reducing Global Warming

www.pewclimate.org/press_room/sub_press_room/2006_releases/pr_921.cfm

USDA's Draft Farm Bill Targets Specialty Crops

www.agmatters.net/attachments/farbill.doc

Resources Regarding Corn Subsidies

<http://tinyurl.com/39xrw9>

<http://tinyurl.com/36qtpn>

Ag News Clips Website Keeps Activists Up-To-Date

<http://www.agandruralleaders.org/agclips.htm>

Documents on National Animal Identification System (NAIS):

- Background paper <http://tinyurl.com/2rcj9b>
- Analysis of NAIS Implications <http://tinyurl.com/3avm95>
- Analysis of the recently released USDA's NAIS User Guide <http://tinyurl.com/3brs56>
- A table outlining the impact of NAIS on the farming community.
- <http://tinyurl.com/2wxpd8>

IATP News is an occasional publication reporting on recent events and activities at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP). It is sent to board members, supporters, partners and friends.

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Additional Organic Provisions Included in Latest Farm Bill Mark-up

The House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture on June 8 approved additional key steps to help strengthen the infrastructure for organic agriculture. Provisions include:

- \$22 million to help farmers pay for organic certification. The certification cost-share program would provide up to \$750 per farmer, increased from the current \$500.
- \$3 million for organic price and production data. This information could be used to analyze crop loss data for organic production.
- Provisions to increase Farmers Market programs that will help small and new organic farmers have an immediate local outlet for their products.

In May, the Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research extended the Organic Research and Extension Initiative to examine optimal conservation and environmental outcomes for organically produced agricultural products, and to develop new and improved seed varieties that are particularly suited for organic agriculture. That subcommittee authorized \$25 million per year for each fiscal year through 2012. It also included language making loans for water and soil projects to organic producers a priority; permitted organic transition to begin at the end of CRP (Conservation Reserve Program); and gave organic farmers access to EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) Conservation Innovation grants providing that each fiscal year, \$5 million will be used for outreach to organic and specialty crop producers.

There are two more subcommittee mark-ups to come as well as full committee action on the Farm Bill in the House Committee on Agriculture.

Meanwhile, the House Agriculture Committee's Rural Development Subcommittee this week amended the 2007 Farm Bill proposed language to reauthorize the Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas program (ATTRA), which assists sustainable and organic agricultural producers with current technologies and practices. The amendment authorizes \$5 million per year for ATTRA program costs. Still to come are possible remedies for problems in the organic crop insurance arena, and other improvements for organic farmers and processors.

Sonoma Training May 2007

By Margaret Scoles & Monique Scholz

Westerbeke Ranch, a 165 acre property with woods and walking trails was the venue for two concurrent Crop Inspection Trainings this May 14 -18. CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers), in conjunction with IOIA, sponsored the offering near Sonoma, California. Participants who stayed on-site were lodged in rustic cabins nestled on the hill side, with numerous opportunities for wildlife sightings. In addition, the more-than-ample meals got great reviews throughout the entire training.

The lead trainers for these sessions were Garry Lean, from Ontario and Monique Scholz from Québec, ably assisted by our ED, Margaret Scoles from Montana. IOIA newsletter editor and webmistress, Diane Cooner, was able to assist with registration. Elizabeth Whitlow, from CCOF, set up five field trips, all within close proximity. The 38 participants included certifier staff from CCOF, Minnesota Crop Improvement Association, and the state agriculture departments of Kentucky, Utah and Wyoming.



Presenting two concurrent sessions offered a unique synergy for trainers and clients alike. There were many question-and-answer sessions, as well as interactive exercises and lectures based on the mock OSP for an orchard producer. The "virtual inspection", created in collaboration with a fruit producer from Montana, added realism and was an opportunity to practice exit interview skills. Both groups had very keen students who could be found working in the common rooms in the evenings and arriving punctually every morning to class.

Five very successful field trips were hosted by local farms, including two vineyards. These mock inspections were done in the beautiful Sonoma and Santa Rosa area, home to Luther Burbank and the Santa Rosa plum which he developed.

Special thanks to Margaret Scoles (IOIA ED), who supported the trainers and participants throughout the course; to Sean Feder who presented the certifier-inspector session for CCOF; to Amy Lamendella, who served as a Group Leader; and to Elizabeth Whitlow Inman for her superb work in organizing the field trips. Thanks also to IOIA office staff and Margaret Dickson for assistance in getting a few steps closer to harmonized crop curriculum!

IOIA Greet Spring in Ohio

By Monique Scholz

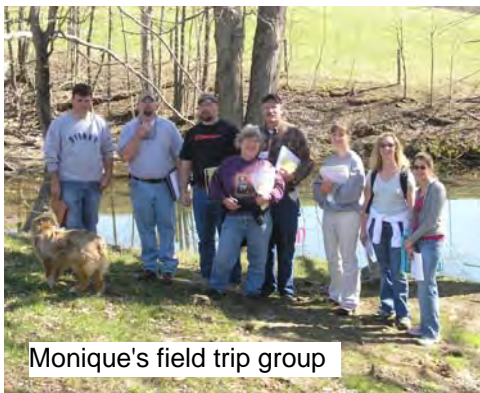
In conjunction with OEFFA (Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association), IOIA put on a 4.5 day Organic Crop Inspection Training near Marengo, Ohio, April 14-18. The training was followed by a 4.5 day Organic Livestock Inspection Training, April 18-22. This event, IOIA's first training in Ohio and first OEFFA cosponsored training, was a resounding success. The training was held at the Heartland Retreat Center, located on a 350 acre of property, with wooded areas and a fabulous trout stream. Trainers were lodged in a historical building known for its role in the underground railway to freedom for southern slaves over a hundred years ago.

The lead trainer for this Organic Training was Monique Scholz.

from Québec, ably assisted by Garry Lean, from Ontario, The trainers reversed the roles for the Livestock course, with Garry serving as lead trainer for Livestock. Our ED, Margaret Scoles from Montana, assisted both courses. There were 27 participants in the Crop course and 25 in the Livestock course, including certifier staff from Clemson University, GOCA and MOFGA; many future inspectors from Ohio and the surrounding states; and our Rutherford Scholarship recipient, John Caputo.



Garry Lean, Monique Scholz, and Margaret Scoles worked together to develop new materials to support the IOIA livestock curricula. Their Virtual Goat Dairy inspection was a hit, with Garry and Monique playing out the roles of inspector and applicant. Participants wrote Exit Interviews, based on the slide show. Linda Tikofsky, DVM, of Cornell University was invited guest speaker on the topic of Assessing Animal Health.



Monique's field trip group

Despite the large class size and intense program, there were many question and answer sessions in addition to the OSP-based interactive exercises and lectures. The "virtual inspection", made in collaboration with a market gardening family from the Bitterroot Valley in Montana, had added realism and was a welcome change from the cash crop OSP used throughout the class and break-out sessions. The group was exceptionally studious, working in the common rooms in the evenings on homework assignments

and the INPUT QUIZ and coming to order punctually every morning.

Three very successful field trips were hosted by local farms: Northridge, FLYING J and STRATFORD ECOLOGICAL CENTER. These mock inspections were done on a warm sunny spring day, giving numerous opportunities to apply new skills in a hands-on situation. Livestock field trips included two dairies and a lamb operation. Special thanks are due Janie Marr Werum, IOIA member and new Certification Director at OEFFA, who arranged the field trips. Field trips are one of the most crucial components of IOIA courses and one of the primary responsibilities of the cosponsor. The field trip experience was rated very high by Ohio participants.

Thanks are due OEFFA as our cosponsor. OEFFA's rapid growth and resulting inspector shortage prompted them to cosponsor the course. They also awarded six scholarships to Ohio participants. Sylvia Upp and Steve Sears of OEFFA braved soggy weather to share their experiences in the Certifier-Inspector Reception.

Special thanks to Margaret Scoles (IOIA ED), who supported the trainers and participants throughout the course despite losing her voice in the rolling hills of Northridge! É



Rutherford Scholarship winner John Caputo (Oregon) and Julie Larson (Iowa) work on a small group exercise at the Ohio Crop course



Crop course participants Tom Tucker, Jeremy Droscha and Lisa Peters scrutinize product labels and containers during the Crop Input Materials Exercise for NOP compliance. Participants were assigned the task of bringing one material for each category (allowed, prohibited, and allowed with annotation).

Trainers selected some of the most interesting labels to add to the quiz.

Curso Internacional de Formación Inspectores Organicos - Ecuador

Para BCSEcuador.com

Del 26 al 30 de Marzo del 2007, se realizó en la ciudad de Quito, con el aval del IOIA, el Curso Internacional para la formación de Inspectores de Fincas Orgánicas. El mismo que fue organizado por BCS ÖKO Garantie Ecuador y el auspicio de la Corporación de Promoción de Exportaciones e Inversiones CORPEI, y la Cooperación Técnica Alemana GTZ.

Al mismo asistieron 26 participantes en representación de las siguientes empresas y organizaciones vinculadas a la producción orgánica de nuestro país: Bandecua-Fresh del Monte, Ecuaplantation, Hcda. Las Mercedes, Exportan S.A - Ecoexportaciones, Pronaca, Cocoamar, Fedexport, S.E.S.A, Fapecafes, Morenmos, Brundicorpi - Chiquita, Urocal, Nevado Ecuador, Prog. Bosques para Siempre, Cimexpriba - Biopaca, Hcda. El Chorrón, OBSA y BCS ÖKO Garantie Ecuador.

El curso fue dirigido por el Ing. Humberto González, Inspector Orgánico de amplia experiencia. Auditor EurepGap y coordinador del programa de evaluación de insumos para BCS ÖKO Garantie. Formaron también parte del equipo de instructores el Ing. Luis Brenes, Inspector Internacional por más de 10 años. Capacitador IOIA. Ha dado cursos de Inspectores Orgánicos en China, Estados Unidos, Argentina, México, etc. Y el Ing. Juan Carlos Benítez, inspector ecuatoriano de amplia experiencia.

Al finalizar el curso algunas de las impresiones de quienes estuvieron presentes: "Curso de buen contenido técnico-práctico", "Las práctica en el campo fueron de mucha importancia ya que nos ayudaron a profundizar lo aprendido", "Los Instructores demostraron tener muy buenos conocimientos y experiencia en los temas desarrollados", "Todo el curso fue excelente, sigan así e implementen este tipo de cursos de capacitación mas seguido. FELICITACIONES".

Luego de haber enviado la evaluación final del curso desarrollado en Ecuador, recibimos la siguiente carta desde el IOIA, que lo transcribimos textualmente: "Estimados señores y señoras: Muchísimas gracias por la evaluación del curso en Ecuador. Quisiera manifestarles mi agradecimiento por haber dado el curso de inspección de finca en Ecuador como copatrón con IOIA. Les deseo toda clase de éxitos y espero una próxima ocasión para trabajar juntos. Un Cordial Saludo Sacha Draine. IOIA Training Services".

Agradecemos a todas las personas e instituciones que permitieron que este evento se desarrolle con total éxito y les anunciamos a todos quienes no pudieron asistir a este curso de formación, que en el mes de Octubre se estará desarrollando un nuevo curso de formación de Inspectores en la ciudad de Guayaquil. Y recuerden el cupo es limitado.

La inspección orgánica es un trabajo exigente y gratificante. La demanda de inspectores orgánicos calificados está creciendo rápidamente junto con la demanda de productos orgánicamente producidos.



IOIA en Perú

Del 21 al 25 de Mayo del 2007, se realizó en el Centro Internacional de la Papa de la ciudad de Lima - Perú, el Curso Internacional para la formación de Inspectores de Fincas Orgánicas. El mismo que fue organizado por BCS ÖKO Garantie Perú SAC, la Cámara de Comercio e Industrias Peruano-Alemana, y el apoyo de la Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina y el aval del IOIA.

Al mismo asistieron 16 participantes en representación de empresas y organizaciones vinculadas a la producción orgánica de Perú y Ecuador.



El curso fue dirigido por el

Ing. Humberto González, Inspector Orgánico de amplia experiencia. Auditor EurepGap y coordinador del programa de evaluación de insumos para BCS ÖKO Garantie.

Al finalizar el curso se recogieron algunas impresiones de los participantes: "Este curso fue excelente, se incrementa el nivel profesional técnico de los participantes". "La IOIA tiene un buen objetivo y debe continuar en ello....orgánicos....el camino al éxito". "La discusión en grupo fue positivo para mejorar en entendimiento de las normas". "El instructor supo transmitir todos sus conocimientos y experiencias de la manera mas acertada y admiro la forma de hacer comprender un tema complejo. Exitos" É



Sellos de Calidad en América Latina: nuevos retos para el sistema de garantía orgánico

Para Carlos Escobar

Además del desarrollo y aplicación de diferentes regulaciones y estándares privados, de origen nacional e internacional (especialmente: JAS, NOP y 2092), para la Agricultura Ecológica en América Latina (ver the Inspector's Report # XXX); otro tipo de normas están siendo abordadas por las diferentes agro cadenas de tal modo para, no solo alcanzar los mercados orgánicos, sino hacer parte de otros nichos de mayor especialización o por el contrario a nichos de mayor amplitud.

Dentro de los diferentes sellos de calidad que, de algún modo u otro, se complementan, para bien o para mal, con la certificación orgánica, se hallan:

- ♦ La Certificación de Café Amigable con las Aves (birdfriendly coffee), garantizada por el Instituto Smithsonian del Zoológico de Washington donde es imperativo que el sistema productivo cafetero cuente con una certificación orgánica reconocida ante NOP así como un arreglo agroforestal que garantice las condiciones necesarias para albergar a las aves migratorias (y claro esta, endémicas) provenientes de las latitudes norte, entre otros criterios.
- ♦ La Certificación Rainforest Alliance, administrada por la Red de Agricultura Sostenible, una coalición de 9 organizaciones sin ánimo de lucro en América Latina y Estados Unidos, cuyo interés es requerir el cumplimiento de aspectos ambientales y sociales – laborales de tal modo la agricultura se desarrolle dentro de parámetros de conservación y respeto ambiental y por quienes trabajan en las fincas, respectivamente. En este caso no es obligatorio contar con la certificación orgánica, a su cambio implementar un manejo integrado de suelos y plagas.
- ♦ La Certificación de Comercio Justo o FLO, programa administrado por la Organizaciones de Etiquetado de Comercio Justo (FLO), que, además de exigir aspectos sociales y ambientales, ha desarrollado una serie de criterios y políticas económicas que, de algún modo u otro, garantizan un precio mínimo y premio a los pequeños productores y/o trabajadores de grandes plantaciones. No es requisito la certificación orgánica pero, en términos de mercado, cada vez adquiere mayor importancia tenerla puesto que el consumidor prefiere productos “sanos y justos”.
- ♦ La Certificación de Buenas Prácticas Agrícolas - Eurepgap, una iniciativa privada de minoristas miembros del grupo EUREP (Euro-Retail Produce Working Group), cuyo interés ha sido desarrollar normativas y procedimientos de amplia aceptación para la certificación global de Buenas Prácticas Agrícolas como una herramienta para garantizar la inocuidad de los alimentos a partir del cumplimiento de aspectos ambientales y sociales – laborales, principalmente. También existen otra serie de programas de certificación y reglamentos elaborados por empresas privadas como el programa C.A.F.E. de Starbucks y, normas orgánicas privadas para la certificación de cosméticos, piscicultura y textiles de origen latinoamericano. A esta suma de sellos, paulatinamente, se ha venido introduciendo el concepto de “denominación de origen” siguiendo, principalmente, el modelo francés. Este concepto busca, a grandes rasgos, crear identidad geográfica de los productos según características especiales tales como sabor, textura, entre otros.
- ♦ Relación costo – beneficio, situación que no es clara puesto que no es bien conocido ni sistematizado si existe un reconocimiento económico extra al productor/transformador por sus esfuerzos extras; a diferencia del producto orgánico y justo (por la certificación FLO), los cuales se sabe ampliamente son mejor pagados, en términos generales.
- ♦ El origen vs. el destino; situación similar a los problemas que algunas organizaciones y productores manifiestan al momento de aplicar normativas hechas en los Estados Unidos (NOP), Europa (2092) o Japón (JAS) en el contexto agroecológico y social de Latinoamérica; sin existir algún tipo de conciliación técnica al respecto. Por citar un ejemplo, ciertas normas socio – ambientales exigen un mínimo de árboles y especies de árboles/hectáreas, uso de registros complejos, entre otros.
- ♦ Los acuerdos comerciales que imponen barreras para-arancelarias y fiscales que no reconocen, efectivamente, ninguno de los sistemas de certificación de tal modo que se deben agregar otros requisitos y controles de parte de las autoridades para poder comercializar los productos dentro o fuera de Latinoamérica.

Ventajas y Desventajas de los Sellos de Calidad

Todo programa de certificación tiene sus ventajas y desventajas, según el punto de vista. Desde opiniones radicales tales como llamarlos métodos de bio – colonialismo a opiniones neo liberales que los consideran como la principal finalidad que debe perseguir el agricultor para involucrarse en los procesos de agro exportación. Pero más allá de este tipo de opiniones, encontramos, más que ventajas o desventajas, son realidades que afrontar ante la implementación de cualquiera de estos sistemas adicionales a las garantías orgánicas:

- ♦ Costos de implementación y mantenimiento en términos de las inversiones que algunos de estos programas exigen a raíz de sus criterios ambientales y sociales donde, por citar algunos ejemplos, las fincas deben contar con baños públicos cada determinada distancia, con ciertos equipos y herramientas mínimas para operar la agricultura, con ciertos análisis de suelos y aguas, con ciertas garantías laborales; entre otras.
- ♦ Costos de Inspección y Certificación puesto que los requisitos difieren o no están contemplados, en gran parte, por las normativas orgánicas haciendo necesario contratar una certificadora adicional y/o agregar dinero extra a la factura del proceso de certificación orgánica. Además, muchos de estos sellos exigen mayor documentación por parte del operador haciendo, casi obligatorio, tener personal exclusivo para ello.

Conclusiones

Solo resta decir que el sector productivo y de control de la agricultura orgánica esta afrontando nuevos retos y caminos que debe saber explorar sin perder de vista sus principios y bases; de lo contrario se convertirá en una industria mas de la sociedad de consumo. También queda por desarrollar los mercados internos como medidas de amortiguación a los riesgos de estos nuevos retos.

Finalmente, en los próximos números, iremos abordando los diferentes sellos de calidad, que día a día, se hacen mas cotidianos en el quehacer agrícola latinoamericano haciendo “casi” obligatorio formarse mas allá de la inspección orgánica para mantenerse o ser parte de los actuales equipos de inspección y auditoria de las certificadoras, quienes a su vez, cada vez incluyen nuevos servicios de inspección y certificación.

Algunos sellos:



BOD Minutes Highlights

Note: Minutes of all BOD meetings are posted on the "Inspector Members Only" section of the IOIA website after BOD approval.

January 18, 2007 Conference Call

Donation of Building to IOIA

IOIA has been offered a gift of the building that it is renting. Decision: the BOD agreed in principle to accept the building based upon David Gardner (IOIA's accountant) accepting the responsibility to research the building and his finding no concerns or restrictions.

Training for Other Audiences: An IOIA member submitted a proposal for processor trainings. BOD discussion on this topic included: Whether trainings for other audiences is compatible with the IOIA mission. If these trainings would present a real or perceived conflict of interest to train processors and other specified groups. The wise use of IOIA scarce resources (staff and dollars). To the question of 'What safeguards should be in place to insure no conflict of interest' the BOD explored: providing only general or generic rather than specific information, a trainer code of conduct, open versus in-house trainings, training to theory but not design specific forms. Decision: It was generally agreed that offering trainings to audiences other than inspectors was within the IOIA mission of consistency and integrity in the certification system so long as the trainings focus on clarifying standards requirements but not offering specific ways to overcome barriers (advice) to certification and must include a trainer code of conduct (safeguards to avoid possible conflicts of interest). The BOD approved a pilot project.

February 19, 2007 Conference Call

Decision: The BOD decided to accept the gift of the building without a further environmental assessment and contingent on verification that asbestos has been removed properly.

February 27-28, 2007 In-person meeting, Cocos Café- Feb 27 and Best Western Encinitas - Feb 28, Encinitas, California USA

BOD members present: Luis Brenes, Garry Lean, Marina Buchan, Gene Prochaska, John Trinterud, Ann Lameka, Ann Baier (Feb. 27), Maheswar Ghimire (First Alternate), Margaret Scoles (Staff), and David Konrad (BOD candidate, Feb. 28)

Decision: BOD to keep a Decision Table along with the Action Point Table to assist BOD members to keep track of decisions and actions. Action Point: Marina will do a decisions list for 2005 & 2006 and distribute to the BOD.

Personnel Policy: Ann Baier presented a draft personnel policy. Decision: to accept the Employee Personnel Policy as presented. Action Point: Ann will send the policy to Gene to review; he will recommend to the BOD to adopt it.

AGM Topics: Discussion whether to announce the vote per person. Decision: The BOD perceives that Bylaw 2.13 is ambiguous in the sense that it is not clear if 'votes' means total votes per nominee or total votes by members; and the BOD interprets that announcing the total votes per nominee by publishing them in the AGM minutes rather than their being announced during the AGM is in compliance with the Bylaws.

Accreditation/Promotion: Luis presented a summary of the 2005 BOD retreat process. He discussed the Access Foundation Matrix tool that the BOD used to evaluate proposed projects. The idea that 'Program Vulnerabilities' could be used as a vehicle for inconsistencies inspectors see is an interesting prospect. An Advisory Committee could assist and give IOIA leverage. An ad hoc committee dealing with certification inconsistencies (which could be documented by inspectors) could be struck. This could possibly evolve into a position paper, which could bring IOIA more credibility. This is something that NO ONE else in the organic sector can do.

BOD member resignation: John Trinterud submitted his resignation, stating personal reasons. **Decision:** The BOD accepted John's resignation and appointed Maheswar to the vacant position.

Curriculum: Margaret presented an update on the curriculum project. Garry and Ann B. provided BOD oversight. The project started with the revision of the basic crop course and was tested in the NY training. The crop course is nearly complete. Some components of the livestock and processing courses are complete. A Curriculum Advisory Committee for the crop course was set. There are people ready to serve on an advisory for the processing course. The plan is to send the course to the Curriculum Advisory Committee for review before sending it to the Trainers.

March 5-6, 2007 In-person meeting - Coco's Café, Encinitas, California, USA

On March 5, newly elected board members Erin Beard, Sue Baird, Bob Durst, David Konrad and Monique Scholz met with continuing Board members Garry Lean, Maheswar Ghimire and Gene Prochaska and outgoing Board members, Marina Buchan and Luis Brenes. ED Margaret Scoles was present. The purpose of the meeting was for the newly elected BOD members to be brought up to speed on IOIA Strategic goals and to learn how the previous BOD conducted meetings.

Strategic Goals: Luis Brenes presented the strategic goals of IOIA. He also explained how the previous BOD evaluated whether or not a new undertaking (or continuing an existing project) would make sense to pursue, suggesting that three YES or NO questions need to be asked:

1. Compatible with mission statement? Yes or No
2. Capability? Yes or No
3. Significant competition? Yes or No

New board members were invited to read up on the IOIA BOD Santa Cruz retreat summary.

Decision making:

Luis and Garry explained how the outgoing BOD made decisions. This process, while time consuming, leads to solid decisions.

- 1) Sponsor presents issue, with background: optimally should happen prior to conference call but doesn't always happen this way, would allow for input from others prior to conference call; ED is the dispatcher of information and supporting documents
- 2) Chair develops agenda with ED; has list of attachments per agenda item, also BOD homework instruction
- 3) Discussion during conference call
- 4) Decision: motion forward with seconder; vote but consensus favored OR defer discussion to a committee for their recommendation
- 5) Publish decision as GROUP decision.

One or two year terms: Board members present agreed to determine which of the new elected members has the one year term by using the vote results from AGM: lowest number of votes will determine the one year term. By consulting the ballot counts, it was determined that Bob, David and Monique hold two year terms, and Catherine holds a one year term.

Formation of Executive Committee: BOD officers were named: Chair: Garry; Vice chair: Bob; Secretary: Monique; Treasurer: Gene; Member-At-Large: David; Director: Maheswar; Director: Catherine. Positions of First Alternate (Erin Beard) and Second Alternate (Sue Baird) were determined by the AGM vote.

ED orientation: Margaret explained kinds of IOIA training and their differences; urged the BOD to be realistic in our goals, our time, ED time, and our capabilities; funding is a BOD issue and we must expect to put some attention to this; remember who are our partners; and must address lack of Training Manager

Decision making method: It was decided to operate with the same approach as the previous BOD. Action Point: Secretary is directed to create a rule of procedure to reflect this way of developing discussion, communication and decision

Committees and BOD responsibilities: The BOD reviewed focus discussion notes from AGM, as well as committee reports. The board members decided to share the tasks of liaising with committees. BOD Homework: Each BOD liaison person to research what is in place, contact current committee, recruit if needed, begin work on action plan; work on structure especially if new committee.

Intercom with Catherine from Virginia: got BOD members acquainted via phone.

March 29, 2007

Committee Reports: Each BOD member reported the results of their contact as BOD liaison to individual IOIA committees. Garry reports that Canadian Committee co-chair Janine has applied on behalf of IOIA to serve on CGSB Organic Agriculture Committee. Co-chair Leanne McCormick has resigned. Action Point: BOD directs Garry to speak with Janine, obtain report and action plan from her, and ensure good communication. Latin American Committee: Garry to contact Lidia Giron to initiate formation of ad hoc AGM committee.

Training for other audiences: Discussion of whether IOIA should proceed with training for processors. Decision: To promote IOIA service of 'in-house' inspector trainings to certifiers. Margaret and Bob to promote at ATO (Chicago in May).

CGGs: Decision: BOD appointed Luis Brenes serve as chair for ad hoc CGG committee for IOIA.

April 26, 2007

Curriculum: Decision to subcontract as needed to finalize Crop Course.

Financial Reports, First Quarter 2007, Gene Prochaska, Treasurer: Quarterly reports were presented. Finances to date are positive when compared to projected.

BOD Retreat: Dave reported the results of his preliminary cost/benefit analysis for fall BOD retreat in Ontario vs. Montana. Travel to Canada appears to offer \$1600 saving for BOD. This is offset by cheaper daily accommodations in Broadus. Other factors than financial should determine location. BOD decided to proceed with retreat, continue discussion on other PROS and CONS via email, and make decision on location at May meeting.

Training Discussion:

- In-House inspector training for inspectors, certifiers, and reviewers: this 'product' will be promoted in Chicago.
- Training Processors: This project still perceived as problematic in that it may appear to have IOIA involved in 'overcoming barriers to certification'. Bob and Margaret will assess 'market' for this in Chicago by asking certifiers for input (Where do they send processors? What resources do they send them? What resources and training are needed?)
- Draft Inspection Guide: Drafted in April 2006; ED will circulate. É

GMO NEWS

Questions of fraud raised by GMO-contaminated shipment of organic soybeans

The Organic & Non-GMO Report was recently alerted to a disturbing GMO contamination incident involving a shipment of organic soybeans to an organic processor. The names of both the processor and supplier have been kept confidential. The processor wanted to share his experience to emphasize the GMO challenges facing the organic industry.

It's an organic processor's nightmare: a buyer calls to say that your organic product tested positive for genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The processor can't sell the product as organic and loses money. Such unfortunate contamination incidents are increasing in the organic industry.

What makes the following incident even more troubling is the fact that a shipment of organic soybeans contained a high level of GM soy-much more than would have been caused by comingling with a small amount of GM soybeans or by cross-pollination.

20% contamination

In mid-April, Chris, who owns a soy processing facility, received a call from a customer saying that his soy ingredient tested positive for GMOs. Chris was shocked. His processing facility is 100% organic. He thought, "How could there be a problem?"

He then tried to trace the source of the contamination. He took samples from a railcar of organic soybeans sent from his supplier and sent them to a lab for testing. The lab results stunned him.

The samples tested positive at 20%, an extraordinarily high level of GMOs. The

contamination was so high that the lab said there must be almost a truckload of GM soybeans in the railcar, says Chris.

His first reaction was that the result must be a mistake. This was the first time he had received a positive GMO test. "I've had samples from China tested for GMOs, and they always tested clean," he says.

Chris filed a complaint with his organic certifier who sent it to the supplier's certifier. The supplier then took his own samples from a different lot of soybeans, and they tested negative.



Turned other railcars back

Based on the supplier's negative tests, Chris believes they won't be found at fault. "This has cost me my business and over \$100,000, and the supplier is still selling his crop," he says.

According to Chris, shortly after learning about the positive GMO tests on the railcar sample, the supplier turned back three more railcars of organic soybeans headed for Chris's facility. He then asked the supplier to ship soybeans to him by truck, but the supplier refused, saying they didn't want to do business with him again.

Before the contamination problem, Chris says he had a great relationship with the supplier. He had previously purchased organic soybeans from China, but was happy to use a domestic supplier. That's all changed. Now Chris is planning to buy Chinese organic soybeans again.

Doesn't feel right selling as organic

Chris contacted his state organic certifier who assured him that the organic certification of his product was still valid even with the presence of GM material. "My certifier said it was still an organic product, but my customer didn't want to buy it, and I don't feel right about selling it as organic," he says.

Chris's certifier is wrong, says Jim Riddle, former chairman of the National Organic Standards Board. The National Organic Program prohibits the use of GMOs, but allows "adventitious" presence of GM material at the farm level only. "For a processor to accept GMO-contaminated ingredients and use them in organic products would be a direct violation, since it would constitute the use of the products of an excluded method (GMO)," he says.

As a result, Riddle says products produced from the batch of GMO-contaminated soybeans should lose organic certification and be sold as conventional. But he also says Chris's processing facility would likely retain its organic certification, unless his certifier determines that his operation does not have the ability to prevent comingling or contamination.

Chris ended up selling his product to the conventional food market at one-half the price of organic. "I never had to sell a product to the conventional market

before. It was not a pleasant experience," he says.

"No trust for anybody"

Chris has asked his certifier to file a complaint with the supplier's certifier and with the NOP, who told him they will "act accordingly." But, his certifier has yet to send the paperwork one month after the incident, which angers Chris. Even after the complaint is filed, the NOP is not likely to take any action.

Legal action is also not an option. "If I pay attorneys I won't have enough to pay wages," says Chris. "I'm in survival mode, trying to keep my employees."

Chris describes his situation as a "damned if I do, damned if I don't" bind.

He calls the GMO threat to organics a "new frontier" that the industry must address. "We will need an organic police department. Everyone needs to be forewarned: there will have to be comprehensive GMO testing."

Chris believes a GMO tolerance in soybean production is needed immediately. "Zero tolerance is not going to happen. A certain amount of GMO has gotten into all aspects of soybean production, including organic."

The contamination incident has left Chris disillusioned. "I've been in the organic industry for a long time. It was an industry built around trust, but after this I have absolutely no trust for anybody."

(Editor's note: For legal reasons, Chris did not want to divulge the supplier's name. As a result, we were not able to contact the supplier to obtain his side of the story.)

Source: The Organic & Non-GMO Report, June 2007 www.non-gmoreport.com

Federal Court Orders Halt to GE Alfalfa

A Federal judge on May 4 made a final ruling that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) 2005 approval of Monsanto's genetically engineered (GE) "Roundup Ready" alfalfa was illegal. The Judge called on USDA to ban any further planting of the GE seed until it conducts a complete Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the GE crop.

In the decision, Judge Charles Breyer in the Federal Northern District of California affirmed his preliminary ruling, which echoed the Center for Food Safety's arguments in their lawsuit against USDA, that the crop could harm the environment and contaminate natural alfalfa. This

ruling also requires Forage Genetics to provide the locations of all existing Roundup Ready alfalfa plots to USDA within 30 days. The Judge ordered USDA to make the location of these plots "publicly available as soon as practicable" so that growers of organic and conventional alfalfa "can test their own crops to determine if there has been contamination."

Source: www.centerforfoodsafety.org

Chavez: Monsanto Out of Venezuela

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez Frias announced in late April that the cultivation of genetically modified crops will be prohibited on Venezuelan soil, possibly establishing the most sweeping restrictions on transgenic crops in the western hemisphere.

Though full details of the administration's policy on GMOs are still forthcoming, the statement by Chavez will lead most immediately to the cancellation of a contract that Venezuela had negotiated with the US-based Monsanto Corporation. Before a recent international gathering of supporters in Caracas, Chavez admonished genetically engineered crops as contrary to interests and needs of the nation's farmers and farmworkers. Monsanto had plans to plant up to 500,000 acres of transgenic soybeans in Venezuela.

GM Rice Proposed Class Action

Last August, markets reacted negatively when the USDA announced a Bayer CropScience GM trait had been found in the U.S. rice supply. Most thought lawsuits were inevitable.

Now, nine months later, hundreds of suits have been filed and more are expected. Besides bringing a case alone, an option for a rice farmer is to join a proposed class action that's been moving through U.S. District Court Judge Catherine Perry's St. Louis courtroom since last December.

For the plaintiffs, Perry named Don Downing of St. Louis law firm Gray, Ritter & Graham as co-lead counsel along with Adam Levitt of Chicago's Wolf Haldenstein Adler Freeman & Herz.

Since last August, Downing has filed suit on behalf of over 200 Missouri and Arkansas rice farmers. In the proposed class action, there are now some 460 rice farmers representing over 248,000 acres of rice. In an April filing, Downing said

total compensatory damages for plaintiffs and other members of the proposed classes may approach or exceed \$1 billion - and that's before taking into account punitive or statutory damages.

Recently Downing spoke with **Delta Farm Press** about the case. Among his comments:

"We have heard from farmers who have gone out of business - or gotten out of the farming business.

"Many farmers have decided to quit planting as much rice as they have in the past. That's for a variety of reasons, but one is the significant rice seed shortage caused by the contamination of the Cheniere and Clearfield 131 varieties.

"As a result, many farmers couldn't obtain the type of rice seed they needed.

Or, they couldn't obtain sufficient quantities of it. Therefore, some farmers were forced to plant rice seed they feel will yield less than their preferred variety. Other farmers have been forced to plant crops that are substantially less lucrative than rice.

"Combine that with all the other problems the contamination has caused - the rice price isn't where it would have been had this not happened - and we've lost a chunk of our export market. I know there are a lot of efforts to minimize that problem. But the fact remains that the world price for U.S. rice is substantially lower than it would be if this hadn't happened. All U.S. long-grain rice farmers have been damaged in that regard.

"Other farmers have incurred costs of the decontamination of their equipment, of their grain bins and machinery. And the whole rice distribution system has also incurred decontamination costs that will ultimately be passed along to the rice producers. Those will come in the form of basis points they have to pay or other charges and fees that will be passed to them.

"At the end of the day, our view is the rice producers are left holding the bag because of the contamination. That's what this case is all about: obtaining compensation for

rice producers for the economic losses they've suffered."

On new cases...

"Cases continue to be filed. The vast majority of them have been filed by rice producers. But there have been cases filed by mills, by exporters and importers and others that were sitting on a substantial quantity of rice that was devalued as a result of the contamination."

On the USDA investigation into the cause, or causes, of contamination...

"Our understanding is their investigation is continuing ... They haven't told us why it's taking so long. We are doing our own investigation. Once Judge Perry allows the discovery process to go forward - and we anticipate she'll allow the parties to begin this summer - we'll have the opportunity to issue subpoenas to get to the bottom of what happened, to do a full-scale investigation."

You're only going after Bayer?

"Bayer has been named in virtually all the cases. It was their GM (trait) that contaminated the U.S. rice and seed supply. But there are cases in the multi-district litigation that have named as defendants Riceland and LSU. They're part of the proceedings."

Source: *Delta Farm Press*, May 28 2007

DOJ to Require Monsanto, Delta & Pine Divestitures

The Department of Justice said May 31 that it will require Monsanto Co. and Delta & Pine Land Co to divest Monsanto's Stoneville Pedigreed Seed Co., 20 proprietary Delta & Pine cottonseed lines, and other assets in order to proceed with their \$1.5 billion merger. The merged firm will also have to divest to Syngenta Crop Protection AG a group of 43 Delta & Pine cottonseed lines that contain VipCot. The DOJ said the deal, as originally proposed, would have "caused higher prices to U.S. farmers for traited cottonseed and would have blocked or delayed development of traits for cottonseed that would compete with Monsanto." Trait ed cottonseed is seed that has been genetically modified to include highly desirable characteristics.

Source: www.MarketWatch.com
May 31, 2007



Book Review

Genetic Roulette: The Documented Health Risks of Genetically Engineered Foods

Author: Jeffrey M. Smith

Publisher: Yes! Books,
www.GeneticRoulette.com; hardcover;
336 pages; \$27.95

In his foreword to *Genetic Roulette*, former UK government environment minister Michael Meacher says, "This is the authentic book on genetic modification that the world has been waiting for. . . . The case presented is absolutely a smoking shotgun that should stop in its tracks any dabbling with GM foods, whether by individual families, food companies, or indeed nations." Bestselling author John Robbins says, "*Genetic Roulette* is dynamite. It totally explodes the complacency and apathy that has been allowing genetically engineered foods to creep into our food supply." And GMO experts Arpad Pusztai and Susan Bardocz write, "Jeffrey Smith's *Genetic Roulette* destroys the myth that genetically modified organisms are safe and will give sleepless nights to uncritical supporters of GMOs. . . . It is a real treasure and the most important GMO source book for policy makers, scientists, and the public."

According to *Molecules of Emotion* author Candace Pert, PhD, *Genetic Roulette*'s author "Jeffrey Smith is the leading world expert in the understanding and communication of the health issues surrounding genetically modified foods." Indeed, his first book *Seeds of Deception* became the #1 rated and bestselling book on GMOs. *Seeds* made a huge impact and is credited with influencing legislation and changing the global debate on the subject. Now, in *Genetic Roulette*, Smith has answered the human health risk question as he calls for an immediate ban on GM product by consumers and governments.

65 dangers at a glance read easily across two-page spreads

Joan Dye Gussow, author of *This Organic Life* and professor emeritus of Nutrition and Education at Columbia University, says *Genetic Roulette* is "remarkably thorough, well-written, brilliantly designed, and deeply disturbing." She urges people to, "Read this book, or skim it—a feat the author has enabled with a format that allows for scanning or

thorough reading." The format Gussow describes consists of 65 two-page spreads, each dedicated to a different adverse finding or theoretical risk of GM foods. The left side's executive summary offers knowledge at a glance. Flip through the pages in a few minutes and you will be struck by reports of hundreds of people with toxic or allergic reactions, thousands of sick, sterile or dead animals, and countless ways in which GM foods are inherently dangerous and virtually untested.

Read the detailed explanations on the right side, to learn that lab animals fed GM soy had altered sperm cells and embryos, and a five-fold increase in infant mortality, or that genes might transfer from GM corn to turn your intestinal bacteria into living pesticide factories—for the long-term. These and other meticulously documented revelations shred the baseless arguments used by the biotech industry to defend their products.

Masterful recipe for decision-making

Cancer Prevention Coalition chairman Samuel Epstein, MD, describes the book as "The most comprehensive, well-documented and highly readable exposé on the serious health dangers of GM foods." Meacher says, "What has long been needed is not more polemic, but the facts, the unvarnished detail that provides the evidence on which people can make up their own minds. This book is it." In fact, it presents a masterful recipe for decision-making; the 65 two-page spreads offer a kind of safety checklist—risks and findings that must be responded to. Pediatrician and author Alan Greene of DrGreene.com says, "We ought either to satisfy ourselves with solid scientific answers to the concerns clearly laid out in *Genetic Roulette*—or we should change the way we eat."

Sounding the alarm with parents and schools

The book explains why children and newborns are most at risk from potential allergens, toxins, and nutritional problems associated with GM foods. Jordan Rubin, bestselling author of *The Maker's Diet*, says, "As a health educator and parent of a young child, I will do everything within my power to keep these dangerous genetically modified foods out of the cupboards and refrigerators and off of the kitchen tables of those I care about. The best way I can do that is to strongly

recommend the book." Robyn O'Brien, founder of AllergyKids and mother of four, says "The health risks associated with these new foods have the potential to impact every child in America—not just those with food allergies." She says the book is a "must read" for parents. And Dr. Richard Beall, director of the Carolina International School, says, "I urge school administrators to read *Genetic Roulette* and take preventive action to protect the long-term health of your students."

Genetic Roulette hits mainstream influence and may force GM food bans

Beginning in April 2007, organizations around the world will be presenting *Genetic Roulette* to government officials as evidence that GM foods are unsafe and need to be banned immediately. The prominence of U.S. Senator Jon Tester's supporting quote on the back cover indicates that Smith is aiming for decision makers at the highest level. Meacher says, "I believe it will inspire leaders in many different arenas to take action."

Officials can't simply use the excuse that their national regulatory agencies ensure GM food safety, because part two of *Genetic Roulette* shows just the opposite. Government assessments are not competent to even identify most of the potential health problems. Furthermore, part 3 exposes in great detail how GM food producers rig their studies in order to avoid showing problems. And part four dismantles the "feed the world" argument as baseless PR hype.

Frances Moore Lappé, author of *Democracy's Edge* and *Diet for a Small Planet*, says thanks to Smith's "tireless investigations, we need wonder no longer why corporations spreading GMOs are so secretive, why they've spent hundreds of millions to keep us from even knowing which foods contain GMOs. They don't want us to examine the shoddy science, the suppressed evidence, and, most of all, the real health risks that GMOs present."

Meacher writes, "Jeffrey Smith is one of the great campaigners of our age, a relentless pursuer of the truth, a fearless advocate in the corporate world of secret influence, and a ceaseless promoter of the public interest across the world. He is the modern David against the GM Goliath. This book may well provide the slingshot to change the global course of events this century."

Genetic Roulette is now available at www.GeneticRoulette.com. É

INDEPENDENT ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

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

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

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

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

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

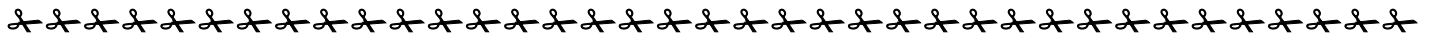
‰ Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 2nd Edition, published by Sust. Ag Network, \$19.00

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

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

‰ Steel in the Field, published by Sustainable Ag Network, 128 pages, \$18.00

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



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Please specify category – all funds payable in US
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- ‰ Inspector - \$125
- ‰ Supporting Individual - \$100
- ‰ Business/Organization \$125
- ‰ Certifying Agency - \$250
- ‰ Patron - \$500
- ‰ Sustainer - \$1000

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

‰ 2007 IOIA Membership Directory:

‰ \$15 members ‰ \$25 non-members

IFOAM/IOIA Int'l Organic Inspection Manual:

‰ \$45 members ‰ \$60 non-members

2007 Calendar

June 18 - August 10 Ecovillage and Permaculture Certificate Program. In addition to a full permaculture design certificate course, this dynamic residential program provides a holistic introduction to social permaculture, ecovillage design and implementation. Most Universities offer students upper division credit, through program participation. Dexter, Oregon www.lostvalley.org/epcp

June 19 Pasture Poultry Production and Rare Breeds. This workshop will provide information on pastured poultry with specific emphasis on the use of rare breeds and breeding flock management. Goldsboro, NC. www.cefs.ncsu.edu/calendar.htm#pastpoult

June 20 - 22 The Organic Summit - Renewing the Organic Conversation. St. Julien Hotel, Boulder, CO. Strategic Organic Sector event. www.theorganicsummit.com

June 23 - 26 American Forage and Grassland Council Annual Meeting. The PA Forage and Grassland Council and Penn State University will host the joint 2007 American Forage and Grassland Council and Northeast Branch ASA & SSSA Annual Conference. State College, PA www.afgc.org/mc/community/

June 24 Kansas City Urban Farms Tour. The Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture invites you to visit up to eleven farms located in Kansas City, Kansas; Kansas City, Independence and Raytown, Missouri and learn about urban farming and gardening on this self-directed biennial tour. www.kccua.org/uft2007.htm

June 25 - 28 Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Annual Forum. Learn about the region's food system from those working in the region, hear from provocative speakers and engage in thoughtful discussions with colleagues about key issues—water, energy, protecting traditional food systems, and, share and enjoy delicious local food together. Des Moines, Iowa.

www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=126005

June 30 Best Management Practices for Coastal Plain Beef Production. The Wayne County Cattlemen's Association will be coordinating with CEFS and the Eastern NC Beef Cattle Program to offer a summer cattlemen's update. Goldsboro, NC. www.cefs.ncsu.edu/calendar.htm#beef

July 8 - 21 Agroecology Shortcourse 2007. The 8th Annual Agroecology Shortcourse. Santa Cruz, CA www.agroecology.org/shortcourse/index.html

July 11 - 14 The Second Conference on Facilitating Sustainable Agriculture Education. Opportunity to facilitate a cross-disciplinary dialogue on learning and teaching in sustainable agriculture at colleges and universities in the U.S. Ithaca, New York, New York. www.hort.cornell.edu/SustAgEd/

July 11 Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society Summer Symposium. Wimbledon, North Dakota www.npsas.org

July 12 Fueling the Farm: Managing energy risks, reducing energy costs and exploring alternative energy sources. Goldsboro, NC www.cefs.ncsu.edu/calendar.htm#energy

August 22 Organic Certification Short Course. This workshop will provide the information needed to come into compliance with the USDA's Organic Program (NOP). Goldsboro, NC. www.cefs.ncsu.edu/calendar.htm#certification

August 26 - 28 1st IFOAM Int'l Conference on Marketing of Organic and Regional Values. Schwäbisch Hall, Germany. www.ifoam.org

Sept 15 2nd Annual CEFS Fall Festival. Includes demonstrations, tours, hands-on activities for children, workshops. Goldsboro, NC. www.cefs.ncsu.edu/calendar.htm#fallfest

Sept 25-26 Organic Trade Show and Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance's Fall Conference Corvallis, OR. For more info contact Doug Sinko, at 541-396-2409 or Joe Ficher at 541- 290-0699.

Sept 26 Organic Harvest Festival, Expo East, 3 - 7pm, Baltimore Convention Center
Sept 27 - 29 New Hope Natural Products Expo East. Baltimore, MD. BioFach America running concurrently. www.newhope.com, www.ifoam.org

Oct 10 - 12 BioFach Japan 2007
Tokyo, Japan. www.ifoam.org

Oct 16 - 18 BioFach America Latina 2007
São Paulo, Brazil. www.ifoam.org

Oct 30 - Nov 1 Introduction to Holistic Management: Whole Farm/Ranch Planning
Albuquerque, New Mexico. www.holisticmanagement.org/new_site_05/Info/IR7_calendar.html

Nov 1 - Nov 4 Healing the Land: Practical Solutions to Complex Problems: HMI 2007 Gathering. Allan Savory, Joel Salatin, Thom Hartmann, and Temple Grandin. Albuquerque, NM. www.holisticmanagement.org/new_site_05/Info/IR7_calendar.html

Nov 2 - Nov 4 The 30th Annual Conference of the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy. Pittsburg, NC. www.albc-usa.org

Nov 12 - 20 IOIA and PCO will cosponsor Basic Crop, Process, and Livestock Inspection Training in central Pennsylvania. IOIA and BCS will cosponsor Advanced Organic Inspection training in conjunction with this event. See www.ioia.net for more details

Nov 26 - 29 NOSB Meeting
Washington, DC

Keep IOIA Strong - Lend Your Strength And Get Involved!



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