

The Inspectors' Report

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Inspectors Association*
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IOIA Annual Meeting set for March 22 in Montreal, Quebec

Bienvenue! IOIA invites you to celebrate its annual meeting *à la Montréal* at Le Cantlie Suites Hotel in the heart of this vibrant city on the afternoon of March 22. Mark your calendars!

Advanced training will follow on March 23-24, to include training to the Canadian standards and an update on new EU regulations. Other topics are under development. A variety of field trip options, including maple syrup, are planned for March 25. Meetings of the Board of Directors will occur on March 21 and 23 before and after the AGM. Basic Organic Processing Inspection training is planned for March 24-28, in conjunction with the events.

Le Cantlie Suites is conveniently located at the junction of Rue Peel and Rue Sherbrooke near McGill University, with views of the St. Lawrence River on one side and Mont Royal, one of the city's largest parks with fabulous perspectives of the area from up high, on the other. The hotel is within walking distance to shopping, museums, fine dining, three universities, historic districts and Montreal's famous winding staircases. It is also only a subway (the metro) ride away from the Olympic Stadium and the botanical gardens.

Closest Airport is Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport, also known as Dorval Airport. Airport code is (YUL). Shuttle cost from the airport to the hotel is around \$15 each way. The shuttle picks up at the main terminal and drops off at major hotels, including Le Cantlie. March is spring break season, so plan to book early.

You have never been to Montreal? And even if you have, it is time to visit again. Montreal, in Canada's only French-speaking province, is like no other city in North America with its unique history and culture. If your French is long-lost or never existed, not to worry. While the official language in Quebec is French, Montreal is one of the most bilingual cities in the country with its strong Anglophone heritage as well as two English-speaking universities.

Montreal has countless attractions to suit every taste from culinary and artistic to musical and high fashion. And if you think that March might be too cold to explore the city above-ground, you can always take refuge in the underground city. The underground city, a set of interconnected complexes above and below ground, is the largest underground complex in the world and readily accessible from the hotel. It is possible to stay underground for your entire visit if you so choose.

And there is Old Montreal or *Vieux-Montréal*, one of the oldest urban areas in North America. Located close to the St. Lawrence River, it is about a 15-minute walk from the hotel. Architecture and cobbled streets in Old Montreal have been maintained or restored to keep the look of the original city. The Old Port (Vieux-Port) on the riverbank features a variety of museums and attractions. [see AGM, page 4]

Notes from the Chair By Bob Durst

Changes are coming: A number of interesting developments are in the works for organics these days. Some have been a long time coming and others have just been dropped on us so we don't know quite what to make of them yet, but I urge all of you to take a look at those that are important or interesting to you and comment about them.

Recently, I was invited to speak at the "Sustainability in Cosmetics" conference on the subject of organic regulations in that industry. The simple summary that folks took away from that was that the organic cosmetics industry is where food was at about 25 years ago. It's the wild, wild West out there, with a dozen different certifiers all allowing different amounts of organic content and varying amounts of other ingredients in products that all bear an organic label. The NSF standard (full disclosure here-I'm co-chair of that group and have been heavily involved in the writing of this standard) just recently went through its latest round of public comment.

[see **Changes**, p.4]

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Membership Directory Updates

Any additions or corrections to information categories other than addresses and contact numbers will be listed in the 2009 Hardcopy Membership Directory or can be viewed in the 2008 Online Directory.

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Welcome New Members

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Erin Beard..... First Alternate
Lidia Girón Second Alternate
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Upcoming Trainings

San José, Costa Rica - December 1-5, 2008

IOIA and Eco-LOGICA will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic 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 December 1-5, 2008. This training was re-scheduled from the previously announced November date. Instruction will be conducted in Spanish. Please contact Max Vargas or Cristina Vargas at ph.: (506) 2-297-6676, fax: (506) 2-235-4592 or e-mail: mvargas@eco-logica.com for further information. +593 (0)3 2910 333 cell: +593 (0) 93 773 319 e-mail: admin@bcsecuador.com

Montreal, Quebec- March 23-24, 2009

IOIA will sponsor Advanced Organic Inspector training in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, in conjunction with the IOIA Annual General Membership Meeting on March 22. See page 1 for full story. Information and application forms will be posted on the IOIA website as soon as available.

Other trainings in development include basic Crop and Processing inspection trainings tentatively scheduled for Pennsylvania in late April and basic Crop and Livestock inspection trainings in late summer/early fall in Wisconsin. Watch upcoming IOIA newsletters and the website for details as these and 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, 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.

Welcome New Supporting Individual Members:

Genieve McDonald Amores (Baxley, GA)
Vivek Anandaraman (Lincoln, NE)
Danielle Baker (Chico, CA)
Patricia J. Bayers (McGrath, MN)
Tabitha Fleming (Eureka, CA)
Sheila Foster (Pr. Reyes Station, CA)
Mary Kirsch (Milford, MI)
Gina Ko (Broomfield, CO)
Donn Randall (Cheyenne, WY)
Hartmuth Sommer-deRis (Great Barrington, MA)
Stephanie Tessitore (Minneapolis, MN)
Callyn Trujillo (Salem, OR)
Katie Warrington (Kennedyville, MD)
Michael Wildfeuer, (Eugene, OR)

Korea Processing Training

IOIA and the Korean Federation of Sustainable Agriculture Organization (KFSAO) cosponsored Basic Processing Inspection Training Sep 20 – Oct 3 at the Yangpyeong Agricultural Technology Center. Mutsumi Sakuyoshi, Lead Trainer for the course, was assisted by Isidor Yu and Hye-kyung Hong for this group of 15 participants. Their role included translation to Korean language.

A guest speaker, Mr. Park, presented the Korean standards. The field trip was to a Kimchi plant. A farmers group in Korea, Hansalim, developed the facility to process their vegetables. Mutsumi reported that this was a challenging plant for a basic training, because it uses lots of ingredients and the calculations were complicated.

Most participants took the training for continuing education and are not likely to do inspection, at least in the near future. Processing certification is fairly new in Korea (June 2008). According to Isidor, the Korea Food Research Institute is supported by the government and is expected to cover most of the organic processing certifications in Korea, because the CB criteria requires in-house laboratory for residue tests. Other CBs in Korea don't have their own laboratories. The accrediting body does not want to accredit any other small size certifiers for processing and it is very careful to approach the accreditation enforcement. E



Changes, from page 1

I haven't seen the final outcome of those comments, but expect that they will be minor (we've gone through a couple of rounds already) and expect that there will be a finalized standard before year's end. In the EU, a consortium of certifiers has come together to develop 'harmonized' EU cosmetic standards under the COSMO moniker. These are much weaker than those that are being proposed here by NSF. Others are also involved in this game. Why are organic cosmetics important to us, they aren't covered in the USDA food regulations, so why worry about what's going on in this segment of the industry? The answer is many fold, but here are some high points:

- ◆ Lots of consumers are seeing the organic label on cosmetics.
- ◆ The cosmetic industry spends lots of money advertising their products.
- ◆ Folks trying to make truly organic cosmetics are pointing out to consumers that organic cosmetics are sometimes not that different from conventional cosmetics.
- ◆ Consumers are seeing that organic doesn't mean much on cosmetics and translate that into organic doesn't mean much on food. **That is where the real problem lies** and it's one that we desperately don't want to have happen.

You can help to prevent this by working to see that there are significant regulations that insure that organically labeled cosmetics follow the principles of organic food and really mean something to the consumer.

Other areas that are changing include the recent new pasture rules posted by USDA. This is not my area of expertise and I haven't had a chance to look at them and understand what the issues are, but I'm sure you'll be seeing a lot about this in the near future [start with our article on page 8 of this issue]. I urge you again to comment as appropriate on them, especially given that the comment period is short (60 days) and they appear to be desperately trying to get this through before the change in administration here in the U.S. has a chance to thwart them.

New regulations for organically labeled farmed/wild fish have also been posted recently and deserve a closer look.

In addition to all of these things here, we've got the upcoming implementation of the new Canadian organic standards looming close. IOIA looks to play a

Nominations, anyone?

IOIA Bylaws require that Board of Directors candidates be nominated at **least 60 days prior** to the AGM. The AGM date is March 22, so members can nominate candidates until **January 21, 2009**. If you would like to nominate someone or yourself, please email **Kelly Monaghan**, Membership Chair, at kellyamonaghan@sympatico.ca **before January 21**. Each candidate will be asked to answer a few questions and submit a short bio. Candidates should be willing to participate in conference calls (typically once per month), attend the Annual Meeting and possibly one other in-person meeting during the year, and participate in fundraising activities.

Members of the BOD must be selected from among Inspector members who are actively inspecting. The BOD positions up for re-election are currently filled by Bob Durst (Oregon), David Konrad (Ontario), and Monique Scholz (Quebec). BOD positions not up for re-election are filled by Gene Prochaska (Indiana) and Steve Bird (California). First Alternate position is also up for election in 2009. Erin Beard of Iowa currently serves as First Alternate. IOIA strives to have at least 2 candidates for each position, so 6 candidates are needed for BOD and 2 for First Alternate. All terms are 2 years. IOIA limits consecutive terms to 3 terms. No current Directors are serving a third term, so all current Board members are eligible to seek another term.

To nominate someone for Inspector Asset of the Year or Inspector of the Year, please request a nomination form from the IOIA office or from Kelly Monaghan. Inspector of the Year must be an IOIA member and should exemplify the ideal inspector or one who has distinguished him/herself in promoting organic integrity. Inspector Asset of the Year need not be an IOIA member but should be someone who has furthered the cause of organic inspectors. The Membership Committee selects the recipients.

To propose amendments to the Bylaws, submit your proposal to the IOIA office or directly to Arthur Harvey, Bylaws Committee Chair, at arthurharvey@yahoo.com. Allow enough time for Committee review. Bylaws amendments to be voted on at the Annual Meeting must be mailed out at least 45 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

significant role in all of this, as we're scheduled to be offering 'train the trainers' classes and then ultimately trainings for inspectors to get these new rules implemented smoothly for our friends to the North. È

AGM, from page 1

Bring the family if possible to take advantage of the many sights and activities Montreal has to offer, and get a taste of Quebec culture and its *joie de vivre*. *On vous attend en grand nombre!*

For more information about the venue, visit www.hotelcantlie.com but please do not reserve accommodations directly with the hotel. IOIA has a special rate for our members and will prepare the rooming list. Studio and Executive suites are reserved. Each suite has a small European style kitchenette. The hotel also features a

restaurant and lounge. The rooftop pool will unfortunately not be an option in March.

IOIA is currently in conversation with Transfair exploring the possibility of a Fair Trade auditor training prior to the IOIA events.

Ideas for other training topics and guest speakers are welcome.

Watch the IOIA website home page for more

details. As registration forms and training applications are developed, they will be posted there.



Special thanks to the local AGM organizing committee in Quebec: Sylvia Welke, Christine Ouellet, and Monique Scholz! Montreal, Quebec.

Notes from the ED

By Margaret Scoles

Each quarter, as I sit down to write my "Notes" (the last item I send off to Diane so she can organize everything into another excellent issue), I'm struck with how such a lot happens in that time. Looking back 3 months, it feels like a really long time. In the past quarter, I traveled to Vermont, worked on livestock curriculum with Garry Lean, enjoyed the Vermont cross-border social, took the Non-GMO training, and had a wonderful 2 days visiting friend Maarten Samsom. That was just 12 days in August. September was a blur of preparing for the Oregon training (one of the largest in IOIA history) and getting the annual dues mailing out, interrupted by attending the annual Montana Nonprofit Association Conference, with a few inspections on the way. I was in Oregon for the last half of October (see other pages about Oregon). I loved Organic Jeopardy! That was October. And here it is, nearing the end of November. We are caught up in getting all of those certificates mailed out for Oregon, planning the Canadian standards trainings, the end of the year activities (updating the membership, planning the Annual Meeting and budget (weren't we just in Guatemala yesterday?!), and laying out the training schedule for 2009. And that is just a typical snapshot of a typical quarter for IOIA.

Although we don't have exact training dates and locations pinned down, the training outlook is for a Crop/Process training on the East Coast in late April, Crop/Livestock in the Midwest (probably with a 2nd IOIA/Demeter biodynamic training) late summer or early fall, and another large training on the West Coast (maybe California or Oregon) late fall. And there will be Advanced trainings, including one at the AGM in Montreal and one at the West Coast.

Sprinkle in a few Board meetings, newsletters to write.....How does it all get done? Well, part of the answer is adding staff. That makes a huge difference. Rita, our new Office Manager since May, made the Membership mailing look easy this year. Don't forget to send in your dues and your membership updates so she can keep you current. Teri took on bookkeeping in January and switched to training support in May without breaking a stride. Lynell jumps to whatever task is

on top for the day, whether it is requesting organic chocolate donations for trainings or creating official IOIA thank-you notes for our fundraising campaign. Sacha comes into the office once a week. She otherwise works independently by email from her home and calls in as needed, as she administers the ever-expanding cosponsor-managed training program internationally. Diane has managed the newsletter and website for more than 10 years! Gordon has a variety of tasks from adding insulation in our attic to cheerfully providing general support to everyone. Susan comes as needed to our larger trainings to provide on-site support, as well as volunteering for our fundraising development. Our staff is amazing and APPRECIATED. Thank you. The Board members need to be recognized too. It is amazing how busy we all are, including the BOD members. At our BOD meetings (usually once a month), I can hear tiredness in voices as they scramble to get on-line and have the materials read to make the hard decisions to keep us moving forward. It is a big volunteer commitment to stand for election for the BOD.

And we can't forget that the world doesn't revolve around IOIA. (I have trouble with that one!) Other important things happen too. As you know, the US election this year was quite a spectator sport outside and inside the US. And the Canadians had an election too in the same time frame. A lot of big changes are in store. Perhaps the elections and the economic situation caught our interest so much that most of us failed to even notice the publication (finally) of the implementing rules that finishes the new EU regulation (go into effect Jan 1 2009).

But the rest of the answer to the question above is-- it doesn't all get done. Most of what is urgent and important does get done, or we wouldn't continue to grow and expand our training offerings. But some things sit on the shelf too long. Volunteers make all the difference in a nonprofit association. Some key projects: developing a promotional brochure about IOIA, fundraising campaign, the Training Institute. These are important projects that are sitting on the shelf while our focus is diverted to what seems more urgent. If you would like to help with these efforts or serve on any committee, please let us know.

In all our busyness, I wish for you, in this holiday season, some silence. Sometimes when you do NOTHING, the most important things of all happen. Mozart once said, "The silence between the notes is as important as the notes themselves". Some of the really important moments in the last 3 months were the ones that don't make the newsletter (usually). These are the ones with intrinsic value, those that you can't value in dollars. Moments like a canoe trip down the Lamoille River in Vermont, hearing the loons for the first time on the Green River Reservoir, and enjoying a picnic of good bread, butter, cheese, and wine. Or sitting out in the corral on a bright blue October day (the last real day of summer) with the cows and the horses, recording the ultrasound readings for our calves, hoping to see them go into a select grassfed beef program. Or bowling with Lisa Pierce, Julia Yamaguchi, and Liz Nelson one zany evening in Oregon. Or harvesting and eating some of the best carrots ever. Those moments are, in a way, almost like the 'silence between the notes', those 'notes' that society values higher- the trainings, the meetings, the projects, the grants, the publications.

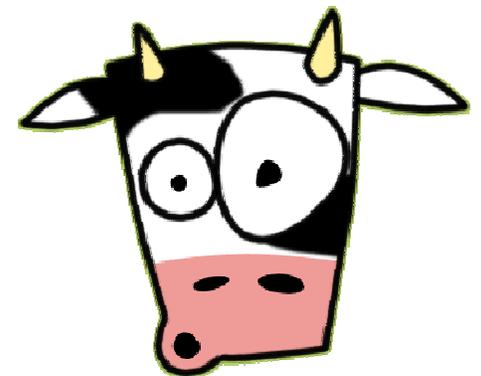
Don't forget to give yourself some silence during this busy holiday season. And Happy Holidays!

Pasture, from page 9

This long-awaited rule needs to go back to the drawing board.

For the complete Federal Register notice see, <http://www.ams.usda.gov> and look for Federal Register notices link on the NOP home page.

[1] Federal Register/Vol. 3. No. 207/Friday, October 24, 2008/Proposed Rules 63585



SECTOR NEWS

Canadian Standards Update

Delay in Implementation: The CFIA announced in September that the Organic Products Regulations will come into force June 30, 2009, not December 14, 2008 as previously stated.

The standards are being amended prior to implementation. Even the organic logo is under revision. This makes training and preparation for implementation more challenging. The Organic Trade Association in Canada has made available to all OTA members the positive ballot results for all amendments to the Canadian organic standards (ballots 1 through 3). These documents are provided exclusively to members of OTA in order to assess likely changes to the Canadian organic standards in time for the implementation of Canada's Organic Products Regulations. Downloading the amendments requires OTA member ID and password. As of yet, there is no official version with the balloted amendments incorporated.

Canadian Acronyms

The Organic Products Regulation controls the word 'organic' and similar words. It defines organic products, certification bodies, organic certification, and labeling requirements. The scope does not include aquaculture, textiles, fertilizers, cosmetics, health care products. The Canadian Organic Regulation falls under the jurisdiction of Canadian Agricultural Products (CAP) Act. Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) implements CAP. CFIA is the 'competent authority' recognizing accreditors and overseeing standards. The CFIA created the Canadian Organic Office (COO), which oversees the Canadian Organic Regime (COR). The Organic Federation of Canada (OFC), main office in Quebec, has member associations from each province. Priscilla Reimer, IOIA Inspector member in Manitoba, was contracted by the Organic Federation of Canada as Technical Agent to do GAP analysis or a comparison of the new Canadian standard with the standards of Canada's major trading partners.

IOIA Training Developments in

Canada: IOIA collaborated with Canadian Organic Growers (COG) on a proposal to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. No word yet on whether it has been approved. IOIA trainings in Manitoba and British Columbia this year

both addressed the Canadian standards. IOIA will provide training for inspectors and certification agencies during the winter months.

Acknowledgement: Janine Gibson presented "Organic Integrity in Canadian Standards, Certification, and Regulation" at the IOIA training in Corvallis, Oregon on Oct. 26. Her presentation was used as a resource.

What's new in European regulations?

Almost everything.

EEC #2091/91 (in force since 1991) will be replaced by (EC) No. 834/2007 on **January 1, 2009**. This major revision, Council Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No. 2092/91, was published June 28, 2007. It was the result of a process that began in 2005. This document describes the principles.

That document was completed on September 5, 2008, with the official publication of the Commission Regulation (EC) No. 889/2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control. This implementing rules document includes all of the annexes and the detailed rules or standards.

Fortunately, the standards didn't change significantly for inspectors. It has a larger impact on certification agencies, accrediting bodies, and importers.

Guidance documents are expected before January. The new EU logo will be mandatory after July 1, 2010 but the design is still not confirmed. Stream of commerce will allow a transition period for old labeling until 2011.

For complete text of EC No. 834/2007: <http://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/eur72928.pdf> and for EC No. 889/2008 <http://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/eur82157.pdf>

Reference: Official Journal of the European Union L 250, 18 September 2008, pp. 1-84.

Update on Community Grower Group (CGG) certification through NOP

2002: NOSB recommendation on Group Certification.

2006: an administrative appeal process raised some concerns about how grower groups are certified.

2007: NOP clarified that the NOSB recommendation was allowed as a guidance document. However, the Certification, Accreditation and Compliance Committee (CACC) was mandated to update and/or clarify the 2002 NOSB recommendation in order to address the issues related to oversight and inspection of grower groups.

Aug 25, 2008: NOSB CACC passed a recommendation to the NOSB by 3:2 vote- Recommendation on Certifying Operations with Multiple Production Units, Sites and Facilities under the National Organic Program. Multi-site certification would become a separate category of accreditation. The recommendation thoroughly addressed the importance and function of the Internal Control System (ICS). It did not set an upper limit on the size of the group or the income level of individual producers. It did not distinguish between new and renewal producers. A minority opinion asked that 100% of new producers be inspected.

The Aug 25 draft received very strong support from IFOAM, and other NGOs and certifiers around the world

Nov. 3: Public comment period ended. Some public comment asked that an upper income level of \$5000 be set for members of the CGG or suggested limits for the number of members of the group or the total area.

Nov. 17-19: NOSB meeting. Final recommendation is expected from NOSB. Outcome unknown yet.

OBN Obit

The Organic Business News is now defunct. Publisher Dennis Blank has sold off the printing aspect of the business as well. We will be missing the hot gossip!

NEWS FROM IFOAM

There's a lot going on at IFOAM these days. Executive Director **Angela Caudle de Freitas** sent the following letter to the IFOAM membership:

It is with a great deal of excitement but also sadness that I announce to you that I will leave the position of IFOAM Executive Director. My husband, Andre, and I have decided that it is time to start a family and we are expecting a baby in January 2009. We have decided that it is not feasible for us to raise a child with both parents being in high pressure executive director positions and with our families living in other countries and not easily accessible to provide support and a social network. It is important for us to dedicate the time, energy and focus to raising a child and we are committed to creating the best family situation possible for us.

I have decided and the World Board has agreed that I will take a year off for parental leave. I have also decided that when I return to IFOAM it will not be in the position of Executive Director but in another role. I truly believe that this is not only in my family's best interest, but also in the best interest of IFOAM, as now the World Board will be free to find a new Executive Director, hopefully without much of a time gap.

I anticipate returning to IFOAM in another capacity that will be fulfilling and better fit my family needs. I would be interested in working with IFOAM on fundraising and helping establish the Organic World Foundation but will remain open and flexible to the opportunities available at IFOAM when I return in 2010.

It has been a pleasure to work with all of you during the past three years.

I count on your blessings and understanding for this new era in my life.

Another recent loss in the IFOAM head office is **Anita Deppe**, who served as Senior Manager of Outreach, and editor of the online magazine 'Ecology & Farming.'

As a consequence of these changes, there are now vacancies at IFOAM. If you go to http://www.ifoam.org/about_ifoam/inside_ifoam/jobs.html you will see the solicitation for an Executive Director and an Office Coordinator.

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements - Proposed Initiative for a Group In North America

Brian Baker is circulating a proposal for the formation of an IFOAM Group In North America. If you are an IFOAM member and you are interested in the possible formation and participation of a regional group of IFOAM members in the United States and Canada, please contact Brian Baker at bb123@efn.org

Mission:

The IFOAM Group In North America (IGINA) endeavors to support the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements in its mission of leading, uniting and assisting the organic movement in its full diversity. We share the goal of the worldwide adoption of ecologically, socially, and economically sound systems that are based on the Principles of Organic Agriculture.

Purposes

- To help IFOAM through programs and projects that help to educate members of the public in North America about organic agriculture elsewhere in the world, and educate the public worldwide about organic agriculture in North America.
- To provide a platform that ensures North American perspectives on organic agriculture are represented at venues sponsored by IFOAM throughout the world and that global perspectives on organic agriculture are heard in North America.
- To serve as an information network that communicates with IFOAM members regionally and world-wide.
- To promote membership in IFOAM and participation at IFOAM sponsored functions.
- To assist IFOAM's fundraising efforts in the United States and elsewhere to further IFOAM's mission.

Steps Needed

- ◆ At least three IFOAM members need to initiate the group.
- ◆ Membership in IGINA must be open to all IFOAM members in good standing based in the United States and Canada.
- ◆ The initiative needs to successfully organize events and other activities consistent with the group's purpose.

- ◆ The initiative needs to establish relationships with authorities, institutions, and nongovernmental organizations that work in organic agriculture in North America.
- ◆ The initiative needs to promote IFOAM's work.
- ◆ The initiative needs to be prepared for endorsement as an approved IFOAM Internal Body within three years, with a goal to accomplish endorsement before the 2011 General Assembly.

Call for Papers

Announcing the call for papers for the 1st IFOAM Conference on Organic Animal and Plant Breeding - Breeding Diversity on August 25-28 2009 in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

IFOAM and Seeds of Change will jointly host the Breeding Diversity conference in Santa Fe to bring together experiences and views from a wide range of perspectives on organic breeding. IFOAM calls for your contribution to this outstanding event and invites farmers and scientists, traders and certifiers, gardeners and animal breeders, professionals and dedicated hobby breeders to submit their papers with the submission form *until February 1st latest* to: Zoe Heuschkel: conference@ifoam.org For the criteria regarding content and format of your abstract, and for more information on the event, sponsorship opportunities and the plant demonstration plot project, please visit our homepage: <http://www.ifoam.org/breeding-diversity-conference.html>

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CCOF Seeks Inspectors

CCOF is seeking additional processor/handler/retailer inspectors nationwide.

They have new opportunities for full and part time ongoing work. Many of these inspection assignments will be made in sets of retailer inspections.

Letters of interest are welcomed; CCOF will provide more detailed information upon your inquiry. Contact: sean@ccof.org, 530-756-8518 ext. 11.

Please include resume/qualifications and letter of interest, specifying organic inspection experience, availability, and willingness to travel.

Farm inspectors interested in expanding scope to simple processing/handling are encouraged to apply.

OP/Ed NOP Proposed Pasture Rule

by Margaret Scoles

NOP's long-awaited proposed amendment to the pasture standard was posted in the Federal Register on Oct. 24. The last NOP Federal Register notice regarding pasture was April 13, 2006 when the NOP asked for public comment.

What took so long? Some of that time was obviously spent reading the 85,000 comments. Of those comments, about 250 came from individuals. The rest were based on a modified form letter. Only 28 of the comments opposed stricter pasture requirements. Clearly, the NOP listened to consumers and producers who demanded a clear definition of grazing and access to pasture for ruminants. The expectation that animal products should come from animals that are pastured is clear in the proposed rule.

Most organic livestock producers expected the new standard to include a minimum requirement for dry matter from pasture (probably 30% of Dry Matter Intake during the growing season) and some variation of a minimum number of grazing days (probably 120 days). What they probably didn't expect was a 26-page Federal Register notice, including an entirely new section [7 CFR 205.204 Pasture practice standard]. The published proposal is an entire re-write of the organic livestock standard, 2 modified definitions, and 10 new definitions.

The 24 pages of rationale and preamble give a thorough explanation of the thinking and input that went into developing the proposed rule. The rule change itself is about two pages long. The 1-page summary and the two pages of rule changes are a 'must read' for any organic livestock inspector. For the most part, they are clearly written and leave little to interpretation—a big change from the current rule. But a few enormous issues remain ambiguous at best and frightening at worst.

One of the biggest problems is that, even after 2 pages, the reader is still not clear where ruminant animals can and can't be in the growing and non-growing season. Another big problem will come in trying to fit this new rule as written onto an

existing, certified livestock industry. What was allowed over the past 8 years due to a vaguely worded rule could suddenly become uncertifiable. In fact, many if not most of the currently certified organic livestock producers could become uncertifiable. And the proposal includes no transition period. What will the companies that have invested into developing labels and marketing products do? Sue the USDA? It will be interesting to see how the current wording changes after public comment. It almost certainly will be amended before released in final form.

What didn't get included? The NOSB had recommended an allowance for temporary confinement up to 120 days for finishing animals, but asked that lactating dairy cows be excluded. The proposed rule treated both meat and dairy animals the same, and prohibits dry lots and feedlots for both. Unfortunately, in the effort to create a 'one size fits all ruminants' rule, the new rule fits almost very few organic livestock producers.

What would the new rule mean for inspectors? Inspectors should expect to be calculating and assessing Dry Matter Intake (DMI), a reasonable expectation. IOIA has included this training in the basic organic livestock training for the past two years. The proposed rule includes a detailed explanation of the calculations. Fortunately, stocking rates were not prescribed in this proposal, but it does include quantifiable, measurable, numeric figures for DMI.

What would the new rule mean for producers? For one thing, all producers should expect to keep more detailed monthly records of feed intake and more detailed system plans for pasture management.

Public Comment period ends on December 23.

What key changes are being proposed?

Definitions:

§ Aquatic animals and bees are no longer excluded from the definition of livestock. The definition of livestock has been re-written to include them.

§ Growing season is defined, based on

frost free days. Frost free days are also defined.

Livestock Feed and Living Conditions

§ All agricultural ingredients in additives and supplements must be organic. This is a clarification, not a real change.

§ All ruminants must have access to pasture. Restricting ruminants from pasture when the reasons for allowing temporary confinement are not met is prohibited.

§ Reasons for temporary confinement are narrowly prescribed and are separated for ruminants and non-ruminants. Unfortunately, 'confinement' is not one of the 10 new definitions. Inclement weather is not given as a reason for confining ruminants. Allowances for confinement do not include lactation for beef cows or finishing for beef cattle. 'Stage of Production' is clearly no longer a reason for temporary confinement during the growing season.

§ Pastures must be managed for grazing throughout the growing season, not just 120 days as some originally proposed.

§ Use of a sacrificial pasture to protect pasture during the growing season. Sacrificial pasture is defined in detail and refers only to wet periods, not winter periods.

§ Requirement that at least 30% of the feed DMI over the grazing season must come from grazed vegetation.

§ Monthly ration calculations are required by the producer.

So what isn't clear? Feedlots and dry lot production systems are clearly prohibited (during the growing season). It is less clear whether dry lots are prohibited outside the growing season. The proposed rule seems to contradict itself. The preamble explains that year-round access to pasture is required for ruminants. The proposed rule clearly requires 'continuous year-round management on pasture' for ruminants and year-round access to the outdoors for all livestock. And it prohibits dry lots and feedlots. But it seems to only require pasture for grazing during the growing season. The actual wording leaves doubt as to where the animals can be in the non-growing season. Further

clarification is still needed in this section. Many currently certified organic dairy cows are not on pasture year-round. In practical terms, where will the dairy cows be in the winter time in temperate climates in the non-growing season? If they cannot be in a dry lot, they cannot be confined, they must be outdoors, and the pasture is covered in snow? Perhaps some of the 80,000+ consumers who wanted their milk to be from cows on pasture weren't all familiar with practical dairy production.

Another big (and worrisome) change for many producers -- A very strict interpretation of protecting soil and water quality has been applied in the new proposed 205.239. A new 205.239(f) would require 100% fencing of all streams, rivers, and ponds to prevent livestock access. In some parts of the world, this is impossible and in others, unfeasible at best. Ken Pigors, President and CEO of the Organic Grassfed Beef Coalition in Vermillion, South Dakota says, "We livestock producers must organize and shout that one down". Implementation would be very costly in extensive pasture systems. In semi-arid and arid areas of the world (including parts of South Dakota), the stocking rate is 30 acres per cow or more. There, it would become cost prohibitive to fence all areas where animals have access to permanent and intermittent water bodies. Wes Henthorne, manager of the B Bar Land & Livestock in Big Timber, Montana says, "The authors of the proposed rule changes are clearly not familiar with semi arid and arid areas." On the other hand, inspectors see abuses of 205.200 where water and soil quality are not enhanced or improved and more fencing is needed. This section needs work. Perhaps the new 205.239(f) should be thrown out and the existing 205.200 simply enforced. It is a strange thing when the hard-wrought new pasture proposal puts at odds the most natural producers of all, producers like the Organic Grassfed Beef Coalition and the B Bar. They keep cattle on pasture almost 365 days per year and produce organic livestock products using nothing but pasture and hay. Their animals derive significant forage year-round, not just during the growing season. These producers are among the strongest proponents of a pasture-based organic

livestock system. If the new proposed rule doesn't fit them, who does it fit?

It doesn't fit those who currently fatten animals to finishing in dry lots or feedlots. Much of the organic beef currently on the market comes from animals finished in feedlots. Although it is still not crystal clear whether the dry lot or feed lot option still is allowed in this proposal outside the growing season, it appears to be prohibited. It is clearly not allowed during the growing season.

Who will the other losers be if the rule is adopted as written? Large dairies in the west. The rationale for the proposed rule quotes a 2005 Agricultural Research Management (ARM) Survey of Accredited Certifying Agents. This ARM Survey found that 84% of organic dairies and 60% of the dairy milk cows were located in the Northeast and Upper Midwest. By contrast only 7% of the organic dairies were in the West but those represented 32% of the cows. The same survey found that 60% of all organic dairies responding provided pasture that provided more than 50% of their forage needs throughout the growing season. Most organic dairy producers probably won't need to change their practices much to meet the grazing requirement during the growing season. But a lot of dairy cows might be seeing a change. What is meant by 'year round management on pasture' still needs to be clarified for all dairy producers.

So if the new proposed rule doesn't fit Midwestern and eastern dairy farmers who do not have their cows on pasture in the winter, big western dairies who provide less than 30% of the growing season ration from pasture, grass finished beef producers in semi-arid or arid areas, or the majority of currently certified organic beef producers, who does it fit? Ken Pigors, a long-time organic producer, says that a new pasture rule is something he wanted for years. But now he asks, "How can we change horses midstream?" The industry developed in the absence of a clear pasture rule. It will be difficult to go back and fit a clear pasture rule onto the existing industry without harm.

This pasture standard could also widen the already wide gap between the US and Canadian livestock standards.

Some things were clarified in the re-write but not really changed. The proposed rule explains that the 2-track system for bringing in dairy animals will remain. If dairies transitioned using 12 months of organic management for the whole herd, they may continue to bring in conventional animals that are transitioned for one year. If dairies transitioned using either of the other 2 options listed in 205.236(a)(2)(i) or (ii), all dairy animals coming into the herd must be organic from the last third of gestation. Fortunately, the preamble states the intent to address this illogical inconsistency in future rulemaking.

The bedding standard was re-worded but remains unclear. 7 CFR 205.239 currently states, "If the bedding is typically consumed by the animal species" it must be organic. The new wording states, "When hay, straw, ground cobs, or other crop matter typically fed to the animal species is used by bedding" it must be organic. If a dairy producer says they don't typically feed straw to their cows, then must the bedding straw be organic? Or if chickens are not typically fed corn cobs, does that make it OK to use GMO, non-organic corn cobs for bedding?

One wonders if the whole proposal could have been boiled down to the NOSB's recommendation in June 1, 2001: "ruminant livestock must have access to graze pasture during the months of the year when pasture can provide edible forage, and the grazed feed must provide a significant portion of the total feed requirements" and "the producer of ruminant livestock may be allowed temporary exemption to pasture because of conditions under which the health, safety, or well-being of the animal could be jeopardized, inclement weather or temporary conditions which pose a risk to soil and water quality".[1] Probably the '30% during the growing season' numeric figure is better than 'significant portion'. That figure is something producers can measure, inspectors can verify, and certifiers can be accountable for. But If the new rule would use the NOSB's original proposal (amended with the 30% figure), plus 205.200 regarding natural resources of the operation was enforced better, most of the rest would be unnecessary.

[see **Pasture**, page 5]

Crop and Process Training in Hong Kong

Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre cosponsored Basic Crop Training Course and Basic Process Training Course on **6-10 and 11-15 August**, respectively. Although the typhoon caused some delay and troubles in re-arrangements of the classes, with participants' enthusiasm plus effective and humorous facilitation of both trainers, Mr Luis Brenes and Ms Mutsumi Sakuyoshi, made both course successful.

The participants' backgrounds are diverse. For Crop training, they ranged from NGOs dedicated in environmental conservation, amateurs in organic farming to organisations promoting organic vegetables to the public. For the Process training, most of them have already worked in the Food industry for some time. 2 of the participants were from Singapore and the USA, who added sparkles in the class during the discussions.



Both trainers are well equipped with inspection experience. Luis is specialized in farming while Mutsumi familiar with processing. They complement well with each other in terms of literacy & cooperation in teaching during the lessons so that attendants benefits much. Luis makes good use of interactive discussion, Q&A with attendants and always sums up with professional points. For Mutsumi, group work, discussion and summing up by attendants via class presentation is usually adopted.

Besides, both trainers have sense of humor while Luis is more talented in this aspect. Moreover, both trainers were willing to answer whatever questions. Last but not least, both trainers are very strict in keeping

progress of our learning and provide with us intermittent urges upon inspection practices and class discussions.

The Farm class visited 2 farms in Ping Che in Fanling, Hong Kong. With guidance of the trainers, they learnt how to carry out inspections carefully and investigated the potential pitfalls organic farms usually fall. While the Process class visited a packaging plant in Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon, in order to carry out mock inspections through reading the documents and observing the operations there.

The intensive courses broadened the classes' horizon of organic industry. We believe that they were equipped with acumen in organic inspections and better knowledge in organic standard. E



You Do The Math!

A Report from the IOIA/VOF Advanced
Inspector Training
By Jim Riddle

Two days of audit trail! Who could say “no” to such an appealing proposition?

Nine VOF inspectors and 3 VOF staff members said “yes” and put their noses to the proverbial grindstone.

I began the course with a presentation on NOP audit trail and recordkeeping requirements. This helped to remind attendees of their legal authority and get everyone on the same page. Then, we did math!

We reviewed and audited production and sales records for organic garlic, asparagus, lovage, maple syrup, livestock feed, milk production, beef, hogs, poultry, bread, spelt flour, muffins, pancakes, and multi-ingredients frozen vegetable products. We also played the Label Game, where attendees reviewed actual product labels to determine compliant vs noncompliant claims.



Taking a break from audit exercises at the IOIA/VOF Advanced Inspector Training Course, at The Inn at Lareau Farm, Waitsfield, VT"

To conduct the audit exercises, Joyce and I provided an overview of the types of records expected for the category of operation being discussed. We handed out an exercise, reviewed the assignment, then let students work, either individually or in small groups. When most were done, we walked through the answers, with engaged discussion, as the answer sheets were projected for all to see. This teaching style appeared to be effective and was quite well received.

Our guest speaker was Sarah Flack, who spoke on livestock feed ration audits. Sarah brought her own exercises and walked attendees through audits of livestock feed rations.

Joyce Ford was a tremendous help with the course. Joyce gathered records to construct exercises, helped construct assignments and answer keys, helped attendees complete the exercises, and helped explain the answers.

Claire Ackroyd of Maine won the Outrageous Statement award for two comments about another attendee, Daron Tansley. Claire said, “I’m actually Daron’s wife and I will take you outside, you lying, #@**!, etc., etc.” and “I want to see Daron in a kilt!”**

Due to the challenging nature of the course, a special Endurance Prize was awarded to Jean Richardson of VT. Jean is Sarah Flack’s mother, and Matt Gedeon’s mother-in-law. Jean is running for the VT House of Representatives this fall. Good luck, Jean!

Thanks to Nicole Dehne and VOF for requesting, sponsoring, and hosting this exciting course!



Jim Riddle congratulates Claire Ackroyd, for her Outrageous Statements about Daron Tansley, and Jean Richardson, for winning the Endurance Prize

**Editor’s Note: At the Oregon Country Fair this summer, I saw at least 200 men attired in ‘Utilikilts.’ The general consensus is that the Utilikilt is the greatest thing since toast. They even have a workman’s cut. Check it out at <http://www.utilikilts.com/>

5th Pipeline Training of ‘08

By Joyce E. Ford

A fifth Organic Training was provided to pipeline inspection personnel from Natural Resource Group in Minneapolis, Minnesota on October 7, 2008. Joyce E. Ford was the IOIA trainer. The 4 hour workshop covered the NOP organic regulation, organic farm plans, Best Management Practice (BMP) 11 of the Agriculture Impact Mitigation Plan and inspectors/monitors’ responsibilities for compliance. 16 people attended the training. Joyce continued her work with pipeline construction monitoring this summer on a 2nd site and has gained additional experience to help improve these trainings which are required for “agricultural inspectors” monitoring BMP 11 compliance on all pipeline construction through organic farms in Minnesota and Wisconsin. É

Vermont – Livestock Training

Vermont Organic Farmers (VOF) and IOIA cosponsored basic Organic Livestock Inspection Training at the Sugarbush Inn in Warren, VT on August 19-23. Most participants arrived a day early to attend the NOP Crop Standards session, as only two had taken a basic crop inspection course previously. The group included 10 prospective livestock inspectors and certification agency staff and one auditor from the USDA office. The week started out cold and soggy but ended with an extraordinary blue sky field trip day by the end of the week.

Field trip hosts were **Paul and Christine Stecker**, Maple Lane Farm, in Cabot. Their milking herd and a beef operation are both VOF certified. A slide show of the field trip assisted the post field trip debriefing. On the way home, the group enjoyed a picnic lunch on the lawn of the Vermont state capital in Montpelier.

Poultry speaker was **Anne Fanatico**, Poultry Specialist from the NCAT office in Arkansas. ATTRA is a project of NCAT and is now called the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service. NCAT and IOIA have collaborated to produce organic poultry resources for inspector training. Her draft 'Issues for Organic Poultry Inspection' was presented first at the Iowa training in April and then updated for Vermont. It will become one of the first IOIA technical fact sheets for inspectors. Her PowerPoint presentation, "Organic Poultry Production in the U.S.", was presented for the first time at the training as well.

This presentation and many other excellent poultry resources are available at http://www.sustainablepoultry.ncat.org/images_presentations.html.

This training was a big stride forward for upgrading the IOIA basic livestock curriculum, including new presentations on Animal Health and Animal Nutrition. Advanced training guest speaker **Sarah Flack** developed exercises on calculating Dry Matter Intake for the Iowa training that were used again for this training in Vermont.

A highlight for the group were the evening dinners, each at a different local restaurant. The level of camaraderie is always good at IOIA trainings, but the small group size even allowed everyone to sit around the same table.



Inspecting pasture and Jersey crossbred milking herd



Anne Fanatico, NCAT Poultry Specialist, in the milk house

Vermont Livestock Training Group
The Steckers, field trip hosts, are front and center



Vermont Cross-Border Social

IOIA members, visitors, spouses, friends, neighbors, new members, and potential members joined for a wonderful evening of good slow food and networking at the rural Vermont home of Maarten Samsom on August 23. The group enjoyed an extraordinary lingering summer evening outdoors and moved inside as dusk turned into night.

This event followed the basic organic livestock training, which ended that day in Warren, about 2 hours away. Some of the participants were a bit weary at their end of a long week of training. Others were just arriving for the Non-GMO training the next day in Burlington. About 15 people came in all. Planned as the first cross-border social, this hopefully won't be the last! Inspection work is solitary. Opportunities for social gatherings among inspectors are few and far between. This was the start of something really important: more IOIA social events!



The Feast - and what a Feast it was!

Maarten planned a feast of fish, locally raised organic meat, and many, many dishes featuring local and organic ingredients. Guests added others. Lori Wyman and Chuck Mitchell brought fresh picked berries from their gardens. Maarten used Margaret's home canned dill pickles to make an awesome potato salad. New member Susan Smiley brought a dish

with Romano beans from her garden. The food was truly a feast for the body, soul, and eyes. And of course, the famous Ben & Jerry's ice cream, made in northern Vermont, topped it off. Maarten had a workshop that day (inspectors are busy people!) so he left detailed notes for the guests. When the first ones arrived to an



Life of the party Julio Perez



Effervescent host Maarten Samsom with Jerry Smiley

empty house, they set to preparing the starters as per his instructions. Maarten designed his kitchen for cooking classes, so there was ample room for everyone who wanted to help prepare. Maarten arrived just a little later, with more guests, and everyone chipped in to finish.

Thank you to Maarten, our host, and to everyone who came.



Lori Wyman (right) and Elizabeth Dacombe (left) preparing starters. Great job, Lori!



Chuck Mitchell and Susan Smiley (both members from Vermont) and Jerry Smiley

Non-GMO Training in Vermont

IOIA, the Non-GMO Project, and FoodChain Global Advisors collaborated during 2008 to deliver four 1-day trainings for inspections and organic certification agency staff in the US. A total of 64 participants were trained, beginning in April in Iowa; followed by August trainings in San Diego (cosponsored by QAI) and Burlington, Vermont; and most recently on October 28 in Corvallis, Oregon. The program anticipates cooperation with organic certification agencies. Annual inspections are intended to occur, whenever possible, as a secondary activity in conjunction with the organic inspection. FoodChain Global Advisors administers the project. David Gould of Food Chain Global Advisors delivered all four trainings. Gould is an Inspector member of IOIA.

The Non-GMO Project program aims "to rebuild a non-GMO supply chain," according to Gould. The Non-GMO Project's basic premise for the program is that people deserve a choice about consuming GMOs. From the Non-GMO Project website, "The Non-GMO Project is founded on the belief that, through collaboration, the organic and natural products industry has the power to ensure the sustained availability of non-GMO ingredients. With 91% of the U.S. soybean crop and 73% of the U.S. corn crop being planted with GM varieties last year, the need to protect non-GMO options is critical. Natural and organic shoppers expect the products they buy to be non-GMO, and in a recent CBS/New York Times poll, 53% of Americans said they would not buy food that has been genetically modified (unfortunately, the current lack of labeling does not allow them that choice)."



David Gould, FoodChain Global Advisors, enthusiastically explains the importance of details of the Non-GMO Product Verification Program.

The standards are owned by the Non-GMO Project and are revised through a transparent, democratic process involving semi-annual public comment periods and a Standards Committee (6 voting members plus the ED; for a list of members see www.nongmoproject.org/governance). The standards are process-based, and include testing at critical control points. They were released in early 2008 after a year of intensive input from stakeholders in all sectors and are available to the public at www.nongmoproject.org. Public verification claims ("Non-GMO Project Verified" seal) will not be allowed until October 2009. On-site inspection is required for high-risk crops. Verification is also available for low-risk crops for which GMOs variations don't yet exist. The scope of the standard is agricultural products, including dietary supplements, personal body care, and all inputs except processing aids and health care inputs for livestock. There is a permanent exclusion for composted materials and animal manures. Uncomposted plant materials from high-risk crops are not allowed in production.



NonGMO Training in South Burlington, Vermont, August 24

Gould says no fully complete, reliable list of all GMO products and crops is yet available and that compiling and maintaining such a list in an up-to-date state is a challenge that requires continuous effort. The US has no mandatory labeling for genetically engineered foods. Labeling is mandatory in at least 35 nations (15 of those are in the EU). The NOP position remains that genetic engineering is an excluded method in organic production but not a prohibited material. Therefore, the NOP remains silent on a threshold of genetic drift that would render an organic crop non-certifiable. The threshold in Europe is less than 1% (0.9% to be precise).

Testing methods in the program include both PCR testing, which any lab with the relevant accreditation may do, and strip tests. The PCR tests are necessary for generating sensitive, quantitative analytical results, and strip tests are used for rapid, qualitative, in-field testing.

An exciting aspect of the program for inspectors is an ambitious effort on the part of FoodChain Global Advisors to create a verification system that, as Gould describes it, is "as paperless as possible". The application process for producers and handlers is fairly simple. Inspectors must complete an inspection checklist, do an audit balance and traceability test (can be the same ones as those used for organic inspection), and complete an exit interview. The exit interview is documented in an 'Exit Summation Form'.

Inspectors might also be assigned to collect samples or to do unannounced inspections. É

Organic Challenges in Sumatra

By Lisa Pierce, IOIA trainer, organic inspector and renewed activist

Sumatra, one of the islands in the archipelago of Indonesia, is the only place in the world where tigers, elephants, orangutans and rhinoceros co-exist. At least for now. Since 1985, the slashing and logging of the forest in Sumatra has accelerated to clear the way for pulpwood production and palm oil plantations. The World Wildlife Fund reports that this destruction of habitat has resulted in 84% decline in the elephant population and 70% loss of Sumatran tigers. For me, these alarming statistics started to become known during recent IOIA training held in Medan, Sumatra, as I stared at the time series of colored maps and the ever shrinking 'green' space of



the forest, displayed on Kuslan's laptop. The statistics became personal a week later as Kuslan lead me on a 4 day road trip in North Sumatra. This time I stared at the real miles and miles of clear cuts and palm tree plantations, swam in a river in the forest, trekked through the Tangkahan jungle picking off leeches, sang along to "Jungle Bells" and got drenched with water sprayed from the trunk of a "grinning" Sumatran elephant. I saw what was lost, I drank a cup of Sumatran coffee and yes, I saw paradise.

Kuslan is a Buddhist Master and part of the inspiration and movement of the Budhicitta Mandala Foundation of Indonesia. Kuslan was also one of 14 participants of the first IOIA training in Indonesia held in the city of Medan, Sumatra from September 01-05, 2008. I instructed the IOIA Basic Organic Crop Inspector course with assistance from Marty Mesh, Executive Director of the Florida Organic Growers. Florida Organic Growers (FOG) was the official co-sponsor of the training but the coordination of the course at the ground level was accomplished by Budhicitta Mandala Foundation of Indonesia and Transworld Institute of Technology (Taiwan). A special appreciation goes to Dr Nan Jing Ko, professor and director of R & D Center for Health Services in Taiwan, who volunteered behind the scenes to make everything in the course better – thank you.

The majority of the participants of the IOIA course in Medan are currently students of Transworld Institute of Technology in the departments of Biotechnology (Agriculture), Environmental and Resource Studies, or Eco-Tourism. As compensation for scholarships from Budhicitta Mandala Foundation, some of these participants will be working for various Budhicitta projects in Sumatra regarding agriculture, forestry and eco-tourism. The inclusion of IOIA training in the program at Transworld is intended to widen the scope of these projects in Sumatra to include organic farming and certification. Thanks to the initiative of Marty Mesh and the Florida Organic Growers, IOIA has, in a small way, become part of a larger, multifaceted effort in Sumatra to foster alternatives and curtail rampant deforestation. It is my hope that IOIA continues this initiative and through fundraising and the expansion of our mandate, acts consciously to support organizations like Budhicitta Mandala Foundation in the future.



Oregon Crop Training, Group I

IOIA and OTCO cosponsored basic Organic Crop Inspection Training for a group of 20 participants from various states in the US and 3 countries in Africa on Oct. 22-26 in Corvallis. Lisa Pierce was lead trainer, assisted by Margaret Scoles.

Although IOIA training groups are usually diverse, this group was more diverse than usual. A group of three Norman Borlaug International Science and Technology Fellows from Africa attended under the auspices of a Washington State University program. They were accompanied by Oumarou Badini of WSU, who also participated fully in the course. Badini is coordinator of WSU's International Programs. He is working to increase capacity in Africa. Olufunke Awosusi is interested in setting up organic certification in Nigeria. Moustapha Moussa of Niger has a research objective to develop high nutrition sorghum and millet foods the Sahel region of West Africa. Ouattara Marc's research focus in Burkino Faso is cotton.

To give an idea of the diversity of the US participants, a few others are mentioned. Several staff members from the Organic Materials Review Institute attended. Marisa Alcorta is a Sustainable Ag Specialist with NCAT (ATTRA). Sheila Foster is Development Director at Marin Organic in California. Dana Saywell is working with the University of Tennessee to develop the organic extension program there. Katie Warrington works for White Wave as a Quality and Process Improvement Coordinator.

The training followed the IOIA Organic System Plan based curriculum, using a fictitious apple orchard and associated exercises, throughout the course. Day 1 focused on the standards, including a rousing game of "ORGANO" in which the group practiced navigating the standards. Participants practiced assessing risk and writing issues of concern and worked on an audit balance and audit tracking for the apple orchard.

Sarah Costin joined the group on Day 3, the last day of in-classroom instruction. Costin, Pierce, and Scoles were Group Leaders for the field trips. The small group size was a definite advantage. All three Group Leaders reported that they had excellent groups, who understood what to do on-site and afterwards. After they returned from their field trips, each group debriefed and then inspection reports were written individually. Field trips hosts were Sunbow Farm, one of the first Oregon Tilth certified farms, OSU Lewis Brown Farm, a 4 acre cherry orchard for organic research, and Stahlbush Island Farms, one of the largest farms in the area that has certified organic acreage. All were conveniently located within 15 minutes of the training venue at Oregon State University.

Lunches were a highlight. They were catered in from Nearly Normal's and Gathering Together Farm and featured local and organic ingredients. No one chose to eat in the classroom. Participants instead chose to perch and huddle outdoors to enjoy the bright blue days of October and the incredible beauty of the campus fall foliage.

Oregon Biodynamic Inspection Training

IOIA and Demeter cosponsored Biodynamic Inspection Training on Oct. 26-27 in Corvallis. This was the first, but definitely not the last, such collaboration. Fourteen people, mostly experienced organic inspectors, participated.

Jim Fullmer, Executive Director of the Demeter Association, led both classroom instruction and the field trip. He was assisted by Sally Lammers, Demeter Certification Director. Sally is also Jim's wife and farming partner. Osiris Abrego, originally from Panama, presented a session on BD preparations for compost and field application. [continued on page 17]



Group of trainees attempts an audit balance and traceability test at OSU Lewis Brown Farm with Annie Chozinski, Research Assistant.



Osiris became interested in biodynamics when she volunteered at a CSA. She began her training at the Josephine Porter Institute and attended workshops in making preparations there twice annually for several years. Classroom instruction at the LaSells Stewart Center, OSU, Corvallis, was preceded by a morning session on International Standards,

presented by Brian Baker, OMRI (EU regulations) and Janine Gibson (Canadian standards). The Biodynamic course included a full day of classroom instruction, plus a half-day field trip.

The field trip to Jim and Sally's farm was a highlight for the group. Most participants rated it as one of the most valuable parts of the

course. The farm has been certified Biodynamic since the late 1980s. It produces cane berries and medicinal herbs. Six Scottish Highlander cows contribute to fertility and weed control. Jim and Sally showed their homemade Flow Form. During the field trip, the group learned to assess soil condition, including biological activity, and to look at how quickly crop residues break down. Biodiversity is another key indicator; a minimum of 10% of the farm must be set aside.

John Stalley, Oregon Tilth Reviewer/Inspector, had the following to say about after the field trip, "Organic is a good way to farm, and this is "organic plus." I have a lifelong career in agriculture and have held a lot of soil in my hands, and yes indeed, yours is what the term Tilth is referring to. And for those of you who don't know, the word Tilth also means the cultivation of wisdom and spirit. I have seen over the years I have been at Oregon Tilth a lot of that going on at your farm, too."



Oregon Crop Training, Group II

Seventeen participants from across the US and Canada took the IOIA/OTCO Crop Inspection Training course in Corvallis on Oct. 27-31. The livestock course originally scheduled for this date was cancelled due to low enrollment. The 37 applicants to the basic Crop course scheduled the week previously were split into two smaller sections. This course was the second consecutive Crop course.

Garry Lean was Lead Trainer for the second course, assisted by new Trainer-in-training Sarah Costin. Field trips were hosted by OSU Lewis Brown farm (organic cherry orchard) and Sunbow Farm. Sunbow Farm is one of the longest-certified organic farms in Oregon. Harry MacCormack, the owner, was one of the founders of Oregon Tilth.



Crop Group II, including Trainers Garry Lean, Sarah Costin and Margaret Scoles



Donn Randall, Wyoming Business Council, and Todd Zeller, Saskatchewan organic farmer, perform a skit for the rest of the group to demonstrate interview styles.

The group included several participants from the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Debra Crowder of ODA made the following observations about the course,

"After attending the IOIA/OTCO basic crop inspection training session at OSU in Corvallis, Oregon I felt that I came away with a better understanding of the National Organic Program. Besides the intense class discussion and well rounded instruction program, there was a field trip with a hands-on work experience with an actual local farmer's acreage and his records to review. Coming in with a solid foundation of auditing farm systems, the twist came when the extensive record check and balance was weighed in, a foreign element in my past auditing experiences. There was also the comparative analysis of the organic production vs. the acreage's potential average commercial volume produced to evaluate as well. This session stretched me into think outside the commercial production box and encouraged me to look at the broader picture of organic production in the 21st century. I'm looking forward to following this line of thinking and moving into the actual auditing realm for this unique type of farm operation." É

Non-GMO Training, Corvallis, Oregon, Oct 28

Participants in this training came from all over the US, Canada and the rest of the world (i.e. Korea and Japan).
Back row: John Trinterud (CA), Saunders Bennett (NC), Lars Crail (CA), Janine Gibson (MB), Ken Stoner (SK)
Middle row: Ann Lameka (OR), Nancy Ludwig (OR), Beth Unger (WI), Sarah Costin (CA), Liz Nelson (MN), David Gould (Trainer), Raymond Yang (Korea)
Front row: Jack Reams (BC), Jennifer Scott and Charlotte (ON), Lisa Pierce (BC), and Julia Yamaguchi (Japan).



Oregon Processor Training - Oregon Granola

Many thanks to Brad Averill of Wildtime Foods for hosting the field trip for the Process Inspector Training course. The mock inspection rotated two groups between the plant location on S. Concord and the downtown Eugene office with group leaders Garry Lean (Lead Trainer) and Joe Montecalvo. The course provided the next stage in developing a standardized curriculum for the Process Training and was well received by the participants.



3 3 Joe Montecalvo, IOIA member and Cal Poly professor added his processing expertise as a guest speaker for sanitation and pest management at organic operations, presenting a 4-hour seminar entitled "Optimization of Food Safety Programs for Organic Post Harvest Handling of Foods" to a group of over 20 new and experienced inspectors and certification agency staff in Corvallis.

Thanks as well to OTCO for providing the System Plan materials and for their role as the co-sponsor for the course.

Oregon OMRI Training

On Oct. 29-30, IOIA and the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) collaborated to provide the first 2-day comprehensive training on inspecting inputs for organic production. The first such training (1 day only) occurred in Pennsylvania in 2007.

Classroom training was at LaSells Stewart Center on the OSU campus in Corvallis and was supplemented with an afternoon field trip to a green waste recycling/compost facility. Sampling procedures were practiced on site. The facility hosting the group was interested in participating to see if they would qualify for OMRI approval of their finished compost.



The course included history and explanation of OMRI's policies and standards, inspection and sampling procedures and requirements, audit balancing exercises, and reporting. Lead organizer for OMRI was Miguel Guerrero, Marketing Director. IOIA Trainer was Janine Gibson of Manitoba. OMRI speakers included Dr. Brian Baker and Zea Sonnabend. Zea, at left in the photo above, who is an IOIA Inspector member and an OMRI Board member, presented the session on Writing the Report. Each participant received a new set of OMRI lists, as well as copies of the OMRI Standards Manual and OMRI Policy Manual.

Inspectors interested in working on contract for OMRI should contact Dave DeCou, OMRI executive director, at inspections@omri.org. More information is also available at <http://omri.org/jobs/inspector.html>

OTCO Reception

When IOIA was planning a modest reception in the LaSells Stewart Center at OSU, Kristy Korb and Connie Carr suggested that everyone come to their certification office in downtown Corvallis instead. That invitation grew into an evening of food, beverage, and networking that filled **every room** of the OTCO office to the brim. The group included local inspectors, IOIA board members past and present, family members, friends, OTCO staff, new inspector trainees from the basic crop course, experienced inspectors and certification agency staff taking the advanced training offerings. Demeter, OMRI, Organic Valley and FoodChain Global Advisors donated to cover the costs of the eats.



3 3 Kristy Korb, Oregon Tilth Certification Director. Kristy met with Margaret Scoles, Jim Fullmer, and David Gould in Chicago at ATO in May to start the planning of this event, one of the largest and most complex training IOIA events ever.



Basic Crop course trainees enjoying a break from studies at the reception. ☺ ☺

Connie Karr of OTCO emcees an exciting game of **Organic Jeopardy**. Bob Durst, IOIA BOD Chair, ponders a question. The categories were Acronyms, History, Farm/Livestock, Processing/Handling, Non-GMO, and Materials. Three teams played, with much cheering and jeering from the audience. The winning team was Bob, Margaret Scoles, Brian Baker, and Beth Unger of Organic Valley. An extremely close second place went to the team headed by Miguel Guerrero (OMRI) and Janine Gibson, IOIA Trainer from Manitoba. Hats off to Connie for developing a great new idea for IOIA training! ☺ ☺



3 3 Gwen Wyard of OTCO and John Trinterud of CCOF during the evening certifier presentations on Oct. 27. They both emphasized the need for qualified processing inspectors.

Latinoamérica en Acción

Recopilado Por Carlos Andrés Escobar Fernández, Conexión Ecológica

Bolivia: Culmina con Éxito el III Encuentro Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Productores/as Experimentadores/as e Investigadores/as en Agricultura Ecológica

En septiembre de 2006 en la ciudad de Managua, Nicaragua fue realizado el **Primer Encuentro Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Productoras y Productores Experimentadores y de Investigadores en Agricultura orgánica** con la participación de representantes de 10 países. Luego, en 2007 en Cuba ocurrió el Segundo Encuentro que, finalmente, ha dado paso a celebrar el Tercer Encuentro entre Septiembre 29 y Octubre 4 de 2008; con la asistencia de más de 300 personas, especialmente, productores ecológicos provenientes de 18 países. También autoridades bolivianas se hicieron presentes en los actos protocolarios.

Este encuentro empezó con las visitas de campo al Altiplano, los Valles y el Trópico, visitando lugares propios de producción e intercambiando de conocimientos y experiencias entre los lugareños y visitantes.

Asimismo y en ocasión de este Tercer Encuentro, se realizó la III Feria del Productor Ecológico Latinoamericano y del Caribe, con la participación de más de 70 productores entre bolivianos y extranjeros, generando espacios de intercambio de experiencias para el desarrollo y convirtiendo a su vez a esta Feria en una vitrina de negocios de manera directa dando así paso a la

comercialización e intercambio de propuestas entre productores. La población cochabambina también tuvo la oportunidad de visitar la Feria y degustar de todos los productos ya elaborados y ser parte como en años pasados de un trueque entre productores.

Además del intercambio de información y experiencias en agricultura ecológica, los participantes del III Encuentro redactaron el siguientes pronunciamiento siendo ello considerado el principal resultado de este mega evento latinoamericano:

Vivimos en un mundo que se encuentra en una franca y declarada era de crisis representada por:

- *Un cambio climático de nuestra tierra que atenta contra la sostenibilidad de los sistemas productivos actuales, atentado que no es más que la reacción a un comportamiento humano erosivo extractivo e irrespetuoso de la naturaleza y su dinámica.*
- *La producción agropecuaria actual supera en siete veces la necesaria para el abastecimiento de alimentos; sin embargo, el número de personas en el mundo que sufren hambre se incrementó en 852 millones de personas en los últimos 10 años, ésa crisis alimentaria también se debe al modelo agroindustrial de producción, comercialización y al acceso inequitativo a la tierra.*
- *Los actuales sistemas de producción de alimentos son sustentados por una sociedad de consumo, donde los alimentos son industrializados requiriendo un alto gasto de energía no renovable, que generan a la vez desechos*

altamente contaminantes al medio ambiente.

- *Las políticas y estrategias de los gobiernos nacionales y organismos multilaterales se alinean a los intereses de empresas transnacionales, marginando, discriminando y menospreciando las pequeñas economías campesinas obligando a las familias a abandonar sus tierras, a adoptar paquetes tecnológicos convencionales y a servir dentro de sus sistemas comerciales.*

En este contexto, entre el 29 de septiembre y el 4 de octubre del 2008, se reunieron en la ciudad de Cochabamba 366 personas de 16 países en el "III Encuentro Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Productores/as

Experimentadores/as e Investigadores/as en Agricultura Ecológica" para compartir, discutir y reflexionar sobre las siguientes temáticas relacionadas a la agricultura ecológica: procesos productivos; transformación y comercialización, procesos de certificación; cambio climático y agricultura ecológica; la gestión de riesgos y la biodiversidad. Todos estos en la visión política de una propuesta de Agricultura ecológica.

En este encuentro los participantes confirmaron su visión de la agroecología como una filosofía y forma de vida, socialmente justa, culturalmente adecuada, económicamente viable, ambientalmente sana y consecuente con la soberanía alimentaria.

Por este motivo pronuncian:

- *La consolidación del movimiento de agricultura ecológica en Latinoamérica y el Caribe, basado en el protagonismo de las*

- organizaciones sociales económicas de los pequeños productores campesinos e indígenas representados por sus asociaciones nacionales en la Unión Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Pequeños Productores Ecológicos creada durante éste Encuentro.
- Proponen superar las barreras de las terminologías referidas a la agricultura ecológica usadas en cada región, debiendo primar sus valores y principios ambientales, sociales y culturales y la visión de territorialidad.
- Identifican como enemigos a las empresas transnacionales de agroquímicos y semillas, los transgénicos y los agro-combustibles y a todo lo que los ate a sistemas productivos dependientes de insumos externos y/o paquetes tecnológicos foráneos; rechazan el latifundio o la concentración de la tenencia de la tierra en pocas manos, y se oponen contundentemente a que los alimentos se transformen en biocombustibles.
- La necesidad que organizaciones sociales, ONG, organismos de cooperación internacional y agencias de desarrollo, instituciones académicas y los mismos gobiernos asuman la responsabilidad de impulsar, defender, y promover la agricultura ecológica.

Así como también proponen:

- Difundir las experiencias de la agricultura ecológica, la sensibilización e información a los consumidores y denunciar las consecuencias del modelo productivo convencional.
- Incentivar la formación y educación en la gestión agroecológica e incluirla en el currículo universitario y

técnico; difundir y promocionar metodologías de interaprendizaje horizontal y participativo; concientizar a la ciudadanía sobre el medio ambiente y la salud, fortalecer la investigación en sistemas de producción sostenible y recuperar el conocimiento tradicional.

- Comercializar los productos ecológicos en mercados locales, solidarios y de trueque implementando ferias y eventos de promoción de la agricultura ecológica en diferentes regiones, revalorizando el consumo de alimentos nativos y ecológicos.
- Fortalecer las alianzas entre organizaciones para la conservación de la biodiversidad, la agro-diversidad y los recursos genéticos y el desarrollo de redes de intercambio de semillas, con un inventario de las variedades existentes.
- Desde sus actividades en nuestros países impulsar la prohibición paulatina y progresiva de plaguicidas en las actividades agropecuarias, empezando por los plaguicidas más nocivos de los grupos extremadamente peligrosos (Grupo 1 a) y altamente peligrosos (Grupo 1 b).
- Mejorar y promover la diversidad de Sistemas Participativos de Garantía (SPG) basados en la confianza de los consumidores organizados y su reconocimiento por parte de los gobiernos nacionales y sus Autoridades Competentes.
- Difundir la agroforestería ecológica como una alternativa efectiva para mitigar el

calentamiento global y el cambio climático.

Por este motivo instan a las instituciones académicas a involucrarse activamente en el movimiento agroecológico, dejando ambigüedades e incoherencias en sus actividades de enseñanza; así como exigen a los gobiernos nacionales y locales establecer un marco legal favorable para la promoción, protección e incentivo de la agroecología y a su implementación a través de políticas y programas estratégicos y coherentes en los niveles locales, regionales y nacionales.



Mayor información sobre los Encuentros Latinoamericanos, visita www.encuentroecolatino.org

Café Comercio Justo: perspectiva de crecimiento con el apoyo de Starbucks

El pasado 28 de Octubre, la multinacional Starbucks anunció que doblara las compras de café comercio justo a 40 millones de libras para el 2009 con el apoyo de Transfair USA y FLO International. Esta decisión beneficiara a más de 400 grupos de productores cafeteros certificados bajo los Estándares FLO a nivel mundial

Para mayor información sobre el comercio justo, visite www.fairtrade.net É

IOIA BOD Conference Call Minute Highlights 21 August 2008

(Please see 'Inspectors Only' section of website for complete minutes. BOD minutes are posted in final form after approval by BOD.)

Present: Stephen Bird, Bob Durst, Gene Prochaska, Monique Scholz, and Margaret Scoles, ED. Absent: David Konrad, Erin Beard (alternate) and Lidia Giron (alternate)

Treasurers' report: Gene Prochaska presented the Balance sheet, Revenue/Expense Report and his Treasurers' Report. Moved by Stephen Bird, seconded by Monique Scholz, to accept the treasurers' report. Motion passed.

There was discussion regarding the manner in which checks greater than 2000\$ are monitored. Given new information (the bank will not claim responsibility for ensuring that two signatures appear on these larger checks), it appears that the new policy does not meet our need for 'additional over sight'.

Action Points: Defer to finance committee for new ideas. Get additional suggestions from auditor and Gardner. (Gene)

Building expense: There was discussion regarding the need to repair/replace air conditioning. **Action Point:** Check with power company for possible rebates if heat pump is installed. Moved by Monique Scholz, seconded by Stephen Bird, to go ahead with the necessary repairs and purchases. Motion passed.

ED report:

- ◆ BOD confirms appointment of Garry Lean to Guelph Conference Committee.
- ◆ Fundraising: Susan Colwell is working on a letter for soliciting \$ for Canadian trainings. The BOD expressed its' willingness to do the follow-up calls to the targeted potential donors. Susan is also working on enhancing the relationship IOIA has with certifiers. She is developing a survey to see how their membership benefits can be improved. Margaret and Pearl Siegel are helping with this project. 'ASKING FOR THE GIFT' booklet (a gift from Susan Colwell) and a second booklet is being purchased by IOIA for each BOD member, and are being sent out soon.

AGM 2009: The BOD briefly discussed which weekend to schedule the AGM. To avoid Expo West and improve chances of the maple season being underway, it was decided to target the weekends of March 14-15 or March 21-22. BOD approved Lisa Pierce as speaker (on subject of Asian networking). The BOD invited to submit other speaker proposals.

Policy Manual: Margaret had sent the updated Policy Manual by email. Thanks to Rita Wenzel for working on this document. **Action Points:** Read Policy Manual and alert BOD to any areas which need adjustment. (BOD) BOD minutes should go to Rita Wenzel, so that she can be alerted to any changes needed in the Policy Manual.

Conflict of Interest: This discussion was deferred. **Action Point:** A draft policy will be circulated. It will address how BOD members can be compensated when providing services for the organization. (Bob)

18 September 2008

Present: Erin Beard (alternate), Stephen Bird, Bob Durst, Lidia Giron (alternate), David Konrad, Gene Prochaska, Monique Scholz, and Margaret Scoles, ED.

ED report: Margaret had distributed her report by email prior to meeting. Discussion focused on the TN visa issue, pertaining to Canadian trainers coming to USA for IOIA events. Margaret explained the process and summarized advice from the attorney. The BOD reiterated its desire to obtain proper paperwork for Canadian trainers. Margaret also mentioned that the auditor offered to come this fall. Decision deferred.

Committees: Accreditation Review Panel: Stephen reported that Leanne McCormick accepts to serve as ARP chair. The BOD gratefully approved Leanne McCormick as ARP chair. Stephen also reported that he has approached an Alamo (California) organic farmer (and chiropractor), Daniel Smith, to serve as external member on the ARP. Daniel Smith is willing to take on this task. Conditional upon the ARP's approval, the BOD endorses this appointment. (Defer to October for formal motion). It is understood that he may already participate in the October round of accreditation applications.

Setting 2009 dues: Moved by Gene Prochaska, seconded by David Konrad, to

maintain the same fee structure in 2009 as was in place for 2008. Motion passed. There was some discussion of why membership numbers in Latin America are so low, even though IOIA trains many inspectors there. Lidia maintains that it is not because of the membership fee, but because the services are not perceived as sufficient. Bob Durst suggested a three month period during which the Latin forum will be open to all, not just to members. **Action Point:** Set up a three month open (not members only) period for the Latin forum. (Lidia and Diane).

AGM: Monique reported that Sylvia Welke has been investigating venues in Montreal. The BOD affirmed that it will meet BEFORE and AFTER the AGM, for a full day. Erin Beard confirmed that she will not be able to attend. The BOD confirmed that Lidia Giron will have her travel expenses covered by IOIA, if she attends.

Training to Canadian standard: The BOD affirmed that the trainings must happen in late winter (Feb-March-April 2009) if the standard is final at that time. Action Points: Continue on fundraising for this project (BOD, Margaret and Susan). Endeavour to obtain advance copy of revised Canadian Standard. (Monique)

Training Institute/Next meeting: The BOD decided to devote the entire October 16 meeting to the subject of the Training Institute. All other business will be conducted by email.

16 October 2008

Present: Stephen Bird, Bob Durst, Erin Beard, Lidia Girón, Gene Prochaska, Monique Scholz and Margaret Scoles, ED. Bob clarified that Erin was present as voting alternate and Lidia present as non-voting alternate, to keep abreast of BOD issues. Absent: David Konrad.

Training Institute Discussion

The BOD discussed a variety of topics during this single-topic meeting: inspector licensing, mentoring program, enhanced accreditation, on-the-job training, distance education and e-learning, and increasing in-house trainings held by certifiers without IOIA participation. The BOD re-affirmed that training inspectors should be the Institute's core focus (not training other audiences). Three action points were articulated regarding further investigation of e-learning experiences. E

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

(formerly Independent Organic Inspectors Association)

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

Please add 15% 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, \$30.00
- " 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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IOIA Membership Application

Please specify category – all funds payable in US
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- " Inspector - \$150
- " Supporting Individual - \$100
- " Business/Organization \$125
- " Certifying Agency - \$275
- " Patron - \$500
- " Sustainer - \$1000

- " The Inspectors' Report – 4 issues/yr - \$30
- " 2008 IOIA Membership Directory:
 - " \$15 members " \$25 non-members
- IFOAM/IOIA Int'l Organic Inspection Manual:
 - " \$45 members " \$60 non-members

2008 - 2009 Calendar

Ongoing through December 31, 2008

2007 Census of Agriculture - the only source of agricultural data broken down for every state and county in the nation. Your response will provide a brighter future for you, your operation and your community. Census data, in both electronic and print formats, will be released February 4. Detailed reports will be published for all counties, states and the nation. www.agcensus.usda.gov/

January 14 - March 3 8th Annual NOFA Organic Land Care Course. Sponsored and organized by the NOFA Organic Land Care Program, this five-day, intensive course is designed to provide professionals with the education needed for an understanding of organic land care from design to maintenance. Multiple Locations in MA, CT, RI, NY www.organiclandcare.net/

January 16 - 17 Future Harvest- CASA's 10th Annual Conference. Featuring Nina Planck, author of Real Food, as the conference keynote speaker as well as breakout sessions on marketing, farming economics, grass based systems, and sustainable production of hay, grain, fruits, vegetables, and flowers. Frederick, Maryland. www.futureharvestcasa.org/

January 21 - 24 29th Annual Ecological Farming Conference, Asilomar. Pacific Grove, CA. www.eco-farm.org

January 21 - 24 18th Annual Practical Tools and Solutions for Sustaining Family Farms Conference (SSAWG). Chattanooga Convention Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee. www.ssawg.org/conference.html

January 22 - 25 The 28th Annual Guelph Organic Conference, Expo & Tasting Fair presented by Organic Food Conferences Canada. Keynote Speaker: Dr. Wayne Roberts At the "O is for Opportunity Conference", Guelph, Ontario, Canada. www.guelphorganicconf.ca/

January 23 - 25 Meals Without Wheels: Revitalizing Our Local Organic Foodshed. Rochester, New York. www.events.org/nofany-conference/cpage.aspx?e=16387

January 26 - 29 US Composting Council: 17th Annual Conference & Tradeshow. The USCC's Annual Conference and Exhibition is the most widely attended composting and organics recycling show in North America. Houston, Texas. www.compostingcouncil.org/conference/

January 27 - 28 2009 No-Till on the Plains Winter Conference, Salina, Kansas www.notill.org/

January 28 Roundtable - Let's Talk Turf: Organic Lawns. Featured speakers: Chip Osborne and Bernadette Giblin Co-sponsored by ELA and NOFA OLC Program Doyle Center, Leominster, Massachusetts [www.ecolandscaping](http://www.ecolandscaping.org) www.organiclandcare.net

February 13 - 14 Northern Plains Sustainable Ag Society's Annual Winter Conference 30th Anniversary Celebration. Keynote speaker Karl Kupers, farmer and co-founder of Shepherd's Grain, will speak on "Marketing Sustainability." Other presenters include Julie Garreau, Director of Sheyenne River Youth Project and Dr. Francis Thicke, Radiance Dairy, plus 15 workshops. Huron, South Dakota. www.npsas.org

February 17 - 18 World Grains Trade Summit. "How is the regional business evolving amid volatile supplies & changing climate"

Key Issues:

- Global grains market outlook & where is it heading?
 - Can the biofuels mandate roll back with rising food prices?
 - Agriculture policy & investment outlook
- Singapore

www.cmtevents.com/eventschedule.aspx?ev=090206&54

February 21 Introduction to Organic Beekeeping: Preparing a New Hive for Spring With Chris Harp. Covers basic tasks for first time beekeepers, with an emphasis on honoring the bees' needs. Chestnut Ridge, New York. www.pfeiffercenter.org

February 26 - 28 Organic Farming Conference. An extraordinary, farmer-centered event, the Organic Farming Conference is the largest organic farming conference in the U.S. Last year, more than 2200 people attended, with participants traveling from 41 states and 7 foreign countries. La Crosse, Wisconsin www.mosesorganic.org

February 26 - 28 Conference & Eco-Marketplace - Digging In: The Theory & Practice of Ecological Landscaping. Conference will include 18 workshops presented by educators, writers, and practitioners in the field of ecological landscaping.

A concurrent held Eco-Marketplace will feature exhibitors. MassMutual Center, 1277 Main St., Springfield, Massachusetts www.ecolandscaping.org

March 19 - 21 4th Annual National Farm to Cafeteria Conference. Going the distance and shortening it from farm to cafeteria. Portland, Oregon www.foodsecurity.org/events.html www.farmtoschool.org/events.php

March 22 - 28 IOIA AGM, Basic Processing & Advanced Trainings, Montreal, Quebec. See page 1 for story.

March 24 - 26 The Sixth International IPM Symposium. www.ipmcenters.org/ipmsymposium09 www.conferences.uiuc.edu

For upcoming IOIA training schedule, please see pages 1 & 3 of this issue.

Keep IOIA Strong - Lend Your Strength And Get Involved!



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