



The

Inspectors' Report

VOL 14 No. 2 SPRING 2005

PUBLISHED BY THE INDEPENDENT ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

Notes from The Chair

By Brian Magaro

So another season of inspection travel is upon us. Somewhere out there is a lonely motel (without Internet connection) that we will soon visit, trying desperately not to turn on the TV since we have loads of review work to do for the next day and notes to go over from the inspection just completed. Maybe we will be fingering through the phone book looking for a local theater that is playing the latest Star Wars movie hoping that tomorrow we may finish early or reading the local news paper with the real issues of the day buried on page 13 and trying not to be pissed about this.

Well, maybe this is not the scenario for some of you, but I do find myself in similar situations quite often. I do ask myself why in the world do I continue to do this? As an inspector I find myself caught between so many rocks and always the hard place. The certifiers are rarely "ecstatic" about the reports, the producers are always a little jumpy, the certifier reviewers always need just a little more information, and yet we continue. So somewhere rooted in our non-GMO (hopefully) DNA is a passion. A passion to be the advocates of good food that we really want to eat, and enjoy when we see a young mother picking up organic apples for her child. We are a unique crew and for that I applaud us all.

The fact that you are receiving this newsletter in itself confirms that you are supportive of an [see **Notes**, page 4]

Mark Your Calendars!

► 15th IFOAM Organic World Congress *Shaping Sustainable Systems*, Sept. 20-23, 2005 Adelaide, South Australia

► IOIA/OTA/TOCMC Advanced Organic Inspector Training (Fiber Processing) is back on track for October 2005. See page 3 for details.

► IOIA Annual General Meeting is set for February 23, 2006 in La Crosse, Wisconsin See page 3 for more info.

Big Changes for Missouri State Organic Certification Program

Although the organic community was shaken in April by the first total slashing of a state organic certification program, **certification will go on in Missouri**. The state opted to leave certification to private agencies and to focus funds instead on marketing promotion and cost-share for growers certifying through other programs.

The USDA accredited program certified more than 100 growers, mostly small farmers, who paid a nominal certification fee (\$100), while it cost many times more than that to certify each operator. In what could be the beginning of a reversal of the recent trend away from private certifiers and toward state programs, the state decided that private certifiers could provide more cost effective certification. The result for growers is that they will likely pay more than double for certification.

Based on IOIA's conversations with Sue Baird, IOIA Inspector Member and program coordinator of the Missouri state program since it began in 2000, and other employees still at the MO Department of Agriculture, it appears that the state simply applied hard economics. The department had to reduce its budget by \$1.9 million, or 19%, and in that scenario, "everybody feels pain," said Matt Boatright, deputy director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture, which cut the state's organic and sustainable agriculture programs. Three programs were slashed from the Missouri Ag budget:

Missouri Organic Program - Established in 2003, this program allowed the state to certify Missouri farmland as organic. Cutting it saves the Department of Agriculture \$129,000.

Sustainable Agriculture Program - This program offered farmers grants to experiment with innovative farming practices. Cutting it saves the agriculture department \$49,000.

WIC and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition programs - Administered by the Department of Health and Senior Services, these programs offered low-income seniors, women, infants and children vouchers to spend at farmers markets and farm stands each summer. Eliminating this program saves the department almost \$111,000.

In the case of the Missouri Organic Program, the department has decided to offset the pain. Under a new agreement with USDA, Missouri will continue to help farmers pay for their certification through a cost share program, which will reimburse farmers for 75% of certification costs up to \$500. The fund is capped at \$30,000 for the state.

Program Manager **Sue Baird** was one of the casualties when more than a dozen state employees were cut. Baird did an outstanding job of managing the program, including doing most of the inspections. She recently finalized the Organic Certification Manual for the state program, an excellent regional resource. Fortunately for Baird and many of the Missouri growers, Sam Welsch of **Oncert** has stepped in and developed a **Oncert-Missouri** program with her. She will coordinate the Missouri [see **MO**, page 4]

What's Inside....

ATO Update..... p 5
Vancouver News..... p 6
Canadian Regs..... p 10
Plus Resources, GMO's,
Lotsa Minutes,

.....**And more!**

2005 Membership Directory Update

Please make the following changes to your 2005 Membership Directory. Any additions or corrections to information categories other than addresses and contact numbers will be listed in the 2006 Hardcopy Membership Directory or can be viewed on the 2005 Online Directory.

ADDRESS CHANGES:

Inspectors:

R. Claire Ackroyd
Email: claire.ackroyd@verizon.net

Ekuko Asano
Email: ekukorganic@yahoo.co.jp

Sue Baird
Email: gbaird@iland.net

Marina Sexy Buchan
P O Box 61
Silver Valley, AB T0H 3E0
Phone: 780.351.3958
Email: mmsbuchan@yahoo.ca

Cheng, Cheng-Yung
Upgrade from Apprentice

Ron Clark
Email: Jordanfarms1@cs.com

David Dahmen
Email: David.dahmen@healthbyorganics.com

Bob Durst
Fax: 801.991.5660

Maheswar Ghimire
Phone: +977.1.4423122
Fax: +977.1.4220807

Terry Hollifield
Email: GACROP2@BELLSOUTH.NET

Marilee Irwin
3317 - 43 Avenue
Red Deer, Alberta T4N 3B2, CANADA
Phone: 403.346.5642

Len Kormos
Email: qsolutions@rogers.com

Shanti Leinow
Email: whipstone@aol.com

Johnny Luke, Jr.
Email: GACROP2@BELLSOUTH.NET

Evan Kirby-Smith
Email: ebkirbysmith@hotmail.com

Don Persons
Email: donpersons@yahoo.com

Margaret Weigelt
Email: organic-inspector@usa.net

Mary Wilson
S4895 Getter Rd.
Viroqua, WI 54665
Phone: 608.637.2614

Supporting Members:

Ted Craig
Email: tcraig@state.wy.us

Anne Dickerson
Stone Wall Farm
97 McCrillis Rd.
Nottingham, NH 03290
Phone: 603.679.8101

Sharon Krumwiede
Phone: 909.238.2808
Email: krumwiedes@aol.com

Patricia R. Neiner
Email: patty@paorganic.org

James Possin
Email: jpossin@mail.myclearwave.net

Mathew Sebastian
Fax: +91.484.2630909

Jhon Erik Velasquez Castellare
Email: Jhon.Velasquez@sgs.com

Supporting Certification Agencies:

JOIA
Takagi Bldg 5F
1-14-10 Kyobashi
Chou-ku Tokyo JAPAN 104-0031
Phone: 03.5524.6080
Fax: 03.5524.6083

WELCOME RETURNING FORMER MEMBERS

Inspector Members:

Stephen Denis
P O Box 6
Thermal, CA 92274 UNITED STATES
Phone: 760.342.7083
Email: spdenis@msn.com
Languages: English(F), Germa (C),Spanish (C)

James (Jim) Hudson
235 Dunlop Place
Regina, SK S4X 2R9 CANADA
Phone: 306.543.0662
Fax: 306.543.5738
Email: jhudson@sasktel.net

William Kazokas
1672 NW 36th Court
Okland Park, FL 33309 UNITED STATES
Phone: (831) 236-2950
Email: blueberryphd@yahoo.com
Languages: English (F), Spanish (F)

Evan Kirby-Smith
GOCA
5464 Eighth St. #B
Rainbow, CA 92028 UNITED STATES
Cell: (714) 478-3270
Work: (760) 731-0496
Email: ekirbysmith@hotmail.com,
evan.goca@direcway.com
Languages: English (F), Spanish (C)

Jill Morganelli
5155 Mesa Terrace
LaMesa, CA 91941 UNITED STATES
Phone: 619.741.5978
Email: ljillm@cox.net
Languages: English (F)

Supporting Business Members:

Thorvin, Inc.
Ellen Coleman
P O Box 458
220 Race Street
New Castle, VA 24127
Home: (540) 864-5108
Work: (540) 864-5108
Fax: (540) 864-5161
Email: sales@thorvin.com

MISSED IN 2005 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY DUE TO OFFICE ERROR

Welcome New Members:

Inspectors:

Ahn, Jong Sung (Ahnyang, Kyunggi, Korea Rep.)
Dawn Fleming (St. Louis, SK, CANADA)
Marjorie Harris (Armstrong, BC, CANADA)

Supporting Individual Members:

Jean-Marie Aguerre (Williams, OR)
Frank Aragona (Albuquerque, NM)
Rex Dufour (Davis, CA)
Michael Diaz (Santa Fe, NM)
Courtney Guido (Colbert, GA)
David G. Grant (Delta, BC, CANADA)
R. Matthew Green (Providence, RI)
Jerry Heaps (Apple Valley, MN)
Kim, Jong-Heon (Wonju, Gangwon, Korea)
Kim, Seung-il (Wonju, Gangwon, Korea)
Loye, Jenella (Davis, CA)
Patricia McIsaac (Silver Valley, AB, CANADA)
Sean Mulla (Arlee, MT)
Jerry Munson (Rapid City, SD)
Erica Peters (Sante Fe, NM)
Michelle Sandy (Staunton, VA)
Marlon Sequeia (Hialeah, FL)
Kyle Stephens (Pendleton, SC)
Pamela Sullivan (Carmel Valley, CA)
Milton Voss (Walworth, WI)
Raymond Yang (Seoul, Korea)

Welcome Supporting Business Members:

Ash Street Enterprises (Toronto, ON,CANADA)
Lund Food Holdings (Edina, MN)
MN Crop Improvement Assoc. (St. Paul, MN)

Upcoming Trainings

New Brunswick, CANADA IOIA and the Fall Brook Centre will be sponsoring the Basic Organic Farm Inspector Training followed by Basic Organic Process Inspector Training from October 15-22, 2005 in Knowlesville, New Brunswick. Both the Canadian National Standards and US National Standards will be used as references throughout the course. Each course has been extended to 4 days to accommodate the use of both standards. For more information, contact Andrea Berry, Organic Agriculture Program Coordinator at (506) 375-4310 or andrea@fallsbrookcentre.ca. For updates or further information about Fall Brook Centre, please visit www.fallsbrookcentre.ca. Application and info are posted at www.ioia.net.

Organic Fiber Processing Training, Lubbock, Texas

IOIA, the Organic Trade Association (OTA), and Texas Organic Cotton Marketing Cooperative (TOCMC) will cosponsor Advanced Organic Inspector Training (Fiber Processing focus) to occur in **October 2005** at Texas Tech University's International Textile Center in Lubbock, TX. This training, the first of its kind, is open both to experienced inspectors and to interested persons from the organic industry. It will provide a unique learning opportunity as organic inspectors, certification agency personnel, and fiber industry innovators join together for the 2-day event. It will include a tour of the ITC fiber processing facility, field trips to see value-added cotton manufacturing, an introduction to the OTA Fiber Council standards, and discussion of global standards. The International Textile Center, a department of the College of Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources at Texas Tech University, is a complete textile research center devoted to the research and promotion of Texas natural fibers—cotton, wool, mohair, and cashmere. ITC will host Day 1 of the event, which includes presentations by ITC staff, over 2 hours of touring the labs, and presentations by industry experts. For more info about ITC, visit www.depts.ttu.edu/itc/. Invited speakers include **Lynn Coody**, one of the primary drafters of the OTA Fiber Standards and Sam Moore, dye specialist from Burlington Chemical in North Carolina with extensive experience with organic fiber dying. **Fred Ehlert**, experienced inspector and speaker on organic fiber at IOIA advanced training last year in Costa Rica, will speak on inspection and organic control points. TOCMC will host a field day about an hour from Lubbock, for Day 2 of the training. The tour includes an organic cotton farm, cotton gin, and warehouse (cotton bale storage); afternoon tours of Organic Essentials (personal care products), Cotton Plus (finished fabrics), and Sunshine au Naturel (weaving and finished products). Enrollment is limited to 25, with a minimum of 18. The fee of \$600 includes catered organic lunches and transportation from the conference hotel to the Textile Center and for the field trip. A room block is reserved at a Lubbock hotel with free shuttle service from the airport. **Tentative date is October 7-8**. Alternate dates in October are also being considered.

OTA released its Fiber Standards early in 2004. When USDA announced its decision last year that it would not allow the USDA organic seal on textile products, private and global standards became even more important. Efforts increased globally toward internationally harmonized standards.

If you are interested in this course, please contact the IOIA office for more information or an application. Application and details will be posted at www.ioia.net when they are finalized.

Indianapolis, Indiana IOIA and Indiana Certified Organic (ICO) are developing Organic Farm Inspector Training in Indianapolis in early December in conjunction with the annual Acres USA Conference. Farm operations will include greenhouse and mixed operations with livestock. Depending on interest and other developing trainings, this event might also include Livestock or Process Inspector Training. Info and application will be posted at www.ioia.net as soon as available.

La Crosse, Wisconsin 2006 IOIA will sponsor Advanced Organic Inspector Training in late February 2006, in conjunction with the IOIA Annual Membership Meeting on February 23 and the Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference and Organic University February 23-25, 2006. The UMOFC, sponsored by the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES), is one of the largest organic conferences in North America. For more information about the conference, visit www.mosesorganic.org. Depending on the level of interest, ISO 9001:2000 Lead Auditor Training will also be scheduled in the same area and time frame to provide an additional training opportunity for inspectors and other interested persons from the organic community. If you have advanced topics to suggest or if you are interested in the ISO 9001 training, please contact the IOIA office so your input can be considered as this event is developed. Info and application for the trainings will be posted at www.ioia.net as soon as available.

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

IOIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian Magaro	Chair
Garry Lean	Vice Chair
Jack Reams.....	Treasurer
Marina Sexty Buchan.....	Secretary
John Foster...ExComm	Member-At-Large
Luis Brenes.....	Board Member
Ann Baier.....	Board Member
Ann Lameka.....	Alternate
Karen Troxell.....	Alternate

THE INSPECTORS' REPORT is the newsletter of the Independent Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA). IOIA is a 501 (c)(3) educational organization, whose mission is to address issues and concerns relevant to organic inspectors, to provide quality inspector training and to promote integrity and consistency in the organic certification process. Editorial Staff: Diane Cooner, Box 1259, Guerneville, CA 95446 USA. Phone/fax 707-869-3017, ioiaweb@ioia.net
Deadlines are Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1 & Nov 1. Relevant articles are welcomed. We strive for accuracy, but the Editor and IOIA cannot be held responsible for errors or omissions. Published quarterly on recycled paper.



UPDATE ON HARVEY VS USDA

By Margaret Scoles

With the recent appointment of Mike Johanns as USDA Secretary, "Harvey vs. Veneman" became "Harvey vs. Johanns". On April 29, Paula Dinerstein presented Arthur Harvey's Motion for Entry of Judgment to the US District Court in Maine. Harvey and USDA met and agreed on several points. The final motion was a mixture of points where Harvey and USDA reached agreement and several where they did not.

USDA will respond to Harvey's motion on May 20. Harvey will have about 10 days to respond to what USDA has presented. The Organic Trade Association (OTA) has requested an opportunity to submit comments as a friend of the court. It is not yet clear whether OTA will be allowed to do so. Harvey, as Plaintiff, will have the opportunity to comment on anything presented by OTA. The Court will issue a Summary Judgment. According to Harvey, "probably nothing will happen until at least the 1st of June". The full text of Harvey's motion will be posted to the IOIA website as soon as available.

When will the ruling kick in?

It is anyone's guess how much longer before the court's final Summary Judgment will be implemented. Harvey requested a grace period of 24 months for full implementation in products sold as organic to allow for product to avoid disruption of the organic marketplace. USDA did not choose to support that time frame. For now, the regulations remain unchanged.

What has the court clarified so far?

1. 205.606 Non-organic agricultural products must be on the National List in order to be used. Prior to this ruling, certifiers allowed non-organic agricultural ingredients if commercial non-availability could be established.

2. 206.605 Synthetic ingredients are not allowed as ingredients in 'organic' products. Although the NOP created uproar when they announced during an OTA-sponsored conference call earlier this year that this prohibition extended to 'made with organic' products, the court has clarified since that it does not.

3. 206.236(a)(i) Allowance of 80/20% feed for organic conversion dairy herds will not be allowed.

IOIA hosted a "Meet Arthur Harvey" session at the IOIA booth at All Things Organic in Chicago on May 1. The session was well attended as proponents, detractors, challengers, and curious inquirers. The press stopped by for interviews. He autographed, upon request, an article about the suit in the issue of the Cooperative Grocer that was distributed through the trade show.

RMA Grant Update

IOIA and NCAT are working hard toward completion of the RMA Cooperative Agreement to develop decision-making tools, record keeping forms, and training in the southern US, specifically in the states of Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Arkansas. Current projects under development by IOIA for this project are the first Southern Organic Resource Guide, slated for publication by NCAT in June; and record keeping forms adapted to market vegetable operations.

The project, which will conclude in September, has included meetings with producers and grower phone survey to assess needs. Follow-up meetings to introduce the developed tools and materials are planned for each state. Elaine Ferry represented IOIA to assist in training at a meeting of the Tennessee Organic Growers Association in early April and will be organizing follow-up meetings in eastern and western TN. IOIA is responsible to organize a training event in Louisiana, tentatively scheduled for August, as well as follow-up training in KY. As an indicator for the need for assistance in this area, only one accredited certification agency currently is active in all five identified states. This one is MS Dept of Ag, just now in the process of certifying their first operations. Kentucky's state program has applied for USDA accreditation. Louisiana's program was accredited but allowed it to lapse and are in the process of getting current. Currently all certified operations in the identified states are certified by certification agencies from outside the area. While climatic conditions create some pest control and soil management challenges for producers, there is strong potential for increasing organic production, especially for fresh produce.

IOIA members who are working on this project include Sue Baird (MO); Elaine Ferry (WV); Paul Dutter (GA); and Gene

Prochaska (IN). IOIA Board member Ann Baier is working as NCAT staff on the project. All have experience inspecting in the region. Kathy Turner (AR) and Stacy Burwick (TN) have provided assistance and advice. If you have expertise in the region and interest in participating, please contact us.

MO, from page 1

office. Other certification agencies were available, but proud farmers named preserving the 'Missouri' on their certified products an important criterion in choosing a certifier.

Baird has been told that the Missouri growers affected will have 60 days before the state acts to revoke certifications and relinquish the state's NOP accreditation.

The National Association of State Organic Programs (NASOP) will miss her on their Board of Directors. She will continue to serve as an OMRI Board member.

Notes, from page 1

of an organization that truly is trying to maintain consistency in the organic process. IOIA does not always do things that keep all members happy, but IOIA tries to keep close to the pulse of where organic production is, and does try to maintain the grassroots basics from whence organic originated.

We are all caught up in the undertow of "progress". I'll tell you my concept of progress...."Progress is the power that turns luxury into necessity" (or so we have been conditioned to think). The Americans are crying about gas prices...too spoiled I say. The Canadians have their unique concerns, etc., etc., etc. Keep your heart open and always speak your peace (truth). I personally am very happy there are people in this world like Arthur Harvey who help maintain some semblance of balance and I know that I personally (and IOIA) have seen his efforts as a wake up call to hold on tight to our passion(s).

I wish you all safe travels!

"Certainly, humanity's record for using technology wisely, sensitive to its potential effects on society, on people, on environment is, at best, mixed and hardly encouraging."

Robert Shapiro, then CEO of Monsanto Corporation

Notes from the ED

By Margaret Scoles

5th Annual All Things Organic™ Conference and Trade Show May 1-3, Chicago

Thanks to OTA, IOIA received a complimentary booth space again this year. In the past, I sometimes wondered about the value of IOIA's participation at trade shows. They really aren't for inspectors, although inspectors *are* the invisible link in the whole chain of everything on display. They are expensive - motel costs are staggering anywhere near the "Magnificent Mile". But now, I'm increasingly impressed by how many IOIA Inspector members stop by the booth (this year, over 10% of our Inspector membership!). We rarely come home from one of these events without a training (this year we found two) and I'm never dissatisfied with the networking.



Once again this show included the Spring Fancy Food Show, FMI Show, United Produce Expo and Conference, and U.S. Food Export Showcase (5 shows in all; "The Power of Five") in the gigantic conference center. Once again I did not make it out of the ATO Organic Show....maybe next year. Walking the floor among the 450 or so booths gave me an opportunity to see new products, look at label use and ingredient lists, thank donors of food for our training events (and solicit new donors), and invite new supporting members. The grazing is always great fun. This year the grazing hit of the conference was extraordinary mangoes from Haiti, fortunately located right around the corner from our booth. Maarten, Billy, and I managed to wrangle a whole mango to add to a breakfast. I grazed too heavily throughout the show except for the afternoon after the fashion show. I visited all of the fiber booths to promote the upcoming fiber training in TX. Staffing a booth can be tiring and almost boring, but many hands make light work. This year, a big **thank-you!** to **Maarten Samsom, George Danner, Arthur Harvey, and Billy Hunter** who helped with staffing, as well as toting in and shipping out. If you are interested in seeing a trade show cheaply, let me know so I can offer you a badge in exchange for staffing. One reward is speaking with the new people who find their way to IOIA's booth to ask how to find a certifier, get

certified, or where to find the rules. Another is the OTA Welcome Party. Another OTA tidbit: OTA is dissolving ALL of their councils, effective June 2006.



The product mix is increasingly diverse. Many products were new to me. I discovered many companies that started up within the last year. New products included upscale pet treats with the owner's own dog on the label, along with great 100% guacamole, shrimp from Ecuador, and lots of fiber products. I attended OTA's 101 Organic Fiber Session. According to OTA's press release, "one ATO fiber exhibitor reported that sales at a major club store of its organic yoga wear reached 2.6 million pieces in 2004. Meanwhile, a stunning display of the latest apparel designs in organic fiber set heads turning at the accompanying Wear Organic!™ Fashion Show held May 3". I was surprised to find personal body care products with the USDA seal added within the last year. I enjoyed finding a local producer displaying her predator-friendly and organic wool products at the state of MT's first ATO booth. The show's tone was busy and upbeat, another pleasant surprise after hearing of the 'fear in the air' at Expo West in the wake of Harvey vs. Veneman. Most vendors said it was a good show, although a few vendors one expected to see were actually upstairs at the Fancy Food Show, hoping for bigger exposure.



On April 30, I attended the NASOP meeting. I found myself red-faced when **Mark Bradley** of NOP opened his presentation with a story about my famous outrageous statement in 2001. I'd told him during an IOIA training event "he wasn't God". As Jim Riddle quietly said in the background, "It's still true..." and Mark agreed. One helpful tidbit: if a synthetic is on the list (i.e. electrolytes, vaccines), the ACA does not need to scrutinize the other ingredients (i.e. preservatives). However, if a natural (i.e. fish emulsion) is on the list, all ingredients either need to be natural or on the list. **Jim Riddle** updated us on NOSB activity, including comments on Good Guidance documents. Rules for honey, greenhouse, and mushrooms are likely to be posted for public comment this year. He reminded the group of the unresolved

confusion in the marketplace over labeling personal body care products; that the court's Summary Judgment might impact the use of DL-Methionine as an ingredient in livestock feeds; and concern about the time frame for implementing Harvey vs. Veneman in regard to reviews of non-organic agricultural ingredients. The Job Description will soon be posted for the ED position for the NOSB.

On May 1, I attended NOP training for ACAs by Mark Bradley and Arthur Neal. Mark's opening slip of the tongue will go down in infamy. He introduced Arthur Neal as "Arthur Harvey". We all thought it was a clever joke until he did it again and all of us realized that he wasn't aware of his mistake. Then it was Mark's turn to be red-faced. If I'd had an IOIA T-shirt at that moment, I would have gone right up and delivered him an Outrageous Statement prize! A few tidbits from that training were:

1. **A major change** -- AMS audits of ACAs will be process-based. Processes are *identified*, then what is expected to *carry out that process* in sequential order, and then *what documentation should be in place* to show it. USDA will identify key processes and these will be posted on the website (although they won't give descriptive detail on how the audit on-site portion will be handled). **In Bradley's words, this is 'a sweeping change from operating right off the rule'**. Compliance audits will become 'show us your processes'. Some key processes for ACAs: recording/classifying non-compliances; responding to notices of non-compliance; how to apply for accreditation; and reinstating suspended organic operations. These are areas where NOP sees tremendous variation between ACAs. NOP expects that certifiers will change the way they operate to process-based. In short, they will tell certifiers how they will handle certifiers and certifiers are free to closely follow suit with the processes for how they handle clients. Following this discussion, several certifiers discussed changing their OSPs to a less checklist, more open narrative 'show us your process...' format. In Mark Bradley's words, "Checklists are dangerous. They are only as good as the training on the use of the checklist"...seems like we've said that about inspection reports, too.
2. ACAs who accredit internationally can [see ED, page 9]

2005 Annual Meeting, Granville Island, Vancouver, BC

Thirty-two voting members of IOIA attended the event at the Granville Island Hotel. Special guests included a delightful addition to the BOD since the last IOIA AGM--young **Adam**, son of Secretary **Ann Baier** and her husband **Thom Sutfin**.

BOD members elected: Luis Brenes, Ann Baier, and **John Foster** were re-elected to second terms. New Board member **Marina Sexty Buchan** was elected and was promptly named Secretary to the Board of Directors when the Board reorganized the next day. Outgoing member **Dag Falck** was recognized for his service with a handmade, framed calligraphy thank-you, presented by Board Chair, **Brian Magaro**.

Luis Brenes presented a draft PowerPoint presentation summarizing who and what IOIA is, in the BOD's effort to create a professional 'face' of IOIA to the members and the rest of the world. The meeting ended with a brainstorming session to list what IOIA members recommended as IOIA's priorities for the future. The top 2 were:

- Promote IOIA as professional organization with standardized trainings and curriculum.
- Promote IOIA training to certifiers and government agencies as a requirement for working as inspectors.

IOIA has 17 Inspector members in BC; this represents 30% of the Canadian inspector members of IOIA. Most BC inspector members were surprised to learn during the meeting that COABC is the only accreditation body which requires IOIA Inspector member status for inspectors of the certifiers they accredit.

Executive Director **Margaret Scoles** was surprised with an impromptu award presentation by **Diane Cooner**, who presented Scoles with an 'Outrageous Statement – Lifetime Achievement' Award in honor of the five recorded winning statements (and other numerous comments that never made it to official OSA records).

Following the business meeting, the group enjoyed a sumptuous dinner, a whimsical presentation by Margaret Scoles on "25 Signs U Might B Canadian", a stimulating presentation on the difficult issues associated with GMOs by **Dr. Mark Winston** of Fraser University, and a rousing fundraising auction (IOIA's 2nd such event). BOD Chair and auctioneer extraordinaire, **Brian Magaro**, made the auction into both evening entertainment and fundraiser. The auction raised over \$1400 toward defraying costs of the meeting and meals, which were provided free to IOIA members.



The light on the right emanates from our Canadian Members, who sat *en bloc*.



An Award All Her Own



Keynote Speaker Dr. Mark Winston

Dr. Mark Winston, FRSC Fellow, Morris J. Work Centre for Dialogue, and Professor of Biological Sciences, and world-known author and bee expert played devil's advocate. He said, "intense anti-GMO lobbying is bad for dialogue" and emphasized the importance of truly independent research. "Organic-pro research is as biased as industry-pro research". "I don't think GM crops are going to go away" ...expressed hope that "we can actually regulate them appropriately". "GM crops is one way to reduce pesticide use", noted the huge decrease in pesticide usage resulting from GM cotton...noting that a total of 1.2 Billion pounds of active pesticide ingredients are used annually on all crops." ...sees refugia technique for GMO BT crops as successful, but also shared data showing that there is less activity of bees and good insects in GM crops. He ended with an emphasis on the importance of a 'robust regulatory system'. É

Scenes from Vancouver, March 2005



Vancouver Advanced Training

By Lisa Pierce

In 2003, there were 3,317 certified organic farms in Canada. British Columbia (BC) is the province in Canada with the largest acreage and the most organic farms growing vegetables. British Columbia is also the province with the largest acreage and highest percentage of the total fruit acreage in Canada. As our bus 'tour guide', Anne Macey regaled us with these and other statistics she had prepared for Agriculture and Agri Food Canada as we drove through the streets of Vancouver and into the Fraser Valley. Our destination: **Bradner Farms** – Day 1 site of the IOIA Advanced Organic Inspector Training, held March 17-18, 2005. The field trip was the inspiration of board member Jack Reams who believed that we could not have a group of organic inspectors visit the area without seeing this impressive operation. Jack's instincts proved right as participants experienced what many would refer to as 'one of our best Advanced trainings ever.' **Rob and Pat Donaldson**, owners of Bradner Farms proved to be gracious and generous hosts, providing participants with complete farm access and answers to numerous questions, not to mention sunshine and barbecued organic chicken for lunch. Bradner Farms is the largest dairy operation in BC with 408 milking cows and pasture, grass silage, and hay on 800 acres. Participants also visited the onsite feed mill and 11,000 layer operation.



Jack Reams, Lisa Pierce and Rob Donaldson



Look familiar?

stocking density). Output based standards describe the actual welfare of the animals (e.g., incidence of disease or injurious behaviours) We explored how we might develop verifiable indicators of animal welfare in the field by focusing specifically on lameness in dairy cattle. **Frances Flower** and **Sophie Neveux**, graduates of Animal Welfare Program at University of British Columbia gave a dynamic presentation using video clips of walking dairy cows (side and front views).

Guest speakers in the afternoon included **Joan MacIntosh**, a retired farmer and animal nutritionist who gave an introductory session on animal nutrition and put us to work calculating feed rations. **Peter Stockdale**, a farmer and retired veterinarian gave us a unique 'ecological' perspective on parasite control by demonstrating how observations in the 'wild' can be used as a model for developing controls for domesticated animals using sheep as an example.

The course was preceded by a half day Organic Livestock Standards Workshop for 18 participants. Margaret Scoles gave a review of NOP Livestock Standards with lots of lively discussion. Janine Gibson updated the group on the latest developments with the Canadian national organic standards. One notable difference between the Canadian and US standards is greater leniency in the use of antibiotics for livestock in Canada. É

Inspectors take photos of the strangest things.

This one is demonstrating access to outdoors for chickens. You would also enjoy the photos that didn't make it into this issue (egg sorting, milking parlor, feed labels, tractors – all the usual great stuff!). ó ó ó



ED, from page 5

expect to have their NOP audits include trips to other sites outside the US where they operate, although not all sites will be visited. The cost of audits will go up. AMS auditors have proposed \$108/hr.

3. Better control/distribution of policy statements- rather than Q&A's on the website, controlled distribution to all ACAs.
4. Sunset docket should go to Federal Register very soon. Crops/Process Materials dockets will take longer, Livestock Materials probably even longer.



Take-aways: Great progress with training developments in Morocco and an autographed copy of *The Cooperative Grocer* p. 10-12, "Harvey Case Tests National Organic Program". Some who stopped were fairly intense. My opinion? Those most unhappy about the decision were those who 1) have got lots more work to do in an already overextended industry (which is a lot of us) or, 2) had a strong sense of ownership in the original rules, the NOSB work, and the status quo (also many of us).

Maarten taught me to ride the city buses (a long-time goal). We had a beer at the O'Hare Airport while we congratulated ourselves on the success of sticking with public transportation for the entire trip. It is amazing how far \$2 will take you. 🚌



Arthur Harvey, Holly Born of NCAT, and inspector Kathy Turner at the IOIA booth, ATO Chicago. Holly is holding a sign that reads 'Meet Arthur Harvey!'



Maarten Samsom visits with an attendee at the ATO show in Chicago.

IOIA 2006 AGM to be held in conjunction with the 17th Annual Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference

IOIA's 2006 AGM will be held February 23 in La Crosse, Wisconsin. See page 3 of this issue for more details.

The Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference (UMOFC) will be held February 23-25, 2006

The 2006 conference will have more than 130 exhibitors, over 45 workshops, and features organic food and massive networking opportunities.

The 2005 UMOFC attracted more than 1800 people, including farmers, educators, students, government workers, and others interested in organic agriculture. For more info on the 2006 UMOFC, go to: www.mosesorganic.org

New Mexico Training

Thirty participants from the US, Canada, and Korea attended Organic Farm Inspector Training and 28 attended Organic Process Training at the Springhill Suites Marriott in balmy Las Cruces, New Mexico on April 6-13. This training was developed in collaboration with the New Mexico Organic Commodity Commission. Trainers were Luis Brenes and Harriet Behar. Watch our next issue for more details.



Regulations Move Ahead

CAN/CGSB 32.210-05 (Regulation Proposed by the CFIA under the CAP act)

Organic regulation in Canada is moving toward reality. However, there are still no national regulations for organic in Canada. There were significant 'no' votes (about 1/4) on the last ballot on March 7, many of those registered because the standard is still voluntary. Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is overseeing implementation of organic regulations, through the Organic Task Force (OTF), which was formed in November 2004. Joe Southall, Director of the Commercial Affairs Directorate of the CFIA, serves as Director of the Organic Task Force. Southall and his team have met with at least 200 individuals from 60 organic organizations, in 80 meetings across Canada.

Lisa Pierce, IOIA International Training Manager, has been invited to the Training Sub-Committee of the OTF and will represent IOIA. Joe Southall announced the invitation to members of this committee in early May. Other IOIA members invited to serve on this Committee are **Janine Gibson**, **Garry Lean**, and **Monique Scholz**. The first meeting of this Sub-Committee is scheduled for Winnipeg on June 8-9.

A delegation from the Canadian Organic Sector met with Minister of Agriculture Andy Mitchell in Ottawa on April 21. The minister said that the process must be consensual as the regulation is developed and spoke positively of the growth in the organic industry. He concluded their meeting, according to a report from Paddy Doherty, Canadian Organic Initiative Coordinator for BC, with the encouraging statement, "My ministry is determined to work with you and see this regulation through until it bears fruit".

Janine Gibson presented a comparison of the USDA 7CFR Part 205 (NOP) and the Canadian standard at the IOIA training in BC in March. Janine is President of Canadian Organic Growers and also serves as current Chair of the IOIA Canadian and Training Committees. CAN/CGSB 32.210-05 is organized in a significantly different format than the US regulation, with three sections: Part 1. General Principles, Part 2. Guidance, and Permitted Substances. Part 1 will become

"We are called to assist the earth, to heal her wounds and in the process heal her own--indeed, to embrace the whole creation in all its diversity, beauty, and wonder".

Wangari Maathai, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for her work with the women of the Green Belt Movement (www.greenbeltmovement.org). She is the first environmentalist and the first African woman to receive the prize.

regulation (COS for Canadian Organic Standard, analogous to NOP) but changes to Part 2 will be less difficult. Part 2 Guidance would not be regulation but would more likely appear in the form of a COS user manual. The standard resembles the EU regulation. Guidance sections are more detailed and prescriptive than the NOP rules. The proposed COS does not include exemptions for small producers as the NOP does. Certification will be required for anyone who sells organic. Retailers will not be required to be certified. The regulation will not apply to personal care products, fiber, lawn care products, or pet food.

Southall has said that IOIA training alone will not be adequate for organic inspectors in Canada. He has indicated, however, that existing inspectors will be grandfathered in, as the requirements are set for organic inspectors.

There are currently 5 Accrediting bodies in Canada. These are the Standards Council of Canada, COABC (BC), CACQ (Quebec); IOAS; and USDA NOP. The government of Canada will be the competent authority. If a province chooses to be the competent authority, their regulations can supersede the federal regulation in all areas except health.

Estimated annual budget for the Canadian organic program is over \$1 million. Full implementation is expected to take 2 years.

Progress could be affected by other politics in Canada. If a federal election is called, all legislation before a minister is put on hold. This could cause a delay of months.

Acknowledgements: Information was drawn from a variety of sources, but primarily from the Canadian Organic Initiative Project Progress Report for April 2005. Paddy Doherty, COI Coordinator for BC

Coup to Allow Terminator Tech Narrowly Squelched at UN Meeting

A Canadian government proposal to unleash Terminator was leaked to the ETC Group (formerly known as RAFI) on the first day of a UN meeting in Bangkok, February 7-11. The news stunned farmers' organizations, government delegations, and civil society worldwide. Ottawa's instructions to the Canadian delegation in Bangkok called for an all-out push for field-testing and commercialisation of sterile seed technologies, effectively undoing the precautionary, de facto moratorium on Terminator seeds adopted by governments in 1998. Even worse, the Canadian delegation was instructed to "block consensus" by governments attending the meeting if it didn't get its way.

After being swamped by protest emails and letters, the Canadian government was forced to soften its public position on Terminator, but continued to press a solidly pro-Terminator view.

Canada was not working alone in Bangkok. The UN meeting was full with representatives from the biotech industry and related trade groups who lobbied against current restrictions on the development of suicide seeds. New Zealand and Australia also backed the position of industry and Canada, while a fleet of US government representatives observed from the sidelines. (The US government is not a Party to the Biodiversity Convention.)

Thankfully, disaster was averted due to key interventions by the governments of Norway, Sweden, Austria, the European Community, Cuba, Peru and Liberia, on behalf of the African Group.

The good news is that these governments managed to delete the most offensive wording. The final text and recommendations reaffirm earlier decisions, amounting to a continuing, but fragile, de facto moratorium on Terminator. The issue now bounces to another CBD advisory body (the Working Group on 8(j)) in March 2006.



WATCH YOUR INSPECTION FEES!

By Maarten Samsom

(with help from Drew Stuckey)

Many of our IOIA members are still setting their inspection fees thinking that inspection needs to be cheap, because the small organic farmers are not making much money. This last thing might be true, but on the other hand, farmers in the Northeastern quadrant of the US can get 75% or \$500 of their certification costs reimbursed through their State Departments of Agriculture. So the argument there loses validity.

We must all recognize the importance of continuing to raise the competence and knowledge of IOIA inspectors. IOIA needs to continue to be a Professional Organization that cares for the needs of its membership, and for the needs of the organic industry. Commonly, professional organizations charge annual membership fees on the order of a dollar a day.

On top of that, I see an increased need for improved advanced training. More and more food processors want a piece of the organic market and many of them do not have a clue about organic compliance. Others arrive on the scene with vast experience (more than their organic inspectors and certifiers have) with government regulatory systems and how to 'work' them. This requires a whole new level of inspector knowledge and competence and often a different approach to organic auditing.

IOIA has done a good job in training inspectors, but this is a new time and new attitudes and varying knowledge levels amongst applicants requires different kinds of training. And that training will not be cheap. I would like to be trained to be able to do a good auditing job in those situations. That kind of training can require external specialists and greater training and curriculum development work for IOIA. And thus, higher training fees.

What I am asking my colleague inspectors to do is to consider to raise their fees as much as they can with the sole purpose to have enough money left at the end of the season to pay a serious annual membership fee to the IOIA (\$200.00 and up) and have about \$2000.00 left for a 2 or 3 day advanced training. Consider participating in IOIA's dues 'Assessment' program, whereby members donate to IOIA one dollar for each inspection they have done during the year.

We really need to come out of this poverty consciousness. I have used the following example in the past and I'll do it again. There is no farmer who goes mid-season to the John Deere dealer asking him to lower the shop rate from \$65.00/hr, because the farmer is not making money. Likewise it should not be an argument that the inspector works for rates that do not enable him or her to afford to be trained and re-trained. In the early days of organic certification and inspection it was understandable that we were part of doing things cheaply. But now we are entering a new era, where the organic production and processing are becoming mainstream and more economically viable and we need to work on being more professional and better trained to keep up with a still rapidly growing and changing regulatory environment. IOIA and its trained inspector members have been an engine of growth and credibility for the organic economy since we started. We must continue to provide inspectors with a level of competence and knowledge that inspires and leads the way or IOIA will begin to decline in importance and value. IOIA was from its inception based on enormous volunteerism. The creation of professional training programs cannot be expected to continue to come from volunteerism only. The IOIA needs to be able to charge members for sufficiently professional trainings with outside hired instructors and devote the necessary resources to in-house curriculum development. This process can only start with improved inspection fees, membership fees and training fees. Consider to be part of this development wherever you can. I know that many certifiers live in the 'low-cost is the first priority' paradigm. And I understand that you will not always be able to set your rate higher. However there are at times openings when you can. Use those openings. Recently a certifier asked me to do a farm inspection for \$200.00. I politely replied that I would be glad to do the inspection for \$450.00. Guess what? I received the file two weeks later.

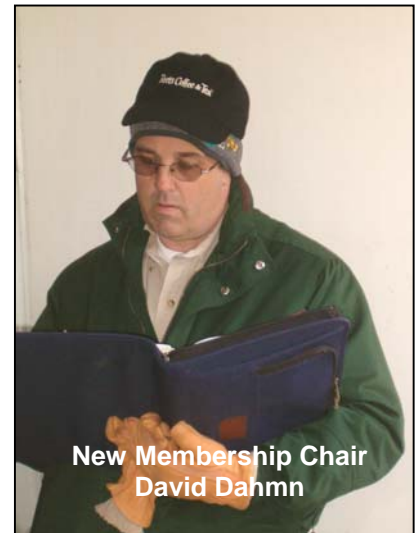
I am very much in favor of competition. And I also watch that apples are not compared with oranges. As IOIA prepares to improve its trainings, I prepare to be able to pay for those improved trainings. Consider to join me in this direction. Please feel free always to comment and debate these ideas by email

(maartsam@together.net) or telephone (802 578 5407)

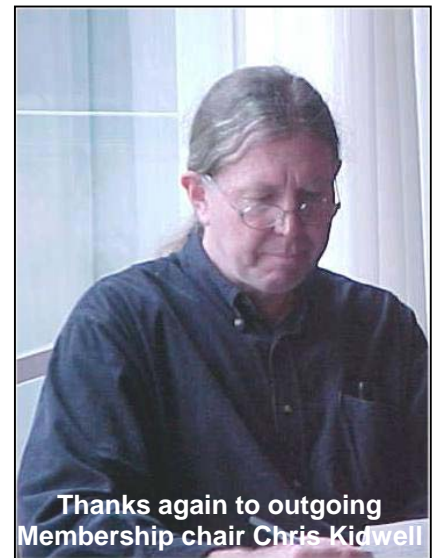
Thanks for thinking about this. É

New Membership Chair

IOIA Welcomes **David Dahmen** as new Chair of the Membership Committee. David joined IOIA in 2000 and is an independent inspector for several certification agencies. David has been a committee member for several years and steps in to replace outgoing Chair **Chris Kidwell**. IOIA would like to thank Chris for the great job he has done in the past 2 years as membership chair.



New Membership Chair
David Dahmn



Thanks again to outgoing
Membership chair Chris Kidwell

Membership Note:

IOIA currently has 332 Members (224 Inspector Members and 108 Supporting Members). This reflects an increase of over 10% since January.

SECTOR NEWS

Mathews Out as NOP Head

Richard Mathews, the controversial head of the NOP, is out and Barbara Robinson, the AMS exec who oversees the NOP, is temporarily filling the job.

Mathews was giving a lateral promotion by Robinson to be director of the AMS Transportation Branch on April 4. Mathews came to the NOP in 1997 and took over as program manager for Keith Jones in 1998. Robinson, who is deputy administrator for transportation and marketing programs, said candidates will be solicited for the top NOP job, but she did not know when that would happen.

Jim Riddle, chairman of the National Organic Standards Board, said "This important position needs to be filled as quickly as possible, and it should be someone who fully supports and understands the organic program."

Mathews has been the center of controversy because of friction with the NOSB and the industry in the past year. In April, 2004, he and Robinson set off a storm of controversy when they issued 'scope documents' that rescinded previous policy statements that encouraged the industry to develop products in beauty care, pet food, aquatics, manure, soil amendments, and mushrooms.

The NOSB and the Organic Trade Assn was angered that Mathews had not informed them of the controversial policy changes before releasing them. At the May 2004 NOSB meeting, the NOSB and people who attended the meeting were upset with Mathews and Robinson, who sat in the back of the room or left the room on several occasions and would not communicate with the board. Mathews also came under fire from the NOSB for approving two synthetics, sodium lactate and potassium lactate, for Applegate Farms without going through the board.

Perhaps the most controversial situation was Mathew's decision to allow The Country hen to be certified as an organic egg producer even though the chickens were not given outdoor access, saying that the porches built on the barn would be sufficient to comply with outdoor access requirements. USDA administrative judges upheld Mathew's decision but the issue remains a bone of contention with certifiers.

With Robinson's time divided now with several other duties, delays are being experienced in many workload areas.

Most NOP staffers are currently working on reviewing the Freedom of Information Act request that was filed by the Center for Food Safety (relates to lack of oversight in accreditation process). Consequently, all NOSB work and many Federal Register actions are backlogged. The organic sector is pulling for Mark Bradley to replace Mathews. Inspectors will recall that Bradley was a key speaker at our Orangeville training in 2000. Bradley is currently the Accreditation manager for the NOP and has historically been friendly to the organic sector and has good communication skills. Bradley apparently is not interested in the job, according to Margaret Scoles, ED of IOIA, who spoke with him at the recent All Things Organic show in Chicago.

NOP Prohibits Organic Certification of Personal Care Products

The National Organic Program (NOP) posted a statement March 10 in response to NOSB recommendations on various provisions that had been raised by NOP a year ago. Included are such issues as using fishmeal as feed additives, inerts in pesticide formulations, origin of livestock, antibiotics, and the scope of NOP. Included was a statement prohibiting the certification of personal care products to NOP organic standards. Private certification is allowed, but no personal care product may be certified to the NOP standard or carry the USDA seal. Organic ingredients may be identified, and truthful front-panel claims, such as the percentage of organic ingredients, may be made. See www.ams.usda.gov/nop/NOP/PolicyStatements/USDANOSBFeedback3_10_05.pdf

Johanns Announces Expansion of BSE Research

On March 18, Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced that almost \$2 million in funding has been redirected to enhance research on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and that \$5 million has been awarded to 17 colleges and universities to establish a Food Safety Research and Response Network.

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2005/050318.2.htm>

Bouvier Elected to OTA Board

Congratulations to Helene Bouvier, IOIA Inspector member, on her election to the OTA Board of Directors.

U.S. hiding BSE, says whistle blower

Dr. Lester Friedlander, a former American-government packing plant veterinarian, was cited as saying Wednesday that the United States is hiding cases of mad cow disease and that colleagues with the United States Department of Agriculture have told him of cases that the USDA has chosen not to announce.

The story says that Friedlander, who has been invited to speak to Parliament's agriculture committee next week on proposed changes to Canadian inspection legislation, refused to give details. He said the USDA employees are close to retirement and risk losing their pensions.

He has previously spoken out, however, about a Texas cow that had mad cow symptoms and went untested to a rendering plant after a USDA veterinarian condemned it at a packing plant in San Angelo. Friedlander was quoted as saying in an interview during a speaking visit to Edmonton that, "You've found four cases (including a cow from Alberta discovered in Washington State with the disease) out of 12 million cattle and the United States has found none out of 120 million" adding that production practices in the two countries are similar enough that the USDA should be finding more BSE.

Friedlander was in charge of meat inspectors at the largest U.S. culled-cow packing plant, in Pennsylvania, until 1995. He lost his job for, in his words, "doing too good a job." He has since become a public speaker on food and animal safety issues. He was in Edmonton as a guest of the Edmonton Friends of the North Environmental Society.

Friedlander was further cited as saying USDA's record looks worse than the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's but Canada needs a new "consumer" agency to oversee packing plant inspections, and that the USDA and CFIA both suffer from having too much influence from politicians eager to please the food industry.

His proposed consumer agency would be a government body but would have more safeguards against political influence.

Marc Richard, speaking from Ottawa for the CFIA, was cited as saying the agency enforces rules set by Parliament and does its job well and that it reports to Agriculture Minister Andy Mitchell, and a replacement government agency would have to do the same. [continued page 13]

Friedlander also warned against intensive livestock operations such as cattle feedlots and large hog operations. He said they're ideal breeding grounds for bacteria and disease, and authorities have tended to react slowly when there's an outbreak.

John Feddes, an agricultural engineer at the University of Alberta, was cited as saying the province's confined feeding operations are generally run well, under stringent rules, adding, "Just because they're large doesn't mean they're going to be out of control."

Dr. Gerald Ollis, Alberta Agriculture's chief veterinarian, was cited as saying confined feeding operations tend to have well-educated people in charge and are big enough that they can have vets visit more often than at smaller farms.

*Duncan Thorne, The Leader-Post (Regina)
April 7, 2005*

USDA Seeks Nominations for NOSB

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking nominations to fill six upcoming vacancies on the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns will appoint persons to serve five-year terms of office to commence Jan. 24, 2006, and run until Jan. 24, 2011.

The NOSB is a 15-member board responsible for developing and recommending to the Secretary a proposed National List of Approved and Prohibited Substances, as required by the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990. The National List identifies synthetic substances that may be used, and the nonsynthetic substances that cannot be used, in organic production and handling operations. The NOSB also advises the Secretary on other aspects of the National Organic Program.

USDA is asking for nominations to fill the following six upcoming NOSB vacancies: organic producer (two positions), consumer/public interest (three positions), and USDA accredited certifying agent (one position).

To serve on the NOSB, an individual must be an owner or operator of an organic production operation, an individual who represents public interest or consumer interest groups or an individual who is a USDA accredited organic certifying agent. USDA will follow equal opportunity practices in all appointments to the NOSB.

Written nominations, accompanied by resumes, must be postmarked on or before July 15, 2005, and sent to Katherine E. Benham, Advisory Board Specialist, National Organic Program, USDA-AMS-TMP-NOP, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Room 4008-S, Mail Stop 0268, Washington, DC 20250. For more information, contact Katherine Benham at (202) 205-7806 or fax: (202) 205-7808; e-mail: Katherine.benham@usda.gov; Outgoing members are Dave Carter, George Siemon, Goldie Caughlin, Rose Koenig, and Jim Riddle. They will end their terms next January. Ann Cooper resigned earlier this year. Rather than fill the 2 years remaining, the NOP decided to add her seat to this round, meaning that six seats are open for full 5-year terms.

New appointees will serve from Jan 24, 2006 to Jan 24, 2011. NOSB members cannot serve consecutive terms.

QAI & CID Collaborate

On 8 March 2005, Quality Assurance Insurance (QAI) and CERT ID (CID) announced their joint decision to collaborate and offer a combined organic and non-genetically modified organisms (non-GMOs) certification.

According to their joint press release, the organic industry is the fastest growing food market sector. Concern about GMOs continues to be strong in Europe, Japan, Korea and Brazil, with labelling laws being enforced in 42 countries and planned in an additional 27 countries. Combination of the two services will offer companies the opportunity to meet the demands for both organic and non-GMO certification and the convenience of one inspection. Cert ID founded in 1998 as a wholly owned subsidiary of GeneticID, provides third party auditing, inspections, and certification programmes, including GMO regulatory compliance, meat traceability and trait preservation. It is based in the USA with offices in the UK, Brazil, Japan, and Germany.

Wave of the Future?

e-Cert is an innovative multifunctional software for use in inspection and certification management. The software introduces a new standard of reliable inspection and certification procedures for safer food worldwide. Brought to you by Franz Rauch & Gerald A. Herrmann. From their website www.e-cert.net -

"The inspection process is conducted in a completely paperless form by means

of lap-top or tablet PCs. The inspection is followed by the production of a report which is sent to the certifying organisation. Back in the office again the data is synchronised automatically. This means that the inspectors always have the most up-to-date data to hand and can fully prepare themselves for the inspections by accessing data archives [inspection reports, correspondence, certificates etc.]. This enhances the competence of the inspectors and the inspecting and certifying point."

You can check out the software and sign up for the *e-Cert* Newsletter thru the website.

Judge Rules USDA Must Comply with FOIA

A federal judge recently ruled that the USDA has to comply with a Freedom of Information Act request filed by the Center for Food Safety (CFS). The court told the agency that it could not charge CFS for the documents that were requested. The FOIA request aims to gather information about USDA's oversight and assessment of the qualifications of new organic certifiers seeking accreditation and the concern that "sham" certifiers being allowed into the program. Appropriate certification of organic farms is the fundamental enforcement mechanism of organic food standards.

Fueling public concern over a reduction in the integrity of the new "organic" label is the appearance of numerous new, previously unknown certifying agents applying to the USDA for accreditation. Since 2000, the number of organic certifying agents has jumped from 49 to over 120.

European Patent Office Rejects Neem Tree Patent

The European Patent Office in Munich has upheld objections from the Green Group in the European Parliament to a patent granted in 1994 to the transnational W.R. Grace company and the US Department of Agriculture for a claimed invention of the fungicidal properties of the Indian Neem tree. The Examining Division held that the technique used was well-known to local farmers, lacked any inventive step and that such indigenous knowledge could therefore not be patented.

The case was brought in the name of Magda Aelvoet, at [see *Neem*, page 17]

MINUTES - Board of Directors – Please Note: These are *seriously abbreviated* minutes – for full minutes please go to the Members Only section of the IOIA website, under ‘2005’.

Full Board Conference Call, January 20, 2005

Board and Staff Members Present Ann Baier, Luis Brenes, John Foster, Garry Lean, Brian Magaro, Jack Reams, and Margaret Scoles (staff)

Agenda Item #1 Agenda Motion wording: The agenda was approved as written above. Endorse: All

Agenda Item #2 Secretary's Report a. Approval of Minutes from Dec 16, 2004

Action Point: · Every Board member please review the final version of the minutes from December 16, 2004 and respond by email to Ann no later than February 1, 2005 to affirm that appropriate changes have been accurately incorporated in this final version. Approval of these minutes is pending final board review.

Agenda Item #3 Treasurer's Report: a. Financial Report for 2004 b. Budget for 2005

Discussion: As has been previously done, the BOD should highlight the major reasons for the negative balance in this year's budget. While this year's expenses exceeded income by about ten thousand dollars, next year we will have a new revenue source-the Southern Organic RMA collaborative project with NCAT. Upon completion of the RMA grant IOIA will receive \$49,000. In order to complete the work on this grant, staff will need to maximize their efficiency in accomplishing office work. This has possible implications for scheduling office work staff availability to answer phones.

Action Point: · Margaret and Jack will, in 4-5 sentences, summarize the differences between anticipated and actual expenses.

Agenda Item #4 Long-range Planning: Continuation of Action Point and Action Plan for 2005

a. Summary Report Update - **Discussion:** Luis reported that he is still working on the document, but that he sent out a draft this afternoon. Training is the main product we sell. As is reinforced by the draft business plan that Jack wrote, we need to increase sales of training products.

Action Point:· All BOD members please send Luis comments (3-5 sentences) by next week on what he sent out this afternoon.

Action Point: · Margaret will express the BOD's appreciation for the work Harriet has done as a volunteer to date. Margaret will explore and facilitate a contract for her future editing work to assist Lisa, as negotiated with approval from the Board Chair and Treasurer.

Agenda Item #5 Guelph Organic Conference a. CFIA communications:

Agenda Item #6 Member Request: OTA-IOIA Communications

Agenda Item #7 AGM Issues: Nominations Committee Report

Action Point: · Brian (Chair) will send thanks on behalf of the Board to the Nominating Committee for their work.

Agenda Item #8 ED/TM Report

4. RMA Collaborative Agreement with NCAT is becoming top priority. Margaret asked BOD members if any have time to invest. Brian might have some time in February. We will need to contract for some assistance. Questionnaires from inspectors have all been copied and sent to NCAT for tabulation and analysis. Response was good. Twenty-seven IOIA Inspector Members of the 210 completed the Questionnaire. This represents 12.8% of the total IOIA membership. Respondents included USA: 22 (16% of the 138 US Members); Canada: 4 (7.6% of the 52 Canadian Members); and Other (United Kingdom):1(5% of the 20 non-US/Canada members). Six of those completing the survey indicated some experience in the region and a desire to participate further in the project. IOIA has only 2 Inspector Members in the 5 target states. Next steps are to organize volunteers, interview inspectors with experience in the region by phone, identify producers for interviews, and issue contracts for completing the work.

Training Manager Report:

Agenda Item #9 Adjournment

MINUTES - Board of Directors / Full Board Conference Call, February 17, 2005

Board and Staff Members Present Ann Baier, Dag Falck, John Foster, Garry Lean, Brian Magaro, Jack Reams, and Margaret Scoles (staff)

Agenda Item 1: Agenda

Discussion about when to call in an alternate: Last meeting Luis was unable to participate in the call. Because his communication prior to that meeting indicated that he was uncertain whether or not he would be able to be present at this meeting, Brian did not call for an alternate to serve at that meeting. He asked for the following clarification of procedures for the future.

Action Point: If a Board member is unable to attend a meeting, it is requested that they state clearly that they will not be able to be in attendance.

Agenda Item 2: Secretary's Report

Agenda Item 3. NOP-OTA Harvey vs Veneman

John presented some highlights from the recent OTA member conference call that discussed the recent ruling on the Harvey vs. Veneman lawsuit by the First Circuit Court. IOIA received an invitation to participate, and Margaret and Dag were also on the call. Barbara Robinson and Keith Jones represented USDA NOP on the call.

Action Point: Margaret should send a letter to ACAs requesting that IOIA be notified of any procedural changes

Agenda Item 4: ED Report

Agenda Item 5: Annual Report. Thanks to Brian for preparing and presenting the Annual Report. This will be posted on the IOIA website.

Agenda Item 6 Long-range Planning: Continuation of Action Point and Action Plan for 2005

a. Summary Report Update

Agenda Item #7 Treasurer's Report

a. Budget for 2005. Motion: Increase the Executive Director's salary with a three percent raise plus a two percent bonus at the end of the year pending the availability of funds. Endorse: All

Agenda Item 8: AGM Issues

Agenda Item 9 Adjournment

MINUTES - Board of Directors/Full Board Conference Call, February 22, 2005

Board and Staff Members Present Ann Baier, Luis Brenes, Dag Falck, John Foster, Garry Lean, Brian Magaro, Jack Reams, and Margaret Scoles

Agenda Item 1: Agenda

Agenda Item 2: AGM Details

Agenda Item 3: NASOP training update, ATO Chicago

Agenda Item 4: Implementation of First Alternate Bylaw

Background: At least 2 decisions need to be made. The first could be deferred to the Nominations Committee, maybe. But the 2nd is clearly a BOD decision. (1) How to handle the Position of First Alternate. The Bylaws specify staggered terms for the First and Second Alternate, and that only 1 will be elected at each AGM, which prevents the Second Alternate from running as First Alternate. However, either one could readily run for the BOD when their term expires. At the last AGM, the membership supported one year implementation time. Ann Lameka is available to attend the AGM. She plans to attend and would appreciate travel support (driving from Oregon) but is committed to come whether or not her travel is reimbursed.

(2) How much (if any) of the Travel/Lodging Expenses for Alternates will be paid?

Motion: The BOD decided that travel expenses to and from the 2005 AGM and lodging/meals be paid for the person designated as First Alternate. The First Alternate is covered at the same compensation level as all BOD members (refer to Policy Manual), as long as it is the obligation of the First Alternate to participate in all BOD meetings and AGM.

Endorse: All still present on the call (Dag, John, Brian, Garry)

Agenda Item #5: BOD Agenda for Vancouver. Long-range Planning and Training are two key agenda items for the post-AGM agenda.

Action Point: All BOD: Develop post-AGM meeting agenda by Email.

Agenda Item 6: CSREES Grant Proposal. Brian adjourned the meeting at 10:05 PM EST.

MINUTES - Board of Directors/Full Board, Granville Island Hotel, British Columbia March 20-21, 2005

Board Members present: Jack Reams, John Foster, Garry Lean, Ann Baier, Luis Brenes, Brian Magaro, Marina Buchan

Others present: Chris Kidwell a.m., Ann Lameka, Margaret Scoles (staff), Lisa Pierce (staff), Diane Cooner (staff)

Agenda Item # 1. Approve Agenda

Agenda Item #2. Define Board Structure

Wording: The Board elects the following: Brian Magaro remain as Chair, Garry Lean remain as Vice Chair, Jack Reams remain as Treasurer, Marina Buchan as Secretary and John Foster as the Executive Committee Member at Large. Endorse: All

Agenda Item #3 IOIA Summary Report

Luis began his presentation with information about what services the members have requested. Some of these were better pay, better working conditions, insurance, ability to have questions answered without always going to the certifier. He pointed out the problem that the total world of inspectors is still small, estimating maybe 1000 in the world and of the approximately 500 in North America only 40 are full time. This severely limits what members are willing to pay in membership fees. Brian stated the answer to the problem is to put pressure on the NOP to define qualification of inspectors. Luis continued, stating that there is conflict when the Inspector takes the Basic Training and gets a job. We complain that we need good inspectors but the certifiers are satisfied with the lower cost of 'new' inspectors.

Agenda Item # 4. Staff. Lisa Pierce presented information about her job as International Training Manager. She provided us with a document describing her responsibilities and a flow chart of procedures. She felt that her position is misunderstood because some skills that she was hired for are not in her job description. As administrator of trainings managed by a co-sponsor and also chair of the Training CAPS (Curriculum and Program Subcommittee) committee (a volunteer position) Lisa became aware that IOIA needed a procedures manual. This additional work was a separate contract. She did develop the manual but it was considerably more work than she anticipated.

b. International Training Manager, Canadian Office:

The only Canadian office is currently at Lisa's home in British Columbia. Lisa is interested in international Community Development work. This would include inspector training as part of Community Development. She would like the BOD to expand her mandate in this direction. Lisa's view of the IOIA training program strategy is that the procedures be developed first, then the curriculum. She expects to have the procedures completed by the end of April and she is willing to renew her current ITM contract for another year.

Discussion: The BOD recognized that any Community Development initiatives must be treated as a business and that IOIA must realize economic benefits of this work.

Agenda Item #5 Training Presentations

a. ITM Training

b. TM Training Program

c. Training Committee Report

d. Distance Learning, Assiniboine Community College

Ted Eastley, PAG, provided an overview of the organic agriculture programs at the College. He gave us a copy of the Manual (binder) of materials used in the College's organic Inspector Training Program. He explained that the College has been offering two certificate programs (organic agriculture certificate and organic inspector certificate) in organic agriculture for over 5 years. He described the delivery model along with a handout. The college has tried to take the programs to the community for greater accessibility. As well they collaborate with other institutions to develop programs for regional relativity. The organic agriculture programs consist of a six-week home study component with access to the instructor by phone and e-mail, and 2.5 days of on site instruction at the College and a farm visit.

Ted proposed as food for thought a model that would include single point registration through Assiniboine College, subcontract a regional farm visit, farm out coordination of meals etc., use cooperative regional colleges with a minimum of 11 to a maximum of 15 students per inspector training course. He also presented a Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis for the model. He explained that he had previously completed a 4-year program to teach development of curriculum in Africa.

e. Oversight of Training

f. Professional Development

g. Curriculum

5:45 p.m. Break until the next morning at 8:30 a.m.

More Minutes on page 16 ö ö ö

IOIA Board of Directors Meeting continued Monday, March 21, 2005

Board and Staff members present: Brian Magaro, Ann Baier, John Foster, Garry Lean, Jack Reams, Luis Brenes, Marina Buchan, Ann Lameka and staff Margaret Scoles, Lisa Pierce, Diane Cooner.

Additions to Agenda: IOIA Display

Discussion: Margaret suggested that two people are needed at the Trade Show table.

Agenda Item #6 Long Range Planning

Action Point: The Board needs to approve February Board minutes by e-mail. Ann will have them out by next Monday and the Board needs to respond in two weeks. Reminders to the Board: Please reinstate BOD at the beginning of the subject line of the email.

Action Point: It was agreed that the BOD meeting agendas will be set prior to the meeting and be sent to the whole Board so members can participate if they wish. The governance meeting will occur ½ hour prior to the whole Board meeting.

d. Planning for the Future

Discussion: The BOD noted that they need to have a strategic planning meeting every 5 years, as laid down in the foundation of the LaVeta retreat in 2000. Jack noted that financial support for a retreat would have to come from reserves.

Action Points: The Board will meet on June 3, 4, and 5 near Santa Cruz. (this was later postponed at the April 28 meeting.)

Additions to Agenda Items: Committees

Canadian Committee

Action Point: The Canadian Board members, Garry, Marina, Jack, possibly former BOD member, Dag Falk and staff member Lisa Pierce will meet and prepare a report for the next Board meeting.

End Notes: Brian suggests that each Board member pick a pet project.

Action Items: Luis chose planning and will work the items on the AGM members' response sheet into the planning of the strategic plan. Jack chose to create a pro forma of IOIA financial conditions. Ann will work with Luis. Brian will keep updated with individual projects. Garry will keep the Board apprised on the Canadian situation.

MINUTES - Board of Directors Full Conference Call, Date April 15, 2005

Board Members Present for the Executive Committee portion of the meeting: Garry Lean, Brian Magaro, Jack Reams, Marina Sixty Buchan and Margaret Scoles (staff).

Agenda Item #1 Approve Agenda

Agenda Item #2 Secretary's Report

a. Approval of Minutes from February 17 and 22 of 2005

b. Approval of minutes of March 20,21

Agenda Item # 3 Committees

a. Membership Committee Chair

Discussion: It was noted that Chris Kidwell recommended accepting David Dahmen as the new membership Committee Chair.

Endorsement by the BOD was unanimous.

b. Canadian Committee

Garry reported that in 2004 / 2005 the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Agriculture Canada sent a task force across Canada to gather information and inform stakeholders of the progress of the proposed Canadian Organic regulatory program. Garry said the new regime would have an emphasis on consistency in inspections and certification. The CFIA hopes to be ready with a Canadian regulatory program by the Fall of 2005. Dag emailed the BOD a list of his priorities for the emerging Canadian system.

Action Points: Garry will continue the conversation with the task force members and update the BOD during the next meeting.

Agenda Item #4 Executive Director Report

Brian closes the pre-Board portion of the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Board and Staff Members Present, Date April 14, 2005: Ann Baier, Luis Brenes, Garry Lean, Ann Lameka (Alternate) Brian Magaro, Jack Reams, Marina S. Buchan, Margaret Scoles (staff), Dag Falck (facilitator)

Agenda Item #5 - At 9:15 Brian welcomed the BOD members and facilitator, Dag Falck, to the meeting and then handed the meeting over to Dag to facilitate the Planning of the Strategic Plan. Dag reviewed his plan and suggested that there be three BOD phone meetings, one face to face meeting and at least one follow up phone meeting. Dag noted that he as the facilitator was in charge of the process and the participants were responsible for the content.

Action Points: The BOD agreed that Margaret and Ann Lameka are invited to fully participate in the planning sessions.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 8:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Savings Time

Agenda Item #6 Adjournment

Minutes from the April 28 meeting have not yet been approved – they will appear in our next issue.

Neem, from page 13

that time President of the Greens in the Parliament and now the Belgian Environment Minister, together with the Indian Research Foundation led by Vandana Shiva and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM). The Neem tree has been used for centuries by Indians for its medicinal insecticidal and contraceptive properties and is known locally as the 'free tree'. It is also venerated in the culture, religions, and literature of the region.

Green MEP Hiltrud Breyer (Germany) said "This action was brought to illustrate how the patent system is being abused by companies and even by governments from the North. Genetic resources, which are freely available in the South are being expropriated without reward or recognition for their traditional custodians. We have long warned of the iniquities of such licensed theft. This is Biopiracy at its crudest."

"We know of around 40 other Neem patent applications at various stages in the European Patent Office, and there are about 90 such patents world-wide" commented Paul Lannoye MEP (Belgium), Co-President of the Greens/EFA Group.

"At a time when national authorities are supposed to be transposing the EU Biotech. Patent Directive into law, there is renewed concern at the obvious defects in intellectual property rules and we must take this opportunity to protect genetic resources from such uncontrolled privatisation."

High Fuel Costs Jam Farmers

Unlike many other industries that can pass on their higher costs in higher prices, US farmers will likely be stuck this year picking up the tab for soaring petroleum costs. USDA says that farm income in the country is likely to fall by 15% over last year, but at the same time, petroleum costs will jump by 21% over two years ago. Gas and diesel for trucks and tractors are the obvious places where petroleum prices will pinch growers but irrigation pumps that run on diesel, wrapping costs if products like broccoli or cauliflower are wrapped in petroleum based products, trucking costs and, of course fertilizer and some pesticide costs, all related to the price of oil, will bite deeply into growers' bottom lines.

PCO Seeks Organic Transition Specialist

The Organic Transition Specialist will coordinate PCO's new-applicant program and "Focus on Organic Dairy" project.

Qualifications: Agricultural experience, preferably in dairy, (organic preferred, but not required); Bachelor's degree or equivalent; Knowledge of organic standards; Strong communication skills, both written and oral; Computer expertise: word processing, Power Point; spreadsheets, internet research, databases. Position is full-time with benefits. The specialist will work at our Centre Hall, PA, office. Some travel required.

For complete info or to apply for the position, contact:

Penny Sandoval
PCO Administrative Director
406. S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Centre Hall, PA 16828,
penny@paorganic.org

Lawsuits Over Pesticides, Herbicides Allowed

The makers of pesticides and weedkillers can be sued and forced to pay damages if their products cause harm, the Supreme Court ruled on April 27, rejecting the view of the Bush administration and reversing a series of lower courts.

The 7-2 ruling permits lawsuits by farmers whose crops are damaged by pesticides, as well as suits by consumers who are hurt by bug sprays.

In its first ruling on the scope of the 1972 federal law regulating pesticides and related chemicals, the justices said the requirement that chemical companies submit their products for approval by the Environmental Protection Agency did not "give pesticide manufacturers virtual immunity" from being sued if those products proved to be harmful to people, plants or animals.

The April 27 ruling restores the law to what it had been before the 1990s.

During most of the 20th century, Americans who were hurt or killed by toxic chemicals could sue the maker of the product in state court. But more recently, lawyers for the chemical industry convinced courts in much of the nation, including California, that the federal law regulating the pesticides barred such lawsuits in state courts.

By David G. Savage, Times Staff Writer, April 28, 2005

Before the Food Bubble Bursts

New research just published in the journal *Nature* shows that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions could have a more dramatic effect on climate than previously thought, and that average temperature could go up by 11C. But the journal does not tell us that the most immediate catastrophe we face under climate change may be the collapse of food production. It takes roughly 10 calories of energy to produce 1 calorie of food from field to plate, and industrial monocultures need 6 to 10 times more energy than sustainable farming methods. There are thus enormous potential energy savings in shifting to truly sustainable agriculture systems that include minimizing long distance transport, processing and packaging. These energy savings bring a host of other advantages, such as restoring autonomy to small family farmers, social and financial wealth to local rural communities, alleviating poverty, conserving biodiversity and maintaining and revitalizing indigenous cultures.

<http://www.i-sis.org.uk/>

OCIA Aims to Open New Offices in China & Europe

OCIA is investigating registration and accreditation in China with plans to open an office there as soon as possible and another in Europe by the end of 2005. In 2006, expansion is being planned to South America.

Store Wars: Now Online

OTA and Free Range Studios (creators of *The Matrix*) have launched a sci-fi supermarket saga, **Store Wars: The Organic Rebellion** (www.storewars.org), on the Internet. The five-minute Star Wars spoof features Cuke Skywalker, Princess Lettuce, Chewbroccoli and other organic rebels-played by real vegetables dressed as Star Wars characters-battling it out with Darth Tader, the evil lord of the Dark Side of the Farm. Store Wars is the latest outreach effort of OTA to educate consumers about the many benefits of organic products. By spoofing a pop culture phenomenon like Star Wars, OTA hopes to attract a new generation of organic consumers, especially "Gen Xers". The movie is intended to provide a light-hearted way for people to think about the choices they make at the grocery store.

Resources

University of California Organic Workgroup Symposium Proceedings

An important and high-quality research symposium on organic agriculture was held in July 2004 in Berkeley, Ca. by the UC's Organic Research Workgroup. (In conjunction with the California Conference on Biocontrol). The presentations included a large backlog of information from projects and experiments in California that had not previously been presented. <http://www.sarep.ucdavis.edu/Organic/CCBCfinal.pdf>, and information about the Workgroup is found at <http://www.sarep.ucdavis.edu/Organic/workgroup.htm>.

Launch of the new BFA website

The Biological Farmers of Australia has recently launched a new design of its website www.bfa.com.au which is a great asset to the organic industry, being the hub for all organic information for consumers, media, primary producers, certified businesses and all industry. The website is already the organic industry's most visited site which continues to grow since its launch. The new site design allows visitors to navigate more easily as well as features many new sections.

Online Tool Allows Comparisons of Conventional and Organic Farming

The New Farm Web site now features an online economic modeling tool called FarmSelect that allows farmers to compare the economic returns of organic and conventional grain production. FarmSelect was designed by farmers, for farmers, and the program has been made as easy to use as possible. Farmers can enter their Zip Code, the crops they'd like to compare and the acreage. The program fills in the rest with historical data derived from the USDA and projections from research conducted by The Rodale Institute®. Then FarmSelect shows a line-by-line comparison of the two systems so farmers can see just how they would stack up on their farm, in their own climate. The whole process takes less than a minute. <http://www.newfarm.org/farmselect/>

New Publication Documents Organic Trends Worldwide IFOAM, the Swiss Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL, and Foundation Ecology & Farming (SÖL), Germany, have published "The World of Organic Agriculture:

Statistics and Emerging Trends 2005." The study documents continued strong growth in the organic sector and shows that more than 26 million hectares of farmland representing an increase of almost 10% from the previous year are under organic management worldwide. In terms of organic land, Australia leads all countries with 11.3 million hectares, while the U.S. has the strongest market for organic products. The publication includes information on the status of organic agriculture on all continents, as well as information on global certification, standards, and regulations. The first two chapters of the report are available free online.

<http://www.ifoam.org/Organic-Agriculture-Statistics-2005-Chapters1&2.pdf>

Value-added Agriculture Web Site Redesigned AgMRC, the Agricultural Marketing Resource Center, has released a redesigned Web site with new content. In addition to reporting on AgMRC research, the site now features sections on Commodities and Products--such as Agri Tourism--and a section on the energy industry. Business development information is also offered. The center, administered by Iowa State University, is an electronic, national resource for producers interested in value-added agriculture. <http://www.agmrc.org/agmrc/>

"Certified Organic" The Status of the Canadian Organic Market in 2003 by Anne Macey is now available on Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Website:

http://www.agr.gc.ca/misb/hort/index_e.cfm?s1=org-bio&page=intro

Research Produces Garlic Bio-Pesticide Research funded by the USDA in Bangladesh has resulted in development of a garlic tablet that acts as a bio-pesticide, says Australia's ABC News. Inexpensive garlic tablets are dissolved in water to create a dip for seeds. Bahadur Meah, head of the Integrated Pest Management Laboratory, reports that "garlic-treated seeds have 95-100 percent germination as against 56-60 percent in untreated seeds." The practice offers an alternative to use of pesticides that can damage soil fertility.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200503/s1318076.htm>

IFOAM updates its website

IFOAM has re-launched its website with new graphics, new and hugely expanded content, new features like a bookstore, a training platform and an online application for membership. Its improved user friendliness results from a completely revised menu and contents, as well as from expanded services such as links and downloads. By re-launching its website, IFOAM presents its new public face to the world. Check it out at www.ifoam.org

Report Looks at Field Testing of Genetically Engineered Plants

A new report released by Environment Maine Research & Policy Center and Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association documents more than 47,000 field tests of genetically engineered crops authorized between 1987 and 2004, and highlights potential risks associated with the release of genetically engineered plants. As of January 2005, the states that have hosted the greatest number of field test sites are: Hawaii (5,413), Illinois (5,092), and Iowa (4,659). www.mofga.org/news20050415.html

OrganicAgInfo.org Website continues to grow One of the main results of the SCOAR project is the on-line database of research results, www.organicaginfo.org. This site is completely non-proprietary and has an excellent search engine organized by keywords, topics, crops and regions. The site relies on scientists and farmers to submit material for cataloguing.

Eating At Home Food travels thousands of miles before ending up on our plate. While traveling, the taste doesn't get any better. This globalization of the food supply has serious consequences for the environment, our health, our communities and our taste buds. A new movement is emerging to bring home the bacon, the bread and the vegetables—and to connect land, food and people. Read about it at: www.odemagazine.com/currentIssue.php

GM Watch Top Ten Book List The Feb 2005 edition of *The Ecologist* (Vol. 35, No.1), lists "top reads" on GM books. Includes Jeffrey M. Smith, *Seeds of Deception*; Andrew Rowell, *Don't Worry (It's Safe to Eat): The True Story of GM Food, BSE and Foot and Mouth*; Helena Paul and Ricarda Steinbrecher, *Hungry Corporations: Transnational Biotech Companies Colonise the Food Chain*.

New UCSAREP Compliance Guide

With organic produce now the fastest growing segment of agriculture, farmers and advisors are looking for accurate information about production and marketing. A new source of information is an online organic compliance handbook posted to the web site of the University of California Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SAREP). The online handbook is organized in seven sections, including the principles of organic agriculture, national organic standards, setting up organic production plans, materials, marketing and economics, and resources and organizations.

Project cooperators are UC SAREP, Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI), Washington State University Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, and New Mexico State University. The online handbook is posted at

<http://www.sarep.ucdavis.edu/organic/complianceguide/>

Information about SAREP is posted at <http://www.sarep.ucdavis.edu/Organic/index.htm>, which provides links to the national rules for organic farming, allowed inputs, and alternatives to pesticides and herbicides that cannot be used by organic growers. Questions may be directed to David Chaney, education coordinator for SAREP and federal Western Region SARE program representative at 530 754 8551; e-mail: DEChaney@UCDavis.edu

New Searchable Dbase on Revolving Door & Biotech

The Edmonds Institute has announced its "New Revolving Door", a searchable database about people who have worked in/for both government and industry, with emphasis on those connected to the biotechnology industry.

<http://www.edmonds-institute.org/newdoor.html>

New Eco Weed Control Bulletin

A new ecologically based weed control bulletin was written at Michigan State Univ. this winter. Extension bulletin E-2931, Integrated Weed Management "One Year's Seeding..." has arrived and can be purchased through the MSU bulletin office, www.emdc.msue.msu.edu. The cost for the publication is \$10.

Journal of Food Law & Policy The University of Arkansas School of Law has launched a new publication. *The Journal of Food Law & Policy* is the first student-edited law journal in the U.S. devoted exclusively to the study of food law and policy. The journal will be published twice a year. For more info, visit <http://law.uark.edu/student/orgs/foodlaw/index.htm>.

Avian Flu *There is an excellent article on Avian Flu in the Feb issue (v 16n1) of In Good Tilth.*

Be aware and practice biosafety when inspecting poultry operations.

New Organic Courses thru NS Ag College The Nova Scotia Agricultural College offers a Certificate of Specialization in Organic Agriculture through its Continuing & Distance Education Centre. Five web-based courses are offered: Transition to Organic Agriculture, Organic Field Crop Management, Organic Livestock Production, Principles of Organic Horticulture, and Basic Composting Skills. These courses can also be taken for non-credit study.

The Nova Scotia Agricultural College, founded in 1905, is an internationally respected university and research institution, providing superior education in life sciences, the management of agriculture, and related disciplines. www.nsac.ns.ca/cde/courses/de/organic-certificate.asp will link to the description of the program and the courses.

Censored 2005: The Top 25 Censored Media Stories of 2003-2004 There are several agricultural stories on the list, plus others the kind reader may be interested in. The book is available thru the website: <http://www.projectcensored.org/publications/2005/index.html>

#1: Wealth Inequality in 21st Century Threatens Economy and Democracy

#2: Ashcroft vs. the Human Rights Law that Holds Corporations Accountable

#3: **Bush Administration Censors Science**

#4: High Levels of Uranium Found in Troops and Civilians

#5: **The Wholesale Giveaway of Our Natural Resources**

#6: The Sale of Electoral Politics

#7: Conservative Organization Drives Judicial Appointments

#8: **Cheney's Energy Task Force and The Energy Policy**

#9: Widow Brings RICO Case Against U.S. government for 9/11

#10: New Nuke Plants: Taxpayers Support, Industry Profits

#11: The Media Can Legally Lie

#12: The Destabilization of Haiti

#13: Schwarzenegger Met with Enron's Ken Lay Years Before the California Recall

#14: New Bill Threatens Intellectual Freedom in Area Studies

#15: **U.S. Develops Lethal New Viruses**

#16: Law Enforcement Agencies Spy on Innocent Citizens

#17: U.S. Government Represses Labor Unions in Iraq in Quest for Business Privatization

#18: Media and Government Ignore Dwindling Oil Supplies

#19: **Global Food Cartel Fast Becoming the World's Supermarket**

#20: **Extreme Weather Prompts New Warning from UN**

#21: **Forcing a World Market for GMOs**

#22: Censoring Iraq

#23: Brazil Holds Back in FTAA Talks, But Provides Little Comfort for the Poor of South America

#24: Reinstating the Draft

#25: Wal-Mart Brings Inequality and Low Prices to the World

GMO News

GM Maize imported into Europe had no US or EU approval

In another twist to the biggest scandal ever to hit the GM multinationals, it has now been revealed that Syngenta's BT 10 (Punchstock A) maize has never been authorized for release in the USA, and never authorized for export. Neither has it received any approvals for growing or food use within Europe.

GM Free Cymru has discovered that the GM variety has been imported into Europe, probably for use in human food rather than in animal feed. And since these imports have been going on, undetected and undeclared, for more than four years, the corn is probably already on supermarket shelves. This has happened in spite of accumulating evidence that BT10 is unfit for human consumption:

* BT10 is virtually indistinguishable from BT11 sweetcorn, which was given EC approval for use in food in 2004.

* The variety has never had its genetic "character" described in the literature, which means that even if the EU countries had effective import monitoring in place the GM testing laboratories would not know what they are supposed to look for.

* Belgian and French studies have shown that BT11 is an unstable transgenic line which is contaminated with BT176. This component contains antibiotic marker genes, and was linked with "unexplained" cattle deaths in Hesse, Germany, in 2001-2002. It is reasonable to assume that BT10 is also unstable and contaminated with BT176.

Syngenta refuses to name the countries into which contaminated maize supplies have been exported, but it has admitted that 37,000 acres of BT10 crops were grown between 2000 and 2004. That means that at least 185,000 tonnes of BT10 maize grain that should have been condemned has entered the food chain in many different countries.

Following the revelations about the four-year-long contamination of US maize supplies by BT10 crops, and the coordinated attempts by Syngenta and the US authorities to cover up the scandal, there is now a concerted effort emanating from the US to convince the rest of the world that BT10 maize is safe to eat and poses no environmental threat.

GM Free Cymru says that the episode shows that the US regulatory system is a shambles, with no serious attempt to control GM contamination of related crops in the countryside, and no effective method for keeping GM and non-GM food supplies apart.

USDA spokesman Ed Loyd said Japan, South Korea and other countries just learned of the unapproved biotech corn production on March 21. Syngenta informed the USDA, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration in December that the company discovered it had accidentally been selling the experimental and unapproved Bt10 corn seed to farmers.

USDA officials said it is still too early to know how South Korea or Japan, the largest foreign market for U.S. corn, will respond to the commercialization of the unapproved biotech strains here.

The EU blocked imports of U.S. maize (corn gluten) animal feed and brewers grains in mid-April. – this measure will be reviewed at the end of October. U.S. exporters send 3.5 million tons of corn gluten feed to EU countries each year.

Ventria Gives Up Pharma Rice in MO, Now Off to No. Carolina

Scott Deeter, president and chief operating officer of Ventria Bioscience, said April 28 that he saw no hope of winning approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in time to plant its special rice in Missouri this spring. But Deeter said that his company intended to plant next year in Missouri and to follow through with a plan to make Missouri and the campus of Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville Ventria's permanent home.

The decision not to plant here this year is a setback for Gov. Matt Blunt and Missouri political leaders who fought for the California company and the goal of elevating Missouri's status as a biotech leader. Allied in opposition were rice growers, major food companies and environmental groups that tried to prevent companies like Ventria from getting permission to convert croplands into factories for drugs.

On April 27, Ventria submitted requests in Washington for new permits that would allow the company to plant on 70 acres at two undisclosed locations in North Carolina. An Agriculture Department spokeswoman said the company was seeking approval, as in Missouri, to plant rice that produces lactoferrin and lysozyme, proteins that occur naturally in human breast milk, tears and other bodily fluids.

The Agriculture Department is under pressure to turn down Ventria's request and others like it. The Grocery Manufacturers of America, whose members represent \$500 billion in annual sales, insists that the government lacks a way to prevent contamination of food with synthetic proteins destined for drugs. On April 28, advocacy groups presented Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns with 30,000 signatures asking for a ban on the use of food crops to produce drugs.

Bill addresses crops, bio-contamination

A bill written by Assemblyman John Laird, D-Santa Cruz, California, weighs in on the increasingly controversial issue of genetically modified agriculture in California's roughly \$30 billion farming industry.

Laird's AB 984 would enable farmers whose crops are unintentionally contaminated by

GMO crops to collect damages from the company that produced the seed.

The bill would also shield farmers from liability should their crops be pollinated by a GMO crop.

The bill passed the Assembly Judiciary Committee in mid-April by a 6-2 vote and is scheduled for a hearing before the Assembly Agriculture Committee April 27.

Professor sues UC in tenure dispute, cites UC link to biotech

An assistant professor at UC Berkeley has sued the University of California, saying he was denied tenure because he criticized a multimillion-dollar research deal with a biotechnology company.

The lawsuit also claims Ignacio Chapela was discriminated against because he is of Mexican origin and that he has been a victim of a secret, unwritten rule of UC's tenure process - that professors shouldn't publicly criticize those giving lots of money to the university. Chapela, a microbial biologist who has been fighting for tenure since 2001, said the lawsuit takes his fight to a new, public level to illustrate the encroachment of private interests into university research and a resultant atmosphere that squelches scientific inquiry that leads to unpopular conclusions. "The university has lost the capacity to do science", Chapela says. "This is not a lawsuit against the university. It is a lawsuit for the university and against the people who have bastardized and taken away what the university used to do."

Vermont Senate Passes Farmer Protection Act

With a solid 26-1 vote, the Vermont Senate passed the Farmer Protection Act to put clear liability for genetically engineered seeds onto the manufacturers of those seeds, taking the burden of risk away from Vermont farmers.

Senator Jim Leddy (D-Chittenden) spoke in support of the bill on the Senate floor, referring to Robert Frost's poem, "Mending Walls". He quoted the passage, "Good fences make good neighbors," and went on to say that with this issue, there are no fences, so good policy is needed. "This bill is not to denigrate or use language that speaks to the damage of genetically modified organisms," he said. "It is about the balance of protection without a threat versus a threat with no protection."

The bill will now go to the House for consideration. A companion bill that was offered in the House several weeks ago has 54 cosponsors.

GM industry puts human gene into rice

In the first modification of its kind, Japanese researchers have inserted a gene from the human liver into rice to enable it to digest pesticides and industrial chemicals. The gene makes an enzyme, code-named CPY2B6,

which is particularly good at breaking down harmful chemicals in the body.

Present GM crops are modified with genes from bacteria to make them tolerate herbicides, so that they are not harmed when fields are sprayed to kill weeds. But most of them are only able to deal with a single herbicide, which means that it has to be used over and over again, allowing weeds to build up resistance. But the researchers at the National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences in Tsukuba have found that adding the human gene gave the rice immunity to 13 different herbicides. This would mean that weeds could be kept down by constantly changing the chemicals used. Supporting scientists say that the gene could also help to beat pollution.

Professor Richard Meilan of Purdue University in Indiana, who has worked with a similar gene from rabbits, says that plants modified with it could "clean up toxins" from contaminated land. They might even destroy them so effectively that crops grown on the polluted soil could be fit to eat. But he and other scientists caution that if the gene were to escape to wild relatives of the rice it could create particularly vicious superweeds that were resistant to a wide range of herbicides.

New Study Points to Likely Source of GE Rice Contamination in China

BEIJING -- April 29 -- Just two weeks after Greenpeace exposed the illegal selling and planting of GE rice in Hubei province, a research paper published today in Science magazine describes what appear to be unregulated trials of the same GE rice (Shanyou 63) that Greenpeace researchers found being illegally sold in the open market. With rice planting due to start any day, Greenpeace said the study reveals further evidence of the failure to control GE rice trials in China.

Greenpeace China GE Campaigner Sze Pang Cheung said; "The Science paper states that farmers cultivated the GE rice without the assistance of technicians, and that quite a number of the randomly selected participants grew both GE and conventional varieties on their small family farms." "In other countries GE field trials are tightly regulated, monitored and separated from conventional rice crops," Sze continued. "The Chinese system of regulating GE field trials is failing. It looks like GE rice has grown out of control under the very noses of the scientists that were trusted to control it." If urgent action is not taken, up to 13,500 tonnes of untested and unapproved GE rice may enter the food chain this year. This is likely to increase international concern over contamination of Chinese rice exports. "Chinese GE researchers who have released GE rice without adequate biosafety precautions are failing to protect farmers and

the Chinese public. They need to remember that GE rice is illegal because it hasn't been shown to be safe for health or environment and because it may have major negative economic impacts," Sze said.

Jitters were sent through the international food industry following the Greenpeace revelations that the unapproved GE rice may also have contaminated exports. "The Japanese Health ministry has begun testing of Chinese rice imports, the European Commission has requested testing information while governments in the UK, Slovakia and Korea are all conducting some level of investigations into the contamination," Sze said. The Chinese government has been evaluating the proposed release of GE rice in the country but has not yet approved any varieties due to unresolved environmental, health and economic issues.

Nine US states limit local GM regs

At least nine US states, including Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Dakota, Iowa, Idaho, Indiana, Oklahoma, Arizona, and West Virginia have either passed or introduced legislation that would preempt local cities and counties from restricting the sale of genetically modified seeds.

The bills are viewed as a nationally coordinated attempt to block GMO-free ordinances similar to those approved by citizens in Mendocino and Marin counties in California in 2004.

Language in all the seed bills is similar, containing words such as "registration, labeling, sale, storage, transportation, use, and notification of use: of seed". NO bills mention "genetically modified," or "biotechnology" though Idaho's House Bill 38 states that local regulations "are often not based on principles or good science," a thinly-veiled reference to Mendocino County's rejection of GM crops.

Does the similar language indicate a coordinated nation wide effort to pass such legislation? Joseph Mendelson, legal director at the Center for Food Safety, thinks so. "I'm sure that it is organized by big industry players who are fearful that the California strategy (GMO-free initiatives) may spread," he said.

Seed Police

As if U.S. farmers weren't in enough trouble, now the "seed police" are after them. Monsanto, the world leader in genetically modified grains, is pursuing fines and jail sentences for farmers who use their seed in noncontractual ways--such as saving it and sowing it the next season. The Center for Food Safety has released an investigative review of

Monsanto's use of U.S. patent law to crack down on farmers. Monsanto has filed 90 lawsuits against U.S. farmers in 25 states that involve 147 farmers and 39 small businesses or farm companies, according to the report.

*500: The number of U.S. farmers under investigation annually by Monsanto.

*\$10 million: Monsanto's annual budget (plus 75 staff) devoted to investigating and prosecuting U.S. farmers.

*\$15,253,602: The total recorded judgments granted to Monsanto for farmer lawsuits.

*\$3,052,800: The largest recorded judgment in favor of Monsanto as a result of a farmer lawsuit.

*8 months: The prison sentence given to a Tennessee farmer convicted of violating an agreement with Monsanto.

Sources: "Monsanto vs. U.S. Farmers 2005" (The Center for Food Safety); The Associated Press.

http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/pubs/CFS_MonsantovsFarmerReport1.13.05.pdf

Transgenic Cows Resist Mastitis-Causing Bacteria

U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers have used gene-transfer technologies to produce dairy cows that resist mastitis.

"This research is an important first step in understanding how genes can be used to protect animals from disease," said Edward B. Knipping, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

This scientific discovery, published in the current edition of Nature Biotechnology, demonstrates the potential of biotechnology for developing cattle with resistance to mastitis. Currently, vaccines, antibiotics and a cow's own immune system cannot effectively fight the bacterium *Staphylococcus aureus*, a major cause of mastitis.

A scientific team led by Robert J. Wall, an animal physiologist with the ARS Biotechnology and Germplasm Laboratory in Beltsville, Md., built a transgene--genetic material produced using recombinant DNA technology--that includes the genetic code for producing a naturally occurring, antimicrobial protein called lysostaphin.

While all milk contains several naturally occurring antimicrobial proteins, such as lysozyme and lactoferrin, none of the milk produced by the three cows in this research effort will be [see Cows, page 22]

IOIA Scholarships Available for Organic Inspector Training

IOIA accepts applications for the annual Andrew Rutherford Scholarship Award, which provides full tuition for an IOIA-sponsored organic inspector training course during the following year.

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

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

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

For application materials and information on IOIA training programs, contact Margaret Scoles, IOIA Executive Director/Training Manager, IOIA, P.O. Box 6, Broadus, MT 59317-0006, Email ioia@ioia.net, or visit www.ioia.net to download application forms. The deadline for returning Scholarship applications is November 1. Scholarship recipients are notified by December 15.

We Get Letters....

I am so thankful for the 2004 Andrew Rutherford Scholarship Award. It allowed me to attend IOIA training in Fayetteville, AR. The training was a great time. I met awesome people from across the United States and Canada, and I hope all of them are enjoying inspecting as much as I am! I

was fortunate enough to inspect over sixty farms last summer. Not bad for a first year rookie! Every minute was a learning opportunity. Memorable moments included touring fields in a school bus, driving through the edge of a tornado in my poor little Chevy Sprint, and politely denying some very unique cuisine. Inspecting has been a great fit in my life and I plan to continue along the inspecting path. My sincerest thanks to IOIA for awarding the Rutherford Scholarship and to a fellow inspector, Denis Brodner, for his invaluable guidance. May all the Rutherford recipients take full advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Wendy Ziehl, 2004 Rutherford Scholarship recipient Æ

I am honoured to have received the 2005 Andrew Rutherford Scholarship. Being awarded the scholarship meant I was able to attend the IOIA livestock training and AGM in Vancouver, BC. This experience was extremely meaningful to me. Not only was I able to obtain my livestock standards training certificate but I was able to meet and network with other inspectors. At the IOIA AGM, I gained valuable insight about our professional association and what it really means to be an inspector member of the IOIA.

As a registered professional Home Economist, I am pleased to uphold the British Columbia Home Economics Association mission to improve the daily well-being of individuals and families. The family is the basic institution of society and how a family functions while meeting the everyday needs of its members is of significance to broader society and culture. As a home economist, I have chosen to focus my work around organic food and agriculture. I believe that food and agriculture are fundamental to the health and well-being of our communities. I am proud to play a significant role in the organic certification system, which allows families to make more informed food choices. As an inspector member of IOIA, I am able to uphold the Home Economics missions with pride.

Thank you, Cheryl Laxton rpHE Æ

Cows, from page 21

consumed. Use of milk containing lysostaphin would require federal regulatory approval after rigorous food

safety testing. This effort is at the early stages of research and development.

The research shows that the gene for secreting lysostaphin comes from a non-pathogenic species of *Staphylococcus* that uses the protein to repel its cousin, *S. aureus*. The scientists introduced this transgene into Jersey cows. The lysostaphin is secreted into milk, where it kills *S. aureus*, thus protecting cows from becoming infected.

"The three GE cows that have been tested so far are expressing lysostaphin in their milk and are resistant to *S. aureus* intramammary infection," said Wall. All three transgenic cows showed little or no sign of infection after repeated exposures to *S. aureus*--and one, named GEM, never became infected, indicating complete protection."

Overall, the researchers found that in tests, 71 percent of the mammary glands that were exposed to *S. aureus* from nontransgenic animals became infected--compared to only 14 percent for the transgenic animals.

Future studies will include developing similar defenses against other pathogens that affect dairy cattle, as well as gauging the milk's ability to effectively produce common dairy products, such as cheese and yogurt.

Consumers Fail the GMO Test

A new study just released, conducted for the Food Policy Institute by Rutgers-Cook College in New Jersey, shows the average consumer is pretty unaware of the GMO debate that rages in food and ag circles. The study of 1,200 Americans found that only 48% know genetically modified products are available in their supermarkets (although 80% of foods are suspected of containing modified organisms). In addition, only 31% realize they consume GMOs. Almost 80% think their tomatoes are genetically modified, but 60% don't think conventional tomatoes have genes. Also, 70% don't think it's possible to put animal genes into plants; 49% had no opinion on GMO foods while the remainder was about evenly split between favoring and opposing biotech.



New Organic Agriculture Information Products from AFSIC

The Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC) has just released two new Information Products: Organic Livestock Production: A Bibliography (Special Reference Brief 2004-05) and Organic Aquaculture (AFSIC Note #5). Both were created by the AFSIC staff at the National Agricultural Library in response to a significant level of interest in these two subjects.

Organic Livestock Production describes more than 900 documents published between 1974 and 2004. Citations come from many sources: bibliographic databases, conference proceedings, Extension publication lists, research archives, and more. Chapters, arranged by animal species, include sub-headings: Animal Husbandry and Welfare, Veterinary Practice, Certification, Economic Issues, Marketing, Processing and Food Quality.

Links to online documents are provided where available. The guide is fully indexed. Appendices discuss the USDA National Organic Program and how to obtain full-text articles listed in the bibliography.

Organic Aquaculture addresses the important issues pertaining to organic aquaculture with regard to production technology, standards and laws, environmental and economic sustainability, research and development, and markets and trade. Each chapter concludes with "Suggested Readings;" a comprehensive, indexed, bibliography appears as a separate section.

Text and references cover organic production in aquaculture; the current status of U.S. standards; the National Organic Standards Board Aquatic Animal Task Force; international organic aquaculture standards; marketing outlook and consumer trends; and research and development.

These Information Products are available from the AFSIC web site in either pdf or html format:

Organic Livestock Production: http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/AFSIC_pubs/srb0405.htm

Organic Aquaculture pdf: http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/AFSIC_pubs/afnotes5.pdf

Organic Aquaculture html: http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/AFSIC_pubs/afnotes5.htm

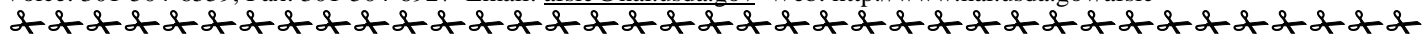
These Information Products are also available in on a CD in pdf format which can be ordered free of charge from AFSIC.

Alternative Farming Systems Information Center, National Agricultural Library, U.S. Department of Agriculture

10301 Baltimore Avenue

Beltsville, Maryland 20705

Voice: 301-504-6559, Fax: 301-504-6927 Email: afsic@nal.usda.gov Web: <http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic>



I am interested in the following:

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

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

- %Inspector - \$100
- %Supporting Individual - \$75
- %Business/Organization \$100
- %Certifying Agency - \$250
- %Patron - \$500
- %Sustainer - \$1000

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

%2005 IOIA Membership

Directory - \$25

IFOAM/IOIA International

Organic Inspection Manual:

%%\$45 members

%%\$60 non-members

INDEPENDENT ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

Please Type or Print Clearly

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

IOIA HAS SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE. ORDER HERE OR THROUGH OUR WEBSITE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

%Introduction to Certified Organic Farming. Published by REAP CANADA, 200 pg. \$25.00

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

NEW! Caps Now in 100% Organic Cotton! [in black or sand]

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

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

Business Address _____

Business Phone _____ Home phone _____ Fax _____

Check Enclosed – Total Amount \$ _____

Visa ^ Mastercard ^ Account # _____

Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

2005 Calendar

May 25 Illinois Sustainable Agriculture Tour. The Agroecology/Sustainable Agriculture Program at the Univ. of Illinois is sponsoring six sustainable agriculture tours this summer. This first tour is entitled "A Closer Look at Sustainability," and will visit the Center for Sustainable Community.
www.aces.uiuc.edu/asap/topics/tours.html

June 4 HerbFest 2005. Workshops and a panel discussion will be featured. Over 30 herbal and craft vendors. Coventry, Connecticut.
www.topmostherbfarm.com/herbfest/index.htm

June 6-8 3rd SAFSF Forum: Sustainable Food Systems. Sessions address multi-cultural food systems, climate change, alternative energy, youth in farming, and more. Taos and Santa Fe, New Mexico. www.safsf.org

June 6 - 8 3rd National Organic Tree Fruit Research Symposium. Location: Chelan, Washington.
www.csanr.wsu.edu/Organic/OrganicTreeFruitResearch05.htm

June 8 Organic Seed Alliance's Farmer Field Days: Green Beans. Organic Seed Alliance, farmer-led education project, "Producing Organic Vegetable Seed." The project will include spring and summer field days, production manuals, winter workshops and mentorship. Shoshone, Idaho.
www.seedalliance.org

June 9 - 12 Annual Meetings of the Agriculture, Food, And Human Values Society and the Association For The Study Of Food And Society, Portland, Oregon.
www.clas.ufl.edu/users/rhaynes/afhvs/NextMeeting.htm

June 15-16, Tropical North Queensland Organics Conference, Expo and Soil Symposium. Cairns, Theme - Organics a path to Best Management. Enquires: Rosemary Burgess Tel: 07 4067 6492 1 4 pm weekdays. Email: opafnq@austarnet.com.au

June 16-18 Second National Farm to Cafeteria Conference, Gambier, Ohio.
www.foodsecurity.org/f2cconf2005.html

June 27-30 Advanced Training in Organic Crop Production, Pennsylvania.
www.neon.cornell.edu/training

June 27 - August 18 Sustainable Agriculture & Organic Farming: Principles & Practices. Thirteen hours of field activities per week are combined with lectures, discussions and field trips to provide an in-depth introduction to sustainable agriculture and organic farming. Davis, California.
www.studentfarm.ucdavis.edu/

July 9 Sustainability Fair 2005. The 6th annual Sustainability Fair showcases over 80 vendors of sustainable goods and service including sustainably-produced, regional food. Livingston, Montana. www.northrock.org

July 12-24, VI International Shortcourse on Agroecology 2005 Santa Cruz, California
<http://www.agroecology.org/shortcourse.htm>

July 29-31, Organic Expo, Sydney Exhibition and Convention Centre. Australia's first major organic expo. For more info contact: Lena Smeaton 0413 043 287 or Mary Hackett - 0414 306 689

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

August 15 - 17 NOSB Meeting, Washington, DC. See NOP website for details.

August 21 - 24 Int'l Conference on Environmental Effects of Agricultural Practices: Remediation, Prevention, and Sustainability. This conference will provide an opportunity to promote agricultural productivity and environmental quality worldwide. The objectives of the conference include the exchange of knowledge about cleanup and restoration technologies for soil and water impacted by past agricultural practices. Hilo, Hawaii.
www.dce.ksu.edu/dce/conf/ag&environment/

September 13 - 15 Eastern Biofuels Conference & Expo. The emergence of biomass conversion to fuel is changing the energy equation worldwide. Eastern Europe is aggressively investing in renewable energy technologies to balance their energy needs for the future. Warsaw, Poland.
<http://www.easternbiofuels.com>

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

September 19-22 Advanced Training in Organic Crop Production. Three separate multi-day sessions (starting and ending at noon) will cover a wide range of organic production and management topics for vegetable production. Maine.
<http://www.neon.cornell.edu/training>

October 3-7 III World Congress on Conservation Agriculture. Congress aim and objectives: Share/Expose experiences and lessons noted worldwide on the role of conservation agriculture in enhancing rural livelihoods in diverse environments. Nairobi, Kenya. www.act.org.zw

October 6-9 9th Annual Conference of the Community Food Security Coalition. The conference will include field trips to local farms and gardens, keynote speakers, workshops on food system-related topics, meals serving locally grown food, and more. Atlanta, Georgia. www.foodsecurity.org

October 16 - 19 4th National Small Farm Conference, "Enhancing Opportunities for Small Farmers and Ranchers". Sheraton Hotel in Greensboro, NC.
www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/ag_systems/in_focus/smallfarms_if_conferences.html

October 21 - 23 The 2005 Women in Sustainable Agriculture Conference. Burlington, Vermont
www.uvm.edu/wagn/womeninag.html

Keep IOIA Strong - Lend Your Strength And Get Involved!



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