

# The Inspectors' Report

## Canada-US Organic Equivalency Signed

July 1 was the implementation date for the Canada Organic Regime (COR) in Canada. The signing of the Canada-US equivalency agreement means that as of July 1, double certification (COR and NOP) is not required for product to be sold across the border. The organic sector on both sides of the border expresses optimism and enthusiasm about the agreement.

Product can be certified on either side, labeled with either or both logos (provided the product meets the label categories for the country), and exported to the other side. There are a few exceptions (variances) that have been outlined in the agreement. The NOP is expecting certifiers to be responsible for ensuring compliance with the exceptions. The agreement states "*Certifying bodies are responsible for assessing their clients against these additional requirements if the certified products are intended for Canada-US trade under this agreement.*" There is also a mutual agreement to permit audits by the other program and to notify each other of significant changes in the laws or regulations and of significant non-compliances.

Certification should be done according to the regulations of the country where the product is produced. This means that the number of NOP inspections in Canada will likely be very few, and the reverse is also true. It is unlikely that inspectors will be asked to do inspections in the US according to the Canadian standard. **What is most important for inspectors is to be aware that if product is going to cross the border, the important variances need to be verified.** This is similar to the current situation with JAS equivalency where only one input must be verified. Here is an example - the Canadian standard does not allow parallel production, while it is allowed in the US. A product produced on a farm in parallel production in the US will be allowed to be labeled with the Canadian logo, while product produced in Canada will not.

The Canadian regulations have no allowance for 100% organic labeling. There is no 'made with' label. The Canadian regulation recognizes 2 categories: organic (very similar to the NOP), and \_\_\_% organic ingredients. Processors from outside of Canada are allowed to use the COR logo, but they must show the country imported from.

All inspectors should be alert to developments as the US and Canadian governments continue to work out the details of the actual implementation. It is essential that inspectors understand the standards of their own country. Inspectors in Canada will need to know the Canadian standards, not just the COR-NOP differences.

A Stream of Commerce Policy will allow for 'soft enforcement' for 2 years, so very little market disruption is anticipated. The policy is available at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/orgbio/orgbiopolie.shtml>. This allows for movement of certified product; it does not allow us to ignore the standards. Also, the US inspectors should recognize that the Canadian standards are owned not by the Canadian government, but by the public organic sector. The government in Canada owns only the regulation. This is a much smaller document than the standards. The regulation is unlikely to be changed often. In the US, both the regulation and the standards are owned by the government. The regulation references the most recent version of the CAN/CGSB 32:310 and 311. So whenever a balloting process is completed to update the standards, the updated version becomes the legal standard. The most recent ballot was just completed in June.

Unfortunately, there is still no free publicly available Canadian standard of the most current version. The Canadian General Standards Board is still negotiating a price with the organic sector.

There are 2 equivalency letters, one for Canada and one for US. These letters are posted several places including the CFIA, NOP, and OTA websites. OTA has prepared a very good Equivalency Page for those who want comprehensive information. It includes links to the equivalency letters, the CFIA Label Guide, the Canadian regulations, etc. Here's the link: <http://www.ota.com/pics/documents/Equiv.guide.pdf> . The CFIA website has good resources and explanations about implementation. The NOP website also has a helpful Frequently Asked Questions on the equivalency page. [see **COR**, page 18]

## IOIA Scholarships Deadline is October 1

IOIA is accepting 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.

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 OCIS is only open to applicants from outside of the US or Canada. 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 IOIA at [ioia@ioia.net](mailto:ioia@ioia.net), or visit [www.ioia.net](http://www.ioia.net) to download application forms. The deadline for returning Scholarship applications is October 1. Scholarship recipients are notified by December 15.

### IOIA Board of Directors

Bob Durst, P.Ag .....Chair  
Gene Prochaska.....Vice Chair  
Stephen Bird.....Treasurer  
Eric Feutz.....Secretary  
David Konrad.....Director at Large  
Julio Perez.....First Alternate  
Lidia Girón .....Second Alternate  
*The Inspectors' Report* is the newsletter of the International Organic Inspectors Association. 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. Editor: Diane Cooner, Box 1259, Guerneville, CA 95446 USA. 707-869-3017, fax 707-869-1478.

[ioiaweb@ioia.net](mailto:ioiaweb@ioia.net)

Deadlines are Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1 & Nov 1.  
Published quarterly on recycled paper.



## 2009 Member Directory Updates

Please make the following changes to your 2009 Membership Directory. Other listing info remains the same unless noted. Any additions or corrections to information categories other than addresses and contact numbers will be listed in the 2010 Hardcopy Membership Directory or can be viewed in the 2009 Online Directory.

### ADDRESS CHANGES:

#### Inspectors:

Diane Don Carlos  
Email: [doncarlos.diane@gmail.com](mailto:doncarlos.diane@gmail.com)

Jill Morganelli  
3255 Lombardy Rd  
Pasadena, CA 91107-5575

Sara Morton  
P.O. Box 619  
Carpinteria, CA 93014-0619  
Email: [sara@mortonorganics.com](mailto:sara@mortonorganics.com)

Don Persons  
271 Northampton Rd  
Amherst, MA 01002-2546  
Home: 413.253.0181

Michelle Sandy  
Email: [organicmommas@yahoo.com](mailto:organicmommas@yahoo.com)

#### Supporting Members:

Vivek Anandaraman  
8700 W Davey Rd  
Raymon, NE 68428-4037

Danielle Baker  
5965 Semor Dr  
Shingle Springs, CA 95682-9799

Kenneth M. Elder  
2308 N Early St  
Alexandria, VA 22302-1705  
Home: 571.970.2432  
Cell: 925.305.4890  
Email: [fitz.elder@gmail.com](mailto:fitz.elder@gmail.com)

Richard Ewing  
20621 Wildcat Run Dr  
Estero, FL 33928-2018

Stephanie Marguerita Tessitore  
614 South 9th Street  
Apt #203  
Minneapolis, MN 55404-1115  
UNITED STATES  
Home: 612.636.7430  
Email: [stephanie.tessitore@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.tessitore@gmail.com)

WELCOME RETURNING FORMER MEMBERS (NOT PRINTED IN THE 2009 DIRECTORY)

#### Inspector Members:

Joseph Kramer  
92 Perry Graveyard Rd  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
Home: 919.545.2131  
Email: [jkcc5055@gmail.com](mailto:jkcc5055@gmail.com)

#### Supporting Members:

David Hoyt  
1211 35th St E  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
Home: 608.606.3434  
Email: [dave@davewhoyt.com](mailto:dave@davewhoyt.com)

Duane Phillippi - fairDeal  
2054 Broad Street  
Regina, SK S4P 4J8  
CANADA  
Home: 306.352.2420  
Work: 306.352.2444  
Fax: 306.352.2443

Krista Wanser  
2451 25 RD  
Dwight, NE 68635-3045  
Home: 402-786-3766  
Email: [ipocs@inebraska.com](mailto:ipocs@inebraska.com)

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

#### Inspectors:

Carly Fitzpatrick  
228-1999 Hwy 97  
Kelowna, BC V1Z 1B2  
CANADA  
Home: 250.769.5866  
Email: [carlyf@hotmail.com](mailto:carlyf@hotmail.com)

Terrie M. Gent  
4204 S. Hohokam Dr  
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650-8555  
Home: 520.378.2915  
Work: 571.216.1101  
Fax: 520.378.2915  
Email: [TerrieGent@aol.com](mailto:TerrieGent@aol.com)

Nadene Gurule  
#10-1021 Nelson St  
Vancouver, BC V6E 1J1  
CANADA  
Home: 778.329.2855  
Work: 604.710.2501  
Email: [nadsaw2@gmail.com](mailto:nadsaw2@gmail.com)

Luis Lopez Moreno  
#403 518-13th Street  
New Westminster, BC V3M 4L9  
CANADA  
Home: 604.777.1485  
Work: 604.777.1485  
Fax: 604.777.1485  
Email: [luis.farmer@gmail.com](mailto:luis.farmer@gmail.com)

---

---

## Upcoming Trainings

**Gyeonggi, Korea** IOIA and Korea Federation of Sustainable Agriculture Associations (KFSAO) will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Crop Inspection Training using the Korea Organic Regulation as a reference. The course will be held in Gyeonggi, Korea **September 14-18**. For enquiries, please contact Hyaekyung Hong at Ph: +82-10-2918-8446 Fax: +82-2-796-2615 e-mail: [globalhong@hanmail.net](mailto:globalhong@hanmail.net)

**Boston, Massachusetts** IOIA and IBD Certifications of Brazil will cosponsor EcoSocial Inspection Training on **September 23** in Boston. (Please see article on page 5). Details and application forms are available from the IOIA website. **DEADLINE TO APPLY AUGUST 23.**

**Medina, North Dakota** IOIA and FARRMS will cosponsor a two-day workshop for processors in Medina at the FARRMS Training Facility on **October 22-23**. This course is recommended for processors who are not yet certified or those newly certified. A limited number of spaces are also available for inspectors and certification staff. This project is funded in part by NCR-SARE. For an application form and more details, visit [www.farrms.org](http://www.farrms.org) or call 701.486.3569.

**La Crosse, Wisconsin** IOIA and Midwest Organic Services Association (MOSA) will cosponsor Basic Crop Inspection Training **October 5-9** and Livestock Inspection Training **October 12-16** at the Stoney Creek Inn & Conference Center in Onalaska. Each course includes 4 days of instruction including a field trip to a certified organic operation, plus ½ day for testing. Demeter Association and IOIA will cosponsor Biodynamic™ Inspection Training on **October 10-11** at the same location. The Biodynamic training is geared primarily for experienced organic inspectors. A limited number of spaces are also available for new inspectors with knowledge of Biodynamic practices. **Registration deadline for all trainings is August 23.**

MOSA offers independent, third-party certification services to producers and processors throughout the US. Demeter is associated with Stellar Certification Services (SCS). SCS was formed to offer organic certification for farms, processors and handlers according to the USDA National Organic Program. Demeter Biodynamic® Certification and Aurora Certified Organic® are options for producers seeking whole farm certification. For more information about the cosponsors, visit [www.mosaorganic.org](http://www.mosaorganic.org) or [www.demeter-usa.org](http://www.demeter-usa.org). The Stoney Creek Inn is about 6 miles or 10 minutes from the La Crosse (LSE) Airport. For more information about the area, visit [www.explorelacrosse.com](http://www.explorelacrosse.com). Application forms and more details are available on the IOIA website.

**Brandon, Manitoba** IOIA and Assiniboine Community College will cosponsor Basic Livestock Inspection Training on **November 2-6** using the Canadian Organic Standards as a reference. The course includes 4 days of instruction including a field trip to a certified organic livestock operation, plus ½ day for testing. For more information about this training, please contact Mary Petersen at Ph: 204-725-8700 Ext 6683 Fax: 204-725-8740; e-mail: [PeterseM@Assiniboine.net](mailto:PeterseM@Assiniboine.net) Assiniboine Community College is located at 1430 Victoria Avenue East in Brandon, Manitoba, Canada R7A 2A9.

**California** IOIA will cosponsor Basic Crop Inspection Training and Processing Inspection Training running concurrently **December 7-11** at the Gaia Napa Valley Hotel & Spa in American Canyon. Each course includes 4 days of instruction including a field trip to a certified organic operation, plus ½ day for testing. Day 5 will end with presentations from certification agencies, which provide in-person connections with certifiers for inspectors seeking to become approved inspectors. IOIA and Demeter Association will cosponsor Biodynamic® Inspection Training on **December 12-13** at the same location.

The Napa Valley area is widely known for wine production with a large number of certified organic and biodynamic operations nearby. Certified operations will tentatively include wine crops for the Crop course and wine making for the Processing course.

The Gaia Hotel is the first Leader in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified 'green hotel' in the Napa Valley. It is located about 8 miles south of Napa and 30 miles from the Oakland Airport (OAK). Sacramento (SMF) and San Francisco (SFO) are other options within 60 miles. The site features a koi pond with swans that is maintained with water produced on the site that is filtered and recycled. The restaurant regularly serves organic food, and all natural materials are used in landscaping. The building is made from Forest Stewardship Council certified woods and many recycled materials. It uses solar energy and conserves energy and water.

Application forms and more details will be posted on the IOIA website as soon as available.

**Rio Rico, Arizona March 12-15, 2010.** IOIA will sponsor Advanced Organic Inspector Training in conjunction with the 2010 Annual Meeting at Esplendor Resort in Rio Rico. The venue is located about 40 minutes south of the Tucson International Airport and 20 minutes north of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. The training will focus on specialty certification (mushrooms, aquaculture, apiculture, sprouts, and greenhouse), plus opportunities for educational field trips. Other sessions and field trip options will be scheduled depending on interest. Potential sites include pecans, wild crafting, produce broker, and conventional hydroponics. Nogales is the largest port for fresh conventional and organic produce coming into the western US. For more information about the venue, visit [www.esplendor-resort.com](http://www.esplendor-resort.com)

**Brandon, Manitoba** IOIA and Assiniboine Community College will cosponsor Basic Organic Crop Inspection Training on **May 3-7, 2010** using the Canadian Organic Standards as a reference. The course includes 4 days of instruction including a field trip to a certified organic operation, plus ½ day for testing. For more information about this training, **see November Manitoba listing above.**

---

## Message from the Chair

By Bob Durst

I'm going to take this opportunity to fill folks in on some of what I've been doing and how it relates to an aspect of the organic industry that I hope you will take a strong interest in - the labeling and certification of personal care products making organic claims.

There were a number of meetings at ATO regarding personal care products and their organic status, as this area continues to gain traction. A bit of personal history: I have been intimately involved with this process, starting as a member of the OTA Personal Care Task Force many years ago. This group eventually morphed into the NSF Personal Care Joint committee (which I was co-chair of) that just a few months ago finalized a standard known as NSF/ANSI 305 (Personal Care Products Containing Organic Ingredients). This is now one of many emerging domestic and international standards that will address organic regulation and labeling of organic personal care products. Here is a list of those that I know of and I'm sure that there are others out there or being proposed: USDA; NSF; OASIS; Soil Association; BDIH; NaTrue; Ecocert; Argencert; NASAA; ACO; Cosmebio; and COSMOS.

What does all of this mean for us as inspectors? In a word - confusion. With all of these various regulations one can expect that certifiers will be wanting us to inspect to one or more of these standards as they pick one (or more) of them to satisfy their clients needs for certification. Our responsibilities as inspectors won't change - we still have to report what we see and what may or may not comply with the relevant standard. This will be a challenge for inspectors, as each of these standards, while similar, all have unique parts and pieces that we will have to become familiar with.

In addition to the confusion of additional standards, there are unique challenges in the personal care realm that IOIA, certifiers, or someone will need to address. There is a lot of chemistry involved in personal care products. All of the standards have significant additions to their equivalent of NOP 205.605. Many folks don't think this sort of chemistry and synthetics have a place in products labeled organic and I have to agree with this - not in products labeled as "organic". I personally don't have issues with a limited and restrictive set of synthetics being allowed in products that are in the "made with" label category. Just as with the NOP and food regulations, the O70 category is a less restrictive category that still promotes the use of organic farm product. Of the various standards listed earlier, few of them make provisions to retain the purity of the O95 label. Since there are no regulations, the industry has jumped on the organic bandwagon and is mostly marketing to the "organic" category. This is a real problem for the organic movement, as consumers who find that "organic" personal care products are held to different (or worse yet - *No*) standards and still make what appears to be the same claim. This presents the opportunity for consumer education and recognition of substantive marks and certifications.

Back to inspection issues. As a chemist by training and profession, I understand some of the challenges here, but also have a difficult time knowing just how difficult it is going to be for others without my background as they take on these new certification areas. This may not be an inspection area that everyone should jump on, but I encourage those who have knowledge of chemistry to consider improving their knowledge

of this field and work toward promoting additional substantive organic regulations. For everyone else, I encourage you to become familiar with the gist of the various standards and help educate folks about how even though they may differ from food regulations, some of them do promote the use of organic ingredients and thus further increase the acreage of organic farmland. This is a bottom line that we should all be working to achieve.

## Mark your calendars! 2010 AGM Esplendor Resort, Rico Rico Southern Arizona, March 11-15

Esplendor Resort is located in the Sonoran Desert about 40 minutes south of the Tucson Airport and 20 minutes north of the port of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. For more details, visit [www.esplendor-resort.com](http://www.esplendor-resort.com). This is a comfortable, authentic southwest venue in a scenic and rural setting with a mountain backdrop. Esplendor overlooks the Santa Cruz River valley and bills itself as "Uncomplicated, Unpretentious, Unforgettable."

Weather can never be guaranteed, but it should be sunny. Typical March weather in the Tucson area is sunny at least 25 days out of the month. And it will feel warm to most IOIA members from northern climates. Average daytime high is 72°F (22°C). Nighttime lows in the high desert can be fairly chilly (37°F or 3°C on the average). AGM meeting space includes indoor and outdoor space near the heated outdoor pool. The resort is known locally for its good restaurant. Other restaurant options and a grocery are within walking distance. Widely recognized for its golf course, the resort is working with IOIA to provide options to fit almost any budget. Three state campsites nearby offer another option for hardier members.

There are many potential field trips (both organic and recreational) in the area. Nogales is the largest port in the western US for fresh produce coming into the US from Mexico, including organic and non-organic. The area is famous for birding habitat, historic missions, and the nearby Tubac art colony. Esplendor is about one hour's drive from the Saguaro National Park, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, and many other desert attractions. This is a great location to bring spouses or family members.

Competitive airfares to Tucson are available through Southwest Airlines, but all other major airlines fly into Tucson. Or fly to the larger airport in Phoenix and take the 20 minute air shuttle to Tucson. The site is readily accessible by cars rented from the Tucson airport with a minimum of city driving. The Metropolitan Tucson Convention & Visitors Bureau [www.visittucson.org](http://www.visittucson.org) provided IOIA with a booking incentive payment. This will allow IOIA to provide shuttle service from the Tucson Airport for inspector members.

The advanced training offerings will focus on specialty inspections (mushrooms, aquaculture, apiculture, sprouts, greenhouse) and possibly personal care products, all arranged in a conference format to allow participants to obtain certification in each specialty. Field trip options tentatively planned will include pecans, wildcrafting, produce distributors, and greenhouse. The format will differ from IOIA's typical mixed advanced training agendas. Members can register only for those topics of most interest, and possibly mix in a morning or afternoon for recreation or sightseeing. [see AGM, page 18]

## IOIA and IBD to collaborate on EcoSocial Inspection Training

The new consumer is increasingly sensitive to ecological, social and fair trade questions. That consumer associates its purchase decisions to ethical and responsible corporate behavior. Based on the growing interest in EcoSocial certification, IOIA and IBD Certifications of Brazil will cosponsor EcoSocial Inspection Training on September 23 in Boston. This event, a first for IOIA, will coincide with Day 1 of New Hope Natural Media Expo East in Boston.

IBD has received requests to certify operations located in the USA and Europe to their EcoSocial Standard, the IBD Program for Fair Relations in Trading Socially and Environmentally Certified Products. Those who complete this one-day session will receive a Certificate of Completion for IOIA/IBD Ecosocial Inspection Training. The certificate will enable experienced organic inspectors to perform EcoSocial inspections for traders and processors. This training is open to all experienced inspectors and to others on a space-available basis.

Training will be delivered in English language by Alexandre Harkaly, Director IBD Certifications. The agenda includes EcoSocial program presentation (Historic background, Principles, Guidelines and Proceedings); Study of documents used in the EcoSocial certification process; Case study: EcoSocial certification of trading companies in USA and Europe; and Questions & Answers. Cost of the 1-day workshop is \$225 for IOIA members and \$275 for non-members. Application forms are available from the IOIA website [www.ioia.net](http://www.ioia.net) or IOIA office. **Registration deadline is August 23, 2009.**

IBD describes their EcoSocial program as “the increasingly popular IBD Fair Trade certification program, a guarantee seal that promotes Human, Social and Environmental development in developing countries”. The mission of the EcoSocial Program is to “make sure that the Certified Operations are in a process of continuous improvement concerning their social & environmental management, and that their products are commercialized within Fair Trade principles.” Further, “EcoSocial empowers small farmers and food industry around the world. EcoSocial empowers vision traders. By offering real guarantee on Fair Trade certified food products EcoSocial empowers conscious consumers: Informing exactly what benefits they promote to local farmers around the world, buying EcoSocial certified products in their market shelves.”

EcoSocial encompasses principles established by ILO, IFOAM, FLO, SA 8.000 and SASA Project recommendations, besides working upon principles established by international agreements related to social & environmental management, such as Agenda 21, Global Pact Program, Millennium Declaration, Earth Charter and Human Rights Declaration. To be certified, enterprises must elaborate and submit to IBD an Assessment of the main social & environmental aspects and impacts related to their operation, thus constituting the Certification Starting Point. This assessment report identifies the points in which the enterprise or grower group farmers are below the requirements of the labor and environmental laws in their home country, and presents Programs aiming for legal adjustment - the Corrective Programs. Additional social & environmental programs must be undertaken to achieve progress, above the minimum required by law. In trade, commercial relations must be transparent, guarantee fair prices, a premium, and sharing the results and benefits throughout the production chain, from producer to consumers.

IBD is IFOAM, USDA/NOP, ISO 65 & Demeter accredited. For more information about IBD or the EcoSocial certification program, see [www.ibd.com.br](http://www.ibd.com.br) or [www.ecosocialnet.com](http://www.ecosocialnet.com).

*Who:* IOIA and IBD Certifications of Brazil

*What:* EcoSocial Inspection Training

*Why:* An Opportunity to Enhance Your Skills in an Area of Growing Interest

*Where:* Boston, Massachusetts

*When:* September 23, 2009

*Cost:* \$225 IOIA members  
\$275 non-members

REGISTRATION DEADLINE  
 AUGUST 23!!!

Application at  
[www.ioia.net/training](http://www.ioia.net/training)

## COST at ATO

IOIA and OTA in Canada cosponsored Canadian Organic Standards Training in Chicago at All Things Organic™ in Chicago on June 15-16. OTA contributed meeting space to the effort. Canadian Organic Growers contributed the Standards Guidance Document. It was a heady time. The final Organic Products Regulation was slated for release the very next week. The 5th ballot for the standards was underway, with an updated version expected any day. COR-NOP equivalency was signed the very next day on June 17 in Chicago. That signing might mean that this event was both the first such training in the US and the last. If that proves to be the case, it was a grand finale for a great project. The IOIA/COG/OTA project delivered 8 similar trainings in Canada to inspector-certifier audiences during the first three months of the year. IOIA will, however, likely use the training materials developed for the project to develop other delivery formats for outside of Canada.



**Kelly Monaghan, Trainer for Day 1, was assisted by Matt Holmes of the OTA in Canada office**

**Kelly Monaghan** was the Trainer for day 1, which focused on structure of the Canadian Organic Regime, processing standards, and labeling. Garry Lean was Trainer for day 2, and covered the Crop and Livestock Standards. The course ended promptly at 4 p.m. to allow everyone to go to the OTA Welcome Reception. Participants attended from Argentina, Canada, Peru, and the US. About half of the participants were inspectors and about half were others including a mix of certifiers, consultants, and processors, plus one NOP staff auditor. Guests were Tom Hutcheson of OTA on day 1 and Stephanie Goldfinch of NASAA in Australia for part of day 2. Stephanie Wells, president of the Organic Federation of Canada, also sat in on part of the training.



One of the best aspects of the event was the opportunity for inspector networking and off-duty visiting. On-site support was provided by the IOIA ED and Lynell Denson of the IOIA office.



**Garry Lean, Trainer for Day 2, and group on Day 2.**

Training registration fees included registration for the ATO show and educational events. This greatly enhanced the list of volunteers for the IOIA booth at the trade show the two days following the training.

Although an attitude of “just tell me the few key differences between COR and NOP” occasionally surfaced, most of the participants found the amount of material formidable in the 2 days allotted. The course was evaluated very positively. Exercises from recipe calculations and label claims to livestock density and housing kept the course lively. Even after the equivalency agreement was signed the next day, not one person grumbled about time wasted.

**Evening in Chicago, June 15: From far left to far right, around the table, Saunders Bennett (NC); Don Persons (MA); Philip Hale (OH); Garry Lean (ON); Bob and Margaret Scoles (MT); Gene Prochaska (IN); Eric Feutz (AR); and Duncan Cox (MA).**

**(This was on the evening between the 2 days of COST training at a great little pub.)**



## Notes from the ED

By Margaret Scoles

Kudos to IOIA member **Bill Barkley**, who remarked about 18 months ago that IOIA should make a point of organizing some type of meeting whenever and wherever IOIA members have reason to gather. What do inspectors like to do most when they see other inspectors? Talk, of course. And they usually talk shop, at that. Inspecting is confidential, solitary, and fairly lonely work. When we come together, the potential topics are endless. As I said in our **IOIA letter to First Lady Michelle Obama**, "Inspectors are extremely detail-oriented people..." The excitement in seeing other inspectors, many for the first time in years, is energizing.

These meetings can be fun too. We started with the first Cross-Border Social in Vermont in August 2008. A festive reception hosted by OTCO followed a few months later in Oregon and then a dinner in Ontario during the Guelph Organic Conference. Most recently, nearly 30 people gathered at an event during ATO, dubbed the **Chicago 2009 Gold Coast IOIA Social** by inspirator **Maarten Samsom**. Maarten rented a suite at the Belden-Stratford and hosted the event, a far cry from my original idea of beer and pizza at the Travelodge. A key factor in growing the event into a full party was that **Lynell** of the IOIA office was traveling to assist the Chicago events. She teaches Family Consumer Science at the high school in Broadus and is the designated food and decorating person at the IOIA office. She had never visited a Whole Foods store before. She enjoyed the shopping excursion there before she spent the day helping Maarten with food prep, in between the Canadian Organic Standards training and helping out with setting up the IOIA booth. The hotel was definitely a 'come-back-to' place for future meetings.

We asked members to RSVP, but we forgave any who didn't show. Torrential rain that evening was a real deterrent, for sure. Fortunately, for every 'no-show', we picked up excellent additions to our group, from OMRI Executive Director **Dave DeCou** to NOSB Executive Director **Valerie Francis** and **Amy Griner** of ICS. Several supporting members (**Matt Hutchinson, Dana**



**IOIA Trade Show booth at ATO. L to R: Bill Stoneman (WI), IOIA's Lynell Denson; Saunders Bennett (NC), IOIA Margaret, Jim Riddle (MN), Bob Durst & Eric Feutz (BOD).**

**Shapiro, Elizabeth Moriarity**) joined us. We were delightfully surprised to see **Ernesto de la Rosa**, Inspector Member from Mexico. He says he will see us at the next AGM in Arizona, and we are hoping we can get him to sing again there (as he did in Guatemala).

Other important events in Chicago included the first NOP certifier training where IOIA had an official seat. In the past, inspectors were only allowed to attend if they came as certifier staff. The NOP training was almost across the hall from the Canadian Standards training. **Barbara Robinson** and **Mark Bradley** stopped by the IOIA training room to say hello. **Bob Durst**, as IOIA Chair, was the official representative for IOIA. I was able to sit in for the session introducing their web-based labeling training module



**Inspector members Sarah Townsend (Hawaii) & Ernesto de la Rose (Mexico).**

to learn how the NOP training website will work. Someone in the room asked if independent contract inspectors would have access to the training site. The answer was "Yes!" Mark said they thought it was important that inspectors have direct access. Then Mark explained to the certifiers that "the NOP was working very closely with IOIA" and they "planned to continue to work closely with IOIA on training". He also explained to the group that IOIA now had a seat in the certifier training room and why. Good progress, for sure.

I attended the **COR-NOP Equivalency signing**, an amazing moment that stretched into an hour. I couldn't pull myself away. Following the OTA Annual Meeting, I heard USDA Deputy Secretary **Kathleen Merrigan** speak. Her address was another powerful moment that recognized the big increase in support for and visibility of organic in Washington. She recognized the 20 people who were in the room from the USDA (a record number). Merrigan spoke highly of the Obama garden and the USDA garden. USDA had a pavilion at the Trade Show. Gene and I met in Chicago with marketing folks from a web-based conferencing service that promises to reduce BOD conference call costs and increase electronic meeting capacity including web-based training. We've been visiting over the past several months, but since they are based in Chicago, it was a great opportunity to meet face-to-face. We are reviewing the proposal and expect to make a decision soon. **Coming soon** -- electronic training opportunities through IOIA! Will they ever replace in-person meetings? No. But they can go a long ways toward consistency and universal access, not to mention cutting carbon. And a long ways toward bringing the IOIA Training Institute closer to a reality.

Thank you to booth volunteers (**Garry Lean, Sarah Costin, Jim Riddle, Joyce Ford, Phil Hale, Maarten Samsom, and Saunders Bennett** as well as IOIA **Lynell** and BOD members **Gene Prochaska** and **Bob Durst**). This was clearly the strongest staffing we've ever enjoyed at a trade show.



**Jenny Duer**, supporting member from Colorado invited the BOD and staff for an evening ride as guests in her godfather's sailboat on Lake Michigan. She is pictured far left. This photo was posed by **Olaf Schneider**, captain of the boat, who wanted to see the ED at the wheel. Also pictured are IOIA **Lynell** and **Gene Prochaska**. It was a splendid outing for the BOD, staff, and friends including a fireworks display on Navy Pier viewed from the water.

## NOP Audit Is Ordered

*Agency's Standards Will Be Scrutinized*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has ordered an audit of its National Organic Program, saying that external scrutiny is needed to improve the integrity, transparency and reliability of the seven-year-old food program.

The audit will look at whether the program is using strict, internationally recognized standards for accrediting and overseeing its network of nearly 100 private certifiers, which have been granted authority to determine whether foods meet federal organic standards.

The review is scheduled to begin in October and will be performed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, a federal program within the Commerce Department, and is expected to take several months. The results will be made public and will include recommendations to USDA officials to bring the program up to international standards.

"We understand the value of this step as we continue working to strengthen the integrity of the NOP and to build the organic community's trust in the program," USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen A. Merrigan said in a July 29 letter to the National Organic Coalition. USDA officials did not provide further comment.

The Coalition, a national alliance of organic farmers, certifiers and other groups, wrote to President Obama's transition team in December asking for the external evaluation. The review will also include ongoing oversight of the program by the federal institute to keep improvements in place and to provide guidance as international standards are set for a growing number of food products.

"Our hope is this will bring about consistency in the standards and with the way they deal with certifiers," said Steve Etko, the coalition's legislative coordinator.

The Washington Post published a story in July describing how federal organics standards had been relaxed as a result of decisions by program officials and an advisory board [NOSB] that had approved a growing list of non-organic ingredients. Also, certifiers often set their own criteria for determining what

products earn the federal organic label, leading some food producers to shop around for certifiers.

Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt.), author of the federal law that established the organics program, said that he has had a series of conversations recently with USDA officials, pressing for reforms. At Leahy's urging, the Senate on August 4 passed an appropriations bill providing \$500,000 to the USDA's inspector general to expand an audit of the program. Last month, the House passed a similar measure. Rep. Rush Holt (D-N.J.) proposed the additional funding to the Agriculture Appropriations Act in response to the Washington Post article. The Inspector General's office has been working for months on a review of the program. The additional funding, Holt said, would allow for a "thorough investigation" to determine "whether or not current inspectors are ensuring that the most rigorous standards for certification are honored when determining if a product may bear the USDA Organic label. The extra funding would also expand the probe to determine if non-organic substances are inappropriately being allowed in small amounts into certified organic foods. The number of non-organic substances that the USDA allows into certified organic products has increased from 77 to 245 since the program started in 2002. Officials in Holt's office said they hope to use the results of the investigation to determine what, if any, reforms are needed and whether new legislation is needed to improve the program.

*Washington Post, August 8, 2009*

*Thanks to Arthur Harvey and Jim Riddle for posting on the IOIA forum*

## NOSB Meeting Report

*Washington, DC — May 4 – 6, 2009*

The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) recommended adding injectable nutrients for livestock, sulfurous acid for crops, and acidified sodium chlorite and myrrh for processing to the National List. Nonorganic agricultural ingredients for use in organic processed foods continued to make up the greatest single category of petitions, with lecithin and wheat germ the subjects of debate. Committee work continued on what is agricultural or nonagricultural as well as synthetic or nonsynthetic.

### Processing

The NOSB voted to add the acidified sodium chlorite to the National List as a processing sanitizer. It is made on demand

by mixing sodium chlorite and citric acid together in water. Myrrh was the only new substance that was recommended to be added to the National List at §205.606. The NOSB voted to remove bleached lecithin from §205.605(a), where it is identified as a nonagricultural ingredient that is not subject to requirements that organic sources be used if they are commercially available. There was a lengthy debate as to whether bleached lecithin could be considered agricultural. Unbleached lecithin currently appears at §205.606(o). The NOSB also requested a revision to that entry so that it would read 'Lecithin—deoiled,' instead of unbleached.

### Crops

Sulfurous acid used to adjust pH in irrigation water was recommended to be added to the National List. Sulfur is burned in a generator to create sulfur dioxide gas, which is in turn injected into the water supply. The acid precipitates various cationic minerals such as calcium and sodium and lowers the pH of water. The practice is important in alkaline areas with low rainfall. A petition to allow isoparaffinic hydrocarbon as a solvent carrier for pyrethrum was rejected. Removal of annotations that restrict the use of peracetic acid in crop production was discussed, but not voted on. Some members of the NOSB expressed concern that peracetic acid might be used as a soil drench, which would oxidize organic matter and would be a broad-spectrum biocide that might kill beneficial soil organisms. Glycine betaine and polycaprolactone are waiting for a technical review.

### Livestock

Injectable vitamins and minerals were recommended to be added with an annotation that they be injected by a veterinarian or under a veterinarian's supervision. The NOSB noted that the practice is currently accepted by many certifiers, sometimes without any veterinary supervision. Propionic acid was rejected as a preservative.

### Clarification of Materials

On the program was a presentation made by the Materials Working Group (MWG) to help the NOSB interpret what is synthetic. Chairs of the MWG, Kim Dietz and Gwendolyn Wyard, were praised by several NOSB members for the quality of

---

their work. Emily Brown Rosen and Zea Sonnabend presented examples based on materials previously reviewed. A number of commenters, including OMRI, inquired about the petitions that were on hold, in part waiting for the clarification of materials.

### **Changes at USDA**

The meeting was notable for the participation of newly appointed Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan. Merrigan was widely acknowledged as a key author of the Organic Foods Production Act in the 1990 Farm Bill as staff to the Senate Agriculture Committee. Later, as Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, she was also responsible for the National Organic Program rule published in 2000.

Merrigan announced a new organic initiative worth \$50 million. The Natural Resource Conservation Service will administer the nationwide special initiative to provide financial assistance to certified organic producers as well as producers in the process of transitioning to organic production. Organic producers may also apply for assistance under the general Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

### **Other Items**

The NOSB passed guidances on both biodiversity and peer review.

### **Future Work**

The next meeting is expected to be held in November 2009. Petitioned substances that have been referred for technical reviews include ethylene glycol, terpene polymers, tetramethyl decyne diol, for crops; glucosamine and low-methoxy amidated pectin for processing; and vaccines for livestock. Other materials remain on the committee workplans. Animal welfare standards, mushrooms and apiculture are expected to be dealt with in the Fall meeting.

*Many, many thanks to OMRI for their permission in reprinting this report.*

### **Changes at OMRI**

By Dave DeCou, OMRI Executive Director  
OMRI is going through many changes at this time. Our long time Research Director (the founding employee of OMRI) is taking on a new job away from organic certification. Dr. Brian Baker has accepted a job at the State University of New York Alfred State College of Technology as

Executive Director of the Institute for Sustainability. The newly created position offers him an opportunity to re-enter the academic sector. The campus is six miles from his family's farm. His mother still lives on the farm and the move will enable him to care for her needs. Plus he will be able to farm once again. Brian has contributed immensely to the organic industry over his many years at first CCOF and since 1997 at OMRI. His depth of knowledge of the materials world in organic is unmatched and we will miss him. He plans to continue to contribute to the organic world and we expect to be able to access his knowledge from time to time. The "Doctor" has a new job with many new responsibilities where we wish him much success.

The February 20th policy statement from the National Organic Program (NOP) concerning liquid fertilizers has stretched OMRI in ways we did not anticipate. OMRI had already started a more rigorous inspection program with our policies under ISO Guide 65 but the requirement of these additional inspections has pushed our review staff hard. To create an "inspection request" which communicates the necessary details to the inspector, including what ingredients needing to be sampled and what analysis needs to be performed on those samples, has taken considerable time. Since inspections have only sparingly been used in the historic OMRI review, understanding how the additional information gathered fits into our system is an ongoing project. While this year has been full of learning we have been systematizing this inspection work to become efficient with it in the future. Most of our inspections have been performed through accredited certifiers with whom we have developed contracts as this allows us to minimize the search for inspectors. OMRI has needed inspectors all over North America as well as Europe and Israel. Over time OMRI expects to develop more direct relationships with individual inspectors for some of this work but for now working mostly through accredited certifiers allows OMRI to focus on the tasks only we can do. It will probably be another year before OMRI is ready to join IOIA for another training of inspectors for work under OMRI. OMRI is close to initiating the remaining inspections of liquid fertilizer products listed by OMRI requiring 3rd party inspections. That being said new products also requiring these inspections have arrived in OMRI's office for review just this week. Whether OMRI can complete all of these new arrivals by October 1 is unclear. Probably most will at least have the

inspections completed but perhaps not the reviews.

With OMRI's accreditation under ISO Guide 65 OMRI has put in place requirements that all products go through a complete review of their updated information at least every 3 years. This requirement to assure ongoing compliance has brought additional information to OMRI's attention. Some of this information has indicated product formulation changes or ingredient supply changes which have brought the product compliance into question. Also some companies have chosen to not submit to this level of review and stepped away from the OMRI list. As NOP has indicated in their recent statement concerning Summit Organic Products the lack of sufficient information to support compliance is the standard they are using to judge a product. OMRI has always provided a greater due process in our reviews than is apparent in the Summit case but the lack of necessary information provided by suppliers can be the trigger for removal from the OMRI Products List (OPL). As always OMRI keeps our most updated version of the OPL on our web site at:  
[http://www.omri.org/OMRI\\_products\\_list.php](http://www.omri.org/OMRI_products_list.php).

ISO Guide 65 has been a positive and a negative for OMRI. We very carefully wrote detailed policies and standards to comply with the accreditation requirements but not enough thought was given to business efficiency. Our ISO system accomplishes what we say it does but has not been flexible enough as we recognize our inefficiencies. OMRI's recognition by NOP might be attributed to our ISO accreditation and in some ways a quality system has improved the quality of our work. But over the next while OMRI will focus time on reworking our system to provide the necessary flexibility at appropriate levels to become efficient. We will move many of the details now contained in our policy and standards manual to the internal manuals where changes can occur much more readily. This should not weaken the system but make it much more responsive to our business needs.

Because of our current backlog OMRI currently has we have not been able to implement a Canadian review system. We have added the Canadian Standards to our internal systems and we have sent individuals for training under the Canadian system but no reviews are currently being performed against the Canadian Standards.

###

# Update on Canada's New Organic Regulation and Standards

by Kelly A. Monaghan

June 2009 was an exciting time for organics in Canada – the world's first equivalency agreement for organic standards was reached within weeks of the publication of the revised Canadian Organic Products Regulations and their implementation. The standards, which are separate from the regulations, will undergo continual revision as the Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture of the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) works to review comments made by users from around the globe.

The fact that the two key components of our system (the regulation and the standard/PSL) are separate means that the industry can continually improve the standard & PSL as time marches on without requiring an amendment of the federal regulation.

## Organic Products Regulations, 2009 (published in Gazette I on June 24, 2009)

The changes between this and the most recent version published in February of 2009 were not extensive. They include more clarity on slaughtering (s. 19), logo usage (s. 24) and a revised logo (shown below).

The logo no longer contains the word "regime" as this was found to have some negative connotations in various markets.



The logo is displayed in either black with a white background (as illustrated) or in colour using black for the words, red for

the maple leaf and green for the borders and hills.

## The Standard & PSL

The Technical Committee of the CGSB has been working through a network of industry-wide volunteers tasked with reviewing all comments made to the Standard and the Permitted Substances List (PSL). Over the past several years, there have been three ballots that the Technical Committee has voted on which have resulted in changes to the Standard and PSL (most recently published as Organic Production Systems General Principles and Management Standards (CAN/CGSB-32.310-2006, Amended October 2008) and Organic Production Systems Permitted Substances Lists (CAN/CGSB-32.311-2006, Amended October 2008).

In early July, the Technical Committee cast a fourth ballot for proposed changes to these documents – specifically 30 changes to the standard and a total of 49 revisions to the PSL consisting of annotation changes, additions and deletions from various tables.

With respect to the Standard (32.310), the proposed revisions include the addition of nanotechnology to the prohibitions in section 1.4.1. Other sections which generated much group discussion regarding wording revisions included greenhouse crops production (7.5), product composition (8.2) and processing and handling (8.3). These revisions were proposed primarily to improve clarity of intent.

Revisions were proposed to virtually every table in the PSL (32.311) incorporating many annotation amendments to reduce ambiguity. There were a number of substances added to the PSL including ferric phosphate (table 4.3), amino acids, antioxidants, micro-organisms and yeast and probiotics (table 5.2), activated charcoal, calcium borogluconate and sulfur (table 5.3), argon, calcium sulphate and sodium acid pyrophosphate (table 6.3), argon, carrageenan, potassium carbonate and silicon dioxide (table 6.6), sodium carbonate and sodium hydroxide (table 7.3) and sodium carbonate and sodium bicarbonate (table 7.4).

The title of Table 7.4 was also changed as previously it implied that any substance used in the facility (including on the floor of the reception foyer as an example) needed to be listed on Table 7.4. The title of that table now reads "Cleaners, Disinfectants and Sanitizers Allowed on Food Contact Surfaces including Equipment Provided That Substances Are Removed from Food-Contact Surfaces Prior to Organic Production."

The proposed revisions also included a revised Appendix A, which constitutes the Review Record used by the volunteer PSL Working Groups to assess every comment received prior to making a recommendation to the Technical Committee.

The proposed amendments will be soon reviewed by the Standards Council of Canada and will eventually be published as a revised Standard and PSL. As yet it is unclear if this version will be available at no charge or for a fee (as is the current version).

Future changes to the standard and PSL are likely as there are literally dozens of additional comments already in the queue that the working groups have been reviewing. Unfortunately, there has been no commitment to funding this ongoing work. Most of us on the working groups are volunteers however resources are required for conference calls and meetings of the Technical Committee when another ballot is ready for preparation.

## What's Next ?

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has been actively working with all stakeholders in order to pave the way for a smooth introduction of the Canadian Organic Products Regulations and the new equivalency agreement with the US. The Stream of Commerce Policy is now a formal document intended to explain how the CFIA will work with operators until June 30, 2011 to manage the transition from a voluntary system to the new regime.

*Kelly Monaghan is IOIA's representative on the Canadian General Standards Board's Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture and is a member of the TC's Processing and PSL Working Groups.*

## IOIA Receives Formal Recognition by Korea

IOIA received notice of approval as a training body in Korea for organic food processing inspection in June. Just three agencies are on the list of approved training bodies. Only government approved institutions may deliver organic processing inspection courses. Government authorization is not required for organic crop or livestock inspection training.

IOIA and the Korea Federation of Sustainable Agriculture Organizations (KFSAO) have cosponsored 5 trainings, including crop, processing, and livestock, in the past 3 years. The IOIA/KFSAO processing inspection training in July was the first Korean training to occur with only IOIAs' Korean Trainers. And it was the first training to occur since IOIA received this notice. Crop Inspection training is scheduled for September and Livestock training is being developed for November.

Isidor Yu also assisted IOIA in preparing the IOIA Korean/English documents on behalf of IOIA. Thank you, Isidor!

## Tunisia Gains 3rd Country Equivalency

Tunisia has been accepted under the EU third country list as having an equivalent governmental system for inspection and certification of organic production. According to Tunisian sources, the process to gain acceptance by the EU has taken in total eight years. The acceptance covers plant production and processed products. The decision can be found in Commission Regulation (EC) No 537/2009 of June 2009.

*IFOAM Africa press release, www.ifoam.org*

## H1N1 Flu

Flu is a serious contagious disease. Each year in the U.S., on average, more than 200,000 people are hospitalized and 36,000 people die from seasonal flu complications.

This flu season could be worse. There is a new and very different flu virus spreading worldwide among people called novel or new H1N1 flu. This virus may cause more illness or more severe illness than usual. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) urges people

worldwide to take the following actions to protect yourself and others from influenza (the flu):

### 1) Consider getting vaccinated.

### 2.) Take everyday preventive actions.

- ◆ Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- ◆ Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- ◆ Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- ◆ Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- ◆ If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities, and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

### 3. Take flu antiviral drugs if your doctor recommends them.

\* Visit the CDC website for more info:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

## Job Announcement

Global ID Group ([www.global-id-group.com](http://www.global-id-group.com)) is looking for someone to take on the role of Technical Director for Certification and Quality Assurance. This position will provide a diversity of activities and an opportunity to exercise a wide range of skills and knowledge. We have a lot of things happening around the world and need someone with strong certification and quality assurance background and with strong knowledge and experience in both the agriculture, and in food manufacturing and processing. Excellent people skills are essential for this job, in addition to strong technical background.

A key part of this person's role will be to lead the technical program and verification program for the Non-GMO Project (see [www.nongmoproject.org](http://www.nongmoproject.org)), which is working with the organic and natural products industries throughout North America to manage GMO contamination risk. The Project is really taking off and we need strong technical leadership. The other major responsibility will be to manage our other certification programs around the world. We offer Non-GMO certification globally; we are the largest organic certifier in Japan; we offer a business to business level

certification program for social responsibility and environmental sustainability that is serving a very important role in South America, protecting the Amazon and other sensitive habitats; we also provide Halal certification and food safety certification to the BRC Global Standard and soon to SQF. This position is based in the US, but some international travel would be needed, along with some travel in the US. Ideally we would like the person to relocate to our home office in Iowa, but that is negotiable. Compensation will be consistent with industry norms and will be proportional to qualifications. Candidates can contact John Fagan at [sci@genetic-id.com](mailto:sci@genetic-id.com)



Recently, Whole Foods announced that it was partnering with the Non-GMO Project to handle GMO issues with all of its own-brand products.

Above is the electronic billboard on Times Square in NYC, announcing this cooperation and showing the Non-GMO Project seal.

## Now At ISEAL

IOIA members may be interested to know that David Gould, formerly with Global ID, is now Member Support Manager for the ISEAL Alliance, [www.isealalliance.org](http://www.isealalliance.org). This new job is the initiation and lead of a Learning and Innovation platform for the organization and its members. His position will interface with ISEAL's other programs of Standard Setting Code, Impacts, Credibility, and Scaling Up. The tasks involve a mix of education, technical expertise, and stakeholder engagement – and David reports it's pretty much ideal for his interests and skills. Best of luck, David!

---

# The New EU Regulations on Organic Agriculture

By Tobias Fischer  
International Department  
Certification / Evaluation  
BCS ÖKO-GARANTIE GMBH

Why did all of this happen? Why must there be a NEW EU regulation which would eliminate a regulation which has been developed and has been adapted over 17 years?

Well, the aim was to provide a simplification and improvement of the existing organic farming legislation. Unfortunately, in practice this has not happened.

The legislation is more complicated to read. What has one legislation been before is now divided into three resulting in zick-zack reading, because aspects which in the "old" regulation had been summarized in one article / annex are now creatively distributed in several sections of the new regulations.

The new regulations are:  
(EC) 834/2007 (replacing 2092/91)  
(EC) 889/2008 (so called "implementation rules")  
(EC) 1235/2008 (import regime for organic products)

While the 834/2007 sets out common principles, defines scopes and objectives of organic agriculture (Basic framework regulation) the 889/2008 defines measures for the implementation of 834/2007, gives detailed conditions and specific production rules as well as exceptions to principles set in 834/2007. **Thus, from now on you will have to read at least 2 regulations (sometimes 3) in order to get the information you need.**

In the following, on the example of provisions given for Conversion Periods, the unavoidable zick-zack reading is described:

Conversion periods and how to assess them, once defined by 2092/981, Annex III, 2.1, is now Article 17, 834/2007 and Article 36 and 37, 889/2008. **If you only read Article 17** concerning when the conversion periods starts you will find it says: "...conversion period shall start at

the earliest when the operator has notified his activity to the competent authorities....". Thus any operation would need to go through the conversion period from the day it was in contact with the authority in charge and it seems that there is no other possibility.

## But...

If you read Article 36 and 37 of 889/2008 you will find the following specific requirements and exceptions to the rule set out in 834/2007:

"... competent authority may decide to recognize retroactively as being part of the conversion period any previous period...".

Thus only in 889/2008 does it become clear that the conversion period may be retroactively approved (as it was under 2092/91), while only reading 834/2007 it seems this is not possible any more.

This example shows that it is never enough to only read one part of the regulations concerning specific topics, but it is unavoidable to search through all regulations. If you use the digital PDF versions of the regulations, the search option in PDF Reader becomes a very valuable tool in order to get all provisions together you need to know before going on-site.

In my personal opinion the new regulation has not very much improved existing organic farming legislation but more likely may have opened doors for an organic agriculture "light" considering the flexibility chapter (chapter 5 of 834/2007). This chapter could allow as an exception i.e. any substance in organic agriculture, if it is needed for climatic, structural or developmental reason, as long as it complies with the aims and principles of organic agriculture. To me that does not seem to contribute to the integrity of organic farming. However, there has been a very controversial discussion of this flexibility provisions and some welcomed it, as they felt it is necessary to "loosen the tight regulatory corset" of the old regulation to assure the further development of organic agriculture.

The good news is that the new regulation has not changed big time. The text of the annexes of the old regulation have been copied and republished in the new regulation, with little changes. So as an inspector out there in the field, you luckily do not need to apply complete new criteria, when assessing an operations' compliance with the EU organic law.

However there have been changes and some of them are highlighted in the following (not complete list – animal production aspects excluded):

**Broader scope** Includes provisions for Organic Pet food, Products from hunting and fishery made with organic ingredients, organic aquacultural products (the rules for organic aquacultural production have been published recently), organic yeast production, organic wine production and wild collected organic seaweed

## Definition of GMO contamination threshold levels

Prohibition of GMO's and GMO derivatives is maintained as in the old regulation, but allows for products labeled and sold as organic to contain up to 0.9% of "adventitious or technically unavoidable"

## GMO Product category <95% organic ingredients

The category for labeling products with 70-95% organic agricultural ingredients does not exist anymore as under 2092/91. Products containing less than 95% of organic ingredients can only refer in the ingredients list to organic production, provided it is a product mainly of agricultural origin, it has been produced only with allowed substances and individual agricultural ingredients are NOT at the same time of organic and conventional origin.

## New EU logo for organic products

Mandatory for pre-packaged organic products produced IN the EU from July 2010 on. Optional use for organic products (pre-packaged/non pre-packaged) imported from third countries.

---

---

## EU, continued from page 12

### Prohibition of hydroponics

Seeds and planting stock In conversion to organic seed and planting stock can be used. Non organic and untreated seed may only be used if it is defined by annex X of 889/2008 to be not available in organic quality. This annex is not yet completed.

### Plant production records

Records shall provide at least information concerning the use of plant protection products: reason and date of treatment, type of product and method of treatment (Art. 72, 889/2008). In general operators shall keep documentary evidence to prove the need to use fertilizer/soil conditioner and plant protection products (Art. 5, No 834/2007). This new requirements is replacing the obligation under 2092/91 that the CB must recognize the need to use certain fertilizers (i.e. Micronutrients) or plant protection products (i.e. Neem) prior to their use by the operator.

### Inspections production (agriculture)

Organic and non-organic production units in one area, the non-organic production units, together with storage premises for input products MUST also be subject to the minimum control requirements (Art. 66, 889/2008). Non-organic portions of an organic operation are specifically included in the “minimum control requirements” (Title IV, chapter 1 of 889) and must be inspected.

### New calculation for processed organic products

From 1st of July, 2010 onwards ingredients which used to be not of agricultural origin (under 2092/91), are now considered as agricultural ingredient (e.g. Lecithins, Arabic gum, Pectin etc.). For calculating maximum 5% allowed conventional agricultural ingredients, include food additives marked with an asterisk in Annex VIII Part A 889/2008 as ingredients of agricultural origin

### Transitional conditions for new labeling provisions

New requirements for labeling have to be implemented from 1st of July 2010 onwards. Stock of products packaged and labeled according to 2092/91 before 2009

may continue to be brought into the market until 1st of January 2012.

### Separation and cleaning in handling (processing) operations

Operators who handle both non-organic and organic products must implement cleaning measures, record them and monitor check their effectiveness (Art. 35 (c) 889/2008)

### Risk analyses in processing / handling operations

Operators should establish and update appropriate procedures based on a systematic identification of critical processing steps.

### Import procedures for organic products into the EU

For the moment everything remains the same: this means import licenses must be obtained from the responsible EU member state, in case products do originate from non recognized third countries. But import licenses will progressively be replaced by the following mechanisms (will probably still take between 1 to 2 years):

- a) List of third countries (as under 2092/91)
- b) List of recognized equivalent CB's (Equivalence track)
- c) List of approved compliant CB's (Compliance track)

Both import regimes under equivalency a) and b) will require import certificates to be issued per each imported consignment whereas the “Compliance track” will allow direct access to the EU, without the need for import certificates.

CB's will be recognized by the EU commission directly, thus there will be one central approval authority, which is delegating the assessment works to accreditation bodies, complying with ISO 17011. CB's must apply to be listed until the end of October each year (first deadline is October 31st, 2009). In the interim application will most likely not be processed.

### Some key requirements for CB's to become approved are:

Valid ISO 65 (EN 45011) accreditation -

CB's must inform the EU commission in which country they are going to certify and which products / product category and the EU will approve the CB for the countries and the products applied for. If this will result in certain limitations during the time from October to October is not yet clear. The commission informed that there will be possibilities for updating existing approvals.

CB's must publish their certified operators, including certification status and product category (this includes suspended and decertified operators as well)

In case a CB wants to become approved as “equivalent”, in order to get approved, the CB must carry out an equivalence assessment of the production rules applied in the country they certify in.

With the New EU organic regulations the key differences with the NOP basically remain the same (excluding animal husbandry aspects):

- ◆ Limited scope of products included in the regulation
- ◆ Whole chain of production, including storage and commerce must be inspected and certified
- ◆ Conversion period is three years before harvest, in case of perennial crops and two years before sowing an organic crop in case of annual crops
- ◆ Conversion to organic can be certified and products in conversion can be commercialized as “In conversion to organic agriculture” from the second year of conversion
- ◆ No parallel production (organic and not-organic) allowed for crops which look alike. Thus one and the same crop cannot be produced organically and not organically by the same company
- ◆ Allowed substances are not identical, i.e. Sodium Nitrate is not allowed
- ◆ EU does not have an issue with inert ingredients of inputs used in organic agriculture
- ◆ Animal manure must be from non-factory farming sources and applications are limited to 170kg N /ha / year
- ◆ Residue limits are not defined for organic products
- ◆ No specific requirements for buffer zones ###

---

## IOIA visits FiBL in Switzerland

By Sacha Draine

May 19, 2009 was a beautiful early summer day in Switzerland. I made my way to the local train station by the lake of Luzern, where I boarded a train to Zürich. It only took about 30 minutes to arrive at the busy main station of the largest town in Switzerland, where I had to find the connecting train to Frick. After having grown-up in the region of Zürich, I was very familiar with the large and very well developed train system in Switzerland. Another 40 minutes of train ride brought me to my destination of Frick, in the canton of Aargau.

Beate Huber was already waiting to pick me up and take me the short drive to FiBL. Das Forschungs Institut für Biologischen Landbau (the research institute for organic agriculture) is nestled in a beautiful setting of lovely meadows and forested hills, only about one kilometer outside of the small town of Frick. Beate Huber (Dipl.-Ing. Agr.) works in Development and Cooperation and Quality Assurance with FiBL. We had met earlier this year in Montréal, where she gave a workshop on the EU regulations together with IOIA. Beate and I had discussed a possible visit of IOIA at FiBL during my next trip to Switzerland.

FiBL was founded in 1973 and is one of the leading research institutes for organic agriculture worldwide. It runs its own vineyard, orchard and complete farm, including livestock. FiBL employs 125 people, many of them working hand in hand with farmers to form a close bond and exchange of knowledge and ideas between science and its practical implementation. Besides having its seat in Switzerland, FiBL is very active in other European regions as well as involved in research and development projects in countries like India and Kenya.

Beate introduced me to Thomas Alföldi from Research Coordination and Communication, to give me a tour of the whole premise. He had prepared his comments in English, expecting an american representative of IOIA, and was rather surprised when I started to chat with him in Swiss-German. We began our tour in the research labs, where he showed

me some of the plant growing experiments in controlled light and humidity environments. Plants are grown in different soil types in the lab, pests and their effects on crops are studied, and I met two scientists dissecting sheep droppings of their exact content. We joked and had a good laugh J Thomas also gave me an idea of FiBL's 16 Mio Swiss Franc budget (similar to US\$ at the moment) and roughly one quarter of it being Federal Swiss Governmental funding.

After the tour I had lunch with Beate, where we discussed potential future collaboration between FiBL and IOIA. The area of interest for IOIA and FiBL to possibly work together is in a project of international education and training. FiBL does educate local farmers and organizers in their development work in mostly 3rd world regions, where IOIA's expertise in international trainings could be a good match for FiBL. I was able to explain in more detail what IOIA has already done in the past concerning international trainings. Beate is very interested and will keep IOIA and our specific capabilities in mind when working on future development projects.

When I asked her about training collaboration in Europe and with European certifiers she explained that they educate their own staff and inspectors, and do not see much need for an independent organization to provide training. Beate and I agreed that the subject of "conflict of interest" and therefore having more independent inspectors could be a subject of further discussion in Europe. She sees the advantages in a model of a third party educating certifier staff, instead of everything being handled in-house by the certifiers themselves.

Another fascinating area of expertise for me to learn from Beate is her work with 3rd world development projects, and local governments and agricultural organizations. Her experience is very valuable and I will be able to implement some of the insights she gave me when coordinating international IOIA courses in the future.

FiBL is publishing and collaborating on a variety of organic magazines, including the official publication "Bioaktuell" of the

swiss organic label Bio-Suisse. Beate sent me home with a heavy bag of brochures for IOIA and even a book by FiBL and IFOAM about a study of the organic market worldwide and its future.

Beate and Sacha at the 2009 AGM



###

## IOIA/ISDA Training in Idaho

On May 19-21, a 3-day customized in-house organic inspection workshop was presented in Burley, Idaho with a group of 14 ISDA participants. This training took more than a year to develop with some false starts and stops along the way due to funding concerns. When the training was finally confirmed in April, the Idaho Department of Agriculture requested it to occur in May. From beginning to end, the actual development and delivery of the training took less than one month.

Growth in customized, in-house training is expected and nothing new. But putting one together in that time frame isn't really the norm, even for IOIA! How was it possible? IOIA has developed a solid bank of training materials for basic crop, livestock, and processing training over the past 3 years as curriculum work has steadily proceeded. The IOIA ED served as Trainer and drew from those materials with constant adaptation to the needs of the group.

The group of diverse participants engaged enthusiastically in the intense 3-day workshop and worked without a grumble. Participants ranged from three Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) auditors with no organic inspection experience to some inspectors with more than 40 organic inspections under their belt. Among them were four state dairy inspectors, who were a great asset for the livestock and handling topics. Added to the mix were ISDA organic certification director Margaret Misner and her

administrative assistant, Johanna Phillips. None of these had intended to become organic inspectors. The inspectors were simply assigned to the task. So their enthusiasm and work ethic was a welcome surprise for the Trainer.

No field trips were included. The “virtual” goat dairy inspection provided experience in note-taking and reporting. The agenda covered Crop, Livestock, and Processing with a significant emphasis on understanding and navigating the NOP standards. Different aspects of the basic training were covered for each. The group reviewed Crop and Livestock inputs, traced audits and practiced in/out balances for Handling, and reviewed the basics of inspector protocols, exit interview, and writing issues of concern for all three areas. They had fun with the IOIA Navigating the Standards Game and the Interview Styles exercise (skits). Writing issues of concern was practiced daily. The ED returned with ideas on how IOIA Trainers can use the existing materials and even developed a few additional ones.

An unexpected bonus was great Mexican food a short walk from the hotel. And one night Margaret M and Margaret S were seen enjoying Margaritas there with some friends.



Margaret Scoles, far left, with ISDA workshop participants

## IOIA/KFSAO Processing Course, Yangpyeong, Korea July 13-17

By Isidor Yu, with Sacha Draine

This course was held by request of NAQS (National Agricultural Product Quality Management Service), which is the governmental authority of audit and accreditation for Certifying Body's in Korea. Due to the new act about processed organic food in Korea, every processor has to be certified and the act requires governmental monitoring.

At first the course was prepared for NAQS but eventually other CBs and companies participated. So the composition of participants was balanced and the final number was 19.

The field trip was to an organic soybean processing factory and lent itself very well to training purposes. Especially the audit trail was very successful as the operator had good records and documents to work with.

### FORMAL RECOGNITION BY KOREA GOVERNMENT

The new act requires organic inspectors of the processing sector to have a certificate issued by an authorized training institute. IOIA applied formally last spring and finally got authorization as a training institute. Participants of IOIA processing courses, held starting this year, can now be organic inspectors for Korean organic processing inspections.

This course was very meaningful to the trainers Isidor Yu and Haekyung Hong because it was the first training which was held by Korean trainers only. So far Lisa Pierce and Mutsumi Sakuyoshi have helped these two trainers to become independent and passed on their vast knowledge. The two experts from Canada and Japan guided Isidor and Haekyung to trainer qualification and eventually their efforts were successful, and allowed the Korean course to stand on its own feet.

## Resources

The NOP posted to the NOP website a draft guidance document, “*Certification and Labeling of Soap Products Made From Agricultural Ingredients*” on July 24, 2009. Find it at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/nop>

Read up on interesting organic labeling updates for alcohol products at [http://www.ttb.gov/alfd/alfd\\_organic.shtml](http://www.ttb.gov/alfd/alfd_organic.shtml)

Thanks to Patti Bursten-Deusch for this IOIA Forum posting.

**"A Tale of Two Films" Reviews *Food, Inc.* and *Fresh*** Two new documentary films, *Food, Inc.* and *Fresh*, have injected new energy into the national dialogue about what we eat and how we grow food in America. The two movies cover much of the same ground, but differ greatly in tone. *Food, Inc.* strives to leave viewers alarmed and eager for change, while the stories in *Fresh* about people creating healthier local and regional islands within the larger food system are uplifting and hopeful.

The Organic Center has prepared an in-depth joint review of these films, accessible on the Center's website. The review includes an [overview](#), ["Two Takes on Scale, Efficiency, Food Safety, and How to Change the Food System"](#), and [discussion of how the films address the key issue of whether organic farming can feed the world](#).

Information is also posted on how to access and view the films, as well as scientific resources that delve more deeply into the topics covered in the films.

---

---

## IOIA BOD Conference Call - May 7, 2009

**Present:** Stephen Bird, Bob Durst (Chair), Eric Feutz, Gene Prochaska and Margaret Scoles, ED.

Minutes submitted by Eric Feutz, Secretary.

**1. Treasurer's Report: Steve** - We might have a net loss next quarter and should not be too alarmed, as this is typical for IOIA cash flow in the first half of the year. IOIA 1st Quarter reports are very close in budget vs. actual. Retained earnings (net gain over time) are positive for the past 12 months. In general, finances are positive.

Gene offered to assist Steve in making the transition to Treasurer.

**Action Point:** Gene and Steve will review the 2008 IRS 990 Return together.

**Action Point:** BOD will have an executive session on method of compensating ED on a later agenda this year. ED to provide summary of past years' compensation, showing breakdown of different compensation.

### 2. Committees

a. Representation on Industry Committees: The BOD reviewed the Draft Policy on IOIA Representation, presented by Steve Bird. **Action Point:** All BOD should send ideas for clarifying the Representation Policy wording to Steve.

b. Canadian Committee: defer to next meeting, in Dave's absence.

c. BOD Liaisons Appointed to Committees:

- ◆ Finance Committee Chair: Steve, as Treasurer will Chair the committee, as mandated by Bylaws. Gene will be on the committee as a member. Dave will be invited to participate.
- ◆ Membership Committee: Gene, as Vice-Chair, accepts BOD Liaison.
- ◆ Accreditation: Steve is willing to continue as BOD Liaison.
- ◆ Canadian: pending, for further discussion with Dave. Monique no longer on BOD, so replacement is needed.
- ◆ Communications and Marketing: Replacement needed for Erin Beard. Eric volunteers.
- ◆ CGGs: Lidia will continue as liaison. If she wishes to relinquish it, she can find a replacement.
- ◆ Editorial Review: Steve is willing to continue as BOD Liaison.
- ◆ Ethics: Bob accepts position of BOD Liaison.
- ◆ Latin American: currently filled by Lidia, no change.
- ◆ Scholarship: Gene continues as BOD liaison.
- ◆ Training Advisory: Bob will continue as BOD liaison.

According to previous decision made to have term limits for Committee Chairs some Chairs should be replaced.

**3. Food Safety Directive:** Bob reported on the face to face interactions he and the ED had with the DC visits on April 29-30. An appointment with Mark Bradley to address concerns with the directive and how it was being interpreted was initially the biggest incentive for the trip. The main change for IOIA training is that we will ensure that our inspector trainings for processing inspection upgrade our current language of "it's a good idea to see the other inspection reports" or "should report whether they have valid health certificates" to a full MUST verify whether or not a valid health certificate is present and report what we find to the certifier regarding health certificates. We should train inspectors to ask to see health inspection reports and to report any serious non-compliances that they find there.

The discussion about the more broad-ranging issue of training was as valuable, or more so, than getting clarification about the directive. The NOP is looking at increasing their training focus in other countries. They would have difficulty handling all logistics for international locations but could readily send the Trainer. IOIA could possibly manage the trainings so NOP's only responsibility would be to send the Trainer.

ARC is sending one of their NOP auditors to the Chicago Canadian Organic Standards Training June 15-16.

The letter in progress to First Lady Mrs. Obama, White House, was discussed with Senator Tester's office.

Both Bob and the ED reported a very positive outcome for IOIA's investment in the trip.

(See last issue of Inspectors' Report for full report of the visit.)

**Action Point:** ED to follow up with USDA to see how we can collaborate or cosponsor international trainings and possibly seek funding support for the work.

### 4. BOD Development:

a. BOD retreat in 2009: Brainstorming on topic of potential BOD retreat.

**Action Point:** Keep Potential of 2009 BOD retreat in-person on the live agenda, so all BOD members can have input.

**Action Point:** All BOD think about items in the next month or two that might warrant a retreat to focus on.

**Action Point:** All BOD plan to look over results of last retreats (possibly posted for review).

### 5. ED Report: Margaret

Written report was provided in advance. Additional points brought to BOD orally:

a. Korea issue: Topic of copyright infringement in Korea was brought to the BOD's attention. IOIA is working with Isidor Yu to challenge what appears to be a copyright violation in Korea.

b. BOD Action Point Table: The ED asked for direction on whether the BOD would benefit from using a table to track action points. BOD suggests that it would be best to put on bottom of minutes or agenda, not as a separate document, keeping on the pending and deferred items. Take off items as completed but keep that master table in a different location as a permanent record of BOD activity.

**Action Point:** ED to work with staff and Secretary to try out the concept of Action Point Table, suggested as part of minutes or agenda.

[see **Minutes**, page 18]

## EU buyers stop US soy imports after GMO corn found

European Union buyers have voluntarily moved to stop imports of U.S. soy after shipments were found containing traces of genetically modified corn, a spokesman for the EU in Washington reported on August 6.

European trade sources said U.S. soybean meal shipments to Spain and Germany were found with traces of GMO corn, which is prohibited in the EU.

"The industry has itself decided to stop all imports of U.S. soy, as of now," Mattias Sundholm told Reuters.

"The shipments have been rejected at the EU borders, and have been consigned and recalled when already on the market within the EU, unless they have already been consumed," Sundholm said.

Sundholm could not confirm the quantity or location of the shipments, but said they were found to contain the corn varieties MON-88017 and MIR-604.

Officials from the U.S. Agriculture Department and trade associations have not replied to requests for information.

The incident has raised concerns about bottlenecks in supply of a key feed ingredient for European livestock, which is already pricey.

"The main problem is that EU regulations don't allow marginal amounts, traces of GMOs not authorised by the EU," a spokesman for the Spanish Association of Cereal and Products Importers said.

"That puts us all in an uncertain, risky trade situation, and that is most serious for the entire European Community -- trade, livestock production and the economy."

Sources said 50,000 tonnes of contaminated U.S. soybean meal had been unloaded and detained at Tarragona, Spain's largest port. Port officials were not available to comment.

"It still needs to be dispatched and we await a meeting by the European Commission, probably in September, because nothing will happen in August," a port source said.

"The meeting will have to be urgent, because they have had similar problems in Germany."

The EU was the fourth-largest market last year for U.S. soymeal exports, totaling 475,900 tonnes. Shipments so far this marketing year, which began last October, are 374,300 tonnes.

A Spanish agriculture ministry official confirmed authorities had blocked a shipment of soybean meal, but could provide no further details.

Spain's feed industry consumes some 5 million tonnes of protein-rich soybean meal a year, all of it imported, and mostly from the United States, Brazil or Argentina.

A trade source estimated Spanish ports had enough soymeal in stock to supply the animal feed industry for about a month, and said prices could be affected.

A port source said that Spain could not rely on supplies of soy from Argentina and Brazil alone.

"Argentina will no longer have soya as of October, Brazil is in a similar situation, and with China buying 2 million tonnes, soya will become a luxury good," he said. A report from Spain's Mercorleida grain exchange said news of China buying large amounts of soybean meal had added to jitters over a poor harvest.

*Reuters, 6 August 2009*

<http://news.alibaba.com/article/detail/agriculture/100150870-1-update-2-eu-buyers-stop-us.html>

## Court Rules Against Biotech

*\* Appeals Court Rules Planting of Biotech Crop Can Cause Irreversible Harm to Organic and Conventional Crops, Farmers, and the Environment*

*\*Monsanto's Petition to Rehear Denied in Full*

San Francisco, CA - June 24, 2009 - \*In a decision handed down here today, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has re-affirmed its previous decision upholding a nationwide ban on the planting of genetically-engineered (GE) Roundup Ready alfalfa pending a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Court determined that the planting of genetically modified alfalfa can result in potentially irreversible harm to organic and conventional varieties of crops, damage to the environment, and economic harm to farmers.

Although the suit was brought against United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Monsanto Company and Forage Genetics entered into the suit as Defendant-Intervenors. In September 2008 the Ninth Circuit affirmed the lower court's ruling, but the Intervenors continued to press the appeal alone, requesting the appellate court to rehear the case. The June 24 decision denied that

request and re-affirmed the earlier decision in full.

"This ruling affirms a major victory for consumers, ranchers, organic farmers, and most conventional farmers across the country," said Andrew Kimbrell, Executive Director of the Center for Food Safety. "Roundup Ready Alfalfa represents a very real threat to farmers' livelihoods and the environment; the court rightly dismissed Monsanto's claims that their bottom line should come before the rights of the public and America's farmers. This ruling is a turning point in the regulation of biotech crops in this country."

The June 24 decision again upholds District Court Judge Charles Breyer's earlier ruling of May 2007, in which he found that the USDA failed to address concerns that Roundup Ready alfalfa will contaminate conventional and organic alfalfa. The Ninth Circuit decision affirms that USDA violated national environmental laws by approving GE alfalfa without a full Environmental Impact Statement.

The Center for Food Safety represented itself and the following co-plaintiffs in the suit: Western Organization of Resource Councils, National Family Farm Coalition, Sierra Club, Beyond Pesticides, Cornucopia Institute, Dakota Resource Council, Trask Family Seeds, and Geertson Seed Farms. For more info, go to [www.centerforfoodsafety.org](http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org).

## What GM Crops are Being Grown?

- ◆ most investment has gone into a small number of crops and traits targeted toward large-scale commercial farming
- ◆ only four crops - soya, maize, cotton and canola (oilseed rape) - comprise virtually 100% of GM agriculture
- ◆ GM rice, wheat, tomatoes, sweetcorn, potatoes and popcorn have all been rejected as unacceptable in the global marketplace
- ◆ GM papaya cultivation in Hawaii has been declining over several years

## **COR, from page 1**

### **A quick summary of the equivalency letters:**

US letter says that "agricultural products derived from animals treated with antibiotics shall not be marketed as organic in the United States". This is the only critical variance that was specified for Canadian producers.

Canada letter addresses 3 important variances: sodium (Chilean) nitrate, stocking density for livestock, and aeroponic/hydroponic production. It says that "agricultural products produced with the use of sodium nitrate shall not be marketed as organic in Canada". It was clarified verbally at the signing that there is no 3-year look back period. But it cannot be used on product destined for Canada after July 1. The letter says the same for products produced by hydroponic or aeroponic production methods. It also states "agricultural products derived from animals must be produced according to livestock stocking rates as set out in CAN/CGSB 32:310-2006 (as amended October 2008).

At first it was not clear exactly how processed products will be treated. For example, if cookies are made and baked in the US, using milk from a dairy that does not meet the Canadian stocking density standards, can that cookie go into Canada with the Canadian organic logo? According to an initial memo issued by the NOP to certifiers the sodium nitrate and stocking density requirements did not apply to processed products. The memo stated, "This does not apply to processed products." But this would put Canadian processors at a disadvantage. In more recent communications from the CFIA, it appears that processed NOP-certified products will have no special status in Canada. According to a memo from the CFIA, distributed on July 31, "Processed products should meet the requirements of the agreement. It is recognized that the tracking of inputs for process products could be challenging thus the requirements for documentation for this should be flexible for a period of time".

The memo also gave more detail on the animal density issue "ACAs must document and collect livestock density ratios for all operations certified for livestock, poultry, and eggs. Data required are animal units per acre or per square foot (for swine and poultry) for all certified operations. ACAs may use their

own format for collecting such data, such as an Excel spreadsheet. During the next year, NOP will call on ACAs to submit this data to the NOP in a form needed by the NOP so that such data can be reported to CFIA. More details will be forthcoming as necessary. Inspectors might be seeing memos from US certifiers about collecting this information.

### **Important dates:**

June 17: Agriculture Deputy Secretary Merrigan Announced the US-Canada Agreement at the OTA Annual Meeting in Chicago. Later that day, the official signing happened there in a public ceremony.

June 22: Letters of Equivalency were posted to NOP website. They can be accessed there or several other locations including the CFIA website or the OTA website.

June 24: Final Canadian Organic Products Regulation (OPR) was published in the Canadian Gazette (analogous to the Federal Register in the US). No significant changes occurred since the Draft released Feb. 14.

June 25: Barbara C. Robinson, Acting Director, National Organic Program, issued a memo to be effective July 1 to all certifiers, reiterating the agreement that was signed. It provided more detail on the animal density issue.

For information on the NOP Website [www.ams.usda.gov/nop](http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop), see Latest News, June 17, June 22, June 24, July 1, and July 23.

For information on the final Canada Organic Products Regulation [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca)

## **AGM, from page 4**

If you have ideas on how to make this into an extraordinary event, please contact the IOIA office. For more information, please visit the IOIA website home page, where training information will be updated regularly.

Thank you to our AGM Organizing Committee in Arizona (Terrie Gent, Inge Vogelmann, Abed Anouti

## **Minutes, from page 16**

### **2. Committees:**

Policy on IOIA-Representation on Industry Committees. Discussion of draft policy resulted in consensus to make

some minor changes in wording and two additions. It was questioned if appointees might be compensated and observations that compensation may result in a better qualified representative for IOIA.

**Action Point:** Future budgets will include a line item for IOIA Representation on outside boards or committees. It will not be tied to any specific committee or term.

## **IOIA BOD Conference Call June 25, 2009**

(Note: these minutes have not yet been approved, so excerpts are more limited. Full minutes will be posted at [www.ioia.net](http://www.ioia.net) when approved.)

Present: Bob Durst (Chair), Eric Feutz, Dave Konrad, Gene Prochaska, Julio Perez and Margaret Scoles, ED. Minutes submitted by Eric Feutz, Secretary. Bob declares Julio (First Alternate) is a voting member for this meeting. Absent: Steve Bird and Lidia Girón.

### **4. Committees**

Policy on IOIA-Representation on Industry Committees.

Discussion of draft policy resulted in consensus to make some minor changes in wording and two additions. It was questioned if appointees might be compensated and observations that compensation may result in a better qualified representative for IOIA.

Gene moves to approve the revised Draft. Seconded by Eric. All in favor.

Bob asks that language changes in the draft policy be circulated with the BOD and included in the June 25, 2009, minutes.

a. BOD Liaisons to Committees: BOD reviewed current pending or open chair persons and liaisons.

Canadian Committee: Dave accepts to be the liaison.

Fundraising: Eric accepts to be liaison.

**October 1 is the next deadline for Accreditation. Are you up for renewal, or have you been considering a first-time application? Don't miss the deadline if you want to be printed as Accredited in the next IOIA Membership Directory!**

---

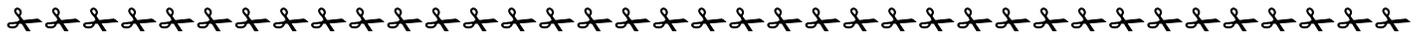
---

# INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

IOIA has several publications for sale. Order here or through our website, [www.ioia.net](http://www.ioia.net)

Please add 15% for Shipping and Handling.

- Farming with the Wild: Enhancing Biodiversity on Farms and Ranches; Written by Daniel Imhoff, Watershed Media, 182 p.; 2003; \$20.00
- Organic Dairy Farming, Edited by Jody Padham, Community Conservation, Project coordinated by MOSES, 156 p.; 2006; \$15.00
- Building Soils for Better Crops (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition), by Fred Magdoff and Harold Van Es. 240 pp. \$20
- COG Organic Field Crop Handbook, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Expanded and Rewritten. Published by Canadian Organic Growers. An invaluable resource. While preserving the best of the now out-of-print and no longer available first edition, this edition is updated to include info on GMO's, E. coli issues in manure, and many additions to the crop section. 222 pages, spiral bound, \$30.00.
- Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, published by Sust. Ag Network, \$19.00
- Organic Livestock Handbook, published by Canadian Organic Growers. Edited by Anne Macey, 179 pp, spiral bound, \$30.00
- Organic Tree Fruit Management, published by COABC, 240 pages, \$30.00
- Steel in the Field, published by Sustainable Ag Network, 128 pages, \$18.00
- Introduction to Certified Organic Farming. Published by REAP Canada, 200 pg. 25.00



## We have a New Batch of 100% Organic Cotton Caps, with our New Name!

See our Caps in the *Books & Goods* section of our website [www.ioia.net](http://www.ioia.net) <sup>3</sup>

Color choice of black, khaki, forest Green, navy – Get up to speed and tell the world we're now **International!**

**IOIA Caps** - \$20.00 – Please specify color 1<sup>st</sup> choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

**IOIA Sew-On Patch** - \$10.00

**Print or Type, Mail to IOIA, PO Box 6,  
Broadus, MT 59317-0006**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed – Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Visa   Mastercard

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

I AM INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING:

### IOIA Membership Application

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

- Inspector - \$150
- Supporting Individual - \$100
- Business/Organization \$125
- Certifying Agency - \$275
- Patron - \$500
- Sustainer - \$1000

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

2009 IOIA Membership Directory:

\$15 members    \$25 non-members

IFOAM/IOIA Int'l Organic Inspection Manual:

\$45 members    \$60 non-members

## 2009 Calendar

**August 23 – 27** Monterey, CA. Farming Systems Design 2009, an international symposium on Methodologies for Integrated Analysis of Farm Production Systems. This meeting is a joint international effort co-sponsored by the American Society of Agronomy, European Society of Agronomy, Australian Society of Agronomy, American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, and the Int'l Environmental Modeling and Software Society. [www.iemss.org/farmsys09](http://www.iemss.org/farmsys09)

**August 25 – 29** Santa Fe, NM. 1st International IFOAM Conference on Organic Animal and Plant Breeding. Both organic plant and animal breeding are in early phases of development. As they share a great deal in common, primarily socioeconomic aspects, but also genotype-environment interaction, genetic diversity and robustness, each field can inspire the other to develop and build upon successful strategies. [www.ifoam.org](http://www.ifoam.org)

**August 26 – 30** Sacramento, CA. XVI IPNC 2009: Plant Nutrition for Sustainable Development and Global Health. The 16th International Plant Nutrition Colloquium will highlight advances in fundamental and applied plant nutrition, and emphasize the role of plant nutrition in food systems and environmental sustainability. The colloquium will attract the worlds leading researchers in plant nutrition. [www.ipnc.ucdavis.edu/](http://www.ipnc.ucdavis.edu/)

**September 1 – 4** Rosario, Argentina. Technology and Management to Increase the Efficiency in Sustainable Agricultural Systems - CIGR V. The objectives of the Symposium are to highlight the latest developments in technology and management to ensure sustainable agriculture systems, and to promote the exchange of knowledge and

experience among scientists, technicians, producers and students. [http://www.cigr2009argentina.org/index\\_files/Page338.htm](http://www.cigr2009argentina.org/index_files/Page338.htm)

**September 15 – 18** Springfield, IL. 5th National Small Farm Conference. The University of Illinois Extension will be hosting the 5th National Small Farm Conference with support from USDA. <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/smallfarm/>

**September 21 – 25** Interlaken, Switzerland. World Congress on Organic Cotton – From Fashion to Sustainability. The congress provides a unique platform to practitioners of the whole textile value chain, offering the opportunity to discuss and learn. [www.ifoam.org](http://www.ifoam.org)

**September 23** Boston, MA  
IOIA and IBD Certifications  
of Brazil will cosponsor  
EcoSocial Inspection  
Training. See page 5 for  
details. DEADLINE TO APPLY  
AUG 23

**September 23 – 26** BioFach America. Where buyers discover thousands of certified organic products - BioFach America features thousand of new and unique certified organic products, timely and informative education seminars and exceptional networking events. [www.ifoam.org](http://www.ifoam.org)

**October 5 – 16** LaCrosse, Wisconsin IOIA and Midwest Organic Services Association

will cosponsor Basic Crop and Livestock Inspection Trainings. Also, Demeter Association and IOIA will cosponsor Biodynamic™ Inspection Training in conjunction with the event. See page 3 for info. **DEADLINE TO APPLY AUGUST 23.**

**October 7 – 9** BioFach Japan Your gateway to the Japanese market. LOHAS – the lifestyle of health and sustainability, remains to be a growing trend in Japan with lots of golden business opportunities. [www.ifoam.org](http://www.ifoam.org)

**October 10 - 13** Des Moines, Iowa 13th Annual Community Food Security Coalition Conference. <http://communityfoodconference.org>

**October 22 – 24** Fairfield, IA. Midwest Mini-Farming Workshop. John Jeavons will present a Three-Day GROW BIOINTENSIVE® Sustainable Mini-Farming Workshop. <http://www.johnjeavons.info>

**October 28 – 30** São Paulo, Brazil. BioFach America Latina: The Most Important Organic Trade Fair in Latin America. ExpoSustentat will present its sustainability products and projects for the fifth time parallel to BioFach América Latina. The organizers expect more than 350 exhibitors and the lively interest of international trade visitors. 7.874 visitors from 28 countries were delighted with the range of products in 2008. [www.ifoam.org](http://www.ifoam.org)

**December 4 – 6** Black Mountain, NC. 24th Annual Sustainable Agriculture Conference <http://www.carolinafarmstewards.org>

**December 7 – 11** Napa, California IOIA Basic Crop and Processing Inspection trainings. See page 3 for details.

**Keep IOIA Strong - Lend Your Strength And Get Involved!**



PO Box 6  
BROADUS, MT 59317 USA  
(406) 436-2031  
[IOIA@IOIA.NET](mailto:IOIA@IOIA.NET)  
[WWW.IOIA.NET](http://WWW.IOIA.NET)

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
WILLISTON ND 58801  
PERMIT NO. 8