



The

Inspectors' Report

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Notes from the Chair

By Luis Brenes

Happy Inspections! It is very common that among inspectors we use this phrase to greet our colleagues. While inspecting sugarcane recently in Paraguay, shade grown coffee in Venezuela, and instructing an inspector training in Jamaica, I realized how true that phrase is.

We enjoy agriculture, we appreciate farming, we value not being behind a desk but in the fields. We have the ability to interact with people from different cultures and different sectors of society, from the small farmer to the QA manager of a large processing facility. I am sure the strongest motive why inspectors do what they do is because they love what they do and they do what they love.

So I apologize for not sharing with you *Notes from the Chair* in the last issue: as most of you also experienced, these months are full of travel and inspection and I was jumping from one country to the other . . . fortunately, doing what I love.

At the same time that we realize we love our job, we also face challenges.

IOIA's Board of Directors is working very hard in defining the most important concrete actions that need to be taken so we can keep doing what we love at the same time we do it in a professional way and we provide the best service possible to the organic movement. That is why IOIA is dedicating much of our resources and energy in upgrading our training curriculum so it really meets the needs of the always changing organic inspection environment. We want to be better inspectors and training is a key element for achieving it. We also want to increase the value of our profession and IOIA is looking for ways to achieve it. Better inspectors need to be recognized and preferred. On the other hand, we under- [see **Notes**, page 4]

Harvey Files 2nd Lawsuit Against USDA

Arthur Harvey has filed a second lawsuit against the USDA, contending that the National Organic Program failed to comply with the court order that prohibits the use of food contact substances and synthetic processing aids in organically labeled products.

In papers filed with the court, Mr. Harvey points out that while the amendment to OFPA repeals the law's original language prohibiting in processed food labeled organic synthetic" ingredients" (now allowing up to 5% synthetic ingredients approved by the National Organic Standards Board), it retains the law's prohibition on synthetic processing aids. With that said, Mr. Harvey says the USDA's new regulation violates the law.

Harvey, who won a federal court ruling in 2005 requiring USDA to comply with the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA), was back in court on June 30, 2006 seeking an enforcement order requiring the department to revise its June 7, 2006 regulations with specific language prohibiting the use of synthetic processing aids in organically-labeled products. In November 2005, after the original decision in Harvey v. USDA, the Organic Trade Association (OTA) secured an amendment to the law that repeals OFPA language requiring that food labeled organic can not be processed with synthetic "ingredients."

According to the current federal lawsuit filed by Harvey's attorney, Paula Dinerstein, the NOP must either revoke its food contact substances policy or require that all synthetic ingredients be on the National List. Dinerstein maintains that the NOP has never addressed the issue of synthetic food contact substances and processing aids, and that although the USDA and OTA insist that the OTA amendment restored the regulations to the way they were before the Harvey case, this is, in fact, not true. The suit also said that the USDA is violating the court's order because of its failure to implement rulemaking that prohibits the use of synthetic processing aids in the handling of organically labeled products, and that NOP must do away with its public policy of allowing synthetic processing aids and other substances which conflict with the requirements of the Organic Foods Production Act for organic handling.

This legal action now forces the industry and the NOP to deal with the issue. The real question, however, is whether resolution will require thousands of processing aids and food contact substances to be individually petitioned to be on the National List. Some, due to their chemical composition, will never make it.

The OTA, which had sponsored the controversial amendment to restore synthetic ingredients for processing, issued a press release on July 17, 2006, stating [see **Harvey**, page 4]

AFSII Out of NOP

A company that allowed an organic farm to use banned chemicals and broke several other federal regulations has had their accreditation revoked from the federal organic program.

[see **AFSII**, page 4]

What's Inside....

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....*And More!*

In Brief...

IOIA Accreditation application deadline is October 1! Forms are available upon request from the IOIA office. Contact Judy at ioiassistant@rangeweb.net

Note This Email Change

Newsletter editor, webmaster and Forum moderator Diane Cooner has a new email address, please make note of it! amani@wildblue.net

FCIC Issues Proposed Rule Affecting Organic Crop Insurance

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation has proposed revisions to the basic provisions for common crop insurance regulations that cover organic production. The proposed rule is in the July 14 issue of the Federal Register

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fe_dreg/a060714c.html.

Comments are due by September 12.

BOD Minute Highlights – May 18

Maarten and Garry along with George Danner, Rob Durst and Jennifer Clifford, Maarten Samson and Garry Lean for staffed the IOIA booth at the ATO in Chicago. Thank to all. Margaret reported that the curriculum project is moving ahead well. Ann B., Garry and Margaret have been meeting usually every 2 weeks. There is now in place a working curriculum Advisory Committee providing ideas and review.

Gene and John sent draft for discussion of their fundraising Lifetime/Long-term membership fundraising report to the BOD prior to the meeting. The report discussed various scenarios with possible economic outcomes. The idea started out as a Lifetime Membership fundraiser for special projects. It was suggested that a decision be made toward end of year so if the BOD wants to pursue this it would be in place for the November 1st membership renewals. IOIA now has a plan for a Lifetime/Long-term fundraising tool for targeted investment needs and the BOC decided to set aside the project for further discussion later when there is a need for an investment project.

[See **Minutes**, page 15]

2006 Membership Directory Update

Please make the following changes to your 2006 Membership Directory. Any changes are italicized.

Inspectors:

Lois Christie
Email: fiestafarms@hughes.net

David Dahmen
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Ib Hagsten
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Kelly A. Monaghan
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Supporting Members:

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Tempe, AZ 85285

Welcome Returning Former Members (not in 2006 Directory)

Inspectors:

Oscar Gallo Fernandez
Kennedy Calle H #609 y 10 Oeste
Guayaquil,
ECUADOR
Home: 593.4.228.6827
Cell: 099759552
Work: 593.4.2281407
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Welcome Returning Former Business Members (not in 2006 Directory)

George's Organics
George Kalogridis
P O Box 1829
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Welcome New Members:

Inspectors:
Steve Mohr
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Phone: 608.780.5460
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Sam Welsch
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IOIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Luis Brenes.....Chair
Garry LeanVice Chair
Gene Prochaska.....Treasurer
Marina Sexty Buchan.....Secretary
Ann Baier.....Director
Ann Lameka.....Director
John Trinterud..... First Alternate
Maheswar Ghimire..... Second Alternate
Maarten Samsom.....Member-At-Large

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



Upcoming Trainings

San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

IOIA , BCS Oko Garantie office in Costa Rica (BCS Costa Rica Ltd.) and Liga de Cooperativas de Los Estados Unidos de América (CLUSA El Salvador) have collaborated to offer Basic Organic Farm Inspector course and Advanced Organic Inspector course instructed in Spanish. The training will be held in San Salvador, El Salvador starting **September 4-7, 2006** for the Basic Farm course and continuing until **September 8-9, 2006** for the Advanced Inspector course. The Basic Organic Farm Inspector course will reference USDA National Organic Program (NOP) standards. The Advanced training will discuss in more detail the differences between the standards for various types of production and the requirements for inputs evaluation under the NOP, EU 2092/91 and JAS Standards. Humberto Gonzalez will be the Lead Trainer for both courses. The contact for further information is Ing. Jorge Benavides at the BCS Costa Rica office 503.241.2734 (tel) 506.235.2082 (fax) or bcslat@racsa.co.cr

Binghamton, New York

IOIA and NOFA-NY Certified Organic will cosponsor Organic Farm, Livestock, and Processing Inspector Training at the Best Western Binghamton Regency Hotel and Conference Center in Binghamton, New York on **September 20-28, 2006**. Each course includes 3 days of in-classroom instruction including a field trip to a certified organic operation, plus ½ day for testing. In addition, Day 1 of both courses, "Organic Basics", is scheduled for September 20 and September 24. "Organic Basics" attendance is required to receive a Certificate of Completion for any of the 3 courses, but need only be attended once. Livestock field trips will include dairy operations and farm field trips will include vegetable production.

For more information about NOFA-NY or NOFA-NY Certified Organic, please visit www.nofany.org. Binghamton is located in Broome County, in south central New York. Info and application for the trainings are posted at www.ioia.net.

San Jose, COSTA RICA

IOIA and Eco-LOGICA will cosponsor 4 day Basic Organic Farm Inspector training using USDA National Organic Standards as a reference. The course will be held at ICAES in San Jose, Costa Rica from **November 6-9, 2006**. The Lead Trainer for the course will be Luis Brenes and instruction will be conducted in Spanish. Please phone Guillermo Saborio at 506.280.6592 or 506.281.3164 for further information or contact him at gsaborio@eco-logica.com. Applications for the course will be posted at www.ioia.net when available.

Oceanside, California

IOIA and Quality Assurance International (QAI) will cosponsor Basic Farm and Processing Inspector Trainings, running concurrently, at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside, California on **November 6-10, 2006**. Each course includes 3 days of in-classroom instruction including a field trip to a certified organic operation, plus ½ day for testing. Day 1 of both courses, "Organic Basics", is scheduled for November 6. "Organic Basics" attendance is required to receive a Certificate of Completion for either course, but need only be attended once. For more information about the location, see www.sanluisrey.org. Info and application for the trainings are posted at www.ioia.net.

Seoul, SOUTH KOREA

IOIA and Korea Federation of Sustainable Agriculture Organizations (KFSAO) will cosponsor Basic Organic Crop Inspector course in Seoul, Korea from **November 28 – December 2, 2006**. The course will be instructed using Korean national organic standards (Law of Environment-friendly Agriculture) and be directed toward residents of Korea. The course will be instructed in English with translation to Korean language provided. Please contact Byeongdeok Yu (Isidor Yu) of Heuksalim Soil Research Institute (HSRI) at +82-2-6300-8177 tel or +82-2-6300-2959 fax or community02@hanmail.net for further information.

Encinitas, California

IOIA will sponsor Advanced Organic Inspector Training on **March 2-3, 2007** in conjunction with the 2007 Annual General Meeting on March 4. Details are pending and will be posted at www.ioia.net as soon as available.

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

More Membership Directory Changes:

Welcome New Supporting Individual Members:

John LaBoyteaux

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Redway, CA 95560

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Kan Kit Kong

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AFSII Loses NOP Status

On July 26, 2006, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, National Organic Program (NOP) issued a Final Notice of Revocation of Accreditation to the American Food Safety Institute, International (AFSII), Chippewa Falls, Wisc. On June 26, 2006, the NOP had issued a notice of Proposed Revocation to AFSII, citing seven serious violations of the NOP regulations. Eight specific clients are identified, six in California and two in Arizona. AFSII officials did not appeal the proposed revocation.

This is the first time that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has revoked accreditation of an organic certifier.

American Food Safety is a four-person company overseeing about 30 organic operations in seven states and Mexico, according to USDA records. It is part of the High Sierra Group, which also owns companies that make specialty chemicals for the food industry.

Under the terms of the revocation, principal officers of AFSII and responsibly connected persons are banned from conducting or participating in the certification of organic producers, handlers, livestock operations, or wild crop harvesting operations for not less than three years. AFSII was initially accredited under the NOP on Feb. 10, 2003.

Organic producers and handlers that were certified by AFSII must seek another certifying agent as soon as possible. Files for clients that have not already transferred their certification to another certifier will come under the supervision of the NOP, which will work with them to find another certifier. Clients may no longer use the AFSII seal on certified organic products nor may they show AFSII as the certifier on the label of organic products. The NOP will allow producers and handlers formerly certified by AFSII 30 days to change labels and promotional material to reflect their new certifying agency. Clients certified by AFSII will remain certified until they are revoked, suspended, or surrender their certification.

Also, under the terms of the revocation, the Department ordered AFSII to refer eight of AFSII's approximately 30 clients to another certifier due to identified conflicts of interest between AFSII and certified operations and to reimburse those clients for the full cost of

recertification. NOP regulations prohibit a certifier from providing consulting services for their organic certification clients for 12 months prior to certification. A report from the investigation said the company certified a seed farm that was treated with banned chemicals even after another certifier turned the farm down for that reason. It also allowed a bottled-water company to use the USDA Organic label despite federal rules against designating water as organic.

Questions have been raised recently about whether shoppers can trust USDA-stamped organic food. The key reason to doubt the label is the USDA's spotty oversight of its 96 organic certifiers. Despite known organic violations across the country, the USDA has not removed a certifier until now.

Jim Riddle, former NOSB chair, has criticized the agency for not cracking down on rule breakers. He is pleased that the USDA has taken action.

"It sends confidence in the program, that they're willing to enforce the law and protect the integrity of the organic claim," he said. "That's why we wanted the law in the first place, to protect the claim and minimize and prevent these types of bad actors from taking advantage of the organic market."

Contacted July 31 about the Dallas Morning News story on the matter, AFSII owner and president Karl G. Kolb told the Chippewa Herald that his company had withdrawn from the program voluntarily as a business decision, because it proved too expensive.

However, a letter from Bradley on the 26th rejects Kolb's offer to withdraw, and his request to keep the matter out of the news media. Bradley further stated that a voluntary surrender of accreditation does not end enforcement action.

"The surrender or proposed surrender of accreditation by an accredited certifying agent does not administratively circumvent the revocation process. Absent an appeal of the proposed revocation by AFSII, the proposed revocation is effective 30 days from the date the notice was received by AFSII," the letter states.

"Finally, with regard to your request for confidentiality in this issue, it is AMS policy to publish the results of adverse actions once the actions are final. Therefore, your request to withhold information from the press regarding the revocation of accreditation is denied."

The revocation does not put Kolb out of business. AFSII is part of what Kolb refers to on the company Web site (which is currently under re-construction) as the "High Sierra Group family of companies." The organization is involved in a number of other activities, Kolb said, such as food safety certification for food plants and certification for farms in sustainable agriculture programs.

The company moved to Chippewa Falls from southern California in 1996, and was originally run out of Kolb's car, according to the company Web site.

The Department is continuing to investigate all operations certified by AFSII. AFSII clients who feel they may have been certified in violation of the NOP regulations should contact NOP Associate Deputy Administrator Mark Bradley at (202) 720-3252. É

Notes, from page 1

stand we work directly for certifiers but we inspect on behalf of organic integrity and organic consumers interests. And while doing it, we are also probably the closest people to organic farmers and we understand their challenges and where the rubber (written standards) really touches the road. What can we do to maintain the organic seal meaningfully? And not only what can we do, but also what shall we do? What is our responsibility and what is our capability?

I look forward to hear from you all. Those who are not yet members of the IOIA Forum please consider joining and contact Diane Cooner [amani@wildblue.net] so we can use this tool to share our thoughts. In the meantime, while this summer lasts, let me finish this note with a greeting:

Happy Inspecting! I hope you enjoy doing what you love. É

Harvey, from page 1

"OTA has determined that it will monitor issues around this filing and will retain counsel. There is a high probability that OTA will offer a "friend of the Court" comment in a timely manner. OTA will not be offering further comment on this action by Mr. Harvey against the Secretary of Agriculture while it is under consideration by the U.S. District Court." The USDA has until August 4 to respond.

[More Harvey on page 7]

Notes From The ED

By Margaret Scoles

Trouble Ahead for Inspectors?

Recent headlines of “Is Organic Really Organic?” seem to be springing up all over the country, in both natural foods and mainstream media. We aren’t surprised when we see titles like “The Truth About Organic Food” by Alex Avery. But I was a bit surprised as I read the last issue of Drovers, one of the conventional livestock magazines that come to our house, to find 2 articles maligning ‘organic’. Included in the bad press are references to the Walmartization of organic, the dominance of large corporations, and quotes about how we’d all starve if agriculture went organic. It ended with a quote that in order to raise food in the US organically, we’d need to increase cattle numbers to 7-8 billion to produce enough manure to do it!! While the stories proliferate and the misinformation and consumer confusion is discouraging, **amazingly few of those articles aim at inadequate inspection, incompetent inspectors, or inadequate training.** That’s a good thing. We might point to the lack of bad press as proof that we are doing our job well, but inspectors could be a ticking time bomb. When might we see a story blow up about someone wrongfully certified because the inspector didn’t do their job right? Along that line, an IOIA member recently contacted the office to voice some concerns. An operation they’d inspected had come under media fire for alleged violations. How much liability does the inspector have in situations like these? Few inspectors carry errors and omissions insurance. IOIA’s position on liability insurance is that certifiers bear the brunt of the liability, as long as we inspectors do our job right. We all do the best job that we can, but much of our work depends on the integrity of the applicant. We know that many prohibited materials won’t show up in residue tests, even if we did collect samples. Collecting samples is rare in any case. Most of the applicants we inspect have at least 2 weeks notice of when we’ll arrive. And how many unannounced inspections actually occur? How many audit trails are actually followed?...frequently not more than one per inspection. Is there reason to be concerned about the integrity of the system? Absolutely. But most frustrating is how much this negative press detracts

from the intense scrutiny that certified operations experience, especially when compared to the conventional food system. We need more positive press about the rigor of inspection and oversight for the 99%+ operations that do it right!

Conversations with Mark Bradley and RABQSA:

Mark Bradley’s insights have been helpful in the IOIA BOD’s discussion of how to make IOIA accreditation more meaningful. It is still not clear yet whether IOIA needs/wants an external accreditation body. Only about 10% of IOIA’s inspector members participate in IOIA’s current voluntary program.

OTA Canada:

IOIA wrote a letter of support for inspector member **Donna Youngdahl** in the election of an 8-member OTA Canada Advisory Board. She said she will welcome IOIA perspective and input if elected. Election results are not yet available. Members might remember Donna as the person who took the lead in developing IOIA’s current brochure.

Accredited Certifiers Association:

Pat Kane, the ED of ACA contacted IOIA to visit about certifier training for next year. They are compiling a list of topics where certifiers need training to improve consistent application of the regulations. If you have ideas for that list, please get them to me.

Upcoming Events:

New Hope has given IOIA a complementary booth at **Expo East** October 4-7 in Baltimore. It comes with 4 name badges to attend the entire trade show and all sessions. I will be assisted by BOD member **Maarten Samson**. If you are interested in attending to help staff the booth, please contact me. I will also attend the IFOAM Organic Livestock Conference in Minneapolis in August, the IOIA/NOFA-NY trainings in NY in September, and IOIA/QAI training in California in November.

Some current press:

I wrote 2 articles for Stockman Grass Farmer, published in the July and August issues as a 2 part interview. Part 1 was “An Interview with Margaret Scoles: How to Get your Pastures Certified Organic”,

followed by “An Interview....Part 2: How to get your Livestock Certified Organic”. The Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Association invited me to speak on “What is Organic” at their annual conference in Denver next January. I accepted and wrote a small article for their newsletter.

AGM 2007
Don't forget to mark your calendars for March 2-4 for the Annual Meeting and training events in Encinitas, California

Pleasant Summer Meetings with IOIA Members:

A great visit from **Brian Magaro** and artist daughter, **Ona**, and a hilltop picnic. Lunch with **Renee King** in Sheridan, WY to hear about her work teaching meat science at Sheridan College, her efforts toward getting a mobile slaughter unit in WY that could be both USDA and organic certified, and to meet her baby. A visit with **Doug Crabtree** in July at his home in Helena. **Bernard Barnaud** and wife **Laurie** were in Broadus for a great Broadus 80th birthday celebration and to report on his goats.

Summer Inspections:

Because of my focus this summer on curriculum development, I took a very light inspection schedule. As part of her informal professional development, office assistant **Sacha Draine** volunteered 3 days to accompany me on the road to observe farm and processing inspections. She used the new IOIA digital camera to take photos to be used in the curriculum development. It was fun to have a partner on the road, although it was over 100 degrees F every day. We had to stop and jump in a river once to cool off.

Applause for our new website!!

Thank you, Diane Cooner! If you haven’t checked it out, please do. É

SECTOR NEWS

USDA Proposes Rule to Allow Livestock Meds on National List

The U.S. Department of Agriculture on July 17 published a Federal Register proposed rule to add a number of substances for use in treating livestock to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances of the National Organic Program. Comments are due by **Sept. 15**. Complete info at: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/06-6103.htm>

Approved for use in livestock production was:

Atropine for use as an antidote for poisonings (usually caused by pesticides);

Bismuth subsalicylate as an anti-diarrhea aid and relief from ulcers;

Butorphanol for pain relief, but rejected the NOSB annotation to extend the withdrawal period;

Flunixin for treatment of inflammation and pyrexia, but again rejected the NOSB recommendation to extend the withdrawal period;

Furosemide for treating udder and pulmonary edema, and rejected the NOSB recommendation extending the withdrawal time to twice what the FDA required;

Magnesium hydroxide as antacid and constipation treatment under the prescription of a veterinarian;

Peracetic acid for sanitizing processing equipment;

Poloxalene for fecal softener and prevention of bloat in cattle. Poloxalene is a copolymer of polyethylene and polypropylene ether glycol. It is a non-ionic polyol surface-active agent. **Trade names:** Therabloat, Bloat Guard Drench Concentrate, Bloat Guard Top Dressing, Purina Saf-T-Block BG, Sweetlix Bloat Guard

Tolazoline is used in reversing the effects of xylazine in horses by decreasing the pulmonary arterial pressure and must be administered by a vet;

Xylazine for use as a sedative, administered by a vet but rejected the NOSB recommendation that it be used only in emergency conditions;

Calcium propionate for use as a mold inhibitor in dry formulated herbal products; and

Excipients for use in the manufacture of drugs to great organic livestock.

What Didn't Make the Proposed Rule:

Moxidectin was rejected from the National List because it is an antibiotic, and the NOP said the USDA cannot approve it because antibiotics are not allowed in organic products. Even though it would be used as a parasiticide and has the approval of the Food and Drug Administration, the Secretary of Agriculture "cannot overlook the fact" that it is an antibiotic, the NOP said.

Epinephrine for treatment of anaphylactic shock was also rejected for organic livestock production.

At the same time, the NOP said the Secretary also rejected **activated charcoal, calcium corogluconate, calcium propionate, Kaolin pectin, mineral oil, and propylene glycol** for use as veterinary treatments in organic livestock production. The NOP said it could not approve the off-label uses for animals with the NOSB restrictions, even though some of the uses – such as activated charcoal – are already approved for use in hospitals. The FDA considered the NOSB restrictions as going beyond its authority to determine additional uses of a drug. É

NOP Rules Change

As expected, the changes allow feed produced on-farm in the final transition year to be fed to converting dairy herds. Also, the rules clarify that agricultural ingredients used in products labeled 'organic' must be used in accordance with 205.606, but that doesn't apply to 'made with' products. No changes were made to 206.605. From: 32807 Federal Register / Vol. 71, No. 109 / Wednesday, June 7, 2006

www.ams.usda.gov/nop/Newsroom/HarveyvJohannsFR05_23_06.pdf

Origin of Livestock (Dairy herd conversion):

2. Section 205.236 (a)(2) is revised to read as follows:

§ 205.236 Origin of Livestock.

(a) * * *

(2) Dairy animals. Milk or milk products must be from animals that have been under continuous organic management beginning no later than 1 year prior to the production of the milk or milk products that are to be sold, labeled, or represented as organic, **Except,**

(i) That, crops and forage from land, included in the organic system plan of a dairy farm, that is in the third year of organic management may be consumed by the dairy animals of the farm during the 12-month period immediately prior to the sale of organic milk and milk products; and

(ii) That, when an entire, distinct herd is converted to organic production, the producer may, provided no milk produced under this subparagraph enters the stream of commerce labeled as organic after June 9, 2007:

(a) For the first 9 months of the year, provide a minimum of 80-percent feed that is either organic or raised from land included in the organic system plan and managed in compliance with organic crop requirements; and

(b) Provide feed in compliance with § 205.237 for the final 3 months.

(iii) Once an entire, distinct herd has been converted to organic production, all dairy animals shall be under organic management from the last third of gestation.

* * *

Nonorganic agricultural ingredients:

3. Section 205.606 is revised to read as follows:

§ 205.606 Nonorganically produced agricultural products allowed as ingredients in or on processed products labeled as organic.

Only the following nonorganically produced agricultural products may be used as ingredients in or on processed products labeled as "organic," only in accordance with any restrictions specified in this section, and only when the product is not commercially available in organic form.

(a) Cornstarch (native)

(b) Gums—water extracted only (arabic, guar, locust bean, carob bean)

(c) Kelp—for use only as a thickener and dietary supplement

(d) Lecithin—unbleached

(e) Pectin (high-methoxy) É

Comments are due by Sept. 15, 2006. Send to:
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Director of Program
Administration
USDA-AMS-TMP-NOP
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Ag Stop 0268
Washington, DC 20250
e-mail:
National.List@usda.gov.

Canadian Board Approves Two Documents Concerning Organic Standards

The Canadian General Standards Board has approved the two Organic Production Systems documents, "General Principles and Management Standards" and "Permitted Substances Lists." These will now go to the Standards Council of Canada for procedural review before the standards can be published. It is uncertain how long that process will take. However, organic producers and processors will have a grace period of at least one year in which to ensure compliance with the standards once the Canada Organic Regulation is implemented.

ACA Elects New Board and Officers

The Accredited Certifiers Association, Inc., (ACA) held its annual meeting in State College, PA, in conjunction with the recent National Organic Standards Board meeting. After a dinner of local and organic produce, the business portion of the meeting focused on the formal adoption of bylaws, reports of past activities, financial report, and election of the Board of Directors.

The following ACA members were elected to the first official Board of Directors:

Baystate Organic Certifiers	Don Franczyk	Oregon Tilth	Kristy Korb
Midwest Organic Services Association	Bonnie Wideman	Pennsylvania Certified Organic	Leslie Zuck
New Mexico Organic Commodity Commission	Brett Bakker	Quality Certification Services	Jonathan Austin
Organic Certifiers Inc.	Susan Siple		

The Board of Directors has elected the following as officers for the coming year:

Leslie Zuck, Chair	Brett Bakker, Vice-Chair	Don Franczyk, Secretary/Treasurer
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The ACA has also established a web presence at: www.accreditedcertifiers.org

The website contains basic information about the ACA, member lists, resource materials, membership information, upcoming activities, and contact information for officers and staff.

For 2006 the ACA will focus on the development of training programs for members, and the establishment of a process to develop consistent interpretation of issues pertaining to the National Organic Program.

The Accredited Certifiers Association, Inc., supports USDA-accredited certifying agents working together to ensure the integrity of organic certification in the US. For additional information on the ACA, contact Patricia Kane, Coordinator at 607.648.3259 or PatriciaKane@accreditedcertifiers.org

Excerpts from the second Harvey Suit court filing:

Plaintiff, Arthur Harvey, hereby moves the Court to enforce the Consent Final Judgment and Order entered in this matter on June 9, 2005.(Docket No. 88). Specifically, with regard to Count 3 of the Complaint, the Judgment declared that the Department of Agriculture regulations found at 7 C.F.R.167; 205.600(b) and 605(b) were contrary to law and exceeded the Secretary's rulemaking authority to the extent that they permit the addition of synthetic ingredients and processing aids in organically-labeled products.

7C.F.R. Section167; 205.600(b) was a list of six criteria for the evaluation of synthetic processing aids or adjuvants for inclusion on the National List of otherwise prohibited substances which may be used in organically-labeled foods. 7 C.F.R. 167; 205.605(b) was the National List of synthetics permitted in organic processed products. It listed 38 synthetic substances, including ingredients, processing aids and other types of substances. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit had held that both of these regulations contravened the Organic Foods Production Act's prohibitions on the use of synthetic substances in the post-harvest handling of organic foods.

This Court ordered the Secretary to publish final rules implementing the Judgment within 360 days. The Secretary purported to do so on June 7, 2006. 71 Fed. Reg. 32803.

However, the Final Rule did not remove or revise the regulations at 205.600(b) and 605(b) which this Court had invalidated. USDA claimed that a November 10, 2005 amendment to OFPA had restore[d] the NOP [National Organic Program] regulation for organic processed products containing at least 95 percent organic ingredients on the National List [sic] and their ability to carry the USDA seal. Therefore USDA is not revising the NOP regulations to prohibit the use of synthetic ingredients in processed products labeled as organic nor restrict [sic] these products' eligibility to carry the USDA seal.

71 Fed. Reg. at 32804 (emphasis in original). While USDA here refers to synthetic ingredients, no changes were made to the regulation to prohibit the use of synthetic processing aids as required by this Court's Judgment. As confirmed by a Q & A document accompanying the Final Rule, USDA is claiming that the entire list of synthetic substances found at 7 C.F.R. 167; 205.605(b) at the time of the Judgment has been restored by the OFPA amendment.

However, the OFPA amendment addresses only synthetic ingredients, and not synthetic processing aids. Thus, USDA is in violation of this Court's Judgment due to its failure to revise its regulations to prohibit the use of synthetic processing aids in the handling of organically-labeled products.

USDA is also in violation of the Judgment because it has continued to permit the use in organic foods of numerous additional synthetic processing aids which are not listed in the regulation. A 2002 USDA Policy Statement currently posted on the NOP website permits the use in organic foods of food contact substances, as classified by the Food and Drug Administration, without review for inclusion on the National List. FDA currently classifies over 300 substances as permissible food contact substances for conventional (non-organic) foods, many of which are synthetic processing aids. USDA's Policy allows use of these synthetic substances in the processing of organic foods without the statutorily-required review and recommendation by the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) and placement on the National List. 7 U.S.C. 167; 6504(1), 6510(a)(1), 6517.

Plaintiff seeks an order enforcing the Judgment, requiring USDA to amend its regulations to prohibit the use of synthetic processing aids in organically-labeled products, and to revoke or revise its 2002 Policy Statement so that synthetic ingredients may not be used in organic foods without being on the National List and so that synthetic processing aids and other synthetic substances prohibited by OFPA not be permitted in the processing of organic foods.

CONCLUSION

This Court should order USDA to comply with the Consent Judgment by revising its regulations to prohibit the use of synthetic processing aids in organically-labeled products. Its Food Contact Substances Policy must be either revoked or revised 1) to require that all synthetic ingredients be on the National List and 2) to remove the authorization for the use of synthetic processing aids and other substances which contravene OFPA's requirements for organic handling. *From Beyond Pesticides website article, July 5, 2006*

Manitoba May Training

Robert and Celia Guilford, whom many long time IOIA members may remember as early IOIA Canadian members, hosted both a Farm and Livestock inspection training on their mixed crop and cattle farm on the weekends of May 5th and May 12th, 2006. Sixteen Farm Inspector students attended the Clearwater Manitoba training site the first week end and thirteen attended the second after 2 months of completing assignments via distance delivery.

The weather cooperated this year with no snow in sight, though that would have been no change for Clare Desmarias, attending from the Yukon, and a welcome change for Robert Johnson attending from Arizona! All western Canadian provinces also had student representatives as well as from as far east in Canada as Newfoundland! Student experience levels varied from a HACCP Consultant, a Director of a Certification Agency, an ex-USDA Meat Inspector, from fruit growers from the Okanagan to mixed farmers in Saskatchewan to a broker from the States!

Janine Gibson served as the trainer ably assisted by Sandra Conway as Group Leader and resident sage.

The kindly folks of Clearwater opened their homes as bed and breakfasts and the Clearwater School, now reopened as the Harvest Moon Centre was an excellent host facility providing a new kitchen for our organic snacks, an excellent computer room, a classroom and a comfortable lounge. (As Janine was still recovering from an accident at the end of 05. she made excellent use of the sofas during all breaks!)



MCIA Also in May

The Minnesota Crop Improvement Association hosted their second IOIA training and first Livestock Training at the University of Minnesota May 22nd -24th with 15 participants attending. **Margaret Weigelt** made her debut as an IOIA Group leader and guest speaker, assisting **Janine Gibson** as lead trainer. Participants including 6 MCIA staff and folks from California to Kansas all enjoyed Margaret's *Top 10 Tips 4 a Gr8 Dairy Inspection!* We all felt profound benefit from the wonderful dairy expertise and storytelling of Dr. Paul Detloff, Vet Consultant with Organic Valley. His new book was an added resource several students took home! Dr. Jacqueline Jacob shared her considerable knowledge of poultry production and delivered an excellent



synopsis of bird flu. The field trip to Jeff and Pam Reisgraff's farm went well with both partners in that knowledgeable team able to compliment one another's contributions.

The wide range of experience all participants brought to this training made it enriching for us all!

[articles submitted by Janine Gibson. We hope you are recovering speedily, Janine!]

Six Countries Meet in Colorful Jamaica

From June 27 to June 30, IOIA hosted a Basic Farm Inspection Training in Jamaica cosponsored by the Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement - JOAM. Fifteen enthusiastic participants from Jamaica, the Commonwealth of Dominica, St. Lucia, Vancouver, Toronto, and Arkansas attended this second IOIA training held in Jamaica since 2002. Lead trainer Luis Brenes, from Costa Rica, interacted with the students in training characterized by its strong focus on tropical agriculture.

With the cooperation from the Ministry of Agriculture, and an excellent organization guided by Ms. Tracy Logan, we started the training at the Eltham Training Center, a facility close to famous tourist destination Ocho Ríos. Training focused on JOAM standards, developed after IFOAM, NOP, EU and Codex standards. It included a field trip to Greencastle Estates, a beautiful farm located in Annotto Bay that is thinking of starting a Tropical Studies Center in the near future. Mr. Robin Crum Ewing, our host at the farm and JOAM board member, facilitated this learning experience. Thank you Greencastle!



Participant members of Dominica Organic Agriculture Movement (DOAM) showed great interest in the inspection and certification process and excellent understanding of organic principles and farming. So, let us not say “Good-bye” but a smileful “See ya’in Dominica, yeah man!”



Mr. Dwight Robinson, Chairman of JOAM, gave the following speech at the closing ceremony of the workshop:

“In 2001 when JOAM was formed, the stated goal was to move towards the development of a quality organic agriculture sector in Jamaica. In order to develop a workable plan, we felt it necessary to bring several stakeholders on board. So, we made contact with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Rural Agriculture Development Authority, farmers, researchers, traders and consumers. The feedback we received ranged from apathy to outrage. However, many well-thinking Jamaicans considered it necessary and long overdue.

It was obvious that there were consumers who were eager to get their hands on organic products, traders who were anxious to satisfy the demand of the consumers, many farmers unaware of the demand, others aware but lacked the technical knowledge and/or support to produce, and agents of the state unsure of how to deal with this ‘thing’ called organic agriculture or downright rejecting it as a viable form of

agriculture. It was obvious that we had our work cut out for us.

“With the organic agriculture sector growing at phenomenal rates internationally, and Jamaicans becoming more aware of organic agriculture and the benefits to be derived, there was a flurry of inquiries related to the sector. Unfortunately, too many people grabbed this opportunity to talk though they knew precious little about organic agriculture and fed the population with misinformation and myths about the process. Sensitization and training were critical.

“We needed to provide information to dispel the myth that simply removing the synthetic fertilizers and pest control chemicals from a conventional system made it organic.

“We needed to provide information to dispel the myth that low yields and an aesthetically unpleasing product with low shelf life are consistent with organic agriculture.

“We needed to provide information to dispel the myth that standards were standards and that we needed to devise a protocol to test products on the shelf to determine their organic integrity. We needed to let them know that the standards applied to the process and not the product.

“While it was challenging, we have made significant progress. If we can maintain this momentum, the victory shall be ours. Success is even further enhanced with you, our young and enthusiastic organic warriors joining the team.

“I know I need not tell you of the importance of organic certification to the development of a quality organic agriculture sector. However, our attempt at getting farms certified has been opposed by some, but it made us aware of the limitations to many of our farmers making the transition to a genuine organic system. We also quickly realized that the cost of certification would be a limiting factor. Even with financial support to pay the US\$6,000 fee to the certifying body, the travel and subsistence costs associated with bringing an inspector in were daunting. We concluded that with a cadre of well-trained local organic inspectors, available to the international certification bodies, we could reduce the travel cost significantly. That is the reason for this second, and by no means the final, inspectors training workshop being held in Jamaica. [see **JOAM**, page 18]

Joint Organic Congress in Odense, Denmark

by Vivian Vilich

More than a thousand participants registered for the Joint Organic Congress in Odense, Denmark in May 2006. About 500 participants were from Denmark and about 500 from the EU and abroad. All together, 45 countries were represented at the congress. Four participants came from Canada (including me) and six made it from the US. For the first time ever, researchers from virtually all EU funded research projects in organic food and farming



joined the same congress to present their results for organic producers and processors, as well as for those interested in an overall sustainable development in Europe. The research included the integrated project "Improving quality and safety and reduction of cost in the European organic and "low input" food supply chain" (QLIF). Other research projects like ENVIRFOOD, REPCO, INTERCROP and SAFO are focusing on the development of environmental friendly production systems, health and food safety in organic animal husbandry. In addition to plenary meetings, poster sessions and exhibitions, the participants had to choose in which of the 44 English language sessions and 35 Danish language sessions they wanted to participate.

The plenary presentations gave a broader overview on European organic strategies:

- Organic farming's role in European agricultural and environmental strategies
- Improving quality and safety and maximizing benefits to consumers and producers
- Research in organic food and farming as a tool for providing public goods
- Organic agriculture and food security
- The positioning of organic products: which way forward

Because of the high volume of participants and presentations, the congress committee made sure that participants selected 'their' very own program beforehand. This was not an easy task as all themes promised interesting and new results.

Theme 1: Research in sustainable systems (24)

Theme 2: European initiatives (25)

Theme 3: What should be the rule? (17)

Theme 4: Crop systems and soils (53)

Theme 5: Protecting plant health (27)

Theme 6: Plant breeding and seed production (26)

Theme 7: Development of livestock production systems (32)

Theme 8: Animal health and disease handling (22)

Theme 9: Organic animal products: quality and safety (11)

Theme 10: Health and nutrition (21)

Theme 11: Understanding consumption (19)

Theme 12: Measuring the trends (6)



More info can be found on http://orgprints.org/view/projects/int_conf_joint2006.html

Even more challenging was the exhibition featuring 62 stands with tempting foods, organic malt Whiskey, clothing, literature, producer associations and more. Food was plenty, and more than one participant suffered serious lunch comas.

The city of Odense nestles in the heart of the island Fyn in the Baltic Sea. The third largest city in Denmark has nearly 200.000 inhabitants and is famous for being the birthplace of world famous author Hans Christian Andersen. The name Odense means "Odin's shrine" because once people prayed to the god Odin here. This means that the history of the city goes back more than 3000 years, which makes it the oldest city in Denmark. For over a thousand years, Odense has been the stage for important Danish historic events:

in 1086 King Canute was murdered. His death is considered a key milestone in history marking the end of the Viking age (my ancestors!) and the beginning of the Middle Ages. Today Odense is a bustling town exhibiting wonderful cobblestone streets, well preserved historic houses and a very healthy attitude towards bicycling. The amount of bicycle traffic will convince even the hardest SUV pilot that there is a strong correlation between clean air and muscle power. A light beam on one of the major bike intersections measures several thousand cyclists a day – something I would like to see in Vancouver, BC. É



Nepal, from page 13

biological substances will be utilized strictly and some other invents will be done. The organization will adhere to this idea to such an extent that it has plans to produce organic fertilizers and pesticides itself.

While conducting the above programs, the organization will pay special attention to the following issues to ensure maximum participation of the farmers in the local area.

- On the basis of the positive results of the researches and experiments, the organization will provide basic information and facilities necessary for crop cultivation and animal husbandry to the member of community and local farmers of host community in accordance with their interest. Thus the organization will make efforts to develop market for the goods produce.
- The organization will conduct programs, which are likely to create maximum employment opportunities for the community people (refugees). In consideration with their skill endowment, the people will be employed as far possible as a result of which the organization is hopeful it will have a positive impact on the economic progress of the community and the local area.
- As per the performance of this program it will be extended to other Tibetan refugee settlement camps of the country.

Conclusion

At a first glance the above-mentioned programs may seem very ambitious. However, this program is probably the first of its kind to be undertaken by the NGO in collaboration with Tibetan refugees in the country. The organization has targeted to develop it as a model program in the country. To conduct such as ambitious program, the organization will utilize all the resources it possesses. However, the organization also expects assistance from the government, non-governmental, donors particularly related with refugee in these regards. Likewise, the co-operation of local agencies will be equally valuable. Since the main highway Prithwi Rajmarg of the country passes close to the program site, the activities will soon earn widespread popularity, which will encourage other farmers to undertake such activities too. As a result, commercialization of organic agriculture will be encouraged and development of the organic agriculture will be enhanced. The organization is hopeful that this will contribute significantly to the overall development of the country. É

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

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

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

Visit www.ioia.net to download application forms. The deadline for returning Scholarship applications is October 1. Scholarship recipients are notified by December 15.

Organic Farming in a Tibetan Refugee Settlement Camp at Dhorphirdi, Nepal

By Ramesh Nath Sharma, Executive Director Sustainable Agriculture Development Program, Nepal

Int'l Training Manager Lisa Pierce has been corresponding with Ramesh Nath Sharma regarding the possibility of conducting IOIA trainings in Nepal. What follows is an overview of the first project of the SADP.

It is a long way of time since we have been in contact. During this period of time we have established a demonstration organic farm near Pokhara doing lots of work preparing compost, shaping the land, planting of some kinds of vegetables etc. I am sending herewith the pictures of the farm which you can see in this album. http://pg.photos.yahoo.com/ph/sadpnepal/my_photos [over 100 photos, awesome!]

We spent lots of time to prepare the land because it was completely barren. I am proud of our work and that we may be the first organization doing organic farming in this area. My main goal is to make awareness to the grassroots farmers of the locality regarding organic Agriculture. There are many other organizations in Nepal in the name of organic agriculture but most of them are not doing practical work, just limited to arrange meetings, seminars, workshop etc. with the assistance of donors. We are also seeking some funds but for practical applications.

We are also thinking of teaching organic agriculture through school, for this we have already made an understanding with a school. You will be surprised that the students of the school do not have any idea of differences between organic and conventional agriculture although most of them are from farming families.. I always expect your valuable suggestion and guidance in this regards which will encourage us to achieve our goal.

Background

Increasingly, agriculture based on organic principles is being recognized as a major contributor to combating poverty and building food security in developing countries.

Nearly 13,000 Tibetan Refugees are in Nepal. Among them, many refugees are in the Jampling Tibetan Refugee Settlement Camp at Dhor Phirdi of Tanahu district,

Pokhara, in Nepal which was established in 1975. The refugees of this settlement were well skilled in handicraft production, especially carpets. Due to absence of a market and insurgency, this business became paralyzed and they became jobless. The only way to work is in agriculture, as they have about 80 hectares of agricultural land which has been provided by the Nepal Government. The land is situated in the bank of the Seti River. Out of this land nearly 30% is used for residences, schools, handicrafts (now closed), a monastery and some other activities.

Due to proximity of the river bank, the land is full of gravel and sand, and even though they have started some vegetable farming, it is not being done properly as they do not have ideas or sufficient funds. This has made the refugees vulnerable even for their hand to mouth existence. Due to their economic vulnerability, they are targeted as a displaced community for the project. A few organizations like Lodrik Welfare and some other individuals support them in terms of physical facilities. But lack of employment prevents them from being self-reliant.

The refugees in this settlement are divided into 4 Self-help groups, where each group has about 200 ropanies (10 hectares) of land. They have been trying to cultivate some wheat, rice and vegetable but the production is not sufficient due to poor quality of land and lack of knowledge.

In view of these problems, Organic Agriculture and proper utilization of the land will be the only way to solve their problems.

In planning, the priority has to be given to greenhouses for off-season vegetable production and the preparation of organic fertilizer in the first phase. For composting purposes, cows should be reared there as the cow dung and urine is the best for organic farming.

Other activities such as permaculture, biodynamic agriculture and some research work can also be introduced. Agro-



tourism is also feasible, as Tibetans are rich in their culture. The monastery will be an attraction for tourists, as the place itself is very beautiful.

The following activities can be carried out with in the camp.

Organic Agriculture Organic Agriculture is a holistic production management system, which enhances agro-ecosystem health, utilizing both traditional and scientific knowledge. Organic agricultural systems rely on ecosystem management rather than external agricultural inputs. Organic agriculture integrates three main goals - environmental health, economic profitability, and social and economic equity.

Organic Vegetable Farming In spite of sufficient potential for vegetable farming in the country, it has not yet attained commercial status. The country has not been self-reliant in organic vegetable production; it has to rely on the imports of vegetables from abroad. In this regards, the SADP organization aims to produce various seasonal and off-seasonal organic vegetables on its land.

Organic Horticulture Nepal is not self-sufficient in fruit production. The country has been relying on neighboring country India for its fruit supply. Fruit worth millions of rupees is imported from India each year. There is, however, enough potential for the production of a wide variety of organic fruits due to the diverse geographical and climatic conditions prevailing in the country. The organization has aimed to cultivate mangoes, leechi, banana, pineapple, papaya and other fruits suitable

in the climatic condition where the above-mentioned land is located. SADP hopes that this may be the first organic horticulture in Nepal.

Seed Production Keeping in mind the growing need for organic seeds both inside the country and abroad, SADP has incorporated production of various improved organic seeds in its long term program. Besides this, cultivation of organic mushroom production, livestock, beekeeping, goat raise, floriculture etc. can be done on a trial basis.

Preparation of Compost Another major task is to prepare organic fertilizer and pesticides locally.

Compost is organic matter added to the existing soil to improve its condition and to supply nutrition. Organic matter breaks down in the soil to form humus, which in turn improves the moisture and nutrient-holding capacity of sandy soils at the same time as improving the aeration of a clay-type soil.

When started, we may consider building three separate areas - one for storing new incoming matter; one for the working pile; and one that is ready to use.

In consideration of the adequacy and appropriateness of land through testing, SADP will gradually conduct other types of organic farming activities too such as permaculture, biodynamic agriculture etc.

Agro Tourism The concept of agro-tourism may be a completely new concept in the context of Nepal. SADP has initiated the concept of bringing together the tourism sector, which is receiving high priority, with the agriculture sector. In view of the geographical location of the land site, the environmental situation, the wide variety of agricultural activities the organization has aimed to develop the site as a tourist attraction center. The organization is confident that the horticulture, nursery and floriculture, the ponds prepared for fish-farming, green houses, vegetable farms and other related work will definitely attract visitors there. The organization is hopeful that if all go as planned; it will be the first model program of its kind in the country.

Green Houses Protected cultivation practices can be defined as a cropping technique wherein the micro climate surrounding the plant body is controlled partially/fully as per the requirement of

the plant species grown during their period of growth. With the advancement in agriculture various types of protected cultivation practices suitable for a specific type of agro-climatic zone have emerged. Among these protective cultivation practices, Green house/poly house cum rain shelter is useful for the hill zones.

The benefits which can be derived from the green house cultivation are as follows:

1. Environmental control allows raising plants anywhere in the world at any time of the year i.e. crops could be grown under the inclement climatic conditions when it would not be otherwise possible to grow crops under the open field conditions.

2. The crop yields are at the maximum level per unit area, per unit volume and per unit input basis.

3. The control of the microcosm allows the production of higher quality products which are free from insect attack, pathogens and chemical residue.

4. High value and high quality crops could be grown for export markets.

5. Income from the small and the marginal land holdings maintained by the farmer can be increased by producing crops meant for the export markets.

6. It can be used to generate self employment for the educated rural youth in the farm sector.

The demand of off-season vegetable is rapidly growing. To meet the demands, SADP has constructed two green houses in the proposed project area.

Training Center/Institute In consideration with the sufficient land and objectives of various activities mentioned above, the organization has in mind to setup a training center with assistance from various agencies specially related to organic agriculture in its long run program. Training activities will be run to provide training on organic agriculture to grassroots farmers/activist/students all around the country with the help of



various government and non-government organizations.

Regarding other activities, other crops that would be viable in the location will be tested for. The crops, which show positive response to the experiment, will gradually be included in the program.

The above-mentioned programs will not be undertaken by the organization all at once but will be phased in. Necessary soil tests will be conducted before starting cultivation. While implementing the activities, the concept of 'Internal relation in agro farming', which the organization



has visualized, will be put into practice. Ecology & the Environment will be seriously considered in every program activity.

Adequate attention will be paid to the adverse effect of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on human life, bio diversity and environment. There is growing awareness and precaution against the consumption and practice of using goods produced by using chemical fertilizers and pesticides. In view of this fact, the organization will discourage the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Manure and pesticides produced from [see Nepal, page 11]

La Agricultura Organica: Perspectivas de Investigacion en Latinoamerica

*Por Lebi A. Perez, Ing. Ag. Msc.
Especialista en agricultura orgánica*

La agricultura orgánica, nos ha dado una nueva faceta para el desarrollo de políticas y estrategias de investigación, con un sin número de posibilidades producto de la diversidad de componentes que en ella participan. Sin embargo, a esta nueva posibilidad, tenemos que agregarle, el componente social, como factor clave para el éxito de la ejecución y evaluación de sistemas de producción ecológica. Mucho se ha dicho y escrito sobre la producción orgánica, pero vemos que el desarrollo social y económico de las comunidades donde este tipo de producción se promociona es aun débil.

En la teoría, se parte del hecho que estos nuevos sistemas de producción, mejoraran el sustento y economía de la familia, producto de los incentivos que trae la venta (exportación) de este tipo de rubros. De igual manera, se asume que con el tiempo, las condiciones del medio ambiente mejoran sustancialmente, logrando un mundo mejor para todos. Es en esta faceta donde creo, debe existir una estrategia de los gobiernos, grupos ecológicos, y demás organizaciones, para coadyuvar en la planificación sensata del desarrollo organizacional de comunidades, consumidores, asociaciones de productores, y del desarrollo de políticas que puedan ser implementadas en un marco real de posibilidades. No solamente es implementar nuevos conceptos, si no hacer que estos tengan el efecto deseado para la sostenibilidad de los programas implementados.

En estos momentos vemos en América Latina, un conjunto de perspectivas enormes, para el desarrollo de la agricultura orgánica, como resultado de nuestras condiciones naturales de producción, para el suministro de materia prima, del cual están abidos los grandes consumidores de este tipo de productos. Vemos que el afán corporativo incurre en el error de descuidar y no apoyar lo suficiente a aquellas comunidades y asociaciones de productores que se involucran en proyectos de producción orgánica, lo que conlleva a una frustración y fracaso del cual ya se tiene experiencia en la producción convencional. Sin embargo, con el tiempo y la experiencia adquirida, aquellos grupos o cooperativas

de mayor éxito, han entendido, que es necesario trabajar en equipo y con un objetivo comun, lo cual les ha permitido redistribuir las ganancias del esfuerzo, a través de la implementación de pequeños programas sociales de desarrollo, inclusive algunas cooperativas pretenden desarrollar estrategias de mercado, para buscar acceso a diferentes mercados ecológicos.

A pesar de las diferentes entidades que brindan apoyo, vemos con preocupación, que el campesino y sus familias, siguen buscando otros horizontes, inclusive abandonando sus propiedades para ir en busca de mejores cosas en otros países. Por eso, antes de comenzar a desarrollar políticas hacia la agricultura en general y especialmente hacia la agricultura ecológica, los entes involucrados deben analizar el entorno social de condiciones y posibilidades como para que el campesino vea futuro en estos programas. Especial atención tambien merecen aquellos entes que administran, pero que lamentablemente hacen del desarrollo de estas comunidades un punto de equilibrio en la política partidista de nuestros países. Cuando vemos las condiciones de vida de una gran parte de los agricultores en América latina, donde no existen en muchos casos los elementos básicos para vivir, como por ejemplo agua potable, servicios de salud, educación, condiciones sanitarias, energía, etc, etc, nos damos cuenta que de entrada existen barreras naturales que hacen que nuestra producción este en cierta desventaja, a la hora de llegar y competir en los mercados internacionales, haciendo que de forma indirecta, sean los grupos económicos e intermediarios quienes obtengan la mayor ganancia del esfuerzo sostenido de los productores. Esta fase del mercado y manejo tambien merece especial atención a la hora de desarrollar programas orgánicos, sin descuidar la calidad y trazabilidad, aspectos estos, cada día mas importantes dentro del negocio agrícola de exportacion. En este sentido, cada programa orgánico debe exigirse asi mismo y desarrollar normas internas que esten acorde con el mínimo exigido por la comunidad internacional; lo cual hará que nuestras posibilidades de entrar a los mercados sea más factible. Esta acción es difícil, pero debe implementarse desde un comienzo con los productores. Desde el punto de vista global, cada país debe propender a crear condiciones que si bien

no idénticas a las estipuladas en las normas internacionales que existen, por lo menos se obtenga equivalencia y así ganar espacio dentro de los mercados ecológicos potenciales.

En función de lo anteriormente expuesto, considero que las perspectivas de investigación y desarrollo de la agricultura orgánica, pueden estar orientadas en dos ejes principales; el eje social y su entorno y el eje técnico incluyendo la fase de mercadeo.

Dentro del eje social, es necesario caracterizar la relación que existe dentro de un grupo familiar y las necesidades de producir ecológicamente para el bienestar comun y sostenibilidad del mismo. De igual manera, la investigación social debe ir orientada a proporcionar soluciones tangibles a aquellos productores que mas lo necesitan. En este contexto, el desarrollo organizacional, educación, conciencia ambientalista juegan un papel preponderante para el buen funcionamiento en la co-gestion programa- factibilidad económica.

Es tan relevante el estudio social, que la investigación socio económica de las comunidades o grupos de productores pudiese sobrepasar los niveles de importancia, que generalmente se abordan en los estudios técnicos de producción ecológica. Todas estas alternativas de investigación, deben sin escatimar recursos ser estudiadas y analizadas en conjunto por los gobiernos, universidades, organizaciones sociales, etc, etc; ya que cada uno esta en capacidad de aportar los elementos necesarios para permitirle al hombre del campo tomar el bastión y enriquecer su entorno con vicios de prosperidad.

Es así entonces, que comenzaremos como un todo a cuidar el medio ambiente y de alguna manera frenar las fugas masivas de mano de obra hacia las grandes capitales, lo cual se traduce en mas pobreza, mas dependencia y mayores problemas sociales, ya de por si difíciles de manejar. En relación con la investigación ecológica con enfoque técnico, vemos un auge impresionante de posibilidades de estudio. En principio, la agricultura orgánica desde sus comienzos y por ser tan particular, ha estado regida por normas, leyes y demás exigencias, lo cual hace que desde el punto de vista técnico haya necesidad de adecuar las nuevas estrategias de investigación. En este sentido, por ejemplo, la mayoría de las normas exigen

el uso de semillas y trasplantes orgánicos, certificadas preferiblemente y sin el uso de medios transgénicos en su producción; lo cual es significativo a la hora de desarrollar líneas de investigación en el área orgánica. De ahí surge un sin número de interrogantes, ya que el control de la producción de semillas esta casi dominado por las grandes empresas las cuales avanzan en el desarrollo de plantas transgénicas en rubros de consumo humano y animal.

Desde el punto de vista ecológico, hay la necesidad de producir germoplasma, que se adapte no solo a las necesidades de una norma o programa de certificación, si no que tambien le permita al productor del campo utilizar una semilla adaptada a sus condiciones y con las características necesarias del mercado.

Las perspectivas de investigación deben ir mas allá del manejo genético, buscando desarrollar las potencialidades ecológicas de las variedades existentes y locales, con miras a obtener paquetes tecnológicos sencillos y de fácil implementación y adaptación en las regiones destinadas para tal fin.

Otro aspecto importante, en la producción ecológica, se refiere al manejo fitosanitario; en esta área existen diversidad de necesidades y algunas muy importantes e interesantes para el estudio e investigación. En este sentido, aprendimos de la agricultura convencional o tradicional a lidiar con los problemas fitosanitarios, a través del uso de insumos comerciales, los cuales han traído como consecuencia numerosos problemas de salud humana, a parte de la pérdida del balance ecológico, producto del uso a veces indiscriminado e inconsulto. En el área de insumos se presenta un conjunto de oportunidades de investigación, ya que a pesar de buscar producir ecológicamente, para algunos problemas de producción y manejo se ofrecen diversas alternativas que deben ser evaluadas y estudiadas antes de implementar su uso. En algunos casos, las normas existentes avalan el uso de diferentes composiciones y formulaciones, de lo cual hay mucho que aprender, para poder con certeza hacer uso de estas tecnologías, las cuales no son indispensables, pero existen en el mercado de insumos, como alternativas para el manejo ecológico de la producción de cultivos. Paralelamente al uso potencial de insumos, la investigación debe estar dirigida a utilizar los medios

existentes en el entorno; aca vemos como recurso, los estudios etno botánicos como base para el uso de la flora existente en la solución de problemas de orden animal o vegetal. Es necesario tambien, que el investigador considere las experiencias adquiridas por los agricultores, producto del ensayo y error diario, y que ha llevado a acumular un conocimiento aun empírico para muchos de nosotros. Los investigadores tenemos un reto frente al estudio de alternativas ecológicas o biológicas para la producción agrícola orgánica. Considero, que dichos estudios, tendrán el alcance deseado, cuando se consideren áreas ecológicas de producción o ecosistemas regionales y cuando estos estudios se realicen en campos preferiblemente en transición. Todo, sin menos preciar la interacción del productor con su medio, y quien a larga va a hacer el benefactor y cuidador de su medio ambiente. En este sentido, se sugiere inicialmente, planificar estratégicamente usando aquellos rubros de mayor potencial, tanto de adaptación como de mercado, haciendo del periodo de transición una fase de aprendizaje y ajuste del nuevo sistema de producción.

Son muchos más los aspectos que deben considerarse en los planes de investigación, para lograr una producción orgánica que genere recursos y resguarde al medio ambiente. Así tenemos, el manejo de la fertilidad del suelo, manejo del agua, el uso de la maquinaria, manejo fitosanitario y otras prácticas agronómicas propias de cada sistema de producción. Desde el punto de vista del mercado, es necesario estudiar las necesidades reales y potenciales de cada país, especialmente cuando se trabaja con rubros de gran demanda o de características muy particulares. En este sentido, es necesario mencionar que muchos proyectos orgánicos fracasan simplemente por no tener elaborado un plan o estrategia de manejo y mercado para el producto final. De manera que los estudios deben abordar estas necesidades incluyendo la sostenibilidad del mismo en términos de calidad, cantidad e integridad orgánica. Estos aspectos sin lugar a dudas serán factores muy importantes a la hora de definir programas de producción orgánica con fines de exportación. Finalmente cabe resaltar que la comercialización de rubros orgánicos esta controlada por regulaciones o leyes las cuales hacen que cada país tenga un sin número de requisitos y condiciones que se deben

cumplir antes de todo trámite de exportación. Es necesario que el investigador se familiarice con los principios básicos de estas regulaciones, para así definir con mayor claridad el alcance de la investigación planteada.

El resultado final debe ser un consumidor satisfecho y un medio ambiente protegido de todo tipo de contaminación. É

Contacto: lebipr@hotmail.com

Minutes, from page 2

IOIA received a very nice hardcopy thank-you letter from Paddy Doherty of COABC for our donation of \$300. Our donation was matched with an equal contribution from the Organic Sector Development Fund, allowing them “to continue this project through to completion—the implementation of an organic regulation for Canada”. He said that the funds such as ours helped them contract with Danielle Schami, to work alongside Paddy for this final year of the project. “Danielle is responsible to ensure the development of a representative organic council, for managing the regulation (from the industry side) into the future.” The letter ended on an optimistic note, stating that they were working to ensure that Canada has an organic regulation by the end of 2006.

Margaret reported that IOIA’s Organic Coffee Business Grand Opening on May 5 was attended by about 40 people and got some nice press in the local newsletter. All of the coffee is from Yellowstone Coffee Roasters, certified organic, and certified Fair Trade. The general impact on Broadus has been very positive though. Getting coffee from IOIA and grinding your own is the new best excitement available in Broadus.

The New York and California training applications and details are posted on the website.

June BOD Highlights

The project is being overseen by Garry and Ann B. Margaret has been putting most of her time towards this project. The structure is being created. The Curriculum Advisory Committee is helping; there was an hour meeting with the Committee to identify needs. The hope is that the draft curriculum is ready to test in the upcoming California and NY trainings. Margaret notified the owner of the building that IOIA currently occupies that IOIA is not offering to buy the office building.

[Full minutes are in the Members Only section of our website, www.ioia.net] É

GMO NEWS

President Chavez Announces Ban of GM Crops in Venezuela

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has announced that the cultivation of genetically modified crops will be prohibited on Venezuelan soil, possibly establishing the most sweeping restrictions on transgenic crops in the Western Hemisphere. Though full details of the administration's policy on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are still forthcoming, the statement by President Chavez will lead most immediately to the cancellation of a contract that Venezuela had negotiated with the U.S.-based Monsanto Corporation.

Before a recent international gathering of supporters in Caracas, President Chavez admonished genetically engineered crops as contrary to interests and needs of the nation's farmers and farmworkers. He then zeroed in on Monsanto's plans to plant up to 500,000 acres of transgenic soybeans in Venezuela.

From: BioX - China, July 8, 2006

GE Hormone Milk Consumption Increases Likelihood of Twins

New research shows that consumers of hormone-tainted dairy products are five times more likely to have fraternal twins than vegans. In a report published in the current issue of the *Journal of Reproductive Medicine*, researchers linked recombinant bovine growth hormone (rBGH) with this rise in twin birth rates. The study shows how rBGH, a synthetic growth hormone used to increase milk production in dairy cattle, increases ovulation in humans and persists in the body after entering via digested food, particularly milk. Monsanto's controversial hormone has been banned in almost every industrialized country in the world, due to scientific evidence indicating that the milk from injected cows contains more pus, antibiotic residues, and IGF-1, a potent cancer tumor promoter. Consumers can avoid dairy products that contain rBGH by purchasing organic dairy products or by looking for labels on natural products that say rBGH or rBST-free.

Learn more:

http://www.organicconsumers.org/2006/article_512.cfm

US Study Finds Farmers Use as Much Pesticide With GM Crops

One of the major arguments in favour of growing GM crops has been undermined by a study showing that the benefits are short-lived because farmers quickly resort to spraying their fields with harmful pesticides.

Supporters of genetically modified crops claim the technique saves money and provides environmental benefits because farmers need to spray their fields fewer times with chemicals.

However, a detailed survey of 481 cotton growers in China found that, although they did use fewer pesticides in the first few years of adopting GM plants, after seven years they had to use just as much pesticide as they did with conventional crops.

The study found that after three years, the GM farmers had cut pesticide use by 70 per cent and were earning over a third more than conventional farmers.

But, by 2004, the GM cotton farmers were using just as much pesticide as their conventional counterparts and were spending far more because GM cotton seed is three times the price of conventional cotton seed.

The findings will undermine claims by the biotechnology industry that GM technology can boost food production without necessarily damaging the environment with pesticides.

Scientists from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, carried out the study which involved interviews with hundreds of Chinese farmers who had switched to cotton that had been genetically modified with a gene for a bacterial toxin.

The toxin - known as Bt - is secreted by the GM cotton plant and is highly effective at stopping the growth of bollworm, a major pest of the crop that can cause millions of pounds worth of damage.

Major cotton producers, the United States, China, India and Argentina, quickly adopted Bt cotton after it was introduced in 1996 by Monsanto, the American biotechnology company.

Today, more than a third of the global cultivation of cotton is accounted for by Bt cotton, ranging from 42.8 million

hectares in the United States to 3.7 million hectares in China.

Before the introduction of the GM crop into China, farmers in the country had to spray on average 20 times each growing season to control bollworm but, with Bt cotton, the average number of treatments fell to below seven.

The amount of pesticide also fell by 43.3kg per hectare in 1999, which was a decrease of about 71 per cent on previous years.

However, Professor Per Pinstrup-Andersen and his colleagues at Cornell found that all those benefits have since been largely lost due to the rise of other pests that were not considered a problem for cotton.

"Using a household survey from 2004, seven years after the initial commercialisation of Bt cotton in China, we show that total pesticide expenditure for Bt cotton farmers in China is nearly equal to that of their conventional counterparts," the scientists say in their report.

"Bt farmers in 2004 on the average have to spray pesticide 18.22 times, which is more than three times higher compared with 1999.

"Detailed information on pesticide expenditures reveals that, though Bt farmers saved 46 per cent of bollworm pesticide relative to non-Bt farmers, they spend 40 per cent more on pesticides designed to kill an emerging secondary pest," they say.

Secondary pests, such as a type of leaf bug called mirids, are not normally a problem in cotton fields because bollworm, and sprays against bollworm, tend to keep them in check.

However, because Bt cotton is targeted mainly against bollworm, other pests are able to exploit the relatively low use of pesticide that such fields need.

"These results should send a very strong signal to researchers and governments that they need to come up with remedial actions for the Bt-cotton farmers, otherwise these farmers will stop using Bt cotton and that would be very unfortunate," Professor Pinstrup-Andersen said.

By Steve Connor, Published on Thursday, July 27, 2006 by The Independent/UK



Organic Certification Against Many Odds

By Ib Hagsten, Ph.D.

Independent Organic Inspector

This is a first-hand report from the western mountainous region of Azerbaijan on organic inspections and certification: an amazing feat engaged in by a loosely banded group of highly-focused local individuals. This is my ninth consulting trip within the former Soviet Federation and the second trip to Azerbaijan this year. In March I traveled and interviewed farmers, agribusiness entrepreneurs, and agricultural processors as part of a USAID team evaluating two US-funded agricultural programs in Azerbaijan. This time I am donating my time to assist one of those two groups, the GABA group, with organic inspection and certification issues through ACDI/VOCA's Farmer-to-Farmer program.

GABA (Ganja Agri Business Association) was started by one of the few agricultural professors still remaining in a country which in Soviet times had 14 agricultural colleges, yet today has barely two. A life-long soil scientist, he (1) knows the benefits of organic crop management to soil health, and (2) cried as he recounted how 3.15 million acres of Azerbaijan soil today lays waste due to extreme salination caused from Moscow-directed continuous and excessive flood irrigation of formerly-productive cotton cropland.

The core management team of GABA is committed to "make a difference" in their western region and in their country. They have good "grantsmanship," they are able to draw on many experts, and they have a committed staff of 41 people. Their first item of business, when two years ago they decided to earnestly focus on organic production consultation, inspection and certification, was to draft an organic set of laws for the country. They made numerous trips the 250 miles to Baku to present their concept to legislators and government officials and today there are laws governing organics on the books.

Then a year ago they registered a name for their certification body, AZECOCERT (Azerbaijan Ecological Certification), with the government – and diligently started to work. They, via the internet, searched all available/accessible data resources of the four major world certifications, including NOP. They also requested and became the first member of IFOAM in this part of the world. Their vision is to become the certifying body for all of the former Soviet republics along the rim of Asia.

My first two days here were invested in classroom discussions on the concept of organics (and I tried to convey what Joyce Ford and Margaret Scoles taught in our basic training). The third day we went into the country to perform two inspections together, one an inspection of a hazelnut producer, and the other a fish farm producer (aquaculture). I asked all the questions one normally does on a farm inspection, wrote a report and discussed in detail later why and how we as inspectors "are the quality eyes and ears" of the CB. The fish farm visit was mostly an attempt to learn from me, what they seemed unable to find in the accessible literature about guidelines for aquaculture. (In preparation for the assignment I, too, realized why they could not find specifics on organic aquaculture).

The next two days we carefully read through their amazing array of official documents required for ISO-65 and IFOAM-standard approvals. Next month a German team will evaluate them, and as far as I am concerned, all their forms now read as English, and not as broken translations. I wish them the very best with their endeavor.

I left with them IOIA's packet for organic inspector training, and encouraged them to consider us once the program develops and expands. They currently have requests for certification by 322 farmers and/or processors. Since virtually everything they know is self-taught, an IOIA program would be of substantial benefit to them.

Then what did I find, once I arrived at the hazelnut field together with the farmer and the head of the certification board (who spoke English), was a one hectare (2+ acres) plot in a hazelnut plantation planted in 1967 by the Soviet system. In this village there are 94 families who have a similar one hectare hazelnut grove, which they were deeded by the government four years ago. (This family was lucky, because other families likewise received their hectare of land in the salinization zone, when the entire country was subdivided and deeded to the rural population).

Due to the severe poverty and nobody owning any of these "very low input" crops/fields they would by default almost qualify for organic status. (This would equate to a US farmer starting his organic operation on recently released CRP ground). GABA saw a need to help these "often untrained" farmers to (1) receive consultation from an extension type person who has received extra training; (2) receive the opportunity to have his crop certified organic in order to value-add the production; and (3) encourage the farmers to join grower associations, who will agree on similar production practices, thereby becoming able to demand a greater share of the increased revenue. This is empowerment in action.

Hopefully you have obtained a snapshot of a situation we in America find difficult to grasp. Although in the US sometimes we -- as inspectors -- disagree with either the NOP guidelines or the CB's organizational processes, at least we are fortunate to have a national program, a dedicated advisory board who is constantly working on our behalf, and a multitude of CB's to choose between on those days that we choose to inspect. *(I have two more enjoyable days here; however Margaret tells me the deadline is today). É*



Resources

2006 Certified Organic Food Directory

This 350-page directory includes contact information for every USDA certified supplier in the U.S. and Canada. Lists originate with the 56 National Organic Program accredited certifiers. Suppliers are then contacted by mail, phone and email to list their organic products, making this the most comprehensive source of certified organic food suppliers in North America. The directory features a full-company index with sections on certified growers, manufacturers, suppliers of machinery & materials, brokers, wholesalers and distributors, importers and exporters, service and support companies and certifying agents. New this year is a section on certified ingredients and ingredient manufacturers. There are more than 10,000 supplier listings and 25,000 products with easy-to-use indexes to help you quickly find the ingredient, commodity or finished product you seek. The price is \$49.95 plus \$5 shipping to anywhere in North America (\$15 U.S. to any country served by Global Priority Mail). Order online at: www.naturalfoodnet.com. Or call 877 236-5633 toll-free to order.

USDA Library's redesigned web site The Alternative Farming Systems Information Center at USDA's National Agricultural Library has launched a redesigned web site, making it easier to find information on such topics as sustainable agriculture, alternative crops, organic farming, and farm energy. <http://afsic.nal.usda.gov/>.

OZ Survey Stats Available This University of Queensland project looks at socio-economic factors influencing the conversion from conventional to organic farming and, in particular, the motivations and barriers behind the decision making of farmers to adopt organic farming and consumers to buy organic food. The results of these surveys are now available to download at the link: <http://www.nrsm.uq.edu.au/survey/yuke/r> results

CO2 Forums The Carbon Coalition is currently providing forums around Australia educating on one of the most effective strategies for reducing CO2 in the atmosphere and combating Global Warming and climate change. The solution, they believe, is the fostering of deep-rooted perennial plant species on

land used for agriculture being a most effective and natural method of sequestering carbon in the soil. It also has multiple benefits to soil health and long-term production.

The Coalition is urging governments and the business community to acknowledge the potential that agricultural soils have in addressing Global Warming.

The Coalition believes that farmers can play a central role in sequestering carbon and should be able to trade carbon credits alongside those currently traded for forests.

The following facts back up the coalition's cause:

- The terrestrial biosphere currently sequesters 2 billion metric tons of carbon annually. (USDA)

- Soils contain 82% of terrestrial carbon.

- "Enhancing the natural processes that remove CO2 from the atmosphere is thought to be the most cost-effective means of reducing atmospheric levels of CO2." (US Department of Energy)

- "Soil organic carbon is the largest reservoir in interaction with the atmosphere." (United Nations Food & Agriculture Organisation) - Vegetation 650 gigatons, atmosphere 750 gigatons, soil 1500 gigatons

- The carbon sink capacity of the world's agricultural and degraded soils is 50% to 66% of the historic carbon loss of 42 to 78 gigatons of carbon.

- Grazing land comprises more than half the total land surface

- An acre of pasture can sequester more carbon than an acre of forest.

- "Soil represents the largest carbon sink over which we have control. Improvements in soil carbon levels could be made in all rural areas, whereas the regions suited to carbon sequestration in plantation timber are limited." (Dr Christine Jones)

'Managing the Carbon Cycle' Forums began in Horsham in Victoria recently and will continue across other states in Australia educating on emerging initiatives and innovative management practices in the rapidly changing arena of carbon sequestration, particularly in soil. Forums are being held at:

Katanning WA 13-14th September 2006

Kingaroy QLD 25-26th October 2006

Canberra ACT 22-23rd November 2006

For more information and to register visit <http://www.amazingcarbon.com> or

<http://www.carboncoalition.com.au/>.

From the Organic Advantage, ed 72, BFA

JOAM, from page 9

"Having addressed the subsistence cost associated with inspectors, there were several farmers whose only intent was to supply the local market and the US\$ 3,000 - 6,000 per annum certification fee was a major deterrent. It was obvious that we needed a local certification programme for the certification of products for the local market. We knew that would be a big step for an organization that was and still is 100% voluntary with extremely limited financial resources. However, we felt we needed to make a start. In our mind it was absolutely necessary and though we were aware that our limited human and financial resources would make it difficult, we couldn't abandon our local farmers and consumers. So, with financial help from the Canadian International Development Agency, we embarked on the development of the JOAM standards and later the development and launch of the JOAM certification programme. It has been a major learning curve, but we had made it clear from the beginning that it was work in progress and we would correct the mistakes and iron out the kinks until we got it right. Based on the dedication and commitment of the volunteers of the JOAM Standards and Certification Committee, I am confident that the JOAM certification programme will continue to grow and improve, and will soon be the symbol of organic quality in Jamaica.

"However, we won't be satisfied with just that. I therefore extend an invitation to fellow organic movements in the Caribbean to build on what JOAM has started and let us work quickly towards the establishment of a Caribbean Organic Certification Agency which is fully accredited by all our major trading partners.

"Towards this end, your role as organic inspectors is very vital. It is you who will assist with the sensitization and training; it is you who will provide the consultancy to move producers along the path towards organic certification and the development of genuine organic systems; it is you who will serve as members of the certification committees; it is you who will be called upon by the certification agencies to inspect farms that have applied for certification. In other word, this vision cannot be fulfilled without you.

"Thank you for becoming a part of the organic movement and I wish you all the very best. One perfect organic love to you all." É

Job Opportunity

Quality Assurance International (QAI, www.qai-inc.com) is seeking a technical manager to manage our inspection and review departments including process improvement; primary technical resource regarding organic standards to certification department.

Principal Accountabilities:

- Serve as primary QAI technical resource. Responsible for understanding all aspects of NOP principles and other organic standards, including international standards, as necessary.
- Supervise review and inspection department and personnel, including ongoing evaluation and annual performance reviews of review and inspection personnel and supplemental evaluation/appraisal of account coordinators.
- Responsible for overall delivery of inspection and review services within reasonable customer deadlines, ensuring excellent customer service and improved turn-around times.
- Deliver technical training to account coordinator personnel.
- Update technical documentation in all training materials, intranet sites etc.
- Make recommendations to general manager extending the scope of certification, suspension and/or revocation in the certification program.
- Provide QAI response to regulatory issues in conjunction with other QAI staff as appropriate.
- Represent QAI and deliver technical presentations to customers, trade shows, trade associations, and industry committees as deemed appropriate by the director of marketing.

Required Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in business, agriculture, science or related field.
- A minimum of six (6) years experience in the organic industry, including three (3) years management / supervisory experience.
- Thorough knowledge of NOP principles and practices as they apply at the local, state, and national levels and other international standards/practices as they apply to QAI marketing and accreditation requirements.
- Competency and/or practical experience in production, processing, livestock and handling activities as they relate to the organic industry.
- IOIA advanced training completion.
- Advanced or proficient software skills in MS Word, MS Excel, Oracle, etc.
- Excellent written and verbal communications skills.
- Willingness and ability to travel and work independently.

Preferred Qualifications:

- IOIA accredited inspector. ****
- Advanced degree, i.e. MBA, other Master's degree.
- Five years experience as reviewer and/or inspector.
- Ten years experience in the organic industry, including five years management experience.
- You may view the full position description on our careers page at: www.nsf.org E



INDEPENDENT ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

IOIA has several publications for sale. Order here or through our website, www.ioia.net. **Please add 10% for Shipping and Handling.**

% New! Farming with the Wild: Enhancing Biodiversity on Farms and Ranches; Written by Daniel Imhoff, Watershed Media, 182 p.; 2003; \$20.00

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

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

% COG Organic Field Crop Handbook, 2nd Edition, Expanded and Rewritten. Published by Canadian Organic Growers. An invaluable resource. While preserving the best of the now out-of-print and no longer available first edition, this edition is updated to include info on GMO's, E. coli issues in manure, **NEW! Caps Now in 100% Organic Cotton!**

Color choice of black, stone (off-white), khaki, forest Green, navy

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

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

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

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

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

Name _____

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Check Enclosed – Total Amount \$ _____

Visa ^ Mastercard ^ Account # _____

Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

and many additions to the crop section. 222 pages, spiral bound, \$30.00.

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

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

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

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

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

I am interested in the following:

IOIA Membership Application

Please specify category – all funds payable in

US \$ - All dues are annual

%Inspector - \$125

%Supporting Individual - \$75

%Business/Organization \$100

%Certifying Agency - \$250

%Patron - \$500

%Sustainer - \$1000

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

%2006 IOIA Membership Directory - \$25

IFOAM/IOIA Int'l Organic Inspection Manual:

%\$45 members %\$60 non-members

2006 Calendar

August 23 - 25 St. Paul, MN. First Int'l Conference on Organic Livestock, organized by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) and hosted by the University of Minnesota.
www.ifoam.org

August 25, 2006 - 27 Introduction to Holistic Management, Albuquerque, New Mexico. How to create healthy land and profits by using the Holistic Management Decision-Making Framework as a whole farm planning tool.
www.holisticmanagement.org/new_site_05/Farmers/FR1_farmers_ranchers.html

September 4 - 7 IOIA Basic and Advanced Farm Inspector training, San Salvador, El Salvador. See page 3.

Sept 16, 2006 - June 24, 2007 Part Time Training in Biodynamics, Chestnut Ridge, NY. A one-year part-time introduction to biodynamics, a scientific and spiritual approach to farming and gardening. Presented by The Pfeiffer Center, the program will consist of eight monthly Saturday workshops (with Friday workshops added in April and May). <http://www.pfeiffercenter.org>

Sept 16 Holistic Management Ranch and Range Manager Training, Western US. This 12-month Holistic Management Training Program is specifically for people new to ranching or wanting to hone their ranch and range skills. It is taught on location at some of the finest holistically-managed ranches in three intensive modules. Focus is on whole ranch planning.
http://www.holisticmanagement.org/new_site_05/Farmers/FR3_R_and_R_Mgmt.html

Sept 20 - 28 Binghamton, NY. IOIA Basic Farm and Livestock inspector trainings. See page 3 for info.

Sept 21-23 BioFach Japan. Tokyo, Japan. f.venjakob@nuernbergglobalfairs.com
<http://www.nuernbergglobalfairs.com>

Sept 30, 2006 - Oct 1 6th Annual Athens Area Sustainability Festival, Athens, Ohio. Join us at the 6th Annual Athens Area Sustainability Festival, a grassroots community event featuring workshops on alternative building and energy options, sustainable food and agriculture practices, innovative wellness and healing practices, and sustainable living lifestyles.
<http://www.susfest.org>

October 4 -7 Natural Products Expo East. Baltimore, Maryland. www.expoeast.com/

Oct 5 - 6 Provender Alliance's 30th Annual Educational Conference, Hood River, Oregon. www.provender.org/

Oct 5-7 BioFach America. Baltimore, United States. f.venjakob@nuernbergglobalfairs.com
<http://www.nuernbergglobalfairs.com>

Oct 8 - 11 Community Food Security Coalition Annual Conference, Vancouver, Canada. www.foodsecurity.org/index.html

Oct 13 - 15 Introduction to Holistic Management. See Aug 25 listing.

Oct 25-27 BioFach America Latina. Sao Paulo, Brazil. www.nuernbergglobalfairs.com
f.venjakob@nuernbergglobalfairs.com

Oct 30 - November 4 Sustainable Building for the Developing World, Anapra, Mexico. This course involves the construction of a residence for a low-income family in a Colonia on the U.S. border with Mexico, near Ciudad Juarez. Participants will work with locals to construct a home out of recycled and natural materials.
www.solarenergy.org/workshops/workshop.php?id=38

Nov 6 - 9 IOIA Basic Farm Inspector training, San Juan, Costa Rica. See page 3 for info.

Nov 6 - 9 IOIA Basic Farm and Processing Inspector trainings, Oceanside, CA. Co-sponsored with QAI. See page 3 for info.

Nov 9-12 India Organic 2006. Bangalore, India. <http://www.iccoa.org> info@iccoa.org

Nov 10 - 12 A Conference for Community Supported Agriculture. Tustin, Michigan. <http://www.csafarms.org/csaresources.asp>

Nov 10 - 12 Tilth Producers 2006 Annual Conference, Vancouver, Washington. www.tilthproducers.org/conference.htm

Nov 13 - 15 2006 American Farmland Trust National Conference: "Farming on the Edge--The Next Generation". Newark, Delaware. www.farmland.org/news/events/2006conference/default.asp

Nov 28 - December 2 IOIA Basic Farm Inspector training, Seoul, South Korea. See page 3 for info.

December 10 - 13 3rd National Conference on Grazing Lands, St. Louis, Missouri. This conference will be attended by: Ranchers; farmers; federal, state and local land managers and policy makers; consumers; seed, animal and other related companies; public officials; members of academia; students; conservationists; and others interested in proper grazing land management.
<http://www.glci.org/3NCGLindex.htm>

March 4, 2007 IOIA Annual General Meeting, Encinitas, California. See page 3 for info.

Keep IOIA Strong - Lend Your Strength And Get Involved!



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