



The

# Inspectors' Report

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## Notes from The Chair

By Brian Magaro

The season is upon us and the lonely trails are being laid out for another year. The season in PA is starting off as a cold wet spring, setting the stage for a late hay-making season. So what does that do to the schedule? Well, for me it means sharpening my art in flexibility for the time(s) I receive a call the evening before an inspection and I ke says "that it will not suit to have the inspection tomorrow and can we reschedule?" Okay, I say, and get out the whiteout, and try to figure how I'm going to get one more in later in the month. So I grumble a little (or maybe a lot) and then I take a moment and look at what I do and ask... Independent Inspector...that means I work for myself...right? Wrong. I work for every one of the producers who need my services so that they can continue to offer the consumer healthy food that has had a positive impact on this planet in its production and I help make that happen. Somehow now the inconvenience doesn't look like quite as big of a deal.

Hopefully this year will show signs that the new boots everyone got last October (Implementation of the NOP) have broken themselves in somewhat and the many blisters have healed without too many scars. For some, the quoting of the 205s are like it was firing off a few rounds from the six gun for Wyatt Earp; and for others it is still a struggle to figure out just what is consulting. I encourage everyone, when in doubt, to call the certifier you are working for. They may not know either but this way you can get everyone on the same page and gain a clear picture of what is expected of you. Actually it took me a while (years) to feel comfortable doing this because I thought that I had to have all the answers and the certifier would think I was a "bad" inspector calling with questions. Such is not the case.

This leads to another topic and that is the IOIA Inspectors Forum. Let's take a minute, before we knee-jerk too much here for those that have Forum experience, and read the IOIA mission statement. **The mission of the Independent Organic Inspectors Association is to address issues and concerns relevant to** (see Chair, p 4)

## Redefining IOIA Membership: The Challenge

By Margaret Scoles, IOIA ED

IOIA is changing. The makeup of our membership has changed since we originally formed. Do our bylaws need further revisions to reflect that change? During the past year and a half, we have amended our bylaws on membership twice. Another proposed amendment made it to the Forum but was withdrawn for more discussion.

IOIA members need to debate, discuss, and decide. What kind of members do we want? What kind of members should vote? How do new inspectors become members? How do new inspectors become trained? What is an 'apprentice inspector' anyway? Does that term have any relevance to what we do? Should we be concerned about inspectors who join IOIA and then stop inspecting but stay on as Inspector members?

What's in a name? Is it time to reevaluate the name of IOIA? Are we still the Independent Organic Inspectors Association? and if so....what does Independent mean? Does it mean 'independent inspectors' as opposed to 'employee inspectors'? IOIA has never distinguished between employee and independent contractor inspectors. Our members include healthy numbers of all type of inspectors, including independent contractors, employee inspectors of private agencies, employee inspectors of governmental agencies, full-time inspectors, part-time inspectors, and prospective inspectors. All are equally welcome as IOIA members. Once accepted as inspector members of IOIA, all members are equal in voting rights. Or does Independent come from our status as 'independent third party verifiers'? Is this the first time to discuss the issue? No. When IOIA originally formed (...and I do happen to remember that far back), there was discussion about whether apprentice inspectors should vote. Yes, we decided that they should, but they shouldn't be on the Board of Directors. That was shot down only a few years later. We decided to trust the electoral process. Some members are now raising the question that perhaps International Organic Inspectors Association might be a more appropriate definition of who we are. Most of us, I think, agree that IOIA should continue its focus on **inspectors**. But perhaps even that needs to be re-thought and re-affirmed if necessary.

We do have other types of members...*supporting members* of all kinds. They enjoy all of the same benefits as inspector members....almost, that is. They do not vote. They also currently do not have access to the IOIA Forum or the passworded Members Only section of the website. They receive newsletters, membership directories and a listing within it, training discounts, etc.

The *apprentice inspector* member category dates to the founding of IOIA. Historically it was defined in our Bylaws by number of years of inspection experience. After 2 years of inspection experience, an apprentice member automatically became an Inspector Member. If a member never did inspections, they stayed Apprentice Members indefinitely. IOIA has a small number of members who have been apprentice inspector members for several years (see Challenge, p 4)

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....And More!

## In Brief

### Lobbying Effort Restores Organic Feed Standard Though Seafood Amendment Dismays Organic Proponents

Following an intense lobbying effort by mainstream farming organizations, organic farm groups, consumers, and environmentalists to preserve the integrity of the national organic standards, Congress approved a bill in March to repeal legislation passed in January (as the FY 2003 omnibus spending bill) that allowed livestock producers to use the 'USDA Organic' label even if the animals were not fed 100 percent organic feed. Supplemental legislation that repealed the offending language was signed by President Bush on April 16. Also included in the supplemental bill, however, is a rider sponsored by Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) that requires USDA to devise a plan for certifying wild fish and shellfish as organic. Attaching the organic label to wild seafood, a goal long-sought by Stevens and California's fishing industry for its marketing value, was opposed previously by the NOSB. Arguing against the seafood label, Katherine DiMatteo of the Organic Trade Association said that the term 'organic' on a food product "describes a complete system of production that begins on a farm" and the standards "do not translate readily to a water-based system". She urges instead the use of existing labeling programs for wild fisheries that operate in an environmentally sustainable way.

### Those Pesky Surveys

Nearly 92% of Americans surveyed want labels on genetically modified foods. Only 1% do not. The other 7% are undecided on labeling of genetically modified food ingredients.

Only 25% believe GM plants are safe and only 17% thinks foods from GM animals are safe.

77% of those polled agreed that government policies should favor family, owner-operated farms as opposed to those run by corporations.

53% prefer to buy food they know has been grown on small rather than large farms.

from *NGIN - GM WATCH* daily:  
<http://www.ngin.org.uk>, excerpted from a North Carolina University Study.

## 2003 Directory Updates

Please make the following changes to your 2003 Membership Directory. *Any changes are italicized.* Other parts of the addresses remain the same unless noted. Any additions or corrections to information categories other than addresses and contact numbers will be listed in the 2004 Membership Directory.

### Address Changes:

Ann Baier  
Phone: (831) 475-5551  
Fax: (831) 475-2857

Patti Bursten Deutsch  
Email: [pburst@mwt.net](mailto:pburst@mwt.net)

Susan Colwell  
Email: [sgcolwell@Comcast.net](mailto:sgcolwell@Comcast.net)

Paola Legarre  
2512 N. Arthur Ave  
Fresno, CA 93705 USA  
Phone: (559) 229-3526  
Work Phone: (559) 229-3525

Oswaldo Mendoza  
Email: [omendoza@letis.com.ar](mailto:omendoza@letis.com.ar)

Marvin Miura  
8980 Kula HWY  
Kula, HI 96790-9471

Laura Rankin  
Phone: (410) 756-9672  
Email: [rankin@carr.org](mailto:rankin@carr.org)

Charles Richtmyer  
PO Box 125  
Montour Falls, NY 14865  
Phone: (607) 535-7830

### Welcome New Members:

#### INSPECTORS:

Robert Dixon (British Columbia, CANADA)  
Wayne Jones (Manitoba, CANADA)  
Robert McCoubrey (BC, CANADA)

#### APPRENTICE INSPECTORS:

Dorienne Rowan-Campbell (Kingston, JAMAICA)

#### SUPPORTING INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:

Duncan Cox (West Roxbury, MA)  
Octavia Scharenborg (Cape Girardeau, MO)  
Don Yoest (Tipton, MO)

## Costa Rica a Go for 2004 IOIA AGMM

EcoLOGICA invites IOIA to Costa Rica for our **2004 Annual General Membership Meeting**. IOIA accepts! The event will include Advanced training in both Spanish and English. Dates have not been set yet, but the 'window' is mid-February to mid-March. Start polishing up your Spanish skills! Our 1995 AGM was in sunny and hospitable Costa Rica, so this is a welcome return visit for IOIA.

## Really Read This Now

*The Party's Over – Oil, War and the Fate of Industrial Societies* by Richard Heinberg. The most important book you'll ever read. Fascinating read on the history of energy in the past 150 years. **The world is about to shift** – be ready for it! Currently #5 on the BC Bestseller List (behind 4 Harry Potter books!) Available from New Society Publishers, Box 189, Gabriola Island, BC V0R 1X0 Canada, 1-800-567-6772 US\$17.95, CAN\$26.95, + \$4.50 shipping. Worth every cent!

### IOIA Board of Directors

Brian Magaro.....Chair  
John Foster.....Vice Chair  
Jack Reams.....Treasurer  
Ann Baier.....Secretary  
Dag Falck.....Member-At-Large  
Luis Brenes.....Board Member  
Garry Lean.....Board Member  
Chris Kidwell.....Alternate  
Doug Crabtree.....Alternate  
Garth Kahl.....Alternate

THE INSPECTORS' REPORT is the newsletter of the Independent Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA). IOIA is a 501 (c)(3) educational organization, whose mission is to address issues and concerns relevant to organic inspectors, to provide quality inspector training and to promote integrity and consistency in the organic certification process. Editorial Staff: Diane Cooner, Box 1259, Guerneville, CA 95446 USA. Phone/fax 707-869-3017, [amani@sonic.net](mailto:amani@sonic.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.



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## Upcoming Trainings

### Winthrop, Maine

IOIA sponsored Basic Organic Farm and Livestock trainings June 12-17 at United Methodist Camp Mechuwana. Green Tree International, LLC of Milford, Connecticut and IOIA planned to cosponsor a delegation from China Quality Certification Centre for Basic Farm Training but this special training was cancelled due to SARS and difficulty of obtaining visas to/from China at this time. The Chinese delegation has expressed an interest in postponing this training in the United States rather than investigate possibility of conducting a future training in China. TC's for Basic Farm Training were Jim Riddle and Stan Edwards. Jim Riddle was also the TC for the Organic Livestock Inspector training. Registration deadline was May 02, 2003.

### Laramie, Wyoming

IOIA and the Wyoming Business Council (WBC) Agribusiness Division will co-sponsor Basic Organic Farm and Livestock Inspector trainings September 15-20, 2003 at the Vee Bar Guest Ranch in Laramie, Wyoming. The 3-day basic farm training from 8:00 a.m. September 15 to 5:00 p.m. September 17 will include field trips to local organic farms. The livestock course will be held from 8:00 a.m. September 18 and conclude by 2:00 p.m. September 20. The 2 ½ day organic livestock training will include most aspects of livestock inspection with a primary focus on meat animals. A special session on apiary production may be included if there is sufficient interest. For further information please contact René King of Wyoming Business Council (WBC) at (307) 777-6319 (phone); (307) 777-6593 (fax) or via e-mail at [rgking@state.wy.us](mailto:rgking@state.wy.us). Each course will be limited to 15 persons. The deadline for applications is August 4, 2003. For information or application forms, contact the IOIA office or the IOIA website at [www.ioia.net](http://www.ioia.net).

### Wilsonville, Oregon

IOIA will sponsor Basic Farm, Livestock, and Process trainings on November 12-20, as well as Advanced Training on November 13-14 at the Namasté Retreat and Conference Center, in Wilsonville, Oregon. Trainings will be held in conjunction with the Oregon Tilth Certified Organic (OTCO) Annual Meeting on November 15 at the same location. The 3 ½ day Farm Inspector Training is scheduled November 13 through Nov. 15 AM and the 3 ½ Process inspector training from Nov. 18 through Nov. 21 AM. The 2-day Livestock training on Nov. 16-17 will include most aspects of livestock inspection with a primary focus on dairy. Certification agencies will have the opportunity to present their programs on November 15. For information or application forms, contact the IOIA office or the IOIA website at [www.ioia.net](http://www.ioia.net). For more information about the location, visit [www.lecworld.org](http://www.lecworld.org) but please do not contact Namasté directly for reservations.

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

### IOIA Scholarships Available for Organic Inspector Training

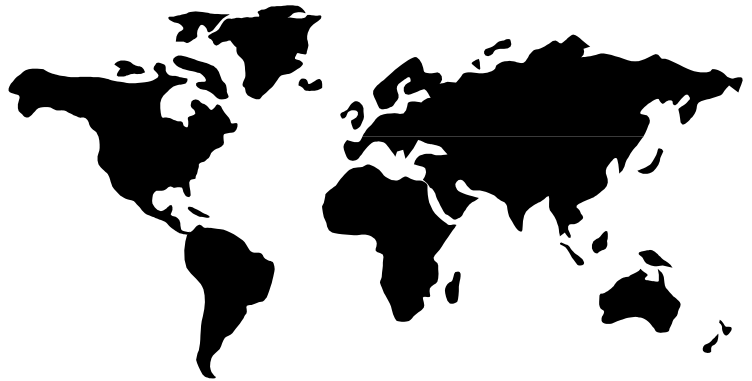
IOIA accepts applications for the annual Andrew Rutherford Scholarship Award, which provides full tuition for an IOIA-sponsored organic inspector training course during the following year.

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

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

IOIA also offers the annual Organic Community Initiative Scholarship in 2003, which provides full tuition for an IOIA-sponsored basic organic inspector training during the following year. It is awarded to an individual on the basis of need and their potential to have a positive impact on their regional organic community. The Organic Community Initiative Scholarship is only open to applicants from outside of the US or Canada. Applicants can choose to attend any basic IOIA-sponsored training. The Scholarship pays for tuition, room and board but does not cover transportation or other expenses.

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



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## Chair, from page 1

**organic inspectors, to provide quality inspector training and to promote consistency and integrity in the organic certification process.** For me the Forum is a great way to communicate with all of you so that I may, as a member of IOIA, practice my trade knowing that support is a handshake (keystroke) away. The Forum was developed to strengthen our training and professionalism as inspectors and enhance the consistency we all seek to help establish in the industry. Please take a minute to think about this when posting or responding on the Forum. For those IOIA members who are not participating on the inspector's Forum, please consider sharing your strength. To be listed on the Forum contact the Forum Mom, Diane Cooner at webgal@ioia.net. The Forum has the potential to be an ongoing Advanced Training – let's take advantage of such a tool.

A story about consulting: Once upon a time there was an inspector who was inspecting a farm that had been practicing organic methods for about 10 years and was getting their first inspection for certification. This was a dairy operation that had grain and hay crops as well as rotational grazing, excellent manure and cover crop management and was very scrutinized by their conventional neighbors.

The inspector was asked by the farmer to assist in taking some soil samples because the farmer was not sure how this was to be done. When the inspector arrived the farmer was in the middle of performing midwife duties for a first calf heifer and asked if the inspector could take the soil samples without him and then start the inspection after the calf was delivered. No problem, said the inspector, who promptly headed for the fields.

It was warm morning following a fairly heavy rain the night before and the land was well saturated. As the inspector walked into the fields with his T-shaped soil probe in one hand and his (clean) bucket in the other he could hear a faint clicking sound. When the inspector would stop so would the clicking sound. So the inspector crouched down a little and started to tip toe for about 15 feet then jumped into the air landing hard on the ground and the clicking sound increased 10 fold. Doing this a number of times the inspector realized that the clicking sound that he was hearing were earthworms retreating down into their holes. He could hear them because there were so many.

Pretty excited, the inspector performed the routine several more times. Suddenly, realizing that he was being watched by the neighbor at the fence line, the inspector straightened up, and said hello. The neighbor looked a little puzzled. Here was

a strange man with a thing that looked to him like a metal cross and a plastic pail doing some strange dance in the soaking wet grass. The neighbor responded by saying "what's ya doin'?" The inspector bashfully said "takin' soil samples". At this the neighbor started to laugh and said "I see".

Still excited about his discovery, the inspector said to the neighbor "come on over you have got to see this". Wearingly, the neighboring farmer came over to where the inspector was standing. The inspector tried to explain what he had discovered but the neighbor just looked at him with a "I thought you were a little crazy" look. The inspector then told the farmer to follow his lead and he began his tiptoe routine and a jump. After doing this two or three more time the neighbor too was surprised about the noise but not real excited, like the inspector.

The inspector then began to explain the inner workings of a well-managed organic farm and the impact it had on the soil as well as the health of the farm. The neighbor semi-thanked the inspector for the consultation and bid his goodbye. The inspector noticed that the neighboring farmer, who was conventional, as he was walking back through his field, would walk softly then jump a little bit and just shake his head. He was not hearing any clicking sound. About two weeks later the neighboring farmer, after getting the inspectors number from the organic farmer, called the inspector and asked "can you tell me more about this organic stuff". The neighbor completed his transition last year and is now added to the list of believers in the organic process.

Have a great season, be safe and as Mr. Keeler would say, "do good work and keep in touch".

## Challenge, from page 1

and a small number of Inspector Members who have done only a handful of inspections. Definition of this category was tightened up at the IOIA Annual Meeting in 2002. It was clarified that inspector training was also a requirement to become an apprentice member. This was handled administratively. New members who joined with a training were put in a supporting, but pending, category until they took a training. Then they automatically became apprentice inspector members. The more recent change to IOIA Bylaws at the 2003 AGM was a much stronger change. Brought to the ballot by petition of a group of experienced IOIA members headed by Maarten Samsom, the issue failed to win a majority after much discussion in Vermont but passed anyway, due to the majority of affirmative mail ballots.

The new revision includes the definition of Inspector Members, the requirements of training, etc. and

*Proof of a minimum of 10 ordinary inspections or 3 full days of grower group inspections, on location supervised by an IOIA Inspector Member. Proof of the submission to the IOIA Inspector member of the Reports for 5 of the ordinary inspections (1 ½ grower group inspection days reports). A statement by the supervising IOIA Inspector member is considered enough proof. Only in the event that the applicant lives more than 400 miles from a willing and able Inspector Member, supervision may be limited to Inspection Report review by an Inspector Member of 5 (Ordinary) Inspection reports (or 1 ½ grower group inspection days reports). Applies to new applicants for IOIA Membership after February 22, 2003. It also applies to those members who became IOIA member before February 22, 2003 and who voluntarily elect to meet the conditions as described in this article.*

Administrative changes have been made in the IOIA office to accommodate the new bylaw. We revised the IOIA inspector membership application, deleted the apprentice membership category (except for those grandfathered in by being members prior to Feb. 22, 2003), and created a form to use in documenting supervised inspections.

**So what's the problem?** The primary problem is that when the bylaws proposal passed, no exception was made for **experienced inspectors** who wished to join IOIA. In fact, many of the current members of IOIA (including myself) could not drop out of IOIA and reapply. How many of us experienced inspectors actually did 10 supervised inspections? Not many... Experienced inspectors are exactly the type of members we want most to recruit. Not only that, is it really appropriate to require that their supervising inspector be an IOIA Inspector Member? This severely discriminates against many of our widely scattered international members. We apparently made a mistake in not getting this last bylaw change quite right before we passed it.

There are other problems, too, although not demanding such urgent attention. IOIA unintentionally but immediately became more exclusive and non-welcoming to new members who wish to join and become members. No longer can new members join with a training and have access to the Forum or the passworded member section of the website, or be included among the Inspector section of the Membership Directory. These were key benefits to helping them find mentors and work. The number of members who join with trainings is already dropping. Some new members have even expressed to the office that they feel that more experienced inspectors are trying to make it more difficult for them to become inspectors. While that may not be true, finding 'a willing and able Inspector Member' to serve as a mentor is truly difficult. The fact that a new member needs one does not mean that one exists. On the other hand, this new hurdle is in some ways easier to overcome than that previously. In the past, inspectors who did 200 inspections in their first 2 years remained apprentice inspectors for the whole period. Now, a motivated new inspector can become an IOIA Inspector Member in a matter of months. And hopefully, those new (see Challenge, p 22)

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## Notes from the ED

By Margaret Scoles

Greetings from Russia!!! If all goes well, by the time you are reading this, I will be in Russia with my daughter, Emily. It is all her fault. When her brother graduated from high school, I promised him a week in a place of his choosing. We went to New York City for a week. A year ago, I reminded Emily that she needed to give me some advance notice on where she wanted to go when she graduated this year. Without hesitation, she responded, "RUSSIA!" She wants to learn Russian language, which is pretty unlikely in Broadus. It sounded pretty far-fetched then but before we knew it, we were part of a grand adventure. We are traveling with a group of 7 people including teachers and other students Emily's age. Original plans routed us through China, but SARS upset that plan.

The trip includes an inspection (of course), 4 days touring in Moscow (with lodging at the Moscow Zoo), and 10 days at Muraviovka Park in the Far East Amur region, assisting at an English language camp for Russian high school students. Emily and I are part of the teaching team. English, but not grammar, is the primary goal. I will be teaching environmental themes and Emily will be assisting the Ag teacher. Our daily schedule includes morning classes in English, outdoor activities, art, bonfires in the evening, and even a daily lesson in Russian language...and hopefully some long peaceful hikes.

A bit about the Park: Established in 1993, it is the fruition of the dream of an ornithologist, Sergei Smirenski, who is the Park Director. A collaborative effort including the International Crane Foundation led them to lease 6000 hectares of land from the government for 50 years for the development of sustainable land use. This became the first Russian nature park since 1917 that is not owned/operated by the government. It quickly expanded to include an organic farm, cattle, and (hopefully) eventually a dairy. A summer camp was established for Russian teens. One of the most exciting aspects of the park is how unique it is in Russia. Most Russian nature parks are vast

areas without people. This park incorporates the local residents into the park and educates land use that is sustainable for people AND the environment. A primary outcome of the park is the doubling of the population of several species of endangered species. (Our camp mascots for our classes are endangered species of stork, heron, and crane).

I'm excited about going almost around the world to end up at a place that promises to be much like my native Montana. The scenery and wildflowers and crops are actually quite similar. Summers are very hot and winters very cold, just like MT. All electricity is from solar power, which is conserved for more important uses than lightbulbs in the evening. Plumbing is by outhouse. Cooling is in the permafrost. As Emily says, 'this will be a lot like going to grandma's'....

### Inspector Liability Insurance

*We all know the problem, but what is the solution?*

By Margaret Scoles, ED

IOIA received the following message a few weeks ago (the message has been made anonymous out of respect to the member, but the message has global relevance for all inspectors). It was sent in a response to a routine reminder mailing to all members with outstanding dues.

"Sorry - I will renew this week. I have been reconsidering my situation as an organic inspector. As you are probably aware, insurance premium rates have been escalating in recent years. When I went to renew my professional indemnity insurance early this year, the rates quoted were an increase of over six times the previous year. And this was a package deal through the XXXXX Institute of AgXXXX. Accordingly I contacted the certifiers for whom I inspect, and told them I would need to increase my rates to cover the additional insurance costs. They all informed me that they would not pay any increase in fees. Since I do not propose to work for a loss I have ceased inspecting. Nevertheless I have maintained my interest in organics, still operating my small market garden, and still holding the position of XXX of the Organic XXX. Obviously I have given you my word that I will renew, and will arrange a money order soon. But I guess

it is unlikely I will renew at the end of this year."

The issue of insurance frequently comes up. US inspectors especially have a strong interest in insurance as a membership benefit; the US is notoriously more litigious than many countries. Ideas have included IOIA joining another group such as the Canadian food inspectors where we might be able to participate in insurance plans or getting insured through the USDA (not likely). It is not possible to provide liability insurance to members as a membership association, especially with our non-profit status. IOIA is not a professional trade association or guild, which would make group liability insurance a viable option. The best chance we have is for insurance through certifiers, as additional insureds under their policies. This is much less expensive in total dollars than for each inspector to carry individual policies. In early 1999, IOIA approached the OTA Organic Certifiers Council (OCC) to discuss liability insurance for inspectors. Later that year, we presented a written document and a short presentation at the OCC meeting at the fall Expo in Baltimore. The paper explained that there were two options for inspectors' insurance: (1) for inspectors to insure ourselves as individuals; and (2) for certification agencies to add us to their policies at either their expense or ours. No response. We asked again for a response in early 2000 at the Expo West and the OCC responded that they needed information farther ahead on the agenda. (??) From that point on, we've not pursued it further with the OCC. However, some certifiers actually did take action to add at least some of their independent contract inspectors to their policies. On that basis, our attempts may have gained some ground. In the early years, we were led to believe that certification agencies could only insure employee inspectors. That is most clearly not the case, established in long discussions with three different insurance companies. In early 2001, the Board agreed that we should gather information from certifiers and publish the outcomes for our members. Not much has been done to accomplish this. Over the past few years, I've spent some time on the phone about inspector liability insurance with Gales Creek Insurance of Oregon, who insures several organic certifiers. Gales is at least familiar with inspector's work and language and have been quite helpful. We discussed how we might provide insurance as a membership benefit. All discussion has been informal at this point. They leaned (see Insurance, p 22)

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## Committee Reports

**Accreditation:** Interim Chair: Chip Kraynyk, 719-742-5445, krayorganyk@webcoast2coast.net

Liaison John Foster 503-474-2824, [john@onlinemac.com](mailto:john@onlinemac.com)

Members: Linda Kaner, John Foster, Alex Hanley, Margaret Scoles.

The Accreditation Review Panel (ARP) is currently without a Certifier Representative nor does the panel have an alternate for this position. In regards to filling these positions, no effort is underway at this time. Certificates and cards were mailed to applicants for the 2002 Fall Round. This mailing did not include Letters of Explanation. ARP Chair Linda Kaner has said she will try to get these letters done by June 5, 2003. Not getting Letters of Explanation to applicants in a timely manner has been an ongoing problem with the ARP. Otherwise, the ARP and Linda appear to be very conscientious about their work. It should also be noted that, aside from the BOD, the ARP may be the most active group in IOIA.

Currently there are 3 applications for accreditation under review, all of which are renewals.

At this time, I would like to announce my desire for my role as Chair of the Accreditation Committee not to continue beyond June 30, 2003. The BOD is reminded per Bylaw 5.1 that the BOD chooses the Accreditation Committee Chair.

**Business Plan:** Ad Hoc, Chair: Jack Reams, [marlene\\_reams@telus.net](mailto:marlene_reams@telus.net) 604-858-9815. Liaison Brian Magaro, 717-732-7940, [magarob@aol.com](mailto:magarob@aol.com) The Board is currently planning a retreat in Broadus in October to develop a business plan.

**Bylaws:** Chair, Arthur Harvey, 207-388-2860, [arthurharvey@yahoo.com](mailto:arthurharvey@yahoo.com) Liaison Garry Lean, 705-887-5230 [garrylean@sympatico.ca](mailto:garrylean@sympatico.ca) Members are: Lance Christie, Wendy Lee Clark, Al Johnson and Mischa Popoff. This committee continues its work of proposing changes whenever current wording creates a problem such as unintended consequences or confusing wording; and reviewing members' proposals for clarity and suitability.

**Canadian Committee:** Co-chairs Jim Hudson, [jhudson@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:jhudson@sk.sympatico.ca) 306-543-0662, Rochelle Eisen, 250-494-7980, [rare@vip.net](mailto:rare@vip.net) Liaison Dag

Falck [dfalck@junction.net](mailto:dfalck@junction.net), 250-379-2614.

This committee saw the successful completion of an advanced training in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, at the end of April. This advanced training included an Aquaculture training and an OCIA Workshop as attached activities. The responses were very positive.

A copy of the proposed Canadian Standards was presented by Janine Gibson. The Canadian Standards have not been accepted by the various parties involved, for a variety of reasons. One of these reasons presented by Janine was that the Standards were voluntary rather than compulsory. Janine continues to seek IOIA support for her involvement in establishing the Standards.

Special thanks to the inspectors that worked to achieve this advanced training and the opportunity for networking plus updating ourselves.

**Communications:** Chair Bob Howe, [earthorganic@aol.com](mailto:earthorganic@aol.com) 845-657-9592. Liaison Brian Magaro (see Business Plan). No report submitted at this time.

**Compensation/Working Conditions:** Chair: Eric Feutz, 573-256-7643, [brandt\\_01@email.msn.com](mailto:brandt_01@email.msn.com) Liaison Doug Crabtree [dcrabtree@state.mt.us](mailto:dcrabtree@state.mt.us) 406-444-9421 No report submitted.

**Editorial Review:** Chair Joe Montecalvo, [montecalvo@aol.com](mailto:montecalvo@aol.com) 805-772-3574, Liaison Dag Falck (see Canadian Committee). Ongoing.

**Ethics:** Chair Joyce Ford, [jford@hbc.com](mailto:jford@hbc.com) Liaison: Brian Magaro (see Business Plan). No report submitted.

**Finance:** Chair/Liaison: Jack Reams, see Business Plan. No report submitted.

**Fundraising:** Chair Diane Cooner, 707-869-3017, [amani@sonic.net](mailto:amani@sonic.net) Liaison Jack Reams, see Finance. No report submitted.

**Latin American:** Chair Lidia Gaivronsky, 5411)4 503-3106, [gaivi@sion.com](mailto:gaivi@sion.com) Liaison Luis Brenes, [lbrenes@racsa.co.cr](mailto:lbrenes@racsa.co.cr) +506-226-1681. Chair Lidia continues to answer messages from Latinamerican people, to translate press releases, to send resources for the website. Working to increase IOIA exposure in LA and to increase membership, organize advanced courses in Spanish, and to have a Spanish language page in the newsletter on a regular basis.

**Membership:** Chair Chris Kidwell 530-628-4560, [ckidwell@coek12.org](mailto:ckidwell@coek12.org), Liaison Brian Magaro (see Finance)

The Membership & Nominations Committees were combined into one committee. The nominations committee members were invited to join the membership committee and an additional three new members joined the membership committee at the AGM in Vermont. Our goals for the year have been identified and the committee has begun discussion on membership issues.

The requirements of becoming a full member of IOIA were changed at the AGM in February. This committee will explore the consequences of this change. Six new inspector members and one new supporting individual (apprentice) member have been approved for membership so far in 2003.

One new supporting individual member and one new supporting business have joined. In addition, 26 others have paid membership dues and are in the supporting member status pending completion of paperwork or supervised inspections.

### Current Membership of IOIA:

Inspectors: 179 (32 Accredited, 147 others)  
Apprentice Inspectors: 95  
Supporting Individuals: 26 plus the 26 mentioned above  
Supporting Business/Organizations: 21  
Supporting Certification Agencies: 13  
Total Members: 360

Members are David Dahmen, Sarah Cushing, and Billy Hunter, Kelle Kersten, Carmen Pape and Charles Richtmyer. Nominations committee members joining in 2003 are John Danforth, Sandra Conway and Kathy Turner

**Regional Training Oversight:** Chair Harriet Behar, [harrieta@mwt.net](mailto:harrieta@mwt.net) Liaison Ann Baier, [ahbaier@aol.com](mailto:ahbaier@aol.com) 831-426-2052. Ongoing, approving trainings and TC's. **Actively soliciting for new members.** No report submitted.

**Scholarship:** Chair Rochelle Eisen, 250-494-7980, [rare@vip.net](mailto:rare@vip.net) Liaison Ann Baier, see RTOC. Revisions of both the 2003 Rutherford and the Community Initiative Scholarship application and evaluation packages have just been completed. Committee members include Aaron Brin, Bob Howe, Margaret Weigelt, Nancy Ludwig, and chair Rochelle Eisen. Rochelle plans to step down from this committee following the 2003 selection process.

Elaine Ferry of West Virginia attended the Vermont Basic Process training with this year's Rutherford Scholarship. Diana Alejo of Argentina plans to attend the Oregon Livestock training with this year's CIS scholarship (the first to be awarded).

**Training:** Chair Janine Gibson, 204-434-6018, [janine@mb.sympatico.ca](mailto:janine@mb.sympatico.ca) Liaison Ann Baier, see RTOC. No report submitted.

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## Federal Register Update

By Margaret Scoles

The Federal Register published Proposed Rules to the NOP on April 16, 2003 (Vol. 68, No. 73). Public comment period closed April 28. While this time frame sounds cruelly short, most of the proposed changes were expected, all were based on NOSB recommendations, and few were controversial. In fact, the proposed changes fell short of the expectations of the NOSB. OMRI was outspoken in their disappointment with the conservative number of materials proposed. The NOP has countered by announcing that further proposed rule changes will be posted shortly. A summary of the published changes (exact text is abbreviated) follows. The Federal Register noted that it was the intent of the NOP to put all comments on the NOP website. As of this date (June 7), comments are not yet available on the website and it is unknown when decisions will be final.

### Proposed Adding 10 substances to National List:

#### 205.601.a. (*Disinfectants, algicide, sanitizers*)

Add copper sulfate, for use as an algicide, with some specific restrictions.

Add ozone gas as an irrigation system cleaner only.

Add peracetic acid for disinfecting equipment, seed, and asexually propagated planting material.

#### 205.601.e. (*insecticides, acaricides*)

Add copper sulfate, for use in shrimp production, with some specific restrictions.

#### 205.601.i. (*disease control*)

Add peracetic acid for fire blight control with some specific restrictions.

#### 205.601.k. (*plant growth regulators*)

Change wording to, "Ethylene gas, for regulation of pineapple flowering"

#### 205.601.m. (*plant growth regulators*)

Adds EPA list 3 – inerts of unknown toxicity- for use only in passive pheromone dispensers.

#### 205.602 (*Prohibited Naturals for Crop Production*)

Add Calcium chloride, except as a brine sourced foliar spray to treat physiological disorders associated with calcium uptake.

#### 205.603 (*Allowed Synthetics for Livestock Production*)

Add DL-Methionine, DL-Methionine-Hydroxy Analog, and DL-Methionine-Hydroxy Analog Calcium- for use only in organic poultry production until October 21, 2005.

### Revised annotations for 2 materials:

#### 205.602 (*Prohibited Naturals*)

Amends sodium nitrate annotation by adding "use in spirulina production is unrestricted until October 21, 2005."

#### 205.605 (*Allowed Synthetic, Nonagricultural, Ingredients in Organic Processed Foods*)

Amends annotation for ethylene to read "Ethylene, allowed for postharvest ripening of tropical fruit and degreening of citrus."

### Makes 8 technical corrections.

**Opportunity for public comment on specific uses for ethylene in crop production.** Due to a technicality, opportunity for public comment was missed as part of the usual approval process. The NOSB recommended that ethylene be added to the List. The NOP included it without receiving public comment.

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## Summary of NOSB Decisions on Materials at May 13 Meeting

Tetrahydrofurfuryl Alcohol – benign solvent (stated by the petitioner) used in crop production. APPROVED WITH 2006 SUNSET

Potassium Silicate - DEFERRED

Phosphoric Acid-crops - DEFERRED

Glycerine Oleate/Glycerine Monooleate - Antifoaming agent for micro sulfur crop foliar feed sprays-APPROVED WITH A 2006 SUNSET

### Livestock materials

Proteinated Chelates DEFFERED

Calcium Propionate - Mold inhibitor in dried herbal remedies, Not including aloe vera - APPROVED ONLY AS MOLD INHIBITOR IN DRIED HERBAL REMEDIES

Furosemide - Udder edema APPROVED (double withdrawal the FDA requirements time on the label)

Mineral Oil - Dust suppressant in the formulation in feed supplements/vitamins-known carcinogen to humans (droplets in feed) - NOT APPROVED

Atropine - Pinkeye, plant poisoning APPROVED

Moxidectin - Topically applied broad spectrum parasicide-Transdermal, penetrates into the animal. Residues remain in fats and lipids, remains active 24 days with 26% excreted into feces. DEFFERED

### Processing Materials

Egg White Lysozyme - NATURAL, APPROVED

Nitrous Oxide - DEFFERED

Malic Acid - ONLY NON-SYNTHETIC FORM, APPROVED

Sodium Acid Pyrophosphate - Slows rising of bread doughs as well as processed cheese foods - APPROVED ONLY FOR USE AS A LEAVENING AGENT

Microorganisms - APPROVED

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## NOSB Report

By Harriet Behar

I attended the NOSB meeting in Austin Texas on May 13 & 14, and this summary details the areas I felt were of interest to organic inspectors.

**Jim Riva**, who oversees the accreditation of NOP accredited certifying agents, gave a **45 minute presentation** to the NOSB, **describing the program** as well as the activities done by the on-site auditors.

Before going out on their audit, an accreditation review committee performs a desk audit and gives the on-site auditor specific areas that need special review.

Jim stated that whenever an auditor checks a yes or no on the checklist during the audit, there is also a reference attached stating where the information was found or not found concerning the compliance to that specific issue. Such as "... page ...of the quality manual has the policy for this specific issue...". This is similar to what many certifiers request of their inspectors when using checklist inspection reports. Random files are pulled as part of the on-site audit, with each file reviewed that all policies are being followed including within the client and certifier communications as well as complete inspection reports.

During the accreditation audit attributes in a positive way are also noted, as well as noncompliances. Continuous improvement points, corrective action requests, hold points (out of compliance) were all listed with the NOP notified of hold points. Immediate corrective action can be mandated by NOP.

Jim had very high praise for organic inspectors, and asked those inspectors in the audience to raise their hands in order to receive special recognition for a job well done. He stated his auditors consistently found the inspectors to be well-informed, professional and passionate in their work. There was some amusement at his enthusiastic approval of inspectors, and so as a way to tone things down, he stated that we were somewhat eccentric folks, but in a good way. Since our work as organic inspectors and their work as auditors is very similar, this praise by our "peers" in this public organic forum was very gratifying and

we should all be proud of our good work.

AMS auditors are trained in ISO as well as a wide variety of production and processes, such as fruit and vegetable, poultry, dairy etc.. At this time there are 19 domestic certifiers pending on their accreditation applications and 30 foreign pending accreditation. There are currently a total of 87 accredited certifiers. Contact info for Jim Riva, AMS, ARC (Audit Review and Compliance)...Livestock and Seed program, is 202-720-1124.

**P**ublic comment was given to the NOSB. The organic labeling of **body care products** in a way that is in many cases in direct contradiction to the organic labeling rule is pervasive in the marketplace, and this topic was repeated by many consumer representatives. Opinions on inerts, food contact surface materials, livestock access to the outdoors, synthetics in production and processing, short time frame from TAP review release to the public to the meeting (12 days), dairy herd conversion and specific pros and cons for the materials to be considered were presented.

**Barbara Robinson** stated the **livestock feed cost survey** is done, but cannot release it until it goes through the farm bill implementation procedures and is approved. The NOP has not done any work on standards or rule writing on the wild fish organic label recently added to their list of items to be done by Congress.

**Richard Matthews** gave an update on the **peer review panel**. ANSI will be managing the peer review panel with two ANSI personnel (ISO auditors 61 and 19011) and one "organic industry representative" on this panel. NOP is looking for public input (names) for the one organic technical advisory member. An incomplete federal register docket listing additions to the National List for crops was released a few weeks ago and Richard stated that another federal register docket will be sent out next week for processing materials, as well as another docket for livestock materials in a month or so....Delay came from waiting on approval from FDA on livestock and processing before going out to public comment.

**NOP distributed an outline** describing a rule change (new 205.630) that would

describe the future **NOP policy decision making procedure**. I believe this will posted on the NOP website. It describes what is a guidance document, who has to follow the specific document, public comment, NOP adherence to the guidance document etc. Richard stated that the food contact surfaces policy statement released last fall will be the first guidance document to go through this procedure. It was not clarified if this means that the food contact substance policy is not then going to be enforced (although it seems this is the case) or when this rule change dealing with NOP guidance documents might go into effect so the food contact substances guidance could then be formally approved after going through the stated process.

**Kim Burton** gave a presentation on **materials review** and an updated process within the NOSB and she stated only three new items have been petitioned.

Benyladine - crop plant growth regulator

Potassium Carbonate - aquatic plant extract

Hydrogen Chloride - crop delinting cotton seed

**Jim Riddle** presented a recommendation from the **accreditation subcommittee** of the NOSB clarifying description and process for minor and major noncompliances. This will be on the NOP/NOSB website for public comment, and they are open to having more possible scenarios (especially livestock and processing) added to the current list in the format provided. Public comment will be at least 30 days. Jim Riddle encouraged everyone to give their feedback on this topic. NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) is working with IFOAM to accredit IFOAM as an accreditation body (using IFOAM standards and ISO 61, not NOP).

The following recommendation was approved by the NOSB and given to the NOP on the subject of **chlorine**.

- A. Change the annotation of 205.601 a 2 to read, Chlorine materials-Except, that residual chlorine levels in the water in direct or food contact and in flush water from cleaning irrigation systems that is applied to crops or fields shall not exceed the maximum residual disinfectant limit under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- B. Change the annotation of 205.603 a 3 to read: Chlorine materials-disinfecting and sanitizing facilities and equipment. Residual chlorine levels in the water in direct crop or food contact shall not exceed the maximum residual disinfectant limit under the Safe Drinking Water Act.



C. Change the annotation of 205.605 b 9 to read: Chlorine materials ~~disinfecting and sanitizing food contact surfaces.~~ Except that, residual chlorine levels in the water in direct crop or food contact shall not exceed the maximum residual disinfectant limit under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

D. Change the Q and A on the NOP website:

*Q. As a certified operator at what point in the crop should I monitor the residual disinfectant limit?*

A. Certified operators must monitor the chlorine level upstream of the wash operation or rinse operation, where the water last contacts the organic product. The level of chlorine in the water which last contacts the organic food products must meet the 4 mg/l limit as set forth by the Safe Drinking Water Act. A description of the operation's monitoring procedure is to be contained in the operation's Organic System Plan. Documents which demonstrate compliance are to be reviewed and verified during the operation's annual inspection.

#### **NOSB also approved two livestock recommendations** to the NOP.

According to the NOSB, the **first** recommendation clarifies that once the mother animal comes into organic production, she cannot leave and then return to organic production. Once she gives one organic calf, she must be under continuous management in order to continue to give birth to organic slaughter stock. For example, no parasiticides could be used after she has passed the last third of gestation of her first organic calf.

The **second** recommendation dealt with improving the format of the dairy herd replacement: to make the dairy herd replacement, once transitioned to organic by whatever means, the whole herd has to be under organic management for last third of gestation for organic production animals.

There was discussion on putting together a task force to find alternatives to **DL methionine** since the 2005 sunset is approaching. Fish meal was the main item being reviewed with other NOSB members wishing the alternative search to include other items, referring to the OMRI TAP review on methionine.

The afternoon of the first day dealt with extensive discussion on the materials to be voted on the second day. See page 10 for a summary of the materials, their use and the vote or decision on each. There will be full minutes of the entire meeting sometime in the future on the NOP website, for those of you who enjoy that sort of thing.

**October 22, 2003** is the next NOSB meeting in Washington D.C.

#### **Harriet's Comments to the NOSB – May 14, 2003**

"Hello, my name is Harriet Behar and I, like Jim Riddle, have the privilege of being a past chair of the Independent Organic Inspectors Association. I am not here representing any organization, but would like to share my opinions about materials and processes approved for organic production. I have been an organic inspector since 1991 visiting more than 1300 organic farms and processors around the world. I have been an organic vegetable farmer for over 30 years and a conscious organic consumer for longer than that. It is this experience that is the basis of my comments to you.

"As an inspector, I encourage you consider the challenges inherent in verifying annotations to materials on the National List. Those annotations based on product composition are easy and fairly straightforward to verify. Those annotations based on production use, or statements such as "...emergency use only...." are more difficult. Speaking to your upcoming decision on Furosemide, I have seen other annotated items that producers have found ways to justify routine use beyond the intention of the NOSB. Verifying double the withdrawal time is difficult. In addition, I question why a synthetic should be added to the approved national list when there are so many natural alternatives.

"In my experience, most long time organic farmers prefer simplicity in the materials that are allowed and it is the newcomers still struggling with their organic system, that rely on synthetic materials to overcome their management deficiencies. **THE ORGANIC LABEL SHOULD BE APPLIED ONLY TO PRODUCTS PRODUCED IN A FUNCTIONAL ORGANIC SYSTEM.** Speaking to SAP, we do not need to have an organic counterpart for every processed food found in the American marketplace, and therefore there may be

some foods that may never be able carry the 100% or organic label. The *made with organic* label could be assigned for this product or the conventional market exists for products that do not meet the organic standards. I ask you to review products for their true necessity in the organic system. Limit the use of synthetics in an organic product.

"Speaking to Moxidectin, just because one product (Ivermectin) is on the approved synthetic list, it doesn't mean that every other item is that may be more benign should be allowed as well.

"I understand the commitment those who have put forward petitions have made, and the need to listen closely to their concerns. I also ask you to listen to the voices of those organic consumers who are not present here, who purchase organic products with significant monetary premiums because they are looking to lessen their personal intake of synthetic compounds, as well as the reduced use of synthetic items in our environment.

"I am not a hardhearted individual, I have sympathized with both farmers and processors listening to their perceived need for certain materials to aid them in their production challenges. However, I have also returned to these same operations a few years later for a subsequent inspection and these producers have found management solutions. They are proud of the deeper understanding they learned by exploring the solutions in a system-based process rather than with synthetic materials.

"I applaud your recommendation on dairy animal replacements in a converted organic herd and your recommendation on measuring chlorinated water that is in contact with organic foods. I urge the NOP to quickly adopt these recommendations with no changes. I am also gratified to see the list of synthetics being petitioned for inclusion to the National List contains many fewer materials than in the past, and hope that this represents the organic community moving towards a whole system approach to organic production. I also thank the progress that the NOP has made on the peer review panel and process to develop guidance documents that includes public comment. It is important that the third organic community member of the peer review panel be someone well respected and deeply intimate with the organic rule, ISO and accreditation systems. Public input on this third member is essential. The organic marketplace has experienced rapid growth due to the integrity and transparency it offers. Open dialogue and adherence to the OFPA strengthens trust in the organic label." É

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## ATO Conference Report

By Margaret Scoles

IOIA staffed a booth for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in Austin at the 'All Things Organic' conference and trade show on May 16-17.

**On May 14**, I attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of **NOSB** meeting and the evening **OTA AGM**. I testified to the NOSB and spoke a bit to Richard Mathews. Harriet Behar presented a full 5-minute statement, which I followed with a shorter statement and a 'ditto' on Harriet's (see page 8 & end of this article).

Highlights of the NOSB meeting were the addition of several new materials and the announcement of the 3-person NOP Accreditation Review team soon to be named. Policy Statements and Q & A's on the NOP website will be replaced by "Good Guidance Practices". Other highlights were an abrupt closed-door executive session of the NOSB, called by Richard Mathews, and Marty Mesh's questioning of the make-up of the NOSB board. **The next NOSB meeting dates are October 22-24. To add something to the agenda, at least 60 days advance notice is required.**

At the **OTA AGM** on May 14, new BOD members elected to OTA were Nancy Hirschberg, Lynn Clarkson, Phil Margolis (who will serve as President), and Debra Boyle. OTA unveiled their newly refurbished website (including a new "members only" section) with a digital presentation.

**May 15: I attended OTA Conference Day, QAC Livestock Subcommittee Meeting and OCC Meetings.** Marty Mesh chaired the OCC meeting. The OCC is electing a new chair as well as a new Steering Committee. The near-final Standards Consensus Project, coordinated by Pat Kane, was a primary discussion topic. The Steering committee also reported on their Strategic Plan. The OCC has virtually no funding and does not plan to go farther with more issues. The project is concluded. Inspectors were well represented at both meetings. The organic OTA BBQ at the end of day was a highlight, complete with a detour through the Texas Dept. of Ag's Organic Certification Coordinator's office (credit to

hospitality of Leslie McKinnon, head of the TDA program). TDA uses all staff regulatory inspectors for organic inspections and so far, has done all of their own inspector training. The evening included self-guided tours of the Barr mansion, music, dancing, and a chance to catch up with many friends including Joe Smillie, founding IOIA BOD member.

**May 16:** Attended conference sessions in the morning, including a **NOP update** (Robinson, Mathews, and Jones), an **IFOAM session** (well attended), and a powerful speech by **keynote speaker Robert Kennedy, Jr.** A highlight of the Trade Show was an Organic Fashion Show, narrated by Sandra Marquardt. Although not required to be such high percentage organic, all garments shown were 90% or more organic fiber. Several IOIA inspectors attended the **IFOAM member meeting** from 5-6 pm (very light attendance) and their **reception** afterwards. **Suzanne Vaupel's** husband attended the meeting and the group was profoundly moved by a moment of silence in her memory. IFOAM representatives were Thomas Cierpka, IFOAM Managing Director; Diane Bowen, IFOAM staff person located in the US; Gerald Hermann, Germany, IFOAM VP; Pipo Lernoud, Argentina, BOD member; and Sheldon Weinberg, USA, BOD Member. IFOAM has a new Mission Statement and is actively seeking more North American participation. We learned more about I-GO, which funds grants for work in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries. **IOIA members assembled for dinner**, including John Foster, Jim Riddle, Reneé King, Harriet Behar, Maarten Samsom, Doriene-Rowan Campbell (**recently joined apprentice inspector member from Jamaica**), and myself. Other IOIA members we networked with informally and/or met separately with were Jake Lewin, George Kuepper, Bob Durst, Vanessa Bogenholm, and Erica Walz. IOIA members seemed to appreciate having a "home" at the show and our booth was active. A few of us managed to get to Barton Springs (great natural swimming hole, thanks again, Maarten!) for a swim before closing hours. The 2<sup>nd</sup> most popular 'tourist activity' was watching the bats at dusk. Austin is famous for the many 100,000's of bats which live on the underside of the expansion bridges.

**May 17:** I attended the 'unveiling' presentation for OTA's new **Center for Organic Education and Promotion**, (a 501.c.3) and then worked the Trade Show until I left to return home on Saturday afternoon. **News Briefs from the Conference:** **IOIA and AIB** discussed collaborating on customized training for the industry. The **Wyoming** training moved forward; key details were finalized with Reneé King. **QCS** proposed plans for a regional training in FL later this year; some pre-planning was done with Jon Austin, QCS Certification Director. John Foster, IOIA Vice-Chair, helped out with business meetings including one with **Thomas Cierpka about IFOAM manual issues** and potential new funding for projects through I-GO. We gained a **new supporting member** (Organic Certifiers, CA) and collected some past dues. I visited with Pete Gonzalves, OTCO ED, about the upcoming **Oregon trainings**. Supporting business member **ARGENCERT** reps stopped by. I met some good contacts from **India, Nicaragua, and Mexico** and sold a few IOIA resources. We distributed **brochures, newsletters, training schedules, book pricelists, scholarship applications, Maine training info and applications**, all of which were more significant than the resource sales. I also went on the floor to be sure to meet as many people as possible, making personal contact with about 20% of the 250 exhibitors. I recruited free materials for our trainings, got NewFarm.org info (great new website), etc. I failed to connect with the GSC Mobile Solutions people, but Harriet, John, and others spent time there.

**Cost to IOIA: \$750.** The booth was free from OTA. We are over-budget in Promotion (our budget was \$500). This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year to have a line item for Promotion. This was my first year to attend ATO. Before I went to Austin, I had some reservations about whether IOIA should attend such events if money is tight. Looking back, I have no reservations. The experience convinced me that it is a worthwhile \$\$ investment and very beneficial to IOIA to participate. I was very impressed with the respect given inspectors in Austin, at the NOSB meetings, the OTA meetings, and the Trade Show. OTA plans to have more of their meetings at the ATO, so IOIA's participation will probably shift correspondingly a bit from Expos and toward ATO. IOIA has historically attempted to participate annually in the Expo East, varying from full Executive Committee to none each year over the past several years.

Special thanks to John Foster (who represented the BOD and assisted in his new

role as IOIA Vice-Chair), and Jim Riddle, Drew Stuckey, Maarten Samsom for their help with the booth and logistics. IOIA made many contacts and staffed the booth most hours. **Next year, the All Things Organic show will move to Chicago.** Somehow, I'm just a bit sad to say goodbye to Austin so quickly, but I look forward to a much bigger show in a bigger city.

#### ATO - From Austin to Chicago

The Organic Trade Association will co-locate its 2004 **All Things Organic** Conference and Trade Show with the Food Marketing Institute's FMI Show, the National Association for the Specialty Food Trade's (NASFT) Fancy Food Show, and the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association's (UFFVA) United 2004 Produce Expo & Conference during May 2-4, 2004 at McCormick Place, Chicago, Illinois.

"Holding All Things Organic in a more central location, while providing exhibitors access to more buyers, is a win-win for the organic industry," according to Katherine DiMatteo, OTA's executive director.

#### Margaret's Comments to the NOSB – May 14

"Good Morning. I am Margaret Scoles, organic inspector and Executive Director of the Independent Organic Inspectors Association. Thank you for your work and the opportunity to speak.

"We realize that one of your primary roles is to review and make recommendations on materials. However, we urge you to protect the spirit of OFPA and the NOP rule by exercising extreme caution and reluctance to add materials to the list. Please don't let the onslaught of materials issues derail other important NOSB work. We don't want 'organic' to be defined by a list of materials. Please resist all efforts toward adding any synthetic substances for processed foods or more synthetic materials for crops and livestock. Every substance added makes it more difficult to keep the next one off. We were pleased to see that the proposed NOP rule amendments released last month were very modest in respect to adding materials to the list.

"Please keep the focus of our organic program on organic process and management based systems - not a product list. Speaking from 15 years of experience and over 1000 inspections, most certified operations use no or few added inputs. They are happy to treat if necessary and segregate as non-organic. They and the consumers of their products are not served by a longer list. Keep it simple. Also, on behalf of IOIA, I say 'ditto' to what Harriet Behar just read." É



Above – May NOSB Meeting in Austin

#### Interesting Veterinary Facts

From notes taken at the Saskatchewan Advanced Training presentation by Ted Dupmeier, DVM, Swift Current, SK

@ Milking machine problems are the most common cause of mastitis.

@ Scours is very commonly mistreated with antibiotics. Antibiotics are almost never effective for scours. Only 1 type of calf scours actually responds to antibiotics. Bio-security is the key to viral scours. Key management practices for scours prevention are: colostrum, appropriate calving season and clean area, biosecurity, and diagnose/cull.

@ Timing of colostrum intake is key to calf health. Colostrum protection is absorbed for only the 1st 4 hours of a calf's life. For the 1st 24 hours, it makes a protective coating in the calf's stomach. After 24 hours, it has no colostrum effect. It acts the same as milk. Calves can be tested later in life for colostrum intake levels. Frozen colostrum retains its quality for years. Colostrum is manufactured by the cow until she is milked. After that she produces milk. Some microbes are the same between species (cow, sheep, etc.) so cross-species colostrum can have value.

@ Vinegar makes a good foot disinfectant for inspectors.

@ Management practices to avoid feedlot pneumonia are: proper nutrition, increased B vitamins, reduce stress, and treat with electrolytes.

@ Shrink is about the same no matter how long the haul is for the calf, contrary to popular belief.

@ Ringworm is a fungus and can live in wood, so it is very contagious.

@ Diatomaceous Earth is useful for calves that are eating dirt. No study shows efficacy of DE for internal and external parasites. Dr. Dupmeier expressed some concerns that routine DE use could kill off the 'easy bugs' and leave the more difficult ones.

@ Stress causes cortisteroids to go up and that suppresses the immune system.



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## TRAINING NEWS

### Two Practicums Compliment IOIA/Assiniboine Community College Distance Delivery

By Janine Gibson

After two and half months of distance learning of the IOIA /ACC Basic Farm Inspection curriculum, 19 students met from across Canada (plus one from California!) April 30- May 1 and May 2 -4<sup>th</sup>, 2003 in Fraserwood and Basswood, Manitoba, Canada. Janine Gibson was the Training Coordinator ably assisted by Sandra Conway. 17 Certificates of Completion were awarded. The diverse, closed loop Murry/Proven farm that has been the field trip for this course in the past, had requested no more than 15 participants as a quality improvement. So two Practicums were organized by Assiniboine Community College, the co-sponsor of this training. In addition to the feed, beef, hogs and chickens of the Organic Producers Assoc of Manitoba (OPAM) certified Murry/Proven Farm, 5 students visited Jim and Sheila Martin and their OPAM certified organic feed and turkey farm near Fraserwood in Manitoba's Interlake region. Students, hosts and trainers all enjoyed the better learning environment fostered by smaller group sizes. The On-Farm Processing components of both farms involved a range of equipment for making feed and livestock bedding, and complimented the primary focus of forage and grain production for certified feed. Students rated the course and the bed and breakfast lodging and organic meals as excellent, a real taste of the prairies! ACC is developing a Distance Livestock Training program in conjunction with IOIA for 2004. Also under discussion is a Processing Inspection Course for distance delivery.



*Prospects Going the Distance....photo courtesy of Helene Bouvier*



## Saskatchewan

Fifteen inspectors, all IOIA members, attended the Advanced Training in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, on April 27-28. Janine Gibson served as Training Coordinator, with assistance from Margaret Scoles and Lisa Pierce.

Bob Kitlar and Paul Routledge of Enviro-Test Labs in Winnipeg provided most of the Day 1 training, addressing Sampling Training for Residue Analysis (water, soil, and plant tissue). The group enjoyed hands-on sampling exercises, which included a walk to a nearby park for well assessment. Organic Standards and Livestock Inspection topics were the focus of Day 2. Dr. Ted Dupmeier, DVM, from Swift Current,

gave an excellent presentation of organic livestock topics and animal health. Ted won the Outrageous Statement by acclamation. There were many, many great statements. The winning statement was "Confinement livestock put my kids through university!" Janine Gibson brought the group up to date on the recently released Draft Canadian CGSB Organic Standards, which is a voluntary standard not yet widely adopted in Canada. Margaret Scoles presented the NOP Rule, including difficult issues and the new proposed rule changes. Organic Control Points in Grain Handling Facilities (a virtual group tour of a grain plant via PowerPoint) and an Investigative Skills/Inspection Issues discussion ended the training.

Inspectors held an informal meeting on the evening of April 27. Amy Griner held an OCIA Inspector Workshop with 10 participants on April 28 following the training. The extended length of the training, with most attendees arriving early for the Aquaculture training and staying on for the OCIA workshop allowed for lots of collegial sharing, an aspect often sorely missed at IOIA Advanced Training with larger group sizes and more compressed time frames.

Wood Acres was comfortable and relatively convenient. Canadian inspectors expressed appreciation for the effort to accommodate their needs with a SK Advanced Training, as had been requested last year at the Saskatchewan and IFOAM inspectors' meetings. It was a beautiful site with good accommodations at a reasonable cost. Thank you to Sandra Conway and Jill Forrester for locating the facility, assisting with logistics, and coordinating organic food.

Hopefully this training will be a prototype for the future – a customized training to meet the need of regional inspectors. When inspectors in western Canada asked what it would take to get a training in SK, they were told '15 people'. We communicated by Email until we knew we had 15 people. Arrangements were made entirely by Email with startling efficiency, considerable input into the agenda from the attendees, and a sizable amount of local volunteerism from the IOIA inspectors in western Canada.

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## Aquaculture

Increased interest in development of Organic Aquaculture standards has been stimulated by the NOSB's approval of the NOSB Working Group Aquaculture Draft, international work with the IFOAM Aquaculture Group, and most recently by the surprise NOP policy on certification of wild harvest fish.

IOIA collaborated for the second time with the Institute for Social Economic and Ecological Sustainability (ISEES), located at the University of Minnesota, to provide organic aquaculture training for organic inspectors on April 26 in Moose Jaw, SK. The pilot training last November was a half-day workshop plus optional field trip in Spring Green, WI. Deborah Brister of ISEES presented both workshops. Ten IOIA inspector members attended the SK aquaculture training. The collaboration between ISEES and IOIA has provided quality training for inspectors. Deborah has traveled internationally speaking on aquaculture topics, was a member of the National Organic Aquaculture Working Group that proposed standards to the NOSB, and is a member of the IFOAM Aquaculture Committee.

This training was expanded to a full day and included a field trip to CanGro. CanGro, on Lake Diefenbaker, produces over 100 Tons tons of finished commercial fish products annually. The operation is vertically integrated from hatching to processing. Fish are raised inside from egg to feeding size, then moved to net cages in the lake. The species raised is a crossbred produced from steelhead salmon and rainbow trout.

IOIA and ISEES are currently working on a grant proposal to develop an Organic Aquaculture manual for inspectors. ISEES is especially interested in working with lower food chain species for human food. Several of the most popular food species are carnivores (salmon, trout, shrimp). Each attendee at the class received a copy of the Final Report of the National Organic Aquaculture Workshop and many supplemental written resources.

Brister's presentation included details for most of the commonly used food species. Catfish is the most commonly raised species in the US. Carp are the most commonly cultured worldwide. Tilapia is the 2nd most popular species world-wide. Some fish valuable for specific uses cause environmental concerns. For example, the snail carp is useful to clean out unwanted molluscs but might find its way to the Great Lakes and threaten native mollusk populations. Another potential exotic problem is the Grass Carp (white amur), which is used for aquatic weed control. Escape of cultured Atlantic salmon into the Pacific Ocean was a lively discussion topic. According to Brister, there is little data that shows these wild escapes are dangerous because they often do not survive long or know how to eat in the wild. However, Pacific pink salmon are being infested by sea lice from net cage operations and that is a serious concern. The only GMO species of fish to date in North America is the Atlantic salmon. Brister reported that both China and Cuba have other GMO species.

Attendees to the classes learned about the variety of production methods, including ponds, re-circulating raceways, net cages, and raceways. Assessment of water quality, production systems, and effluent treatment were covered. Fish diseases and parasites were discussed more briefly. After the in-class workshop, attendees were surprised to see how much they'd learned when they visited the on-site field trip, from noticing red dye in the food, to predator birds sneaking lunch from the net cages and discussions of methods of handling biofouling (accumulation of algae) on net cages. In spite of very chilly weather and spitting rain, attendees were fascinated by the detailed tour. They learned about the "pelican problem". If pelicans feed and an attempt is made to scare them, they must vomit before they fly away. Then they discover they are hungry again and return to repeat the cycle. The operation was not organic, so attendees learned about conventional practices as well as organic. All eggs were triploid (female) to allow for faster growth. Since triploid fish cannot breed, escapes to the lake were not much concern to them. Small fish have a feed conversion ratio of about 1:1, with larger fish using 1 lb. to create about .7 lb. of body weight. Fish were harvested at over 2 years of age. Primary feedstuff was fish meal. Formalin (formaldehyde) is commonly used in conventional operations in producing eggs and for treatment of disease. Nets were about 50 ft. deep.

The course ended with a very short quiz and all successful attendees.

IOIA is grateful to Deborah Brister (IOIA member) for her assistance in developing this specialized training for inspectors. And special thanks to Lisa Pierce for assisting Deborah in organizing the field trip.



Getting on the barge to travel between the shore  
and the CanGro net cage operation.

## Those Pesky Surveys Stats on Page 2 Came From....

An extensive report on the survey "The Globalization of Food: How Americans Feel About Food Sources, Who They Trust, Food Security, Genetic Modification, Food Labeling and the Environment," is online at <http://sa.ncsu.edu/global-food>. The Southern Rural Development Center at <http://srcd.msstate.edu> will also release a summary soon in Southern Perspectives magazine.

## Farm & Livestock Report

By Margaret Scoles

The Missouri Department of Ag Organic Program and IOIA cosponsored Farm, Livestock, and Process trainings in March at Innsbrook, Missouri. IOIA had joint training experience with several other state departments of agriculture including Utah and Kentucky, but this was the first of this size and complexity.

The group included several international attendees from countries including Moldova, Ecuador, and Durango, Mexico in addition to those from US private and state agencies, a total of 29 for Farm and 31 for Livestock. A few wrinkles presented themselves.

Torrents of rain fell almost daily through the Farm training and created some challenges for field trips. Brief opportunities in the sun were greatly enjoyed. Breakfast on the morning the Farm course began was by candlelight, with power being restored just minutes before the opening session. Shortly after the training was scheduled, Newcastle disease in the region resulted in an the cancellation of an excellent potential poultry field trip. The entire livestock group instead toured a "Pizza Farm" in the development stage which produces broilers and eggs on pasture. The pace of the courses were intense, with the Farm course covered in just 2 days and the Livestock in two.



*Farm Trainees in Missouri*



*Livestock Group*

Harriet Behar and Margaret Scoles served as Training Coordinators for both trainings. Ann Wells, Arkansas veterinarian with ATTRA, was overwhelmingly appreciated for our outstanding presentation on animal health. She specializes in sheep and goats. Rose Foster, MDA Poultry Specialist, and Sue Baird presented a very interesting duo presentation on poultry.

As is typical of IOIA 'open trainings' with very diverse groups, all attendees and the cosponsor expressed their appreciation of the richness of the training and the benefits of learning from others of different backgrounds.

## Processing Report

By Harriet Behar

This training, co sponsored by IOIA and the MO Dept of Ag, occurred at the end of an 8 day marathon of training. Located on a 6000 acre Audubon sanctuary, classes were held in a nice conference room, with some group exercises being done outdoors due to the wonderful 70 degree sunshine, and lodging in great group condos, Sue Baird of MDA did an outstanding job providing everyone with organic food, MO wine and local entertainment.

Our group included Americans as well as attendees from Ecuador and Moldova. The field trips to a grain cleaner and coffee roaster were educational and helped the students get a feel for real life situations. Paula Peckman and Bob Warren of IFC gave excellent presentations on facility pest control and sanitation.

Our outrageous statement list had 16 entries but this one was the winner: Sue Baird said, when discussing sanitation and people's habits...."It's the men scratching"

and winner **Steve Schuler** said "...It's okay as long as you keep your hand on the outside of your pants." – Steve won a jigsaw puzzle of Texas and a pocket flashlight.



*Process Training Group*



**Harriet Behar and MO's Processing OSA winner Steve Schuler**



**Five-time Outrageous Statement Award Winner Margaret Scoles, center, with Joan and Allan Benjamin**



**Above:** A very relieved Margaret, presenting what could have been her 6th Outrageous Statement Award to winner **Sue Baird**. Reneé King of Wyoming, a former 2002 OSA Winner and very close runner-up for this one, was also relieved. Sue accepted her award graciously. She received a pair of binoculars.

This is how it happened....

Margaret was lecturing on Organic Beef Inspection. She asked the question, "Is natural service required?" From the back of the room, Harriet responded, "It is Preferred," whereupon Sue Baird responded, "It is for ME!" Sue Baird is Program Director of the MO State Dept of Ag Organic Certification Program, MDA/IOIA training event cosponsor, and IOIA member. Congratulations, Sue.

**Right: Lest you think that the Missouri training was all fun and games, here's proof that the group DID do some work. Here shown is the Processing training group at a local coffee roasting facility.**

**IOIA – work hard, play hard!**

**AND THE WINNER IS....**

**New Precedent Set as ED Claims 5<sup>th</sup> OSA**

Membership policy may not be the only thing that has to get changed at IOIA. Executive Director Margaret Scoles has now won her 5<sup>th</sup> Outrageous Statement Award. The Board is currently reviewing whether Scoles will be allowed at any future trainings, just to give some other people a chance to say something outrageous.

In a recent interview, Scoles said, "It is my 5th OSA. This is an extreme record. People are asking, "What does this mean.....our ED the leader in OSAs? I had become a little camera shy after the 3rd and 4th award. But I'm almost proud at reaching a whole new OSA record with this award at the MO training. I won 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.....!"

Here's the winner: a comment regarding Allan and Joan Benjamin being lodged in separate condos, "*The state of Missouri must be a strange place if a man and wife can't sleep in the same room.*" Allan and Joan agreed to pose with Margaret for the award, since they helped her get it. "It pleased me greatly to have them at least sit together for the remainder of the training," said Scoles. "Until the award, they sat at opposite sides of the room".

One of the runner-ups in reference to the group working too late into the night on their farm reports...."*There is no point in talking to dead people.*"

Scoles recently left the country for a lengthy trip to Russia and was unable to be reached for further comment on the Board's investigations. *The Inspectors' Report* is monitoring *Pravda* for any news of what are sure to be some interesting and, we can only hope, outrageous, translations. [Flash from the Editor: She did it! We received an email from Margaret in Russia via the IOIA office, wherein she made the comment, "*Very much like Montana here.*" ]



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## Member Profile – Jonathan Langer

*ED. Note: I erroneously listed Mr. Langer's first name as 'Jim' in a Vermont training article photo. I must have been thinking of 'The Dating Game'! My apologies to Jonathan – what follows an in-depth profile of Langer and his business.*

Jonathan Langer, M.S., has over twenty years of experience implementing, supervising and doing environmental hygiene in all types of commercial and industrial facilities. His educational and professional qualifications are extensive, and include:

Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting, Dowling College, Oakdale, NY  
Master of Science, Human Nutrition, University of Bridgeport  
National accreditation, Certified Professional Food Sanitarian  
National accreditation, Certified Nutrition Specialist  
Listed in New York State Registry of Sanitarians  
New York and New Jersey Certified Applicators License (7a, 7b, 7c, 7f)  
Inspector-Member of I.O.I.A. (Accredited - Food Processing)  
Member Northeast Organic Farming Association  
Member New York State Milk and Food Sanitarians  
Member of Entomological Society of America

Member National Environmental Health Association  
Member Environmental Management Association  
Member American College of Nutrition  
Lecturer, The Nature Lyceum Organic Landscaping School, Westhampton, NY  
Former member National Food Protection committee, National Pest Control Association  
Presenter on Pest Control, NYS DOA, Milk Division, Food Processing Seminar  
Presenter, Toxic Free Schools Workshops, LI Neighborhood Network  
Presenter, Organic Pest Control, IOIA Basic Handler Course, 2003

From 1981 to 1987, he was Director of Quality Assurance for the Prince Foods Company. Part of his responsibilities were to design, implement and supervise sanitation and pest control programs for two food plants in New York. He also inspected food ingredient and packaging suppliers for adherence with Federal Good Manufacturing Practices. He has attended many seminars, among them The Lauhoff Grain Company GMP seminar (a week long course), the American Institute of Baking Advanced Quality Assurance and Sanitation Seminar, and North Dakota State University's Short Course of Durum and Pasta. In 1988 he founded Paramount Pest Elimination, Inc. (PPE) as an industrial and commercial Integrated Pest Management business.

For his clients, Langer designs Organic and IPM programs, suggests and helps implement maintenance, sanitation, GMP and HACCP programs and monitors their progress. He writes pest control specifications, helps customers adhere to federal state and local regulations including the NOP, and gives advice on the use of cleaners, disinfectants and building materials to discourage pest populations from developing.

PPE was founded by Langer with a stated purpose to perform high quality, low toxicity pest elimination work. With that principle in mind, the firm has become aware of the methods of IPM in the following ways:

PPE has subscribed to the publications from the Biolntegral Resource Center since 1991  
PPE has attended all sessions of the NYS DOH IPM program in June 1993  
PPE has attended the Nassau County IPM program November, 1995  
PPE is a member of the Northeast Organic Farming Association  
PPE is a member of the (L.I.) Neighborhood Network



Since receiving the BIRC publications, IPM Practitioner and Common Sense Pest control Quarterly, Langer's company has actively put into practice the information contained in these journals. BIRC's book Common Sense Pest control and some of their other publications have also been very helpful. Two other sources not from our industry have had a deep impact on the direction of PPE. One book is *The Gift of Good Land*, by Wendell Berry. Mr. Berry is an essayist, teacher, poet, novelist and farmer. The other source is *Wisdom Distilled from the Daffy*, by Joan Chichester, O.S.B. The former book talks of right livelihood in relation to the earth and each other, the latter talks of our interrelationship and the impact of our actions on each other. Sr. Chichester's book was deeply disturbing to Langer, coming from a long background in the food processing industry in which he used fairly toxic chemicals for what he thought were good reasons. These two works influenced Langer to the point where he realized that he would only be comfortable performing IPM.

The decision to switch to IPM entirely for their regular accounts in 1993 has had several benefits:

- Better, more careful inspection of our accounts
- More effective, better directed results
- Use of less toxic materials in the form of baits and some powder
- Improved worker and customer safety
- Knowledge that our service has the least impact on the environment

Langer reports, "Since we perform only commercial and industrial service, we have trained our technicians in the methods of careful inspection of a facility. Our emphasis is always to locate sources of food, water and harborage for pests and to eliminate them through proper building maintenance, improved drainage, closing up holes, improving door seals and emphasizing good sanitation and housekeeping. We give each of our customers a 8 ½ " by 11" form listing in detail any conditions we observed (see Langer, p. 22)



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## OTHER NEWS...

### Five State and Federal Agencies in Minnesota Sign Agreement to Enhance Organic Agriculture

Recognizing that "organics are a choice preferred by a growing number of farmers and consumers," five state and federal agencies in Minnesota signed a landmark agreement last month to work together to enhance the state's organic agriculture sector. "This organic partnership is the first of its kind in the nation," according to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, which has joined with the University of Minnesota and its Extension Service and state offices of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency to enhance coordination of programs to help growers improve profitability, identify new markets, and conserve natural resources, and to improve consumer protection and labeling enforcement. The agencies' activities will include developing and implementing conservation farm plans; providing staff support for outreach and other efforts; sharing information on innovative programs with other states; and encouraging demonstrations to showcase organic operations. With 103,000 certified acres in 2001, Minnesota ranks first in organic acreage for corn, soybeans, and rye, and sixth in the nation for all crops. The agreement is available online at [www.mda.state.mn.us/esap/organic/mou.htm](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/esap/organic/mou.htm).

### Canada Identifies BSE in Domestic Herd

In a shocking announcement Canadian government officials reported a cow in Alberta has been positively identified to be infected with Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), also known as Mad Cow Disease. R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA), a long time supporter of mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL), is very concerned about the implications this will have on consumer confidence without the ability for consumers to choose between foreign and domestic beef. R-CALF USA President Leo McDonnell said, "This is devastating news for the U.S. cattle market.

Because of NAFTA, Canada has free access to the U.S. market and their beef is not labeled for the consumer. There is currently no way for consumers to know for certain if the beef they are eating came from Canada or not."

Following the press conference by Canadian Ag Minister Lyle Vanclief, USDA Ag Secretary Ann Veneman closed the U.S. border to imports of "ruminant products" from Canada until further notice.

### US Organic Agriculture Caucus Launched

The newly formed Congressional Organic Agriculture Caucus held its initial meeting in Washington, D.C., on April 10, 2003. The Caucus was formed as a bipartisan association of United States Representatives whose mission is to "enhance availability and understanding of information related to the production and processing of organic agricultural products."

The formation of this coalition is truly groundbreaking for organic farmers nationwide. "Organics is one of the fastest growing sectors in agriculture," said Rep. Sam Farr (D-CA 17th), who authored the nation's first comprehensive organic standards while he was a member of the California state legislature in 1990. "With new organic standards now in effect, consumers are demanding greater availability and farmers are seeking solutions to their organic production problems. This Caucus will give us the chance to discuss ways of enhancing the standard to make it workable for producers and consumers."

"The formation of this Caucus is a major step towards getting organic farmers their fair share of federal agricultural resources," says Bob Scowcroft, Executive Director of the Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF). "Organic farmers and their supporters should call their representatives and ask them to join the Caucus. When it comes to Capitol Hill, there is strength in numbers," he added.

OFRF assisted in organizing the initial meeting that launched the Caucus by briefing attendees on recent developments in organic agriculture. Speakers presented trends in industry growth, research, and the successes and obstacles that organic farmers are facing in the field. The speakers included Cathy Greene of the USDA Economic Research

Service, Laurie Drinkwater of Cornell University, and Steve Ela, a Colorado organic farmer and the vice president of OFRF.

While most of the attendees were Congressional staffers, also present were members of the press, organic activists, USDA staff and Congressmen Sam Farr, Ron Kind (D-WI 3rd), and Peter DeFazio (D-OR 4th). Each of the Congressmen who attended spoke about the growing importance of organic agriculture.

Caucus members have already demonstrated interest in working together on issues: a bipartisan group of 14 Caucus members recently signed a letter circulated by Congressman Kind endorsing specific 2004 funding levels for federal programs of importance to organic farmers. Other members of Congress have joined the Caucus simply to better educate themselves on issues that are important to organic farmers in their district.

For more information on the Organic Agriculture Caucus, contact Troy Phillips, Office of Congressman Farr, 202-225-2861; Ron Anderson, Office of Congressman Walsh, 202-225-3701; or Darin Schroeder, Office of Congressman Kind, 202-225-5506. To view the current list of Caucus members or the letter on recommended funding levels for federal programs endorsed by 14 Caucus members, visit OFRF's policy web page at: <http://www.ofrf.org/policy/index.html>

### Job Opportunity

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Canadian Organic Growers Inc.

COG is Canada's national information network for organic farmers, gardeners and consumers. We have members across Canada, individually and in 13 regional chapters.

COG is looking for a national Executive Director to work with our effective volunteer structure to develop our organization to serve the organic sector in Canada, while enhancing the implementation of COG's Seven Strategic Initiatives. This is a full-time, one-year term position, with the possibility of renewal.

Remuneration in the range of \$35,000 to \$45,000 per annum, depending on ability and experience.

APPLICATIONS: Send your resume electronically by July 31st, 2003 to:

Executive Director Competition

Janine Gibson, COG National President

[janine@mb.sympatico.ca](mailto:janine@mb.sympatico.ca)

Box 689, Steinbach, MB R0A 2A0

Only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted.

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## Board of Directors Conference Call – April 10, 2003

Present: Dag Falck, John Foster, Ann Baier, Jack Reams, Brian Magaro, Garry Lean, Luis Brenes. Staff: Margaret Scoles. Absent Members: None.

### **Agenda Item #1a. Approve Agenda**

**Agenda Item #1b. Review of “2<sup>nd</sup> agenda list** Reviewed of “second agenda” that consists of 13 items passed on to us by the previous Board.

**Agenda Item #2 Chair’s Report** Brian reported that he attended the Upper Midwest conference. Jim Riddle took Brian around and introduced him to people such that there would be recognition of IOIA’s presence and work. Other conversations (with Amy Griner of OCIA in particular) may contribute to future work on liaisons with certifiers.

**Agenda Item #3 Secretary’s Report** Publication of minutes: In the past, minutes have been published before they were approved with the disclaimer that they were draft minutes. The Board thinks that the approval process should be the first step before the minutes are published. The reason for publishing them promptly is to provide current news to the membership. We agreed that once the minutes are completed, they will be sent by email to all BOD members for review, editing and approval. Board members will respond to all within two weeks.

**Agenda Items #4 and 5: Treasurer’s Report and Format of Financial Reports** This is new format makes the report much easier to follow. This is the first time that the financial report has been based entirely on a cash basis (rather than accrual). Brian pointed out that while there is a \$4000 deficit on the report, there is \$8000 in receivables. Margaret explained that we now charge a \$50 fee for complaints.

A potential membership fee increase will be discussed at the upcoming October BOD retreat. Margaret will add this to the second agenda.

**Agenda Item #6 Executive Director’s Report** **Discussion:** There will be an NOSB meeting in conjunction with the Organic Trade Association meetings in Austin in May. We should stick to issues of relevance to inspectors. We may wish to check with the certifiers for whom we are liaisons.

**Motion Wording:** IOIA will develop a statement of issues of relevance to inspectors that Margaret will present at the NOSB meeting in Austin in May. **Endorse:** All **Actions:** Margaret will contact the NOP response team and ask them for input. Brian will develop a form to send out to everyone that they can send to the certifiers to which they are liaisons to get their input about issues. All: Give input to Margaret.

**#12 Conference:** Compliance workshops with producers. Margaret has been invited to participate in a meeting of people who may be involved in training NRCS and extension personnel with an OFRF grant. There is a possibility that IOIA could get a contract to do some of this training. The Board supports Margaret in her participation in this meeting, and in general, supports the idea of broadening the scope of IOIA’s training to include not only for inspectors, but also retailers (e.g. GORP), industry and other agricultural professionals.

**Agenda Item #7 Training Manager’s Report** This was a written report. Margaret asked for questions.

**Agenda Item #7a. IOIA’s Open Training Policy** **Discussion:** IOIA has many opportunities to develop and expand our training activities and recognition as an organic trainer. The current open training policy may be limiting that capacity. Under current IOIA policy, members may do these as independent consultants, but not as IOIA TCs. Certifiers, food and agricultural industries, government agencies and others are looking to train their personnel, but would prefer in-house trainings. IOIA’s policy was developed prior to recent changes in the organic industry. A new IOIA policy may encourage rather than mandate open trainings.

**Agenda Item 8a: Membership and Nominations** **Decision Summary:** We will adopt Chris’ proposal to merge Membership and Nominations committees. **Endorse:** All

**Agenda Item 8b: Survey Follow-up Matrix** **Discussion:** The purpose of this item is to not lose track of membership comments made. The Board thanks Diane for preparing this matrix. We request that she please proceed and forward these comments on to the appropriate committees, with additions made by staff and Board members. We ask that it be communicated to Committees that the BOD does not agree or disagree with the comments made. We do, however, want to be sure that the membership is heard. We ask committee chairs for a report back.

**Agenda Item 8c: Canadian Committee Travel Funds** **Discussion:** Should committee funds be used for committee members’ travel? The current Board agrees that committees manage their budgets as long as expenditures are made in support of the IOIA mission and goals. The Board requests that committees to submit a budget with line items for the proposed use of funds, and to provide a financial report and narrative about the Committee’s activities and their relevance to the IOIA mission at the end of each year. **Action:** Diane will request that all committee chairs include a financial accounting in their annual report.

**Agenda Item 9: Committee on Committees** **Discussion:** Garry reviewed his work related to the Report on Committee on Committees. It includes a review of all references to committees in the Bylaws, comments and recommendations. The BOD thanked Garry for his the work in putting together this summary and analysis. **Decision summary:** The Board thanks the Committee for their hard work and will draft proposed actions, considering Garry’s recommendations at the Fall retreat. **Actions:** Brian will put this on the second agenda to be taken up at the Fall retreat. Margaret will notify Arthur and Joe that the BOD reviewed and discussed the report, and have put it on our future agenda. **Further discussion:** The question of term limits needs clarity. It currently applies only to Board members, and is not specified in the Bylaws for Committee Chairs. The Board acknowledges the need to consider any near future recommendation in light of our need to support good structure and function of committees. Arthur and Joe’s recommendations may have policy and strategy implications. The Board has the authority to make changes to the policy manual. Garry recommended that we work on Recommendations I (operational flow chart) and II (reformat Policy Manual) so that we can cross-reference the Bylaws and Policy Manual. The Board recognizes the value of including as much detail as possible in the Policy document, while keeping the Bylaws general. **Actions:** Garry will create an operational flow chart based on what we have now as a basis for future revisions. Margaret will reformat the policy manual. Dag will provide assistance as needed. **Timeline:** These will be completed by the August 14 call, so the Bylaws committee will have time to do their work before the next AGM, and the Board can address other recommendations at the Fall retreat.

**Agenda Item 10: Revisit Committee Chairs vote** This was clarified earlier in the meeting. See revised language in the 23 Feb 2003 minutes.

**Agenda Item 11: Certifier Script** Brian and Margaret gave an overview of the history and purpose of this project of the previous Board and Communications Committee. A script was developed for liaisons to send to certifiers regarding their about the plan for how the information would be used. The Board acknowledges the time and commitment that has been given to this project. We considered what action to proceed with that would be most useful to the membership. We recognize that it is useful for inspectors to know the performance criteria that certifiers use in their annual evaluation of inspectors, as required by the NOP, as well as the criteria for hiring inspectors. The Board considered the use of positive language to invite certifiers to share this information. We may also consider recommending a Code of Ethics for certifiers. **Decision:** Acknowledge the efforts of the members of the Board who participated in this project. We are not ready to publish it in its current form at this time. We are interested in IOIA maintaining good relationships and rapport with certifiers. We may encourage certifiers to share their criteria for hiring and evaluating inspectors (e.g. certifiers’ inspector evaluation form and procedures for using it). We will consider this and other ways to take a proactive and positive approach to providing member services, within a framework of information about what makes for a really good inspector. One possibility would be to develop and recommend an inspector evaluation form as part of the forms project. Ideally, the feedback given on this form would provide specific information that would help the inspector improve their performance and achieve excellent status. **Action:** Margaret will send out the OTA Code of Ethics for Board review. Brian will communicate with Chip.

**Agenda Item # 12: Role of Alternates on IOIA Board Discussion:** AGM elects the Board and alternates. Alternates are primarily to serve as a substitute when a vacancy exists. As any other member, alternates may attend and observe any Board meeting at their own expense. However, there are some distinct limitations on alternates' participation as Board members. Retreats may be more restricted for both financial and practical purposes. Active decision was made not to invite alternates to the last Board retreat in 2000. However, the Bylaws allow the Board to invite resource people to meetings, and that could include alternates. Board discussion considered the spectrum of stances on alternate participation, from prevent, discourage, allow, to invite. **Motion wording:** Alternates, as a matter of course, are not invited to attend Board retreats, but are invited to attend all Board meetings. However, the Board may extend a particular invitation to alternates to participate in the Fall Board Retreat. **Decision:** Considering the variety of related issues and the possible policy implications of a decision, the Board decided to table this motion and agenda item for future discussion.

**Agenda Item #13: Policy#11 on Certifier Involvement Discussion:** The question has been raised about whether Policy #11 of the Board Policy Manual should be removed. The membership has spoken in electing Doug as an alternate in seeming contradiction of this policy. What would be the impact of removing this policy? What was its original intent to protect against? A person with certifier management responsibilities should not hold a Board position because of the possible conflict of interest, or the appearance of it. The Board acknowledged that if certifiers are IOIA members, then the character of the organization is changed. There may be a conflict of interest if people who have management authority over inspectors are making policy decisions. If we broaden our membership and create new categories, how should that be done and through what series of steps?

It is in the certifier's interest to reduce certification costs, while it is in the inspector members' interest to support fair rates of pay and protect against undue competition among inspectors. Such conflict of interest is one reason to keep this policy in place. **Decision:** The BOD recognizes real issues of concern regarding conflicts of interest. We are not ready to remove policy #11. We believe that we will need to rewrite it in order to reflect changes in the industry and in our organization. We are unsure about how to do that at this time. The membership voted in a candidate as alternate in opposition to this policy, with full awareness that the policy existed. The policy has been in place, and Doug read it at the AGM before the vote took place. We are trying to resolve the discrepancy between the policy and the election results. Not finding clarity on how to do that at this time, we will keep this as an agenda item and continue to discuss this issue.

**Agenda Item #14: Re-assigning BOD Liaisons with Certifiers MOSA and OCIA Discussion and decisions:** This was included in Margaret's ED report. Doug has offered to liaison to NASOP. We accept his offer. Brian will be liaison with OCIA. No one among the Board works for MOSA. BCS, OFA and OEFFA also need liaisons. There are 101 certifying agencies. It is important for IOIA to liaise with the OCC and OTA as well as having liaisons with individual certification agencies.

**Agenda Item #15: Potential NOP Issues Communications Projects Discussion:** Where might the NOP issues project with Harriet and Richard Matthews lead? Brian reported that he received good feedback from the Board in response to his email query a few weeks ago. Harriet will provide information she proposes to present to the Board to see whether we want to sign on to her statement on behalf of IOIA. We encourage her to ask for input also from OCC and NASOP before it goes to the NOP. We should have time to make any issue known to the membership before any action is taken. The Board affirms the Executive Committee's authority to make any decision on this that may be needed at the next meeting.

**Agenda Item #16: Implementation of Feb 23 policy on VT decision to reimburse BOD candidates' expenses Discussion:** The Board Retreat cost about \$500 more than expected. The additional expense of reimbursement of half travel and lodging for new members comes to \$1500, leaving less than \$1000 for the rest of the year. **Decision:** The Board agreed to put the expenditure of money for reimbursement of funds into the Board Travel line item. Margaret and Brian plan to go to Expo East in Washington. The question remains about whether any more members of the Executive Committee could participate. The Board recognizes the value of participation on the OTA committee, including attending the meetings in Austin. We need to look to sending someone to represent IOIA at each major event. We should be sure that we have adequate funds to pay for the Fall retreat, that will be funded out the line item by that name. We anticipate saving money on notetaking if Ann continues to take the minutes. We can therefore reallocate some of those funds to a different line item. We acknowledged that there was some confusion about expectations related to reimbursement of last meeting's expenses. **Motion wording:** Allocate \$500 of BOD support to the BOD travel line item. Also, to use \$200 of BOD support funds to be used for Ann's travel.

**Agenda Item #17 Retreat Discussion:** After considering possible date changes, we agreed to remain with our previously agreed-upon Retreat dates of October 17 to 19, 2003, with the 17<sup>th</sup> being a travel day.

**Agenda Item #18: Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 1:10AM EST. **NOTE: Full minutes are on our website in the Members Only section.**

**Commitments to Action**

Agenda Item Reference	Person	Action	Timeline (Before the next Board meeting=BNM At the next meeting=NM)
#3	Ann	Correct minutes from 19 Feb 2003 and send out to Board	BNM
#6	Margaret Brian Ann	Contact the NOP response team and ask them for input. Develop a form to send out to everyone that they can send to the certifiers to which they are liaisons to get their input about issues. Give input to Margaret.	
#7	Luis Doug	Prepare an idea set and suggested actions to facilitate our discussion of IOIA's Open Training Policy at the next meeting. Provide further input on this.	
#8	Diane	Diane will request that all committee chairs include a financial accounting in their annual report.	
#9	Garry Margaret Dag	Create an operational flow chart. Reformat the policy manual. Provide assistance with review and editing.	Before August meeting
#9	Brian Margaret	Put the Committee on Committees on the agenda for the Fall retreat. Notify Arthur and Joe that the BOD reviewed and discussed the report, and have put it on our future agenda.	
#11	Margaret Brian	Send out the OTA Code of Ethics for Board review. Communicate with Chip.	BNM

## US to file WTO case on EU Biotech

The US will ask the World Trade Organization to overturn Europe's ban on new biotech foods and other goods, claiming the policy violates global trade rules, the Bush administration announced on June 19. Last-ditch consultations earlier in the week between the United States and European Union failed and the Bush administration will file a formal WTO complaint, the U.S. Trade Representative announced.

An initial WTO ruling in the case could come next spring.

"We are disappointed but not surprised that these consultations have not resulted in any changes to the EU's 5-year-old illegal and unscientific moratorium" on new genetically-modified organisms, said USTR spokesman Richard Mills.

In Brussels, the EU defended its position, saying it was not violating trade law. "The EU has underlined its legitimate right to ... ensure that GMOs are only put on the market on the basis of a careful assessment of risks," according to a European Commission statement.

Canada, which also has signaled its intent to file a case against the EU, is supposed to have consultations later in June.

"We don't expect to receive any different results than the Americans," said a Canadian government source, who added, "If they're (EU) not going to move for the U.S., they're not going to move for us because we have similar concerns basically."

## China Moves Toward Non-GM Soybean Region

China is moving forward with plans to have the world's largest area of non-GM soybeans, within five years in the northeast. Soybean land is expected to expand from 9 to 13 million ha, with China producing at least 36 million tons of soybeans by 2006, thus satisfying domestic demand.

Currently, China imports more than 10 million tons of soybean a year; the largest supplier is the US.

For more information and to contact AFX: [www.afxnews.com](http://www.afxnews.com) and [www.afxpress.com](http://www.afxpress.com)

## Feds Not Prepared for GM Oversight

The three US federal agencies charged with regulating genetically engineered crops are not prepared to handle problems that arise once they enter the environment or reach the market, says a new report commissioned by the Pew Initiative on Food and Biotechnology.

"*Post-Market Oversight of Biotech Foods: Is the System Prepared?*" argues that the current regulatory system, consisting of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Food and Drug Administration, and the EPA, focuses on permitting and approval processes that occur before a crop is planted or marketed. Yet several contamination mishaps, including the nationwide recall of StarLink corn products in 2000 and last year's ProdiGene incident (in which soybeans contaminated with a pig vaccine nearly entered the food supply), show that federal oversight is still needed once a crop is approved for the marketplace. The 128-page report is online at [www.pewagbiotech.org/research/postmarket](http://www.pewagbiotech.org/research/postmarket); for a free print copy, phone (202) 347-9044.

## OFRF Survey Logs GM Impact on Organic Farmers

In a nationwide survey conducted by the Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF), certified organic farmers have reported the first direct financial and related operational impacts associated with the threat of contamination by GMOs.

According to OFRF Executive Director Bob Scowcroft, "These new survey results based on the 2001 crop year document that significant impacts have begun to occur within a very short time frame."

OFRF President Ron Rosmann, a diversified organic farmer from Harlan, Iowa, says "This new data supports OFRF's call for a moratorium on the release of GMOs until there is a solid regulatory framework that prevents genetic pollution and assigns liability for the damages imposed by GMO contamination."

The OFRF survey included nine questions related to GMOs and organic farming. The complete results of OFRF's 4th Survey will be published in fall 2003.

## Australia Rejects GM Crops

Australia will remain free from GM crops for at least another year, following the announcement of a freeze on the commercial release of GE canola by yet another state government. The twelve month freeze by the southern state of Victoria, now means all major Australian canola growing states have imposed some form of moratorium on the commercial release of the country's first proposed GE food crop, for 2003. <http://www.greenpeace.org.au>

## Biotech Wheat May Cut US Exports in Half

There is a "high risk" that the U.S. wheat industry will lose 30% to 50% of its business with foreign markets for spring wheat if Monsanto Co. releases its controversial GE wheat in the next few years, according to new research by an Iowa State University economics professor.

The research report said the near-term impacts on prices and exports is decidedly negative if Monsanto proceeds with its plans to introduce its "Roundup Ready" wheat.

The study was conducted by Iowa State professor of economics Robert Wisner and financed by the Western Organization of Resource Councils, a coalition of community groups.

Monsanto's biotech wheat, which would be the first GE wheat in the world, has been engineered to withstand herbicide so weed control is easier for farmers. Monsanto is nearing the end of the regulatory approval process and could have the wheat available within the next two years. Critics have said consumer attitudes about biotech wheat are so negative that both domestic and foreign buyers of U.S. wheat are likely to shun all U.S. wheat, particularly the hard red spring (HRS) wheat variety that Monsanto plans to use as a vehicle for commercialization.

They fear Monsanto's plans will hurt exports. Indeed a consortium of growers and other agricultural and environmental groups recently filed a legal petition with the USDA demanding a moratorium on Monsanto's biotech wheat. The research by Iowa State appears to support those fears.

"Important market indicators point to a high risk that up to 30 to 50 percent of the foreign market for U.S. HRS wheat and even more of the U.S. durum wheat exports could be lost if HRS GMO wheat is introduced into the

U.S. now or in the next two to six years," the report states.

The study estimated that prices will drop at least 32% for hard red spring wheat as it would move into animal feed marketing channels. Last year, the U.S. exported \$3.6 billion worth of U.S. wheat. Total spring wheat production in the U.S. for 2002 totaled 394 million bushels and all wheat production was 1.6 billion bushels. Wisner's report said biotech wheat will face more challenges in the marketplace than either biotech corn or soybeans, both of which have already been established in the market, because the wheat crop is generally used for human food, while corn and soybeans traditionally are used in animal feed or as additives. "In typical products made from wheat, such as bread, cereals and pasta, the GMO protein would not be processed out, and hence the products would be labeled as containing GMO ingredients," Wisner's study says. "It appears likely that negative foreign consumer reaction to GMO wheat will be stronger than for corn and soybeans."

As well, the report states that competing wheat supplies are much more readily available from other countries, than for corn and soybeans. Domestic demand for spring wheat has grown very slowly in recent years and cannot be counted on to profitably absorb losses in export markets, the report states. The study said the introduction of a biotech wheat will not only affect farmers and the seed industry, but through a ripple effect could hurt rural communities, local governments, foreign food processors, retailers and consumers.

A copy of Robert Wisner's report is available at <http://www.worc.org>

### Schmeiser case Heads to Top Court

The Supreme Court of Canada says it will review the case of Percy Schmeiser, the Saskatchewan farmer who is challenging Monsanto, one of the world's largest biotechnology companies in a dispute over the booming business of genetically modified crops. The case is among the first in this controversial legal field to reach Canada's highest court.

### EcoFarm Educates World at Sacramento Ministerial

The Ecological Farming Association, the folks that have brought us the EcoFarm Conference at Asilomar for over 20 years, put together a hasty coalition of over 40 organic sector supporters, including OFRF, OTA, and CCOF, to counter the biotech-oriented USDA Ministerial, held June 23-25 in Sacramento, California.

Spokesperson Amigo 'Bob' Cantisano, issued the following informational statement on the Internet:

"Our groups have purchased, at very great expense, complication and stress, a 10' x 20' exhibit space in the Conference Expo inside the Ministerial conference. Our exhibit is going to be a non-stop educational marathon directed to the ministers, the USDA and the media. It will be staffed by 8 long time, highly educated, articulate and successful organic farmers, business people and activists. We are going to engage the conference attendees by sampling the BEST organic foods and beverages, donated by activist organic farmers and companies. We are prepared to provide extensive, detailed, factual information and discussion as we promote organic as THE solution to the world's problems of malnutrition, poverty, environmental degradation, industrialization, genetic engineering, corporatization and much more).

Other planned activities include an Organic Rice and Nature Conservancy Farm Bus Tour; a Ministers Dinner hosted by The International Forum on Globalization, Alice Waters, Chez Panisse Restaurant and the Ecological Farming Association with featured speakers Alice Waters and Percy Schmeiser; a Napa Valley Organic Wine Tour; hosted by Frogs Leap Winery; and an ad in the local Sacramento Bee newspaper, encouraging the adoption of organic farming methods by the world's farmers and countries. It furthers urges the rejection of Genetic Engineering by all farmers. And it invites the farmers and ministers of all other countries to learn with and from our organic farmers.

### Why We Have Done All This

We have done all this so that we can engage in what we believe is the best tactic for changing the course of the industrial monolith disguised as the USDA. The majority of the world's countries are NOT buying the USDA model for industrial biotechnology

agriculture and trade with the notable exception of the USDA and the corporations it represents. The USDA has had to pay the entire bill for bringing these people from around the world to Sacramento, where they wine and dine them and hopefully push their agenda forward to dominate world agriculture. If our groups are able to meet with these very important, and critical to the process of change, global citizens we can help them stave off the persistent tactics of the industrial- military monolith that is being pushed down their throats. We can help them adopt the successful organic model that is emerging in many countries of the planet. This is critical to changing the paradigm associated with food and agriculture.

HOWEVER, if the efforts promoted for shutting down this conference, are even a little successful we all stand to lose big time. The media will focus on these activities, including the obligatory police over reaction. The message that we are all trying to get out will get drowned by a Tsunami of dis-information about what "we" stand for. Many of our/your efforts will be at best minimized by the media and public opinion, and at worst completely overwhelmed by the bad news about the protests/police state conditions if, there is civil disobedience.

This effort has cost us more than \$15,000, which has all been donated by sister organic groups and business and mostly volunteer labor of very few people like myself. Important Note: We are still very short of our fundraising efforts to pay for all this. If our efforts resonate with you, please send us some money to help. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. Send the money to Ecological Farming Association 406 Main St. Suite 313 Watsonville CA 95076. THANK YOU for any and all assistance you give our efforts!

Please see our website to learn more of who we are, and why you can and should support our work. [www.eco-farm.org](http://www.eco-farm.org) or phone 831-763-2111.

Ed. Note: for current, independent media info on protests outside the Ministerial, go to [www.biotechimc.org](http://www.biotechimc.org), where you can read about serious police overreactions, taser use, and other general abuses of the US First Amendment.



**Protesters Meet Police Outside IMAX Theater, Sacramento, CA - June 22**

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## Insurance, from page 5

toward insuring only accredited inspectors, as that would provide an additional assurance of competence. The very rough estimated cost of about \$1000 per member (if we had about 50 members interested) was the primary deterrent to moving forward. Also, Gales Creek cannot provide service in MT. They did assist us in finding a C.H.U.B. insurance company in MT for our BOD Errors and Omissions and Liability Insurance.

Most independent inspectors should be insured. Most probably are not. Will insurance problems continue to cost IOIA members and accelerate the steady move from independent contract inspectors to employees of certification agencies? This is largely a concern of independent inspectors, not staff inspectors. Your input is important. Let us know what you think.

Would you be interested in a liability insurance option through IOIA for approximately \$1000/year? (please be reminded this is a very rough estimate...).

### Here's what you can do as an inspector for risk management:

1. The best defense is to do your work correctly. If we are agents of a certification agent and do our work correctly, the agent is in line for any lawsuits. It is only if we don't do our work correctly that we expose ourselves to liability from the inspected party AND the certifier.
2. Be careful how you state non-compliances in a report. If interpretation isn't clear, present the issue and the relevant standard and leave the rest to the certifier.
3. If there isn't a standard to address the issue, you must not give the inspected party ultimatums. Tie everything to a standard. Otherwise, it should not be discussed.
4. Cover issues of concern thoroughly in the Exit Interview and make sure the inspected party is comfortable with the wording before you or they sign off on it.
5. Be thorough.
6. Don't take inspection work beyond your realm of competence.
7. Keep detailed and complete notes. Ask the same question as many times

as it takes to get a complete and correct answer.

8. Maintain confidentiality.

9. Don't hesitate to call the certifier up with questions or to contact the inspected party for clarification following the inspection.

10. Maintain a good mentor relationship with other experienced inspectors where you can go for advice on how to handle sticky issues (anonymously of course...)

11. Cover your bases and don't take unnecessary risks. Avoid giving advice.

12. Charge enough for the inspection to do the job right.

### Here's what IOIA will do:

1. Our attorney is being contacted to write a follow-up to this article.

Even though only one member has reported the cost of liability insurance to be a reason for dropping membership, the loss of a working Inspector Member of 7 years is indeed a concern to IOIA. The fact that few inspectors are adequately insured remains a larger concern. É

## Challenge, from page 4

inspectors who must scale this new hurdle will be open to mentoring other new members over it. Perhaps we can look at our policies on membership benefits (Forum, etc.) and amend those to better assist new members without amending the bylaws yet again.

Chris Kidwell, new Chair of the Membership Committee this year, is charged with reviewing all new membership applications. In this new role, he quickly proposed, perhaps a bit hastily, on the Forum to reinstate the apprentice member category and remove the 'supervised' requirement of the inspections. That proposal drew little Forum comment, so it is difficult to assess support or non-support. He soon withdrew that proposal and joined the position that the only serious issue that needs immediate attention is this:

**We must amend the Bylaws in order to make it possible for experienced inspectors to join IOIA as Inspector Members. To expect that category of members to provide proof of 10 'supervised' inspections is unreasonable.**

The reason a bylaws change is required is because there is no exception clause built into the Bylaws. It looks like another Bylaws change is in the offing. I challenge us to really re-think membership and make the next

change one that will work for us in the long-term. The above simple Bylaws change is simple, and needed. But while the recent amendments successfully tightened up and redefined membership in a good way, they have not answered all of the questions. This is not settled and I don't think the wording in the Bylaws is completely done yet. Perhaps it requires a reassessment and redefining of who we are. It will become a key issue over the next few years. Who are we? What kind of members do we want? What kind of services should we provide? Is it ethical to provide training for prospective inspectors when there may actually be no 'willing and able' mentor for them? Does true, meaningful 'apprenticeship' deserve another look? If we reinstate the term 'apprentice member', it must be more clearly defined than in the past.

Everything else is wide open for discussion. Let's re-assess, re-evaluate, and re-define ourselves if necessary. Are we interested only in taking care of currently active inspectors or does our mission include the support and creation of new inspectors? When I look back at the members who joined IOIA over the past few years while I've been in this position, I see many people who were welcomed into IOIA with no experience. They became some of our most valuable members, committee members, and avid volunteers, even BOD members. I challenge that category of IOIA membership to especially speak up on this issue. It perplexed me that some members told me they were opposed to the most recent bylaw change, but they voted in support of it. I personally voted against it, not because I was opposed to the concept, but because I didn't think it was quite done yet. I wanted to see us get it right and I still do. We have simple problem to address and a more complex one that should be addressed as well. É

## Langer, from page 15

which may be conducive to pests. We also try to give realistic ways to correct the problems we observed. If an infestation is observed or reported to us and confirmed by our technician an appropriate response is initiated. This might involve sealing a hole in a wall directing that an area be cleaned, infested merchandise be removed, the placement of traps or pheromones and lastly, if necessary, the application of a least toxic pesticide. The applications of pesticides are usually limited to the use of cartridge or containerized baits or Insect Growth Regulators."

PPE is licensed by the New York State DEC (#07235), is fully insured and is bonded. They are members of the National Pest Management Association and the Long Island Pest Control Association. Over 90% of their client facilities are large food master kitchens or food processing plants, some of which are well over 100,000 square feet.

You can reach Jonathan Langer at 631-654-4236 FAX 631-475-6315 email: RLC96@AOL.COM

## Resources

**Chlorine Paper** A new definitive document on chlorine use and measurement (i.e., upstream of flume wash operations) has been prepared by the Chlorine Task Force of the NOSB. Dr. Joe Montecalvo, Jim Riddle and Emily Brown Rosen, ad hoc members of the Task Force, authored the 6-page article following many spirited discussions on this issue and confusion with how to insure compliance. According to Dr. Montecalvo, this paper should be mandatory reading for all inspectors, as it will help inspectors and the organic community better understand chlorine use and measurement to insure compliance with NOP. Due to space limitations we are not reprinting the article here, however you can read it in its entirety on the IOIA website, [www.ioia.net](http://www.ioia.net), in the Inspectors Corner section.

**Ecological Impacts of GMO Dissemination in Agro-Ecosystems** (218 pgs), proceedings from International OECD Workshop held in September 2002, [www.ifa-tulln.ac.at/pdf/proceedings.pdf](http://www.ifa-tulln.ac.at/pdf/proceedings.pdf); for a copy via e-mail, contact Institute for Agro-biotechnology, Konrad Lorenz Strasse 20, A-3430 Tulln, Austria; e-mail [gmo@ifa-tulln.ac.at](mailto:gmo@ifa-tulln.ac.at).

**Sam Welsh** of **OneCert**, is making their standards available, for free download. The document is OneCert's standards, which consist of the major individual standards put together into 1 document. Hard copies are available for purchase from Onecert. They include the full text of the NOP regulations plus the additional requirements of the standards in the European Standards EEC 2092/91 And Annexes, BIO SUISSE standards, JAS Standards for Production, JAS Standards for Processing, Quebec Standards, and IFOAM Norms. The direct link is <http://www.onecert.net/Forms/OneCert%20International%20Organic%20Standards.rtf>.

**UK Organic Research 2002**, proceedings from first COR (Colloquium of Organic Agriculture) research conference in the UK, is A312 (plus S/H outside UK) from Organic Centre Wales, University of Wales, Aberystwyth SY23 3AL; [organic@aber.ac.uk](mailto:organic@aber.ac.uk); individual papers are online at [www.organic.aber.ac.uk/conference/proceedings.shtml](http://www.organic.aber.ac.uk/conference/proceedings.shtml); for information on COR, contact Elm Farm Research Centre, [research@efrc.com](mailto:research@efrc.com).

**NewFarm Online** For over 16 years, *New Farm* was the Rodale magazine for organic farmers. It's now online at [www.NewFarm.org](http://www.NewFarm.org)



### INDEPENDENT ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

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**I am interested in the following:**

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- Please specify category – all funds payable in US \$ - All dues are annual
  - %Inspector - \$75
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  - %Certifying Agency - \$250
  - %Patron - \$500
  - %Sustainer - \$1000
- %The Inspectors' Report – 1 year (4 issues) subscription \$30
- %2003 IOIA Membership Directory - \$25
- IFOAM/IOIA International Organic Inspection Manual:
  - %\$45 members
  - %\$60 non-members

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

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

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

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

%Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, published by Sust. Ag Network, \$17.00

%Organic Dairy Farming, published by Kickapoo Organic Resource Network, 87 pp, \$8.00

%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, \$28.00

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

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

OCC/IOIA Forms Templates \$35 members % \$50 non-members % Comes with disk (Word 7.0)

**IOIA Caps** - \$20.00 – Please specify color 1<sup>st</sup> choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ [black, navy, royal blue, forest green, white, khaki/forest, maroon/black]

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## 2003 Calendar

**June 23 to August 14** Summer 2003 course, "Sustainable Agriculture: Principles and Practices," in Davis, CA; contact Mark Van Horn, Student Farm - Pomology Dept., Univ. of Calif., mxvanhorn@ucdavis.edu; (530) 752-7645; <http://studentfarm.ucdavis.edu>.

**June 29-30 & July 1-3** 7th Int'l Conf. on Public Goods and Public Policy for Ag. Biotech, organized by Int'l Consortium on Ag. Biotech Research, Center for Sustainable Resource Development at UC-Berkeley, and others; in Ravello, Italy; [www.economia.uniroma2.it/conferenze/icabr2003/call\\_for\\_paper.htm](http://www.economia.uniroma2.it/conferenze/icabr2003/call_for_paper.htm).

**July 9-11** "Fundamentals of Plant Improvement for Organic Agriculture," a 3-day intensive course for seed growers, in Port Townsend, WA; [www.abundantlifeseed.org](http://www.abundantlifeseed.org)

**July 11-12** "Int'l Aquaculture Workshop: Low-Food-Chain Candidate Species" including first annual Organic Seafood Tasting Tour, convened by Univ. of Minnesota's Institute for Social, Economic and Ecological Sustainability, in Minneapolis, MN; contact Deborah Brister, Sustainable Aquaculture Program Manager, (612) 624-7723; [djb@fw.umn.edu](mailto:djb@fw.umn.edu); [www.fw.umn.edu/isees/OrganicAquaculture/organicaqua.htm](http://www.fw.umn.edu/isees/OrganicAquaculture/organicaqua.htm).

**July 11-12 or July 25-26** "Polyface Farm Intensive Discovery Seminar," two-day events at the Joel Salatin family farm in Swoope, VA; contact Acres U.S.A., 1-800-355-5313; [meetings@acresusa.com](mailto:meetings@acresusa.com); [www.acresusa.com/events/events.htm](http://www.acresusa.com/events/events.htm).

**July 13-25**, "Int'l Short Course on Agroecology 2003," with special focus on interactions between human and ecological communities in rural landscapes, in Santa Cruz, CA; contact Joji Muramoto, Shortcourse Organizer, Univ of Calif at Santa Cruz, [shortcourse@agroecology.org](mailto:shortcourse@agroecology.org); [www.agroecology.org/shortcourse.htm](http://www.agroecology.org/shortcourse.htm)

**July 16-18** three-day workshop on transitioning to organic grape growing, organized by Fetzer Vineyards and Univ of Cal's Mendocino Extension Office and UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, in Hopland, CA; contact Ann Thrupp, Fetzer Manager of Organic Development, (707) 272-1152; [Ann\\_Thrupp@B-F.com](mailto:Ann_Thrupp@B-F.com); or Glenn McGourty, UC Extension Mendocino County, (707) 463-4495; [gtrmcgourty@ucdavis.edu](mailto:gtrmcgourty@ucdavis.edu).

**July 26-30** "Food Choice: Why We Eat What We Eat," Society for Nutrition Education's 36th Annual Meeting, in Philadelphia, PA; [www.sne.org/conference/general.htm](http://www.sne.org/conference/general.htm).

**July 27-30** "Spatial Inequality: Continuity and Change in Territorial Stratification," Rural Sociology Society's 66th Annual Meeting, held jointly with American Agricultural Economics Association and Canadian Agricultural Economics Society, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada; [www.ruralsociology.org](http://www.ruralsociology.org) or [www.aaea.org/meetings/aaea/2003/](http://www.aaea.org/meetings/aaea/2003/).

**July 29-31** Upper Midwest Grazing Conference, sponsored by 4-State Extension, in Lacrosse, WI; contact Larry Tranel; Iowa State University Extension, (563) 583-6496; [tranel@iastate.edu](mailto:tranel@iastate.edu).

**July 31-August 3** "Easy Being Green?," American Community Gardening Association's 24th Annual Conference, in Chicago, IL; contact ACGA, (540) 552-5550; [www.communitygarden.org/conf/index.html](http://www.communitygarden.org/conf/index.html).

**August 7-10** "Harvesting the Fruits, Discovering Our Roots," Northeast Organic Farming Association's 29th Annual Summer Conference, in Amherst, MA; contact Julie Rawson, NOFA-Massachusetts, (978) 355-2853; [nofa@nofamass.org](mailto:nofa@nofamass.org)

**August 11-15** "Producing in Harmony with Nature," 2nd World Congress on Conservation Agriculture, in Iguassu Falls, Parana, Brazil; for info, [www.febrapdp.org.br/index3g.htm](http://www.febrapdp.org.br/index3g.htm); [febrapdp@uol.com.br](mailto:febrapdp@uol.com.br)

**August 21-24** "Urban Agriculture 2003: Making the Connection between Locally Grown Food and Community," an intensive 3-day workshop organized by Bioneers and Center for Urban Agriculture at Fairview Gardens, in Santa Barbara, CA; for info, [rosy@bioneers.org](mailto:rosy@bioneers.org); [www.bioneers.org/rdi/urban02.html](http://www.bioneers.org/rdi/urban02.html)

**September 1** submission deadline for presentations to 2003 Annual Int'l Research Conference on Methyl Bromide Alternatives and Emissions Reductions, co-sponsored by Methyl Bromide Alternatives Outreach, Crop Protection Coalition, U.S. EPA, and USDA, November 3-6, in San Diego, CA; contact Gary Obenauf, MBOA, (559) 322-2181; [GOBenauf@AgResearch.nu](mailto:GOBenauf@AgResearch.nu); [www.mbao.org/](http://www.mbao.org/)

**September 4-7**, Natural Products Expo East, Washington, DC. [www.newhope.com](http://www.newhope.com)

**September 15-20**, IOIA Basic Farm & Livestock training, Laramie, Wyoming. See page 3. Info at [www.ioia.net](http://www.ioia.net)

**October 17-19**, "Revolution from the Heart of Nature," Bioneers Conference 2003, in San Rafael, CA; contact Bioneers, 901 W. San Mateo Rd., Suite L, Santa Fe, NM 87505; 1-877-246-6337; [info@bioneers.org](mailto:info@bioneers.org); [www.bioneers.org](http://www.bioneers.org).

**October 22**, NOSB Meeting, Washington, DC.

**November 12-20**, IOIA Basic Farm, Livestock and Process trainings, in Wilsonville, Oregon. See page 3 for details. Info at [www.ioia.net](http://www.ioia.net)

### Late Breaking News....

EcoLOGICA invites IOIA to Costa Rica for our 2004 Annual General Membership Meeting. IOIA accepts! The event will include Advanced training in both Spanish and English. Dates have not been set yet, but the 'window' is **mid-February to mid-March**.

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



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