



The

Inspectors' Report

VOL 13 No 3 SUMMER 2004

PUBLISHED BY THE INDEPENDENT ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

Canadian Organic Standard Update

By Janine Gibson

The results of the Organic Agriculture Committee vote on the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) Organic Standard have been unofficially released. Paddy Doherty, Coordinator of the Canadian Organic Initiative, a joint Industry and Province of British Columbia-funded project, reported that 32 ballots were returned August 9th. 24 committee members voted yes, 7 no and 1 vote has yet to be determined. Lots of comments were submitted by the voting constituents, which will delay the timeline for the Standard being adopted. All no votes must have their recommended changes addressed by CGSB and the Organic Committee, prior to the release of the standard. As well, all comments must have a complete response addressing concerns.

Robert Beauchemin of La Table Filiere of the Province of Quebec, stated during the August 10th Ad Hoc Organic Regulatory (ORC) teleconference where this information was presented, that "one can safely assume ALL the negative votes came from Quebec," to protest the fact that this standard remains a voluntary standard. [see **Canada**, page 10]

Notes from The Chair

By Brian Magaro

Please keep in mind that the information contained in the Notes from the Chair are based on an individuals' independent opinion and may or may not be those of the "controlling" majority.

Here in PA there has been rain and more rain so crops are suffering in many different ways, weed pressure to name just one. In many other places there were heavy rains early in the season and now this is being followed by dry conditions. I have seen many unplanted fields or areas where land that was worked a bit wet, to get things planted, is now filled with hard dry clumps with crops that are stunted and showing signs of being nutrient deficient. Which, of [see **Notes**, page 19]

IOIA & AQS to Offer ISO 9001:2000 Training

In response to member requests, IOIA will partner with AQS Management Systems, Inc. of St. Paul to provide ISO 9001:2000 Lead Auditor training on October 18-22 in Elmer, New Jersey. IOIA invited AQS to present this training in a bold step to raise the bar for excellence for organic inspectors and keep up with the ever-increasing expectations of the industry. IOIA 9001:2000 auditor training will help organic inspectors do better inspection work and help them to diversify the services they can offer.

Successful completion of this ISO 9001:2000 Lead Auditor course will meet the training requirement for Registrar Accreditation Board (RAB) Certification. Certificates of Successful Completion and 3.6 Continuing Education Units will be issued to all those who attend all sessions, participate fully, and pass the exam. Others will receive a Certificate of Attendance.

The lead trainer for this 36-hour RAB accredited training is **Mark Ames**, president of AQS Management Systems. AQS Management Systems was chosen for its unique qualifications. AQS is the only RAB Accredited course provider that has a sector specific Lead Auditor course for Food/Food Production. No organization has been doing ANSI-RAB Accredited Lead Auditor Training longer than AQS. AQS also offers a uniquely agricultural perspective on ISO 9001. Lead Auditor training vendors have the most experience with manufacturing. Ames is the author of AQS Management Systems ISO 9001:2000 Lead Auditor and Internal Auditor training programs with Agricultural Focus and has presented these trainings extensively throughout North America. He is currently working with the USDA in developing and mapping the process for Identity Preserved (IP) for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables. He has provided direct ISO project support to several Farm and Agricultural-related organizations including the USDA. He serves as team leader for the development of an AG9000 standard, based on ISO 9001:2000, which the US is planning to propose for inclusion as an ISO standard.

This course provides a unique and affordable opportunity for attendees to take the rigorous, RAB accredited and widely recognized training in an organic inspector audience. Options are available to lodge at Appel Farm or to commute daily from nearby hotels. Registration fees including meals and lodging are comparable to the course fee at other locations without those benefits. IOIA hopes to develop this mutually beneficial partnership to offer the training in Spanish language in the near future.

Who May take this Training? Attendees need not meet the usual criteria to attend IOIA advanced training (minimum number of inspections and trainings) in order to receive a certificate for this training. The training is open to all applicants who desire the certificate. Preference will be given, however, to organic inspector applicants and IOIA members. Certification agencies are encouraged to send representatives to this course. Minimum course size is 10 and maximum is 20. **Deadline to apply is September 8.** Applications received after that date will be accepted if the course is not full and if possible for an extra \$50 late fee.

All registration is through the IOIA office. Application forms and information can also be downloaded at www.ioia.net. [see **ISO**, page 10]

What's Inside....

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Plus Sector news,
resources, GMO's,
events

...and more!

In Brief...

Next Accreditation Deadline: October 1

Please check your Accreditation expiration date! You must renew or apply by October 1 in order to be listed as Accredited in the 2005 Membership Directory.

Accreditation is available in 3 categories (Crops, Livestock, and Processing) to Inspector Members of IOIA with at least 2 years of inspection experience. Contact IOIA for application forms. Also, see the IOIA website, www.ioia.net, for Accreditation Program details.

Wishing Speedy Recoveries!

Lots of Well Wishes to Marina Buchan and Mary Wilson, who both got more action this summer than they bargained for. See page 5 for the story.

NOSB Meets in Oct

The National Organic Standards Board meeting will be held Oct. 12-14 in Washington, DC. There will be 5 new appointments to the Board come January. Nominations for the open seats were closed on June 14. About 45-50 names were submitted. The NOP has agreed to provide a list of nominees to the Board during the upcoming October meeting.

OTA's Congressional Education Day is Oct 14

Also held in Washington, DC and concurrent with the NOSB meeting and Natural Products Expo East show. Info at www.ota.com and www.expoeast.com

EC Adopts 'O' Action Plan

On June 10, the European Commission adopted the "European Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming". Its objective is to facilitate the ongoing development of organic farming in the European Union. The Commission put forward a list of 21 concrete policy measures to be implemented, such as improving information about organic farming, streamlining public support via rural development, improving production standards and strengthening research.

Membership Updates

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 2005 Hardcopy Membership Directory or can be viewed on the 2004 Online Directory.

Bernard Barnaud
HC 76 Box 109
Nisland, SD 57762, USA

Marg Dickson
mgdickson@sympatico.ca

Stanley Edwards
Fax: 208.354-4467
Email: stanleye@tetontel.com

Fred Ehlert
12194 East Amherst Circle
Aurora, CO 80014, USA
Home: 303.695.5440

Billy Hunter
Email: FarmAurora@kdsi.net

Gerardo Medina Medina
Email: gmedina@speedy.com.pe

Andrew Monk
Email: ceo@bfa.com.au

Don Persons
Home/work: 660.883.5818
Fax: NA

Summer Address: (05/29/04-09/06/04)
Maarten Samsom
207 Park Street Apt. # 2
Burlington, VT 05401
Telephone: 802 860 4781
Cell Phone: 802 578 5407 (unchanged)
Email: maartsam@together.net
(unchanged)

Supporting Members:

Emily Brown Rosen
Organic Research Associates
PO Box 5
Titusville, NJ 8560 USA
Work: 609.737.8630
Fax: 609.737.6652
Email: ebrownrosen@earthlink.net

Jerry Fry
1182 County Road 1590
Willow Springs, MO 65793 USA

Cheryl Laxton
Email: Claxton@telus.net

Marie Schädé-Wood
5801 Spring Valley Road #1711
Dallas, TX 75254, USA
Home: 972.386.6806

Welcome Returning Former Members

(not printed in the 2004 Directory)
SUPPORTING INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:

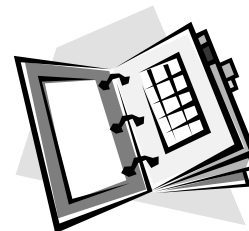
Krista Wanser
12610 Waverly Rd
Waverly, NE 68462 USA
Home: 402-786-3766 Fax: 240-525-8833
Email: ipocs@inebraska.com

SUPPORTING BUSINESS MEMBERS:

Primuslabs
Juan Muniz
2810 Industrial Parkway
Santa Maria, CA 93455 USA
Work: 805.922.0055
Fax: 805.922.2462
Email: juan@primuslabs.com

WELCOME NEW

MEMBERS:
INSPECTORS:
Jana Thomas
(Cawston, BC,
CANADA)



IOIA Board of Directors

Brian MagaroChair
Garry LeanVice Chair
Jack Reams.....Treasurer
Ann Baier.....Secretary
Dag Falck.....Ex. Comm
Member-At-LargeVacant
Luis Brenes.....Board Member
Doug Crabtree.....Alternate
Ann Lameka.....Alternate
Karen Troxell.....Alternate

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

Published quarterly on recycled paper.



Upcoming Trainings

Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong IOIA and Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre (HKORC) will co-sponsor Basic Organic Farm Inspector training and Basic Organic Process Inspector training starting August 23, 2004. The trainings will be held at the Department of Biology, Hong Kong Baptist University in Kowloon Tong. The trainings will be instructed with reference to Hong Kong organic standards that are being developed by the HKORC. The HKORC was established in 2002 as the first local certification body set up to promote the development of organic farming in Hong Kong. For further information about the training please contact Ms. Sharon Chan at 852-3411-2384 or sharonc@hkbu.edu.hk.

Dou-liou, Yun-lin, Taiwan IOIA and Florida Organic Growers/Quality Certification Services will cooperate with the Ministry of Education of Taiwan, Transworld Institute of Technology, and Integrated Agricultural Development Foundation for the second Basic Organic Farm Inspector Training Workshop to be held at Transworld Institute of Technology in Taiwan from August 30 to September 03, 2004. The training will be held in English and use National Organic Standards of the United States Department of Agriculture and IFOAM/IOIA International Organic Inspection Manual as references. Expect that the course will be extended from standard 3.5 days to 5.0 days to allow for some translation of presentations to Chinese. Dr. Nan Jing Ko from Florida will provide translations during the training. Hand-outs, written supplemental information and final exam will be provided in Chinese. This is a very good opportunity for people in the Chinese community to get familiar with USDA Organic regulations in order to promote international organic movement. Please contact either Dr. Hsin Shan Lin in Taiwan at: 011-886-5534-5884 or 011-886-910-563378 or Lhss@mail.tit.edu.tw or Marty Mesh in Florida, US at 352-377-6345 or fog@foginfo.org for applications and further information.

Kalopa State Park, Hawaii IOIA and Hawaii Organic Farmers Association (www.hawaiiorganicfarmers.org) will co-sponsor Basic Organic Farm Inspector training followed by Basic Organic Process Inspector training from October 1 -7, 2004 in Kalopa State Park, Hawaii. Hawaii Organic Farmers Association (HOFA) is a non-profit membership organization that administers organic certification in the State of Hawaii. HOFA promotes organic and sustainable agriculture through research, education, and by providing organic certification services in compliance with USDA National Organic program. Accommodation on site will be 'bunkhouse style'. Please contact Kelly Lange of Hawaii Organic Farmers Association at 808-969-7789 or hofa@hawaiiorganicfarmers.org

Lubbock, Texas IOIA and the Organic Trade Association will cosponsor Advanced Organic Inspector Training (Fiber Processing focus) at Texas Tech University's International Textile Center. This training, the first of its kind, is open both to experienced inspectors and interested persons from the organic industry and will include a tour of a fiber processing facility, field trips to see value-added cotton manufacturing, and an introduction to the new OTA Fiber Council standards. Originally scheduled for April 16-17, this training was postponed until the fall of 2004 or early 2005 because of low initial enrollment. If you are interested in this course, please contact the IOIA office or review the detailed General Info about the course at www.ioia.net.

Elmer, New Jersey IOIA and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) will cosponsor Organic Farm Inspector Training October 13-16 and Process Inspector Training October 17-20 at the Appel Farm Arts & Music Center in Elmer, NJ, about 45 minutes from the Philadelphia airport. These trainings will be held in conjunction with Advanced Organic Inspector Training. The Advanced training will provide ISO 9001:2000 Lead Auditor Training in collaboration with AQS Management Systems, Inc. of St. Paul and is scheduled October 18-22. That training is open to all interested individuals, with preference given to organic inspectors and IOIA members. Info and application are available at www.ioia.net. Contact the IOIA office for further information.

North Central Montana IOIA will sponsor Advanced Organic Inspector Training in Great Falls, Montana with a focus on organic flour milling and grain handling September 23-24. The training will include hands-on advanced audit trail investigations. Info and application are posted at www.ioia.net.

New Mexico IOIA will sponsor Organic Farm and Process Inspector Trainings in New Mexico in late February 2005. Info and application will be posted at www.ioia.net as soon as available. Contact the IOIA office for further information.

Vancouver, British Columbia, CANADA IOIA will sponsor Advanced Organic Inspector Training at the Granville Island Hotel in mid-March 2005, in conjunction with the next IOIA Annual Meeting.

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. [see Scholarships, page 2]

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

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

2005 AGM Set in Vancouver

The next IOIA Annual General Meeting is scheduled at the Granville Island Hotel, Vancouver, British Columbia, for the week of **March 19-20**, a date in accordance with the membership's request at our previous AGM. Unfortunately, in spite of best efforts to NOT conflict with other major events, we've scheduled in conflict with the Expo West in Anaheim, California. The AGM will be scheduled in conjunction with an Advanced Training (tentative date March 17-18) and tentatively with Organic Livestock Inspector training (most likely March 21-23). Dates for all events are being developed in conjunction with potential cosponsors in BC, including Frazer Valley Organic Producers Association, who has inquired about livestock training and offered to assist with local logistics.

What's Special about this AGM?

It's our 3rd AGM in Canada. Check out the location at www.granvilleisland.com, but please don't contact them directly for reservations. This is a lovely facility at a great location, right on the waterfront in a popular area of the city, and convenient to the Vancouver Airport. The area is famous for its Public Market, live theatres, artists, and a scintillating variety of restaurants. Granville Island describes itself as 'an island retreat in the heart of the city'. Plan ahead to do some sightseeing.

It's time for the 2nd IOIA Fundraising Auction!

Our first auction ever, in Sonoma, California, at the 2002 AGM, was an IOIA event to remember. It was great fun and raised enough money to pay AGM costs. That year, IOIA paid all of the Annual Meeting costs for attending members.

With that in mind, we will again tap the special qualifications of **Brian Magaro**, Board Chair and auctioneer. We'll need a clerk and other assistants. Would you like to help? Diane Cooner will assist by compiling the list of auction items on the website. Please plan to donate or purchase items. **Non-Canadians:** please check with your

local authorities about what can and can't be carried back and forth across international borders.

We're trying Something New for this Advanced Training:

If you have a topic or a session that you would like to present or have someone else present, please present a brief synopsis of the session, the time required, any support materials, and the cost to Margaret Scoles, IOIA Training Manager.

This could be a session presented by you or a recommendation for a guest speaker. Sessions will be selected in consultation with Lisa Pierce, Regional Training Manager, and the Training Committee with an effort made to solicit a 'straw poll' of those who plan to attend. We will strive to present a different type of advanced training that will draw from within the expertise of the members, simulate a conference format to allow expanding to accommodate more members without large class sizes, and provide relevant training for organic inspectors. We continually find that courses of about 20 are ideal if course participation is desired. For lecture format sessions, course sizes can readily exceed 30 and still prove effective. It is possible to combine both types of sessions into one training. For example, a session on the Canadian Organic Standards might be of interest primarily to Canadian attendees, while updates on JAS and EU might interest all attendees. As IOIA grows, it is a concern that members often choose whether or not to attend the AGM based on whether there is room in the Advanced Training for them. Hopefully, this concept will allow our Advanced Training group to grow and prevent turning members away without jeopardizing quality training to do so. Two recent successes that spurred this idea were:

1. The Advanced Training in Costa Rica -- the class broke into 2 groups of less than 20 each for highly successful training. Putting all of the attendees together would probably not have met the needs of either group as well.

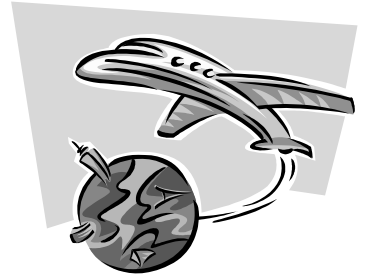
2. Bob Howe, IOIA member, suggested soliciting mini-sessions from among the attendees. In Costa Rica, he presented about 20-30 minutes on Inspecting Sea Vegetables. Both this session and the concept was evaluated very well by attendees. Rebates on training fees in

exchange for these sessions encourage member participation and help keep the training fees reasonable.

Crossing International Borders:

If you aren't Canadian and you don't have a passport, please check WELL IN ADVANCE to find out

what documentation is required to visit Canada.



ED, from page 5

OMRI: See article on page 8 for big changes in OMRI lists for inspectors.

What's Coming up?

1. EXPO East: October 14-17. IOIA has been invited by New Hope to staff a tabletop display in the Organic section. This provides much better exposure than getting a full booth in the regular Non-profit section. Brian Magaro, Board Chair, will assist me in staffing the booth, attending industry meetings, and visiting other booths.

2. NOSB meeting: October 12-14. Watch for changes in the NOSB (5 new appointments in January 2005). IOIA plans to attend at least 1 day of this meeting and will be prepared to submit comments if necessary.

3. IOIA Annual Meeting: Put on your thinking caps for auction items to donate. Crossing international borders will take a little extra creativity. No keynote speaker has been confirmed yet. Any ideas? David Suzuki of Vancouver is first on the 'invite list'.

4. November 1 is time to invoice for Membership Dues...again? already? is it possible? And then it is time to think about Board elections, Bylaws Changes....I encourage all women especially to think about whether they might be interested in running for the Board. Did I really say that? Does that sound sexist? Maybe so....after all, I'm the one who objected at the 1993 Annual Meeting and when an attempt was made to have 'gender' be one of the considerations in the Bylaws when selecting the slate of Board nominees. I think I said something like, "I'll be damned if I'm going to have someone vote for me because I'm a woman!". But, we have only one woman on this Board and last spring, all of the BOD candidates were male. Hopefully that is just an anomaly and not a real trend. Mixed boards are more likely to make good decisions. E

Notes from the ED

By Margaret Scoles

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS:

A trip to Denman Island Lisa Pierce completed her first year in June since taking on the role of Regional Training Manager. We discussed how to most economically get together to work on training issues. I checked out tickets and found a surprisingly cheap one. I flew to Victoria, Lisa picked me up, and we drove the 'slow', scenic way to the Denman Island ferry where I would be lodged in their very quiet, cozy guest cabin with a view of the ocean. The week was an intense 'think tank session' to develop and refine training procedures, interspersed with glorious breaks to swim in the ocean, dig clams (We found a moon snail...I became so intent on the 'hunt' for clams that the tide came in and soaked me where I sat digging.), barbeque oysters, visits to a couple of gardens in the summer Garden Tour, take a 2nd ferry to Hornby Island for dinner one night, and once even to go ocean kayaking in the Strait between Vancouver Island and the mainland. Not being much of an athlete or a strong swimmer, it was with some trepidation that I took Lisa up on her offer to go out in the plastic kayaks for a couple of hours. The day was glorious. The pre-course instruction was competent and encouraging. It was so hot and brilliant that the water dripping off the oars was a comforting way to keep cool. We paddled during low tide over kelp gardens, giant starfish, sea anemones, little schools of jellyfish, and whole forests of sea urchins. The snow capped mountains of the BC mainland provided an impressive backdrop. I am VERY pleased to see IOIA going to Vancouver next March for our Annual Meeting. I encourage you to consider putting a day aside to paddle on the ocean. This Strait and the Gulf Islands are very beautiful and if I can do it, anyone can.

One rather dubious highlight of life on the Island was that on the day of the Board conference call, the highway department cut the phone line. No way to get the line fixed until next morning, so we arranged an emergency solution. The Highway Department donated their office (a broiling hot mobile home) line so that

I could join Board members for the call. Special thanks to Heather and Lisa for their incredible hospitality and for creating a space and place for us to focus on the work without the everyday demands of the IOIA office (not to mention the homemade pickled and smoked herring!). We couldn't have found a more pleasant place to work.

Other interesting experiences of the summer--judging floral and garden at the county fair; working with AERO to organize an Organic Grass-Finished Beef ranch tour in central Montana; and submitting a gigantic CSREES (Cooperative State Research Extension and Education) grant proposal to the USDA. If funded, that grant will provide a significant share of funding of current office staff support and training development. We'll hear the outcome in October. Ann Baier valiantly supported that effort. Garry Lean helped me work through the ISO 9001:2000 training development where John Foster left off. (Thanks are due to John for his work in initiating the ISO 9001 training). I also developed an article, "Trends in Organic Livestock Production", with *Organic Processing Magazine*. This summer has, more than any other in my 6 years with IOIA, been one with some non-IOIA space in it for walking, gardening, scattering ashes of a favorite uncle, hiking. Truly wonderful. I thank Diane, Phoebe, Lisa, and a most excellent Board of Directors for their part in the teamwork that made that possible.

Summer Inspection Experiences and Apprenticeship:

I completed 14 inspections for 3 certification agencies this summer. I also do occasional handling inspections throughout the year. Hats off to all of you 'real inspectors'. I do just enough so that I don't forget what IOIA is really about. It also helps me keep current on agency requirements and forms. I encourage you if you do work for Ecocert to NOT do as I did and read on Saturday the inspection assignment for an inspection on Monday. As Antje gently reminded me, we are supposed to work the problems out when we receive the inspection assignment, NOT after the inspection. Point taken. I didn't read it carefully when I received the Emailed assignment.

Apprentices are another great way to be reminded of what I can do better. Wendy

Paulsen of Missoula, MT attended the Arkansas trainings (Farm and Livestock) and worked with me on horticultural inspections in western Montana. Rowdy Petsch of Meriden, Wyoming attended the same trainings last fall in Laramie and apprenticed with me on an OCIA Farm inspection and both Farm and Livestock inspections for the MT Dept of Ag. It is always great to be able to have that second set of eyes on inspection and to have another perspective for discussion afterwards. It is very helpful at the conclusion of a day's work to ask, "What did I do that seemed wrong to you?" or "What did I miss?". I was happy on behalf of both apprentices to see the requirements for getting on the OCIA list made more reasonable, right before they wrote all of the narrative reports required previously. I always learn a lot from my apprentices.

Accreditation: Apologies to spring accreditation applicants. We have had several changes in the Accreditation Committee and the Accreditation Review Panel (all positive ones), but Accreditation still seems to be a slower process than we'd like.

Member Mishaps: Two inspector members of IOIA suffered serious injuries this summer. Mary Wilson broke a vertebra in a car accident last May and is healing up slowly but surely. She wears a back brace and will start physical therapy soon. Marina Buchan had a dreadful fall from a 3rd floor balcony, shattering the knee of one leg and the ankle of the other, just weeks after moving from Alberta to Wisconsin. She is back in Canada for further recuperation. **Please take a moment to send them a card, a call, or simply your good thoughts.** I've been feeling a bit out of sorts lately and was so pleased to visit with both of these strong women and to find them positive and in such good spirits in spite of their really serious injuries. Most of us work too hard. Sometimes a real wreck actually helps us to appreciate what sometimes we take for granted or what goes by in a blur.

IOIA/ OTA Organic Fiber Processing Training, Texas: Little interest has been expressed. If you are interested, please let me know. We have a small group of inspectors who'd really like to see this training happen. It seems that our effort to mix the audiences (inspectors and industry) in order to get a critical mass simply didn't work. We might need to separate the audiences and the trainings.

[See ED, page 4]

Changes Made in Program Requirements for OCIA Inspectors

This is a notification that OCIA International has changed the Inspection Program document, Training and Obtaining Additional Inspection Approval Types. The criteria for being approved in an inspection category is now one inspection report/checklist and one narrative inspection report written to OCIA Standards and covering all organic control points. This criteria applies to applicants to the program and also OCIA-approved inspectors wishing to add a category to their lists of approval types. In using the OCIA inspection report form that uses a checklist format, the comment sections need ample comments in the report submitted for evaluation. The report written in narrative format needs to supply a full picture of the inspector's ability to address all points necessary to evaluate compliance to OCIA Standards.

A report in certain categories can be submitted to be reviewed for approval in more than one category.

Examples are (but are not limited to): Farm/Simple Processing/Dairy/ Live-stock categories can be covered in one report.

Complex Processing also covers Simple Processing and Broker/Trader/Warehouse categories of inspection.

OCIA approves inspectors according to the following types of inspections: farm, livestock, dairy, simple processing (usually involving on-farm processing), complex processing, maple syrup, honey, specialty crops, broker/trader/warehouse, shade-grown coffee, and community grower groups. Inspectors for OCIA may carry out inspections in only those types for which they are approved.

Those who submitted applications to OCIA under the former requirements (3 narrative reports in the category) do not need to submit additional checklist format reports in order to meet the inspector application requirements.

You may also be wondering what you should do if you are requesting approval in Honey. This is the only category for which no inspection report/checklist forms have been

developed. Until such time as one is developed, the old procedure (three narrative reports) will still apply.

Reports written for another certifying agency, with names and any information identifying the clients blacked out, are acceptable as long as they address all applicable OCIA Standards. Such reports may also be re-written to address OCIA Standards rather than submitting a report identical to one submitted to another certification agency. "Mock" or "sample" inspection reports will be accepted for evaluation. However, actual inspection reports are preferred because they provide more accurate information for evaluation.

An OCIA inspector who wishes to become approved for additional inspection approval types should submit to the International office one inspection report/checklist and one narrative inspection report written to OCIA Standards and covering all organic control points must be submitted for evaluation for each type of approval requested. A letter of application should accompany the reports. All application materials, including any additional materials required by a specific category (please see below) will be evaluated and a decision regarding the application will be communicated to the inspector. Until the International office notifies an inspector of approval for a specific inspection type, inspections of this type may not be carried out for OCIA. Approval to carry out inspections for another certifying agency does not mean approval has been granted by OCIA in those same inspection types. Approval from OCIA for that inspection type must be received prior to conducting inspections for OCIA. ANY inspector who inspects an operation of a type for which he or she is not approved may face corrective action and jeopardize his or her status as OCIA-approved Inspector.

If you have any question regarding what reports need to be submitted for approval, or if you are applying for multiple categories at one time, please contact the Inspection Program at the OCIA International Office for additional information regarding submission of sample reports.

Training and Obtaining Additional Inspection Approval Types

OCIA International has the responsibility to assure that all inspectors who carry out

inspection(s) for OCIA are adequately trained for the type of inspection performed. For example, OCIA must annually provide information regarding the expertise, ability, and training of its inspectors in order to comply with provisions of our various accreditations.

Criteria

In order to meet the qualifications of an OCIA inspector, one should have agronomic, food technology, biological science, veterinary science, or other related experience. Hands-on experience in organic production and/or handling can also provide a sound background for inspection for OCIA. In addition, an OCIA inspector should have professional and personal skills in inspection and/or auditing. A solid understanding of OCIA's Standards and certification procedures is also essential for an OCIA inspector. For a few inspection categories additional criteria may need to be met.

Training

All OCIA inspectors need to complete training conducted by the Independent Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA) successfully in order to become approved by OCIA. Training equivalent to IOIA training will be considered in lieu of IOIA training if a syllabus and certificate of each course successfully completed is provided for evaluation.

OCIA inspectors must also demonstrate a commitment to ongoing education and sharpening of their skills in organic inspection and related areas. This means that each inspector must successfully complete IOIA training or other type of continuing education training related to organic inspection at least every two years. In addition, when requested by the International office, each inspector must comply with requirements for professional upgrading and additional training. Once training related to organic inspection is completed, inspectors should submit the certificate (along with a syllabus or in its place, a short description of topics covered) to the International office. These certificates and syllabi will be placed in the inspector's file and will serve as documentation of his or her continuing education.

In light of the increasing changes in regulation imposed upon the organic certification industry, it is critical that each OCIA inspector takes measures necessary to become familiar with these new requirements. These include the NOP, which imposes new requirements upon inspection for organic certification.

OCIA inspectors need to plan to acquire or upgrade their training in the basic techniques of sample collection and chain-of-custody requirements at the earliest opportunity. E

NOP Develops Huge Online Certifier dbase

The NOP has spent \$25,000 so far on an electronic web-based system that would give buyers access to certified products and also allow it to track non-compliance violations.

Only the NOP and accredited certifiers would have access to data about their members, while buyers would only be able to pull up available crop and contact info.

COG Moves

Canadian Organic Growers has moved its national office from Knowlesville, New Brunswick, to Ottawa. The new address is: 323 Chapel St., Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 7Z2, Canada [phone: 888-375-7383; fax: 613-236-0743; e-mail: office@cog.ca].

COABC Appoints New Business Manager

The Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia (COABC) has appointed Kirsten Kane, the current COABC Administrator, to be their new Business Manager starting June 1, 2004. Kirsten's new job coincides with some major changes in the COABC. Her main tasks are to further develop a strategic action plan in collaboration with the COABC Board of Directors and to ensure the COABC is in a sound financial position.

Quebec considers Aqua-culture Stds

The Conseil des appellations agroalimentaires du Quebec (CAAQ) is proposing to adopt standards governing organic certification for aquaculture by 2005. CAAQ's standards Committee has posted a consultation document on the web and is inviting the public and stakeholders to submit comments and suggested changes. Deadline for comments is Aug 31. Available at www.caaq.org/anglais/aquaculture.htm. Email anor@caaq.org, 514-864-8999

Canadian Organic Stats Now Posted on OTA Web Site

The most recent statistics on Canada's organic sector compiled for Agriculture & Agri-Foods Canada are now posted on OTA's web site (www.ota.com/m/sc/cc/stats.html) in

the Canadian Council section, and show there were 3,134 certified farmers in 2003.

OTA to Work With NSF Int'l on Organic Personal Care Standard

OTA has agreed to collaborate with NSF International in its efforts to develop an American National Standard for organic personal care products. NSF's consensus standards development process is accredited by American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Standards accredited by ANSI are historically recognized and referenced by federal agencies including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). OTA's role would be to bring organic industry expertise, particularly that of its Personal Care Organic Standards Task Force, to a joint committee that NSF would form to deliberate on and develop such a standard. For background info, see: www.ota.com/standards/newstandards.html.

OTA Works Towards Fert Labels

OTA's Suppliers Advisory Council (OSAC) members will make a presentation at the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials' summer labeling committee meeting in Wisconsin in early August to seek final approval of a new model 'organic' labeling term for fertilizers and soil amendments. The new term defines 'organic' fertilizers and soil amendments as they are defined under the requirements of USDA's National Organic Program, allowing labels to state 'for organic production' with an accompanying reference to agencies verifying their compliance.

Oz O Report Due Soon

For reporting on the Australian organic industry, watch out in early October for the *Organic Food and Farming Report, Australia 2004*, published annually by the Biological Farmers of Australia and sent free in hard copy to all BFA members.

Fundación Argeninta joins Organic Certifier CACER

According to the INTA Informa newsletter, Fundación ArgenINTA has joined Cámara de Certificadoras de Alimentos, Productos Orgánicos y Afines (CACER), a collaboration between 12 private certification firms

operating in domestic Argentine and international markets.

ICS Announces Value Added Verification Program

Brent Schulz, ICS Business Development Representative, recently announced the company's launch of a new service, providing assistance to companies seeking verification from a third party for their internal plan of procedures.

"The need for third party verification is on the rise. Consumers are looking for reassurance in their buying decisions and want to know what they are getting for their money," said Schulz. "We look forward to helping companies achieve consumer approval through the Value Added Verification Program."

For more information about the ICS, Inc. Value Added Verification Program: Contact Brent Schulz at (701) 486-3578, bschulz@ics-intl.com or visit the website www.ics-intl.com

QAI's Current Position on Dairy Herds

Please refer to the position statement below that demonstrates QAI's current position regarding the continuous management of organic dairy herds.

"Non-organic dairy animals may be purchased for conversion to organic production, as long as those replacement animals are under continuous organic management beginning no later than 12 months prior to the production of the milk or milk products that are to be represented as organic. Based on recent policy guidance from the NOP, QAI requires that all livestock raised on QAI certified farms be managed as organic from the day an animal enters the organic herd, regardless of the animal's age. NOP subsections 205.236(a)(2), 205.237(a), 205.238(c)(4) support this directive."

From Maria DeVincenzo, Inspection Coordinator, Quality Assurance International

Leahy Leaves CCOF

Brian Leahy left CCOF in June, he is now the new Executive Director of the Calif. Assn of Resource Conservation Districts in Sacramento.

Morrison Leaves OMRI

Laura Morrison has resigned as OMRI Executive Director, effective July 31. Dave DeCou, OMRI President-Elect, has stepped in as Acting Executive Director. Morrison has established a consulting firm, Emmer Associates. Her new contact info is: Emmer Associates, 3710 NW Harrison, Corvallis, OR 97330-4935. Telephone: 541-908-5533, Email: laura@emmerassociates.org

New OMRI Lists Now Available

Name Brand and Generic Materials Lists Published in June 2004

For the past several years, IOIA members and attendees at IOIA trainings enjoyed a favored position by having the opportunity to purchase OMRI lists at a bargain price (\$20 per set of Generic and Brand Name Lists) through a specially negotiated arrangement between OMRI and IOIA. Neither IOIA nor OMRI profited financially on this arrangement. Administration of the arrangement likely cost both organizations more than the selling price. However, all parties involved including inspectors agreed that OMRI lists are an invaluable resource for inspectors and that there are benefits to the entire organic community to put them in the hands of inspectors.

The last *Generic Materials List* was published in 2002. The *Name Brand List* was updated in September last year. As OMRI's efforts to update the lists and to make them totally NOP compliant dragged on, the lists that were in the hands of the inspectors became increasingly outdated. Not all inspectors updated their Brand Name Lists from the IOIA website. IOIA was not able to insure that everyone who purchased a list over a period of 3 years received all of the updates. The original agreement was based on the assumption of annual updates. Both OMRI and IOIA became concerned that a valuable resource was becoming inconsistent. Not all inspectors who purchased the lists received all of the updates. Some attendees of trainings purchased the lists but didn't become members, so they dropped off the update radar. Discussion between OMRI and IOIA on how to improve the relationship began almost a year ago. A resolution was not reached until after the new lists were released in June.

What's the resolution? A mixed bag - Bad news for inspectors, in that the price of \$20 is history. But there's still Good news for inspectors -- OMRI will include inspectors in their special educational annual subscription rate of \$50 (plus \$15 for mailing outside the US and Canada). In the past, this rate was intended only for land grant universities, extension agents, Natural Resource Conservation Service personnel, and university libraries & personnel. The OMRI website will be updated to include organic inspectors in this group. This is the lowest subscription price available. While the price is considerably higher than the 'historic' rate of \$20, the price includes considerably expanded service. All mailings will go directly to the subscribing inspector. Each subscriber will receive the OMRI newsletter, all updates in lists, and other special subscriber mailings.

To take advantage of this special offer, visit the OMRI website at www.omri.org and click on www.omri.org/OMRI_subscribe_form.html to get an OMRI Publication Subscription Form.

In Memoriam: Peter Murray

Peter Murray, president of Sustainable Systems Design, died in a tragic boat accident July 24 on Lake Macatawa in Michigan. Peter was an active Organic Trade Association member, serving as a volunteer on many committees and task forces; as a contractor, most recently as part of the team analyzing EU/US organic standards and the Japan/US organic standards; and in developing organic fiber processing and personal care standards. IOIA inspectors will remember him from his participation on the International Certification Committee at OCIA.

Authorities said Murray, 52, of Ann Arbor, and John Huegli, 59, of Dexter, were boating in Huegli's 1959 twin-engine wooden boat on the western Michigan lake when an explosion knocked them unconscious at about 10 a.m. When Huegli awoke, he tried but failed to rouse his friend, and abandoned the boat as it was consumed by flames. Divers recovered Murray's body later in the day. The cause of the explosion was unknown.

Peter was a tireless organic advocate. He began his organic work as a co-owner of Eden organic co-op that eventually evolved into Eden Foods. He was founding vice president and board member for OMRI.

"He was a great guy," his wife Betsey said Saturday night. She said authorities told her it was a freak thing that one of the engines blew up on the boat. "Jon had done everything right," referring to the fact that Huegli said the boat had been fueled and vented that morning. "Apparently, they'd been in a long, wonderful conversation about what they saw happening in their future. They were working on goals and plans, when all of a sudden ... that plan got changed."

Peter Murray, an Indiana native, was a passionate man who cared deeply about the environment. He was a very gentle and calming soul who was always kind in his interactions with others. "There were no gray areas," she said. "It was all black and white. He took very good care of his body in terms of exercise and eating organic foods. His whole life, he was a promoter of organic agriculture and products." She said she'll miss her husband's passion for life; his ability to maintain friendships for 30 and 40 years; and his enjoyment of French wine.

He will be sorely missed. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to further his children's education or to Heifer Project International through the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1500 Scio Church Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Ë

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MORE OMRI NEWS

Emily Brown Rowen Leaves OMRI

A press release from OMRI dated July 22 notified the organic community, "After years of invaluable service to the Organic Materials Review Institute, OMRI Policy Director, Emily Brown Rosen has decided to move on to explore new opportunities within the organic community. All of us at OMRI wish Emily the very best in her future endeavors. I know the organic community will continue to benefit from her wisdom and experience."

With Emily's departure, other OMRI staff members will assume her responsibilities as OMRI continues to provide technical services relating to inputs to organic agriculture and processing. For questions relating to specific Brand Name Products on the OMRI Brand Name Products List, please contact Brad van Appel, Brand Name Program Manager (541-343-7600, extension 304 or brad@omri.org). For issues relating to regulatory and government affairs, please contact Dave DeCou, Acting Executive Director (phone: 541-343-7600, extension 302 or laura@omri.org). For all other technical questions, please contact Brian Baker, Research Director (541-343-7600, extension 305 or brian@omri.org).

Fortunately for IOIA, Emily is still an honorary member of the IOIA Forum and frequent contributor to materials discussions.

Please see page 2 for Emily's new contact info.



Materials: From Petition to Rule Change: The NOSB/NOP Process

By Laura Morrison, *Fall 2003 OMRI update*

OMRI is frequently asked why materials that have been recommended by the NOSB are not included in the *OMRI Generic Materials List*. Our service is designed to review materials for compliance with the NOP Rule (7CFR Part 205). The *OMRI Generic Materials List* and *OMRI Brand Name Products List* only include substances and products that are covered by this regulation.

Many people mistakenly believe that an NOSB recommendation automatically lists a material on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances – the section of the regulation for listing allowed synthetic and prohibited nonsynthetic materials. In fact, a NOSB recommendation is only a preliminary step in the formal rulemaking that is required before a substance can be officially placed on the National List. To aid interested parties, OMRI has simplified the entire process into five discrete steps that trace the movement of a substance from petition status to addition to the National List.

Step 1 – Petition: A petition is submitted to the NOP to either add a substance to or remove it from the National List. The NOP reviews the petition for completeness and sends it to the NOSB. During the initial evaluation, the NOP may also consult with other regulatory agencies if the petitioned substance is subject to their jurisdiction. Petitions are posted on the NOP website for public review (www.ams.usda.gov/nop)

Step 2: TAP Review: The NOSB Materials Committee reviews the petition and determines if the petitioned substance qualifies for inclusion on the National List. If so, it then arranges for a Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) review of the substance by a contractor who will evaluate the scientific and technical issues associated with use of the substance in organic production. Before or after contracting a TAP review, the NOSB may request additional information from the petitioner.

Step 3 – Public Comment: Upon completion, the TAP review is posted for public comment and the material is placed on the agenda for the next public NOSB meeting.

Step 4 – NOSB Recommendation: At the NOSB meeting, the petitioned substance and issues raised in the TAP review and by public comment are discussed and evaluated. The NOSB then votes on inclusion of the substance as allowed or prohibited, with a majority rule carrying the vote. Annotations that qualify the listing with source and use restrictions are often included within the recommendation.

Step 5 – NOP Rulemaking: The NOP takes the NOSB recommendations through a formal rulemaking. The recommendation, now structured as regulatory text and assigned a Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) section number, is published in the Federal Register as a proposed amendment to the National List. Following review of public comment and any changes in the regulatory language arising from this review, the NOP publishes a final rule in the Federal Register. It is at this point that a substance is officially added to the National List.

The review stage (Steps 1 to 4) will usually be completed within 12 to 18 months after the petition is submitted. Once a recommendation to list a petitioned substance reaches the NOP, it enters the rulemaking process (Step 5). This stage can be quite lengthy for a variety of reasons, among them the need for further internal agency review before publication of a proposed amendment docket in the Federal Register or time needed to evaluate public comments on the docket. There are currently 51 NOSB recommendations that are still advancing through the rulemaking process, dating to November 2000. Of these, 17 were proposed in Spring 2003 and are in the final stages of rulemaking. Petitioners should consider the possibility that the regulatory process for adding a substance to the National List may take as many as four years. Ë

NOP's Informational Memo to USDA ACA's re: OMRI

For a copy of the informational memo to USDA Accredited Certifying Agents from Richard Mathews, National Organic Program manager, on the subject of *Documented Source of Approved & Prohibited Materials for Use in Organic Operations*, (detailing the authority for documenting materials, specifically related to OMRI's role in materials approval) dated July 16, 2004, please see the IOIA website and click on 'Inspector News'. **All inspectors should be aware that as stated in this memo**, "Where questions arise or conflicts appear, ACAs cannot substitute a reference to the GML in place of a citation from the National List of Approved and Prohibited Materials or other applicable parts of the regulations. ACAs who do so and whose decision is challenged by a producer risk having their decision overturned by the NOP.

"The OMRI listing of generic materials allowed for or prohibited for use in organic operations must be in compliance with the National List as contained in 7 CFR 205.600-606 and other applicable sections of the regulations. Toward that end, NOP has consulted with OMRI and will engage in a cooperative review of the GML. The review will commence later this summer, beginning with priorities identified mutually by NOP and OMRI."

Inspectors must always be aware that while listing of a product as "Approved" on the OMRI Brand Name list indicates that it has been through a rigorous review process:

1. If a Brand Name is NOT listed, this does not mean it is non-compliant. The manufacturer may simply have not opted to undergo the OMRI review process.
2. In inspection reports, if a product is described as compliant or non-compliant, OMRI cannot be the sole authority in making this determination. The NOP regulation must be referenced in addition to OMRI. Ë

ISO, from page 1

Expected Course Outcomes Organic inspectors who complete this course will demonstrate to certification agencies, potential consulting clients, and inspected parties that they have additional qualifications in auditing to a quality standard. Attendees will be able to:

- Fully understand and successfully interpret the ISO 9001:2000 requirements
- Audit to the ISO 9001:2000 Management System Standard
- Plan, manage, and schedule an audit program
- Qualify to conduct internal audits
- Gain knowledge to help design, implement, manage a cost-effective and compliant ISO 9001:2000 project
- Understand how to audit using the Process Approach
- Ask audit questions that get results and review documents
- Identify and document nonconformities
- Conduct an audit against the newly published ISO 19011 Audit Standard

In addition, those who desire ISO 14001 Auditor training will be qualified to complete that course in 3 days, rather than 5 days. ISO 9001 training is not a prerequisite for 14001 training.

Info about the Location and Related Events Appel Farm Arts & Music Center, a non-profit regional arts center in the southern part of the "Garden State", is on 176 acres in the farming community of Elmer, New Jersey. A working farm for 40 years, the Center was founded in 1960 as a private residential summer arts camp for young people. It located 45 minutes from Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) and approximately 2 hours from Washington, DC. Direct 24-hour shuttle service is available from the Philadelphia Airport to the Center. For more information about the location, visit www.appelfarm.org but please do not contact the Center directly for reservations. This training is scheduled in conjunction with IOIA/NJA Basic Organic Farm Inspector Training October 13-16, Basic Organic Process Inspector Training October 17-20, and Certification Agency presentations on October 16. Basic trainings are cosponsored by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. The dates of all these trainings were set in conjunction with the New Hope Natural Products EXPO East October 15-17 and the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) meeting October 12-14.

More Info about AQS and Mark Ames

Visit www.aqsperformance.com for more info about AQS and www.rabnet.com for more info about RAB.

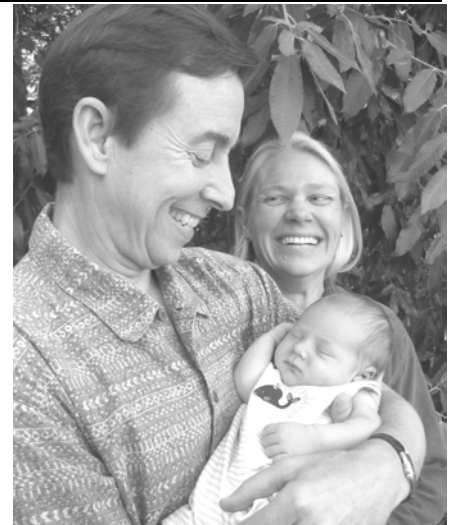
This training is only the first step to become a RAB certified Auditor. To attain Provisional Auditor Status, an additional application, resume showing experience in quality auditing (includes organic inspections), personal reference, and fee of about \$200 must be submitted to RAB. Auditor status is achieved by completing a minimum number of ISO audits (20 or more depending on educational background; one must be witnessed) over a 3-year period and submitting renewal fees and an audit log. Lead Auditor Status is the highest RAB accredited level.

Mark Ames, president of AQS, has over 25 years of experience in consulting and training development for management and industry. Prior to joining AQS Management Systems, he worked in management and quality in a variety of organizations. He served as Adjunct Faculty at the University of St. Thomas, teaching in the Masters Program in Manufacturing Systems Engineering from 1991 to 1996. He has successfully implemented Total Quality Management systems in a variety of companies. Mark is a member of the TC176 ISO 9000 International Quality committee and the TC207 ISO 14000 international Environmental committee. Topics presented include: Implementing ISO 9001:2000 in Agriculture, Process Auditing for Agriculture, Re-Thinking Documentation, Corrective and Preventative Action Strategies, and Understanding the Process Approach. È

Canada, from page 1

voluntary standard. As well, 25 pages of comments from La Table Filiere and standards expert Denis-Paul Bouffard, outlined the areas where the text falls short of Codex Equivalency. Members of The Standards Editorial Working Group of the Organic Committee who were on the call, stated they wish to ensure the careful equivalency analysis made by CAAQ and La Table are incorporated. Concern was expressed that the CGSB legal editors may find these changes challenging, however many across Canada have found the delays with this standard process very challenging. Democracy can be very slow but bureaucracy can make it almost unbearable!

It could be the frustration with CGSB timelines that very few Committee members have been signing up for the next round of working groups. **Three committees need volunteers to review and respond to the comments.** Deb Miller of OCIA and an ORC representative, encouraged Organic Activists and Sector Representatives to contact Paddy Doherty about the process for joining the committees. Janine Gibson, Chair of the IOIA Canadian Committee, will continue to represent inspector perspectives, as a volunteer on the Editorial Working Group of the CGSB National Organic Committee. The main editorial comment submitted on behalf of inspectors, was that the inconsistency in numbering and presentation between the Standard itself and the two appendix documents, the Permitted Materials List and the Guidance Document, need to be addressed, to facilitate ease of reference by inspectors and operators. È



Big News! We have a healthy baby boy! **Ann Baier** and **Thomas Sutfin** are pleased to announce the arrival of our son, **Adam Logan Kerr**. He was born at home on Tuesday, July 20, 2004 at 4:09am. He weighed 8 pounds 1 ounce and was 21 ½ inches long. Mom and son and Dad are doing well.

Organic Networking Summit on Skagit Bay Friday, September 17, 2004

Since August of 2002, Shel Weinberg has been serving on the World Board of IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements). As the only North American on the current board, one of his key objectives has been to facilitate better understanding, broader appreciation and deeper connection between the North American organic movement and IFOAM.

To this end, this coming September 17, Shel will be bringing together the IFOAM World Board (from 5 continents!) along with senior staff for a weeklong meeting in Northwest Washington State on Fidalgo Island. While the IFOAM leadership is in North America he is planning a special event to seize this unique networking opportunity. His goal is to bring together a cross-section of the leadership of the North American organic movement "in its full diversity", including farmers, certifiers, government agencies, NGO's, universities, researchers, manufacturers, retailers, media etc.

- Network with organic leaders from the USA & Canada and around the world
- Gain a better understanding of IFOAM's mission, objectives and activities
- Meet IFOAM's world board, and newly hired Executive Director; tell them your views
- Enjoy one of the Northwest's best months on Skagit Bay in Northern Puget Sound.
- Appreciate the bounty of the NW harvest; feast on local organic food and drink
- Celebrate the successes of the organic movement!

There are also myriad optional activities to enjoy over the September 18 & 19 end-of-summer weekend such as:

- Whale watching and marine wildlife cruise
- Anacortes Jazz Festival
- Ferry to the San Juan Islands or to Vancouver Island
- Sea-kayak tours
- Olympic Peninsula, Olympic Mountains and Hot Springs
- Birds-eye tour by air of the San Juan Islands
- Hiking in North Cascades National Park

For more info

contact Shel Weinberg
phone: 360 299 3579
mobile: 360 941 5443
shel@sheldonweinberg.com

Resources

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service has posted a slide show on the National Organic Program (www.ams.usda.gov/nop/Publications.html, "Value through Verification").

New UK Organic Directory

The Soil Association has published its new Organic Directory 2004-2005. Covering the whole of the UK, the directory has over 2,000 entries listed by county and region. The directory gives details of: Local fruit and vegetable box schemes; Local farmers' market stalls; Farm shops; Retail outlets; Farms offering accommodation and food, and family days out; Mail order suppliers of goods including food, clothes and drink; Restaurants, cafes and caterers. It is available on-line at www.soilassociation.org/shop.

OFRF Final Results

The Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) has released the final results from its Fourth National Organic Farmers' Survey. See OFRF's web site (www.ofrf.org).

OTA is compiling organic ag census data and will soon post the organic data from the 2002 Census of Agriculture. Highlights: nearly 12,000

farms reported organic operations, 3,300 of which had less than \$1000 in organic sales; there were 562,486 acres in organic crops, representing .13% of total cropland.

UK Organic Farming Stats 2004

The total area of organic land and in-conversion land in the UK as of January 2004 was 695,619 ha. This represents a decrease of over 6% from March 2003. Of this figure, 66,137 ha (10%) was in-conversion and 629,482 ha (90%) was fully organic. Whilst the fully organic area has increased by 17% from March 2003, the area of land in conversion has fallen by 68%. This represents 4% of the total agricultural area (excluding common grazing) in the UK. The full statistics are available at <http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/statnot/orguk.pdf>.

EU: Swedish Organic Report Released

KRAV, Sweden's organic certification organisation, has just published the translated version of the KRAV Annual Report at: <http://www.krav.se/arkiv/arsredovisning/vber03eng.pdf>. It contains certification and market statistics. Also KRAV continues its own internal work on sustainable development. Carbon dioxide emissions have nearly been cut in half over two years time. This report is very good reading, along with the UK Soil's

Organic Food and Farming Report later this year, to gain a European perspective on the progress and nature of the organic industry in those countries.

New Organic Org in MT

Montana's organic agriculture and food industry has announced the launching of the Montana Organic Association (MOA). Formed as a nonprofit membership organization, MOA represents organic producers, processors, handlers, and retailers. In addition, MOA welcomes providers of organic research, education and technical assistance. For more information, contact Jill Davies, MOA Coordinator and Newsletter Editor; email rivercare@blackfoot.net; Tel: 406-642-3601.

Nepal Biogas Plant -- Construction

Manual. Construction Manual for GGC 2047 Model Biogas Plant. With Dutch and German support, Nepal's Biogas Support Programme has built 95,400 biogas plants in 10 years, with potential for half a million more. These are fixed dome biogas plants, designed in Nepal. Sizes are household-scale from 4 to 20 cubic metres. The feedstock is cattle dung and water (but other feedstocks will work just as well). For instance, the 4-cubic-metre plant requires input from 2-3 cattle, the 10-cubic-metre plant needs 6-9 cattle. This manual includes full construction details, plans and data. With thanks to Olivier Morf. Biofuels Library: http://journeytoforever.org/biofuel_library.htm #nepgas

Board of Directors / Full Board Conference Call, May 20, 2004

Board and Staff Members Present May 20, 2004: Ann Baier, Luis Brenes, Garry Lean, Brian Magaro, Jack Reams, Margaret Scoles

Board and Staff Members Present June 17, 2004: Ann Baier, Dag Falck, Garry Lean, Brian Magaro, Jack Reams, Margaret Scoles

The June 17 BOD meeting is a continuation of the May 20 meeting, with a few additions / modifications to the agenda.

Secretary's Report:

a. Approval of Minutes from April 15.

Moved: Jack Second: Garry Motion: Accept the draft minutes as amended. Endorse: All

Action Point: Ann will send an email to all TOC members and request their individual input so that the Board can resolve the conflict of interest created by having a majority of the TOC being TCs. (It is our understanding that it is a Board responsibility to appoint committee members. The BOD commits to addressing this problem as part of the August Board meeting in the broader context of training procedures). Ann will collect their input and pass this on to Lisa and Margaret and the Board.

Agenda Item #3: Resignation of BOD member and filling vacancy on the BOD and Executive Committee

Brian read a letter from John Foster to the IOIA Board, informing us that he has taken the position of Director of Technical services at NSF/QAI, acknowledging that his position with a certifier may have the appearance of a conflict of interest, and offering to resign. He is willing to serve on the proposed IOIA Advisory Council, or even remain as a non-voting member of the IOIA Board.

Discussion: The Board discussed the questions of conflict of interest and filling a vacancy on the IOIA Board. Brian described his conversations with the three alternates. The Board's belief at this time is that holding a position with a certifier that includes decision-making about inspectors may create the appearance of a conflict of interest; the same reason for John to resign is reason not to appoint Doug as a full Board member. Both John and Doug will be invited and their integral involvement welcomed in the proposed IOIA Advisory Council. IOIA Bylaws require that we have no less than 5 Board members. Because we still have six members, it is not imperative that we fill the vacancy at this time.

Moved: Luis Second: Jack Motion: The Board accepts John Foster's offer of resignation from the IOIA Board of Directors.

Endorse: All

Action Points: Brian will forward John Foster's letter to the Board.

Margaret and Brian will, with Board input, draft and send a letter to John Foster, thanking John for his excellent service to the Board during his term to date, regretfully accepting his resignation, and accepting his offer to serve on the newly forming IOIA Advisory Council.

We discussed the need to fill the position of Vice-Chair of the IOIA Board, considering the leadership roles each Board member currently plays. While the vice-chair traditionally moves into the position of Chair, Garry clarified that this decision does not carry that assumption.

Move: Luis Second: Jack Motion: Elect Garry as Vice-chair of the Board. Endorse: All

Agenda Item #4 Old Business: Organic 9000

May 20: Margaret reported on what she learned about offering an accredited ISO 9001 Lead Auditor Training. This course would provide CEU (continuing education units). Course structure includes a pre-course assignment, 4 days of training, and an open book exam on the 5th day. Another option would be a blended learning course with three days on line followed by a two-day in-person course. Participants would earn two certificates—ISO and IOIA advanced training. There are options for working with different vendors, some with the capacity to offer parallel courses in Spanish in Latin America and in English in North America. By offering this training, IOIA can facilitate organic inspectors' broader professional development, and show the industry that organic inspectors are really at the same level of professionalism as lead auditors.

June 17: Margaret reported that she is planning for an ISO 9001 Lead Auditor training to be held in New Jersey in October, in conjunction with an IOIA processor training course and Expo East. Depending on survey feedback from potential participants, IOIA will likely proceed with the standard 5-day course. Criteria for choosing an accredited vendor will include the trainer being able to offer the same course in Spanish and English in different geographic locations (Latin America, US, and elsewhere), award successful completion of the course with a standard ISO 9001 Lead Auditor Certificate, and offer Continuing Education credits.

IOIA needs to position itself to provide the training that will enable existing organic inspectors to do the work and provide the services that industry may require. Organic inspectors need to seek out and complete additional training that may be needed to secure their livelihood in a changing environment.

Action Point: Margaret will continue to work toward IOIA's offering ISO 9001 Lead Auditor Training.

Agenda Item #5 Committee Reports:

a. Canadian Committee: Recommendation on Guelph Organic Conference

Margaret requested a recommendation from the Board to decide between IOIA's sponsorship of the Guelph Conference (cost: \$475) or a table (cost: \$175). Input from Janine and Garry, both familiar with this conference, indicates that while sponsorship is not critical, IOIA presence would be useful. The Board recommended to Margaret that IOIA requests a table.

b. Accreditation Committee

May 20 Discussion: Allocation of funds for conference calls for the Accreditation Review Panel (ARP) could help facilitate committee meetings to review October and March-deadline applicants for IOIA accreditation.

Move: Jack Second: Ann Motion: Allocate funds as needed for conference calls for the Accreditation Review Panel and the Accreditation Committee to meet. Endorse: All

The Board agreed to appoint Garry, as the new Vice-chair, to be the Board liaison to the Accreditation Committee and ARP.

Action Point: Garry, as Board liaison to the Accreditation Committee and ARP, and Margaret will notify Mike Wise, Chair of the ARP, and Jake Lewin, Chair of the Accreditation Committee, that the Board has allocated funds for their committee to meet via conference call and encourages them to utilize this resource.

June 17 update: The Accreditation Committee's ARP has met and letters have been mailed out to October applicants advising them of their IOIA accreditation status. An ARP meeting is planned for June 22 to make decisions on the spring round of applicants. The committee reported that they are pleased to be able to meet via conference call.

c. **Ethics Committee**

Background: Several years ago IOIA spent about \$1000 dealing with a complaint related to a violation of the Code of Ethics. A nominal filing fee of \$50 was instituted. In reality, \$50 would not be nearly enough to cover the cost of addressing a complaint. The rationale was to discourage trivial complaints and offset the costs to IOIA of dealing with a complaint. Since that time we have not had a single ethics complaint. An IOIA member recently brought up the concern that a fee of \$50 could be a deterrent to someone bringing forward a legitimate complaint. It is in IOIA's interest to address any unethical conduct of its members.

Action Point: Margaret will express this concern to Ethics Committee, and ask them to develop a recommendation regarding the \$50 fee. She will then respond to the person concerned about this matter.

Agenda Item #6 New Business: IOIA Forum and Website Job Board

Request from Members: Three inspectors have requested that IOIA not post inspector job announcements on the Forum because they felt that this procedure placed them in competition with other inspectors for work. Brian requested a moratorium on posting certifiers' position announcements on the Forum until this matter could be discussed.

The Board considered various questions related to this request during the May 20 call. Posting of job announcements has generally been considered an inspector service. Announcements are also posted to the IOIA website job board. They can be sent out on the inspector's Listserve. We considered a requirement that certifiers wishing to post job announcements include IOIA membership and/or IOIA accreditation in their list of qualifications. We discussed a requirement for supporting membership of IOIA by certifiers who wish to post inspector job announcements.

[In]Action Point May 20: The moratorium on posting certifier job announcements to the Forum will remain in place until the June meeting when we anticipate a decision.

June 17: The Board continued discussion of the job posting issue, weighing the value of the membership service of posting job offerings against three members' concerns about posting notices from a particular certifier on the Forum.

Moved: Dag Second: Ann Motion: The IOIA office will post all relevant job opportunities to the IOIA website. Staff will send out a notice on the inspector listserv (not on the Forum) about the notice that is posted on the website.

Criteria for posting:

- The Certifier requesting the posting is an IOIA supporting member.
- If the job is an inspector job, it is recommended that the certifier hire IOIA members.

Action Point June 17: Brian will contact the people who were concerned about this and inform them of the Board's decision.

Agenda Item #7 Long-range Planning: Action Point from 14 March 04 minutes: Summarize and recommend 3 or 4 organizational priorities and specific goals or products that we will have accomplished by next year's AGM. Circulate these ideas by email to all BOD.

The Board decided to move this item to the agenda of the August Board meeting. The input gained from the AGM is interconnected; the Board's task is to develop an integrated action plan based on what we heard as priorities from the membership (training, accreditation program, needs of inspector members, certifiers' needs for inspectors, and IOIA's organizational development).

Action Points:

- Garry will send the Board an article written by Donella Meadows on systems thinking.
- All BOD: Do the Action Point from 14 March 04 meeting minutes: Summarize and recommend 3 or 4 organizational priorities and specific goals or products that we will have accomplished by next year's AGM. Circulate these ideas by email to all BOD members.
- Brian will contact Board members from whom we have not received notes about priorities, and will compile all responses.

Agenda Item #8 Executive Director's Report

a. CSREES Grant Proposal In the May portion of this meeting, Margaret and Ann reported that they are working on developing a collaborative proposal with the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) for submission to CSREES. The deadline to apply is June 10. The Board gave their blessings to the process of developing such a proposal that includes assessment of training, adapting and testing a training curriculum for producer and technical service provider audiences.

In the June portion of the meeting, Margaret reported that she has submitted the proposal to CSREES with IOIA as the Principal Investigator (PI). In addition to being a tremendous effort and an education in the process of seeking funds, the process of applying for this grant has affirmed that IOIA has built relationships and is recognized as a viable player in this work. The letters of support were encouraging, both in number and content. We expect to be notified in the Fall whether it has been funded. The Board acknowledged Margaret's hard work in the valuable and difficult learning process of developing and submitting such a collaborative grant proposal.

Agenda #9 Training Manager Report

a. CAPS progress See also Item 4 in Margaret's report. CAPS began as an ambitious project. While it has accomplished sharing of curriculum ideas, it has not yet resulted in the development of a standardized IOIA curriculum for all topic areas. At least part of the difficulty has been reliance on volunteers, especially when they are being asked to contribute to the development of curriculum and teaching materials over which IOIA hopes to retain the copyright. On a separate note, funding of a grant proposal could provide IOIA with some funding for curriculum development. [see **Minutes**, page 15]

USDA Sued Over Secrecy of Organic Agriculture Records

Agency Refuses To Provide Documentation on Those It Has Allowed to Certify Organic Food

In order to address the growing threat to the integrity of national organic food standards, the Center for Food Safety (CFS) filed a lawsuit on August 5 against the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in U.S. District Court. The lawsuit seeks release of documents detailing the qualifications and background of the organic food certifiers that it allows to participate in the national organic food program.

Appropriate certification of organic farms is the fundamental enforcement mechanism of organic food standards. Fueling public concern over a reduction in the integrity of the new "organic" label is the appearance of numerous new, previously unknown certifying agents applying to the USDA for accreditation. Since 2000, the number of organic certifying agents has jumped from 49 to over 120. This unexpected increase in the number of accreditation applicants raises troubling questions about possible "sham" certifiers and the USDA's ability to properly assess the qualifications of the large volume of new certifiers seeking accreditation.

Recent accounts of inconsistent and potentially illegal clarifications on organic standards from the USDA calls into question whether the agency is adequately reviewing and scrutinizing all organic certifying agents it has allowed into the national organic program. In an effort to ensure that USDA is not allowing "sham" certifiers into the organic program, in June of 2002, CFS filed a Freedom of Information Act request seeking all USDA documents used in reviewing the application of certifiers to participate in the program. For over two years the USDA has stonewalled and refused to provide CFS with the documents.

"USDA's failure to release these documents threatens the integrity of the "organic" label," stated Joseph Mendelson, CFS Legal Director. "The decision on who is to certify organic produce needs to be in full view of the public, where it cannot be influenced by large corporate interests."

"The refusal to provide these records is another step in the Bush Administration's attempt to cut the public out of the debate concerning organic foods," continued Mendelson. "Consumers and organic producers want to ensure that use of the organic label adheres to a high standard," Mendelson concluded.

The Center for Food Safety works to protect human health and the environment by curbing the proliferation of harmful food production technologies and by promoting organic and other forms of sustainable agriculture. For info, www.centerforfoodsafety.org

Harvey Suit Update

To give readers an idea of where things stand in Arthur Harvey's suit against the USDA, we include the table of contents from the recent Friends of the Court brief that was filed thru the Farmer's Legal Action Group.

Arthur Harvey, Plaintiff/Appellant, v. Ann Veneman, Secretary, USDA, Defendant/Appellee

ON APPEAL FROM A JUDGMENT OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE

BRIEF OF AMICI CURIAE

RURAL ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL-USA, CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY, AND

BEYOND PESTICIDES IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF/APPELLANT

STATEMENT OF IDENTITY OF AMICI CURIAE, THEIR INTERESTS IN THE CASE, AND SOURCE OF AUTHORITY

INTRODUCTION

ARGUMENT

I. The Secretary's Rule-making Authority Does Not Extend to the Adoption of Regulations that are Inconsistent with the Act.

A. The Regulation Allowing Use of the Term Organic to Describe Food that Has Been Processed Using Synthetic Substances Is Unlawful.

1. The Act Prohibits the Use of Synthetic Substances in Organic Food Handling, with Narrow Exceptions Not Pertinent Here

2. The Regulation Allowing the Use of Synthetic Substances in Food Handling, Beyond the Use Necessary to Comply with Specific Food Safety Laws, is Inconsistent with the Act.

B. The Regulation Allowing Milk from Dairy Animals Not Fed Organic Feed During the Entire Twelve Months Prior to Sale to Be Labeled Organic Is Unlawful.

1. The OFPA Requires that Organic Livestock be Given Organic Feed.

2. The Regulation Allowing 80% Organic Feed for Dairy Animals During Much of the Year Before Sale of the Milk as Organic is Inconsistent with the Act.

II. When Possible, The National Organic Program Regulations Should Be Construed in Such a Way as to Render them Consistent with the Act.

CONCLUSION For the foregoing reasons, Amici Curiae respectfully request that this Court find in favor of Plaintiff-Appellant.

Dated: June 14, 2004. Respectfully submitted, s/ Jill E. Krueger Ę

Certified Organic Strawberry Stock in California

CCOF has certified a California producer that is the first in the nation to provide 100% organic strawberry planting stock. Prather Ranch says it is taking orders for its nursery stock that will be available in the spring of 2005.

NOP regulations require the use of organic seed and planting stock when it is available. Until now, commercial strawberry nursery stock has not been available and conventional strawberry growers use methyl bromide to mitigate potential pest and disease problems. For more info contact rickertjames@yahoo.com

Minutes, from page 13

In the meantime, Lisa has informed us in her report of her decision to resign as Chair of CAPS. While the idea of CAPS was sound and the efforts to date commendable, the committee and its work plan may need to be redesigned.

Lisa and Margaret have begun to create a Master Training Procedures Manual, and have created spreadsheets for organizing trainings and programmed these into checklists with key tasks and crucial deadlines. In draft are Co-sponsor and Trainer contracts for work on individual trainings (in addition to Pool Agreement) with specific tasks. Procedures will be enhanced by creating consistent contract templates, standardizing co-sponsor fees, Trainer payment procedures, and changing terminology to increase clarity. For example, IOIA will offer only 2 types of trainings: cosponsor-managed trainings (which Lisa manages), and IOIA-managed trainings (which Margaret manages). "TCs" will be called simply "Trainers". The composition and procedures of the Training Oversight Committee (TOC) will be refined to address potential conflicts of interest and procedural inefficiencies (to be addressed in greater detail in the August Board meeting, with input gathered from current TOC members). The Training Managers propose to increase efficiency in IOIA's responsiveness to training opportunities.

Action Point:

- Margaret will send out the summary of the work with Lisa to the Board.
- All BOD will comment by email and adopt the Implementation Plan by next meeting.

Agenda Item #10 Regional Training Manager Report (submitted in writing)

It is important to consider Lisa's time in planning and implementing trainings, development of training materials, analysis of training audience profiles, design of training as a product, and marketing of IOIA's trainings in the context of IOIA's business plan. The second contract offered to Lisa addresses some of this work.

Agenda Item #11 Adjournment

The May 20 portion of the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 pm EST. The June 17 meeting was adjourned at 10:30 pm EST. È



Update on Creekstone Farms Efforts at BSE Testing

We received this reply to a recent query *The Inspectors' Report* made to Creekstone Farms regarding efforts to test their herds for BSE or Madcow.Disease, from Brad Caudill, SVP Marketing for Creekstone Farms.

"No further action on the private BSE testing issue has occurred. In fact, the USDA has flatly said they have no plans to revisit their decision of last April to prohibit such testing.

"Recently a cattle producer group called R-CALF sent a letter to secretary Veneman urging her to reverse her decision and allow companies such as Creekstone to test for BSE if they so desire. There has been no response to that letter and I doubt that there will be any response soon. USDA and R-CALF are not the best of friends these days.

"We at Creekstone Farms are not planning on any legal action at this time. We considered it, but legal action could take years of effort and millions of dollars. Have you ever tried to sue the government? Thus we are moving ahead with our source-verified (TRUSTMARK) program, as well as our new natural Black Angus program which launched this week.

"Up until now we have been able to source verify one full day's worth of production at our plant -- approximately 1,000 head. With the launch of our new natural beef program, an even greater percentage of our production will be source verified.

"The Creekstone Farms Natural Black Angus program is a unique, breed-specific natural program where cattle have never received growth promotants or antibiotics at any point in their lives. As well, these cattle have been raised on a 100% vegetarian diet since birth. They are also 100% source verified (born and raised in the USA), and all the beef is guaranteed tender. This is not an organic program - nor will it ever be - as we do not feed 100% organic feed (corn and alfalfa) because there simply is not enough organic grain to meet our cattle feeding needs.

"This new natural program will not replace our existing premium Black Angus program, it will be in addition to current production. We hope to soon be producing 1,000 head of natural beef per week. Next year by this time we would like to be the country's largest producer of all natural cattle. It's a lofty goal, but with our state-of-the-art plant, it is definitely achievable.

"Thanks for contacting us for an update. Please let me know if there is any additional information we can provide." È

The Next Frontier? Fungal Developments

Paul Stamets "is currently developing organic 'pesticides' using mushroom cultures that may truly liberate agriculture from pesticide use by harnessing the symbiotic relationship nature has developed." Stamets spoke about his work at the November 2003 Oregon Tilth conference in Bellingham, Washington. Audio tapes of the conference, including Stamets keynote, are available for \$7.50 plus shipping from Richard Reese, 206-850-9654, richardcedar@msn.com. Stamets will be speaking again at the upcoming Tilth 30th Anniversary Conference, November 12-14 in Jantzen Beach, Oregon, as well as at the Bioneers Conference in San Rafael, California, in October (www.bioneers.org).

GMO NEWS

Monsanto Pulls Out of GE Canola in Australia

Monsanto has decided to withdraw its intention to commercialise Genetically Engineered (GE) canola in Australia 24 hours after it announced it is withdrawing its intention to commercialise GE wheat in North America and maize in the United Kingdom.

"Australia's organic industry was significantly threatened by Monsanto's plans to commercialise GE canola in Australia given the disastrous historical contamination of organic crops in Canada and North America", said Scott Kinnear, spokesperson for the Biological Farmers of Australia.

BFA Online Newsletter, June 2004

Roundup-immune Weed Galloping Across Indiana

An herbicide-resistant weed that arrived in Indiana two years ago isn't standing still.

Marestail populations that are immune to glyphosate were first identified in 2002 in the southeast Indiana counties of Jackson, Bartholomew, Clark, Jefferson and Jennings.

Recent field inspections by Purdue University researchers found the weeds in another 15 counties to the north and west, said Bill Johnson, Purdue Extension weed specialist.

Glyphosate is the active ingredient in many herbicides, including Roundup. Indiana farmers annually plant millions of acres in crops genetically modified to withstand Roundup applications. This year alone, 88 percent of the state's projected 5.45 million acres of soybeans are expected to be Roundup Ready varieties.

"We had a few isolated fields in southeast Indiana that were showing poor control of marestail with glyphosate in 2001 and 2002," Johnson said. "By late 2002 we'd confirmed glyphosate resistance in four counties, and we highly suspected it in six additional counties.

"We did some extensive field surveying in the fall of 2003 and now believe we've found glyphosate-resistant marestail in about 19 counties, mostly in southeastern Indiana," Johnson said.

Marestail -- also known as horseweed -- is a thin-leafed annual weed that can

grow to more than 6 feet tall if undisturbed. The weed produces seed in July and August but can emerge at almost any time during the year.

"This weed is problematic for a number of reasons," Johnson said. "First and foremost, the weed's biology allows it to behave not only as a winter annual but also as a summer annual. I'm convinced that this weed can germinate and grow any time the soil is not frozen."

He said the second reason marestail is troublesome is that it already has developed resistance to ALS inhibitors and triazines.

"So we're running out of effective tools to manage the weed," Johnson said.

Aceto-lactase synthase (ALS) inhibitors kill weeds by preventing them from producing essential amino acids necessary for growth. Triazine herbicides work by interrupting a weed's photosynthesis.

Marestail's ability to reproduce poses a third challenge, Johnson said.

"The seed of this weed spreads rapidly. Because it's so adaptable, the weed easily could become a predominant weed on our landscape, much as giant ragweed, giant foxtail and velvetleaf have done," he said.

Farmers are relying too much on glyphosate-based herbicides, according to Johnson. If farmers begin noticing glyphosate-resistant marestail in their fields, one option is to utilize 2,4-D in their burndown applications next year.

"We know that 2,4-D is very effective on these weeds, so farmers need to use it in their burndown if they have marestail in their field, regardless of whether they think it is glyphosate-resistant," Johnson said.

[Note how farmers are now being instructed to routinely use the endocrine disrupting herbicide 2,4-D in order to cope with the growing problem of Roundup resistance. They are being advised to do this regardless of whether they are yet experiencing resistance problems.-Ed]

Chronicle-Tribune, May 26, 2004

Great news from Quebec

The Quebec parliamentary Committee on Agriculture unanimously adopted on June 11 a report on food safety that recommends among other (good) things:

1) ...that the Quebec government impose mandatory labelling for GE food. In the case of GE products derived from GE or containing GE, mandatory labelling standards regarding the minimum threshold be harmonized with the one

adopted by the European Union (e.g. 0.9%) (page 37 - recommendation 18).

2) that the Quebec government supports research on the impacts on biotechnologies in order to evaluate the advantages and the risks associated with genetic engineering in the areas of human health and the environment (page 39, recommendation 20).

3) that the Quebec government put pressure on the Federal government (of Canada) to adopt mandatory labelling of products from GE instead of the voluntary norms (page 38, recommendation 19).

4) that the Quebec government put in place an integrated policy regarding food safety (page 40, recommendation 21).

See the report (in french only) at:

<http://www.assnat.qc.ca/fra/37legislature/1/commissions/capa/aliment/rapalimentaire.html>

Biotech Trials in UK Down to One

All the major biotechnology companies have abandoned GM trials in the UK this year and only one crop - a GM pea - has been granted a licence to be planted this summer.

The lack of applications, which peaked at 159 in 2000-2001, shows a dramatic change in the fortunes of a technology which had the backing of the government but remains unpopular with the public.

Although the figures of field trials were inflated by the bio-tech companies' three-year trials of oilseed rape, sugar beet and maize, the slump to 140 in 2001-2002, 42 last year and only one trial this year is a remarkable decline for what the government claims is a sunrise industry.

All the big companies - Novartis Seeds, Aventis CropScience and Bayer CropScience - have told the government that no crops are being grown this year. The largest British research centres, including the Natural Environment Research Council, which uses the Rothamsted research establishment at Harpenden in Hertfordshire, have also stopped GM trials.

The failure to test further varieties of crops is interpreted by industry watchers as despair at ever getting the technology accepted in Britain. Sue Mayer, of Genewatch, said: "It is a sign of how fully the British public has rejected GM, and how the companies are giving up. It is reflected across the rest of Europe. Research is now being directed elsewhere to other ways of improving crops which do not involve GM."

In 2002, when there were 140 licences issued to grow GM crops, 105 were associated with the government's trials to see whether three key crops were better or worse for the environment than conventional varieties.

Another 17 were unrelated trials to check whether GM crops reseeded in subsequent years, and others were to test whether crops such as GM barley and potatoes were successful in the British climate.

Last year Bayer abandoned further field trials because of government insistence that it should give grid references of plantings. The company claimed that as a result most of its trials had been "trashed" by GM opponents. The government still maintains its enthusiasm for GM crops, which it says it will be dealt with on a crop by crop basis after applications. *The Guardian*

StarLink lawsuit moving closer to resolution

Corn farmers who filed claims last year as part of the class action lawsuit against StarLink corn may soon receive compensation for their losses, according to the National Corn Growers Association.

Thousands of growers who grew corn between 1998 and 2002 were eligible to receive a recovery from the "Non-StarLink Farmer Actions" settlement. After repeated inquiries by the Nebraska Corn Board, the Garden City Group a New York-based law firm, revealed that more than 150,000 claims were filed and just 6% of those claims were deficient, NCGA reported, adding that growers who filed deficient claims should have received a letter explaining how to correct the claim.

"The StarLink dilemma was an unfortunate situation for all corn growers, not just those who used the StarLink product," NCGA said in a statement. "Corn prices dropped significantly as a result of the situation and that impacted the entire industry. We're glad to see that qualified corn growers will finally be recouped for some of the lost market opportunities they experienced."

NCGA called the settlement "a step in the right direction, but payments amount to little more than 'a drop in the bucket' for farmers who experienced significant losses because of the StarLink disaster."

StarLink Logistics and Advanta USA agreed to pay a total of \$112.2 million, including interest, to fund the settlement for non-StarLink

commercial corn farmers nationwide. The Garden City Group estimated that farmers who qualify for a settlement would likely receive \$1 to \$2 per affected acre in the form of a prepaid debit card.

For more info on the lawsuit, go to <http://www.nonstarlinkfarmerssettlement.com/>

Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News, June 14, 2004

Biotech investment busy going nowhere

Biotechnology is the answer to problems ranging from hunger in Africa and Asia to obesity in the West. This was the upbeat message from the industry's promotional showcase, the BIO 2004 conference, which took place in San Francisco in June. In its press release launching the conference, BIO (the Biotechnology Industry Organisation) trumpeted, "the biotechnology industry is performing well across a variety of financial and product development measures."

But not everyone was persuaded. This year's media coverage of the annual event was decidedly cynical. A report in the *Asia Times* commented, "For many in the scientific community, the smorgasbord of marketing claims merely adds to the credibility problems that are piling up against genetic engineering, especially as its base claims of boosting food output have not been realized." Another jaded reporter, David Ewing, wrote in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "As of yet, most of what I'm looking for here is in the 'promise' category - and has been each year I have come to this ever-larger industry fete." And disappointment at the biotech industry's unfulfilled promises is reflected in its falling bottom line. As the *New Zealand Herald* said, "Investment in genetically modified food is drying up in the world's biggest GM market, the United States, because consumers in the rest of the world are not willing to buy its products." Roger Wyse of San Francisco-based Burrill and Company, the biggest investment firm focused on life sciences, said the consumer backlash against GMOs had forced a lull in projects aimed at modifying food. "We are probably looking at three, four or five years before the GMO issue subsides sufficiently that we will feel comfortable investing in it," he said.

Lack of investment has led to massive losses. Back to Ewing: "Last year, this industry lost \$5.4 billion, and has lost a staggering \$57.7 billion since BIO last held its annual conference in San Francisco in 1994, according to an Ernst and Young study. Only a few companies have been consistently profitable in the 30 years since biotech was born - a few, such as Amgen and Genentech, fantastically so. Remove them, and the losses and numbers are far worse for the rest of the industry."

An article in the usually biotech-bullish *Wall Street Journal* (20 May) drove home the point. The heading, "Biotech's dismal bottom line: More than \$40 billion in losses", eloquently summarised the story. The article continued, "Biotechnology... may yet turn into an engine of economic growth and cure deadly diseases. But it's hard to argue that it's a good investment. Not only has the biotech industry yielded negative financial returns for decades, it generally digs its hole deeper every year."

In the absence of consumer takeup of its products, says the *Wall Street Journal*, selling stocks has become a biotech industry lifeline. In 2003, US biotech firms raised almost USD4 billion by selling new stock to investors, according to Burrill & Co. The same year, US biotechs as a group posted almost that much in losses. Only 12 of the 50 largest biotechs turned a profit in 2003.

Within this framework of religious extremism, it is a small step to the type of language found in the Nuffield Council report and repeated by biotech 'evangelists' such as Derek Burke, which insists on the "moral imperative for investment into GM crop research in developing countries". And once that article of faith is swallowed, it is but another small step to appropriating public money to promote and export biotech to the third world under the guise of aid and development programmes. As private finance for biotech dries up, the industry is increasingly turning to government to provide investment to force the crops the West doesn't want into Africa and Asia. The British government has already quietly sunk over GBP13m of public money into such projects via the Dept for International Development during a period of intense domestic disquiet over GM. It has also sunk further money, along with USAID, into the Nairobi-based African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) project to push GM crops into Africa.

What is so insidious about this, as Dr Tewolde Egziabher, the head of Ethiopia's Environmental Protection Authority, has noted, is that "the moral imperative is in fact the opposite. The [See **Nowhere**, page 18]

Nowhere, from page 17

policy of drawing funds away from low-cost sustainable agriculture research, towards hi-tech, exclusive, expensive and unsafe technology is itself ethically questionable. There is a strong moral argument that the funding of GM technology in agriculture is harming the long-term sustainability of agriculture in the developing world."

Nobody should be in any doubt that the GM lobby's real aim has little to do with feeding the hungry. It is to shore up GM research in the UK in the face of industry's current retreat, to associate the technology in the official mind with the public interest, and to give GM's public relations campaigns a charitable face.

Institute of Science in Society,
By Claire Robinson
ISIS Press Release 13/07/04
This entire article can be found on the
I-SIS website at
<http://www.i-sis.org.uk/BIBGN.php>

Puerto Rico's Biotech Harvest

By Carmelo Ruiz-Marrero
AlterNet, July 13, 2004

Puerto Rico, known for its pineapples and its world-renowned coffee crop, now has a new crop: the biotech harvest.

Much of the GE corn and soybean seed planted in the United States comes from this Caribbean island. Furthermore, Puerto Rico is also a preferred location for agricultural biotechnology experiments. According to data from the US Department of Agriculture, between 1987 and 2002, the island hosted 2,957 such experiments. This figure was surpassed only by Iowa (3,831), Illinois (4,104) and Hawaii (4,566).

When one considers the vast difference in size (Illinois and Iowa have just over 50,000 sq. miles each, whereas Puerto Rico has less than 4,000 sq. miles) it becomes evident that Puerto Rico has more such experiments per square mile than any state, with the possible exception of Hawaii. Puerto Rico also tops California, with 1,709 experiments, although it is approximately 40 times larger than PR and has a vastly larger agricultural output.

These experiments are mostly aimed at the two most widely used GE traits:

herbicide resistance (like Roundup Ready crops) and insect control (like the insecticidal Bt corn). But they also include research on biopharmaceutical crops -- plants that produce pharmaceutical and industrial chemicals in their tissues -- and has also included the controversial "Terminator" crops, which produce sterile seed.

Why Puerto Rico?

The island's friendly tropical weather permits as many as four harvests per year, making it a favorite for seed breeders for agribusiness and biotechnology corporations like Dow, Syngenta, Pioneer and Monsanto, which got together in 1996 to form the PR Seed Research Association (AISPR).

But another reason for choosing Puerto Rico is its "good political climate." Puerto Rico is not an independent country, nor is it a state of the American union. It is an "unincorporated territory." Puerto Ricans are US citizens subject to US laws, yet they cannot vote in presidential elections and have no representation in Congress. There are no anti-biotech campaigns or protesters, not even the mildest criticism. If the American people are for the most part unaware of genetic engineering and food biotechnology issues, the people of Puerto Rico are blissfully in the dark.

Uncontrolled Experiments

The aforementioned genetic experiments in Puerto Rico are not carried out in sealed greenhouses or fermentation vats. "These are outdoor, uncontrolled experiments," said Bill Freese, of FoE USA. "These experimental GE traits are almost certainly contaminating conventional crops just as the commercialized GE traits are. And the experimental GE crops aren't even subject to the cursory rubber-stamp 'approval' process that commercialized GE crops go through -- so I think the high concentration of experimental GE crop trials in Puerto Rico is definitely cause for concern."

I asked P.R. agriculture secretary Luis Rivero-Cubano if he thought GE crops were any reason for concern. He said that the GE fields here are "just experimental." The agriculture secretary himself seemed unaware of the massive commercial production of GE seed right here in Puerto Rico.

Next on my list was the USDA, which has to approve every open-air biotech crop field test. None of Department's employees seemed to know anything about genetically engineered crops. After an exasperating and fruitless exchange, one of them provided me a USDA phone number in Washington, which turned out to be that of the Meat and Poultry Inspection Service.

Finally, I tried the P.R. Environmental Quality Board. No dice. A spokeswoman said that since Puerto Rico has no laws or regulations for GM crops, it has no mandate to intervene or investigate.

<http://www.alternet.org/envirohealth/19220/>
Puerto Rican journalist Carmelo Ruiz-Marrero directs the Puerto Rico Project on Biosafety. He is also a Research Associate of the Institute for Social Ecology, a fellow of the Environmental Leadership Program, and a senior fellow of the Society of Environmental Journalists.

Latin American Ag Articles Online via New Farm

Traveler **Don Lotter** is driving thru Mexico and Latin America on a farm tour and has posted several articles to date with more to come. The series of articles Lotter is writing is for The New Farm magazine on agriculture and farmers in Latin America.

The latest article is on the dynamic cooperative of 300 small farmers in southern Baja California organized by California organic produce company Jacob's Farm/del Cabo. This arrangement could serve as a model for how private enterprise in the US teams with smallholders in Mexico.

http://www.newfarm.org/international/pan-am_don/july04/index.shtml

First two articles in the Latin America agriculture series:

- Final reflections on U.S. agriculture before bowling into Baja:

http://www.newfarm.org/international/pan-am_don/may04/cali.shtml

- Wine, olives, and nopales in Baja California:

http://www.newfarm.org/international/pan-am_don/june04/index.shtml

Five more articles on Mexico are upcoming, as the author travels down to Central America.

You can get on his email list direct for when articles come out. He is:

Don Lotter

Email: don@donlotter.com

www.donlotter.com

Notes, from page 1

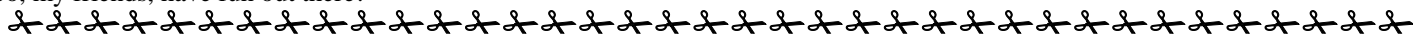
course I would have certainly pointed out during the inspection (like they didn't know it already). So what do you, as an inspector, do when a farmer asks "any suggestions?" Do we cower behind the "It isn't allowed to give you any advice" or do we offer up things that we have seen work in other situations? This is a tough call, yes? No I don't think so. It is **how these are offered** that makes the difference. Are questions that an inspector poses *ideas* or *advise*? Questions like, have you tried this or that to work with soils in this condition? Or, why are you so sure you can't cultivate again? In many of the IOIA trainings that I have taken it is always stressed to ask questions and ask them in different ways. This not only gets you clear (er) answers, it also can help the thought processes of a producer to look at things from more than one perspective. Stimulation and/or motivation to continue to try and not give up is not giving advice or consulting, it is good organic inspector practices and procedures (at least as far as I'm concerned).

One question that was posed to me recently was from a farmer who mentioned that he has had a number of recent health problems. He said he is currently taking a number of strong medications and wondered if when he is working in the field and has to pee if he can do that. I responded that this may fall under one of the big 3 prohibited and he may need to get an analysis done. The response from the farmer I will refrain from putting into print. Now, telling a producer that they can "un-treat" seed by tumbling it in a sand/DE mix or washing in a mild chlorine solution and then with clean water, this is a problem. (I have heard from producers that both suggestions were offered to them by inspectors, this season.)

So where is inspecting going? Are you wondering what the future is holding for inspectors? I know that I am. There have been several new directions that I have seen certifiers moving towards or at least considering. Like stronger food safety issues, concerns of food security and how to adapt to new USDA regulations for both of these. IOIA is aware of these issues and wants to work with certifiers in keeping our inspectors aware and trained. What new changes or challenges have you seen this season? Your continued input to IOIA is critical to you and the industry in adding to IOIA's continued education of informed and qualified inspectors. Always feel free to offer your suggestions, insight and questions.

Doing what we do is good, honorable work. Keep in mind that it is also **service** and when doing work of service we must always remain a little subservient. Holding your head high in humility and having your heart open to the earth is a great way to approach life, or at least the next inspection.

So, my friends, have fun out there!



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2004 Calendar

August 23, IOIA and Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre will co-sponsor Basic Organic Farm/Process Inspector training, Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong. See page 3 of this issue for details. For info contact Ms. Sharon Chan at 852-3411-2384 or sharonc@hkbu.edu.hk.

August 30 - September 3, Dou-liou, Yun-lin, Taiwan. IOIA and Florida Organic Growers/Quality Certification Services will co-sponsor a Basic Organic Farm Inspector Training. See page 3 for details. Contact either Dr. Hsin Shan Lin in Taiwan at: 011-886-5534-5884 or 011-886-910-563378 or Lhss@mail.tit.edu.tw or Marty Mesh in Florida, US at 352-377-6345, fog@foginfo.org for applications and info.

Sept 7-11, 6th IFOAM-Asia Scientific Conference in Yangpyong, Republic of Korea; for info, <http://www.rioa.or.kr/ifoam/main-eng.htm>; or contact Dr. Sang Mok Sohn, phone +82-41-550-3633; fax +82-41-568-3633; smsohn@dku.edu.

Sept 8 - 10, BioFach America Latina, Rio de Janeiro, <http://www.ifoam.org>

Sept 10-12, "Natural Patterns and Permaculture Principles: Ecological Design Workshop," two-and-one-half day workshop in Half Moon Bay, CA; contact Bioneers, (831) 338-1202; agworkshops@bioneers.org; http://www.bioneers.org/rdi/eco_design.html.

Sept 18-19, 5th Annual Rocky Mountain Sustainable Living Fair. in Fort Collins, CO; contact Kellie Falbo, (970) 224-FAIR; kellie@poudre.com; www.sustainablelivingfair.org/about.html.

September 20-21, "Biotech Bugs: A Look at the Science and Policy Surrounding the Release of Genetically Modified Insects," in Washington, DC; contact Pew Initiative on Food and Biotechnology, (202) 347-9044; <http://www.pewagbiotech.org>. (Note: Free registration, space limited.)

Sept 21 - 23, BioFach Japan, <http://www.ifoam.org>

September 23-24, IOIA Advanced Inspector Training, Great Falls, MT. see p. 3 for more details or contact IOIA at ioia@ioia.net

Sept 24, October 7, 22, and 23, "Livestock Nutrition and Healthcare," 3-part course on ruminants including natural and organic-approved treatments, sponsored by NOFA Vermont, Northeast SARE, and USDA Risk Management Agency, in Burlington, VT; contact NOFA-VT, (802) 933-6965; sarahf@globalnetisp.net.

Sep 28-October 1, "Creating a New Vision for the Future," Latin American Soil, Food, and People Conference, co-sponsored by Ecology Action, ECOPOL, and EARTH University, in Costa Rica; for info, www.growbiointensive.org/costa-rica-conference/index.html.

Oct 1-7 IOIA and Hawaii Organic Farmers Association will co-sponsor Basic Organic Farm Inspector training, Kalopa State Park, Hawaii. See page 3 for details. Contact Kelly Lange of HOFA at 808-969-7789 or hofa@hawaiiorganicfarmers.org

Oct 6-8, IFOAM Conference on Organic Coffee, Kampala, Uganda. For info, www.organiccoffeeconference.org or IFOAM.

Oct 12-14, NOSB Meeting, see page 2.

Oct 13-22, IOIA and NJ Dept of Ag will co-sponsor Basic Farm/Process Inspector training in Elmer, New Jersey in conjunction with Advanced Inspector Training. See page 3 for details.

Oct 14, OTA Congressional Day, see page 2.

Oct 15-17, Annual Bioneers Conference, in San Rafael, CA; contact 505-986-0366 or 1-877-246-6337; <http://www.bioneers.org>.

Oct. 15-17, BioFach America in Washington DC, <http://www.ifoam.org>

Oct 31-November 3, Annual International Research Conference on Methyl Bromide Alternatives and Emissions Reductions, sponsored by Methyl Bromide Alternatives

Outreach (MBAO) in cooperation with Crop Protection Coalition, U.S. EPA, and USDA, in Orlando, FL; contact MBAO, (559) 449-9035; <http://www.mbao.org>.

Oct 24-November 6, "Workshop and Forum on Globalization and Food Systems," scientific workshop and science-policy forum to focus on interactions between globalization and global environmental change, and implications food systems and food security, in Nicoya, Costa Rica; contact IAI, phone +55-12-3945-6856; fax +55-12-3941-4410; i2004-geci@dir.iai.int; <http://www.institutes.iai.int/2004GECI.htm>.

November (date to be announced), "Organic Connections," Western Canada's Premier Organic Conference, in Saskatoon, SK; contact Debbie Miller, organicconnection@hotmail.com; <http://organic.usask.ca/organicconnectionsconference.htm>.

Nov 4-6, 12th Annual National Small Farm Trade Show & Conference, including Farmers Forum, in Columbia, MO; for info, (573) 687-3525; smallfarm@socket.net; <http://www.smallfarmtoday.com>;

Nov 5-7, annual Farmer-to-Farmer Conference, organized by MOFGA and Maine Cooperative Extension, in Bar Harbor, ME; Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Assn, (207) 568-4142; mofga@mofga.org; <http://www.mofga.org/events.html>.

Nov 12-14, "Tilth: Transforming the World One Fork at a Time," 30th Anniversary Conference of Tilth Producers of Washington, Oregon Tilth, and all northwest Tilth Organizations, in Portland, OR; contact Nancy Allen, (202) 442-7620; nancy@tilthproducers.org; <http://www.tilthproducers.org/calendar.htm>.

December 9-11, "Food as Medicine, Farm as Healer," Acres U.S.A. annual conference, in Minneapolis, MN; contact Acres U.S.A., 1-800-355-5213; info@acresusa.com; <http://www.acresusa.com>.

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INDEPENDENT ORGANIC
INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION
PO Box 6
BROADUS, MT 59317 USA
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