

IOIA Expands Capacity to Support Future Growth

3 talented new people join IOIA team

The pandemic era was difficult for many people and organizations; IOIA was no exception. As our nations and the economy recover, we are excited to expand the support of our core audience: our inspector members, certifiers, and other supporters.

Capacity building is a focused process for non-profit organizations to increase their effectiveness through short-term projects, longer strategic initiatives or in the case of IOIA, the recruitment and hiring of new staff. Investment in key personnel will help us optimize operations, create new programs, and enhance existing offerings. As always, targeted investment is crucial in fulfilling IOIA's mission within the organic community.

An integral part of building capacity in human capital is putting the right people in the right roles, where they can hit the ground running. A methodical recruitment process, coupled with patient teamwork, helps to ensure the best candidates rise to the top. We're delighted to

introduce some new faces who have recently joined our core team, in several key roles. IOIA happily welcomes these passionate, committed team members to the team!

Michele Schahczenski has assumed the role of Webinar Coordinator, for our in-depth series of webinar content. Web-based training is a key component of our service



offering, and an increasingly popular choice for both new and experienced inspector members. Michele is a born & bred Montanan, currently residing and working remotely from Salt Lake City. Service to others and the planet is built right into Michele's DNA, with stints in both AmeriCorps and The Peace Corps. Organic agriculture is near and dear to her heart; she sees it as "an opportunity to protect the environment and our livelihoods, and nurture a robust, resilient regional food system." We couldn't agree more!

Drew Gourdie has begun the inaugural role of Business



Development Director, supporting all of IOIA's strategic and long-term goals. He's a business veteran with 30 years in the trenches, including the past 14 years in the natural & organic sector. His cross-border childhood was split between a 'city life' in Saskatchewan, and his family's ranch in northeastern Montana. Although he currently lives in Toronto, Ontario, his parents continue to reside in Billings,

Montana. Drew is well familiar with all aspects of life as an Organic Inspector, with several years of processing inspections under his belt.

"The role with IOIA is a great opportunity to combine my years of business development work, See Capacity, page 4

Notes from the Chair

by Beth Dominick

For many in the US, the hottest months of the summer are upon us. In July the north coast summer fog cycles back and forth with the sun and you're never quite sure when the sun will break through. August 1st marks the midpoint between summer solstice and autumn equinox. With the peak of the season approaching, harvesting the garden is a daily pleasure.

Likewise, the inspection season is in full swing and I'm glad for the long light filled days. The growth of organic farms, and innovative farm crafted organic products, have led to new inspection experiences, and continued admiration of farmers working with nature to produce healthy food.

See Notes, page 4

Welcome New Members

Inspectors

Upgrading to inspector

Tyler Zander, Ranchos de Taos, NM

New Supporting Individuals

Geri Barone, Frankfort, IL
 Carolyn Geer, Woodville, ON, Canada
 Kristiina Mai, Toronto, ON, Canada
 Kelly O'Roke, Arcata, CA
 LeAnn Powers, Monroe, WI
 Iris Rendon, Port Colborne, ON, Canada

Returning Supporting Individual

Lee Reuter, Las Vegas, NV

**Accreditation Deadline
 October 1**
 to apply or renew.
[Click here for info](#)

If your renewal is coming up, don't delay. Send your requests for certifier evaluations out in advance.

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The Inspectors' Report is the newsletter of International Organic Inspectors Association. IOIA is a 501 (c)(3) educational organization. Our mission is to address issues and concerns relevant to organic inspectors, to provide quality inspector training and to promote integrity and consistency in the organic certification process.
 Editor: [Diane Cooner](#)

WEBINAR Training Schedule for details & to register go to our [website](#)

September 8

Grower Group Certification Update

Various time schedules and pricing, please see our site for details. Trainers: Vitoon Panyakul and Kathe Purvis

[Register and Pay Here](#)

September 12 & 15

100 Level NOP Processing Standards

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Pacific)

Two 3 hour sessions. Trainer: Luis Brenes

[Register and Pay Here](#)

September 19 & 22

100 Level IOIA/COTA COR Processing Standards

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Pacific)

Two 3 hour sessions. Trainer: Kelly Monaghan

[Register and Pay Here](#)

September 29 - Back by Popular Demand!

300 Level Organic Cosmetics

The webinar will prepare participants to audit to organic cosmetic standards from both North America and the EU, both public and private. 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. - 2 p.m. (Pacific)
 Two 2 hour sessions with a one hour break.
 Presented by Gay Timmons, Oh Oh Organics.

[Register and Pay Here](#)

October 3 & 6

100 Level NOP Crop Standards

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Pacific)

Two 3 hour sessions. Trainer: Garry Lane

[Register and Pay Here](#)

October 11

100 Level IOIA/OMRI NOP Processing Input Materials

This webinar is a 100-level course designed as a way for new organic professionals to gain an understanding of the compliance requirements of inputs used within the processing/handling production scope through a discussion and learning session with staff from Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI).
 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (Pacific) One 2 hour session.
 Trainer: Experienced OMRI Trainer

[Register and Pay Here](#)

Webinar Discount Reminder: All inspector members are entitled to take 50% off any one webinar during 2023

Self-Paced Learning Courses

Canadian Organic Regime - COR Series Courses 1 & 2 each take approximately 3 hours to complete. Inspector members price: US\$150 each.

#1 Our Organic Certification System - The Regulation

#2 COR Crop Production Standards

#3 COR Livestock Production Standards **Note:** This is a 10-12 hour course, Member Price US\$275

Remote Inspection Training Free to inspector members; All others \$200.

[Available in English](#) [Tambien disponible en español.](#)

200 level IOIA/American Grassfed Association Grassfed Dairy

Member cost \$325 - \$375 all others.

Live Online Basic Courses 2023 - [see the IOIA site for details](#)

Online Basic Crop Inspection Training, August 21 - 25 Registration closed.

Basic Online Organic Crop Inspection Course September 11 - 22 - Espanol

IOIA and Eco-LOGICA of Costa Rica will cosponsor a Basic Organic Crop Inspection training using USDA National Organic Standards as a reference. For more information about the crop course, contact Nandayure Studt, nstudt@eco-logica.com. Deadline to register: August 18, 2023

Online Basic Processing Inspection Training - September 25 - 29

The 4 ½ -day Basic Inspection Training follows IOIA's curriculum requirements.
Deadline to register: August 14, 2023

IOIA/Asia Pacific Committee Organic Grower Group Inspection Training - Oct. 2 - 6

Organic Grower Group Inspection is an intensive 5 day course for inspectors of certified organic programs; to add grower group inspections to skills base.

Deadline to register: September 24, 2023

Online COR - Basic Processing Inspection Training - October 16 - 20

The 4 ½ -day Basic Organic Processing Inspection Training follows IOIA's curriculum requirements which include: instruction on the organic standards (focus on the COR Standards).

Deadline to register is August 28, 2023.



Online Basic Crop Inspection Training, October 30 - November 3

The 4 ½ -day Basic Inspection Training follows IOIA's curriculum requirements.
Deadline to Register and Apply is Monday, Sept. 11, 2023.

Not finding a training you are looking for or all trainings full?
[Please register here](#) to be contacted by IOIA when that training is available.

Onsite Basic Courses 2023

Japan, Tokyo, Farm Course, online & in-person, October 2023

IOIA and JOIA will cosponsor a 4.5-day Basic Organic Farm Inspection Training using JAS Standards as a reference. The course will be a combination of online and in-person classes. October 3 & 10, 2023 online, and in-person October 23-25, 2023, at Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan. The training language will be Japanese. The course includes a field trip to an organic farm with a mock inspection, as well as a written exam. The IOIA trainer will be Mutsumi Sakuyoshi and other Japanese trainer(s). Please contact JOIA for more information about this training and to register directly with JOIA. E-Mail: info@joia-organic.com

Under Development - Live Online Processing in Spanish

IOIA is pleased to be developing **Basic Processing Inspection Training in Spanish language, cosponsored with AgriVita, Luis Brenes**. If you are interested in this course, please contact [IOIA](#).

Notes from the Chair, from page 1

IOIA continues to be active on behalf of our members. This issue of the newsletter describes upcoming training, opportunities to get involved, new resources, and popular new online courses for inspectors and organic professionals.

The Origin of Livestock rule change has brought renewed focus on the issues involved with raising organic animals and the importance of record keeping and traceability of livestock. Weather challenges from floods to droughts impacted pasture plans, and highlight the resilience of farmers and ranchers.

The ripples of change from Strengthening Organic Enforcement are energizing and invigorating the work in the certifier office. Curiosity leads to new questions that can help refine in system plans and reports. Links in the organic supply chain are emerging as handling activities and exemptions are more clearly defined.

New networking and collaboration opportunities abound for organic professionals and aspiring inspectors. The requirements for ongoing training and continuing education hours inspire and guide us. IOIA's efforts around the world to build fellowship in our community, connections and consistency in the inspectors work continue to be effective. The board of directors appreciates all of the IOIA volunteers, committee members, new and old IOIA staff and contractors, and our allies.



Capacity, from page 1



with my passion for the organic industry. I've proudly supported both large and smaller brands in the organic space, and see this as a logical evolution of my career path... to make an impact at an industry level. I look forward to bringing ideas and energy to the table."

He's already had a week-long visit to the IOIA offices in Montana, and we expect to see him representing the organization both locally, and internationally.

Capacity building is the process of increasing a non-profit's ability to fulfill its mission.

DrewAnne Wenzel will begin her position as IOIA's new Office Manager, beginning in September. Another Montana native, she pursued an educational path through Kansas, before returning to the Broadus MT area in recent years. She and her partner are avid hunters, fishers, & campers. Her role with IOIA was meant to be! She noted: "being part of a team committed to a common goal that benefits people across the world, is a dream come true for me. I'm excited to learn more about the inner workings of the organization and help spread awareness to the importance of organic practices." Welcome aboard, DrewAnne!

IOIA adds a new training video to its toolkit



IOIA is now offering Online Basic COR Livestock Inspection training. Trainer Janine Gibson, Manitoba, is the inspector in a new video which debuted in the recent first offering of the course.

"The dedicated dairyman in the video, Sam Appleby, who turned 75 the day after the filming, has worked caring for dairy animals for 68 years, starting at age 7. His father passed young, so he started MANAGING the dairy in England at age 14!

"During filming of the video, it was 30°C and so humid it felt like over 100°F! But the filming went well despite the withering heat." Janine Gibson

Thank you to Sardijs Holsteins for hosting the making of IOIA's COR livestock inspector training video!

Ernie Nathaniel of Interlace Media did a topnotch job as videographer.

Notes from the Executive Director

by Margaret Scoles

The biggest news and the biggest project of the summer for the IOIA office, along with our new Business Development Director, has been the **ACA/IOIA Mentors for Organic Inspectors** project. In partnership with the Accredited Certifiers Association, IOIA advertised for potential Mentors and for Apprentice Inspectors to match with Mentors. The Project Committee is Ryan Burnette, Kris Olson, Ellie Hudson, and me. The goal is to complete a Mentor Job-Task Analysis for Organic Inspector Mentorship by arranging and documenting one-on-one mentor/apprentice matches. Mentors provide guidance, support, and training to new inspectors as they gain experience in the field. They commit to mentoring the apprentice through four inspections (2 observed, and 2 observing), plus additional report reviews to the degree possible given the project time frame. For experienced inspectors adding a scope, three inspections suffice. For each inspection, the mentor tracks their activities and the time they take. This information will identify high stakes tasks and those done most often. Apprenticeships must be completed by August 31, 2023, so that the Job-Task Analysis can be completed by the end of October. This project is funded by a Cooperative Agreement between ACA and the USDA National Organic Program. The funding means that mentors are being paid.

IOIA leads the matching of apprentices and mentors. Apprentices are not paid for their time, and they must pay their own travel expenses. Every effort was made to make the matches as regional as possible, although some apprentices are traveling to meet up with their mentor and at least one mentor had to travel a few states away. The initial goal was to attain 20 matches. It did not take long for us to determine that we needed to increase the mentor's compensation and we therefore reduced the number of matches to 15. With those two adjustments, we achieved the right balance of apprentices and mentors. All mentors are very busy during the summer months shepherding their apprentices through the process. It is a dedicated group. We needed not just experienced inspectors, but inspectors who were also experienced mentors. The most experienced mentors tend to be scheduled way out. Happily, we achieved a diverse group of apprentices including three scopes, some inspecting already and some newly out of basic training, some without basic training in the scope and some with that training. It is also a diverse group of mentors – including highly experienced, less experienced, independent contractors, and employee inspectors. A positive aspect of the project is that the apprentices are so appreciative. And the mentors are generally happy to “teach, train, and guide” or they wouldn't have achieved the distinction of becoming mentors, given the general lack of appropriate compensation for mentoring to date. Win-win for all of us.



Drew Gourdie, IOIA's new Business Development Director, reports for work in June.

This project is a critical step toward accessing public funding to support inspector apprenticeships. Access to apprenticeship and availability of mentors has been identified as the missing rung of the ladder that onboards quality inspectors. It is no surprise that new graduates of IOIA's basic training courses often find it difficult to find a mentor. They are in short supply.

A huge shout-out to the mentors (Lau Ackerman, Darren Maum, Allan Benjamin, Mariann Holm, Leonard Pollara, Benjamin Lewis, Matthew Molyneaux, Sean Mulla) and to the certifiers who helped juggle inspection assignments to make several of the matches work with minimal travel and maximum efficiency. I'm so anxious to start digging in to see just what the mentors have discovered. One mentor responded during our Zoom meeting, when I asked if any key learnings jumped out, “LOTS of hours when I started tracking...!”

Other related activities have included participating in the IOIA Credentialing Working Group and the ACA Section H Working Group. The Section H group has created an inspector profile template that hopefully all ACA members will accept, and inspectors will complete once instead of once for each certifier they work for. I was interviewed this week for the Wolf + Associates newsletter about what IOIA is doing to bolster the ranks of qualified organic inspectors, what others in the industry could do, and what is important for the community to understand about the challenges of attracting, training, and retaining organic inspectors in the age of SOE. Important topics to keeping the machinery of organic certification moving – will we be ready for March? **Document your training in a log and check out the excellent offerings in our training schedule so you aren't caught short on your continuing education!**

Sector News

IFOAM North America AGM - July 2023

The online Annual Meeting of IFOAM North America was held on July 7, with an impressive roster of speakers. Alan Lewis and Margaret Scoles were re-elected to the Board of Directors and Marla Carlson of Saskatchewan was welcomed back as a former member who ran again.

- **Welcome by Karen Mapusua** - President - IFOAM Organics International
- **“Indigeneity and Organic for All”** - Kia Ruiz Consultant, Environmental and Economic Resiliency, NON GMO Project <https://www.nongmoproject.org/organization/kia-ruiz/>
- **“Access, Justice, Equity, Community”** - **Malik Yakini**, co-founder and executive director of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network <https://www.dbcfsn.org>
- **Beverly Collins-Hall, B.A., J.D.** Founder-CEO-President, American Indian Mothers Inc. <https://americanindian-mothers.org>

IFOAM NA has a new Coordinator, Alania Cowie Lindquist, (IOIA member, at right) and a new website! <https://ifoamnorthamerica.org/>

IFOAM NA has signed a Letter of Agreement with the Organic Farmers Association as a partner concerning USDA NOP Cooperative Agreement “National Support for a Growing and Diverse Organic Community”, under the USDA AMS Organic Transition Initiative’s Transition to Organic Partnership Program.



NOP releases memos for certifiers and NOSB highlighting current work and focus areas

The National Organic Program (NOP) recently released four memos to certifiers and the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). Here are some summaries of each memo:

[Ion exchange resins](#): The NOP provided clear communication that ion exchange resins are allowed in organic production, and when used, the recharge solution must be on the National List. The ion exchange resin does not need to be on the National List as it will not be included in the product. NOP reminds certifiers of their role to review the resin, its FDA status (if applicable), operating procedures (recharging, cleaning, etc.), and ensure the resin material complies with the contamination practices required in 7 CFR 205.272.

[Transitional Organic Organizations in Organic Integrity Database](#): NOP allows and encourages certifiers to enter transitional organizations into the Organic Integrity Database (OID) once certifiers have reviewed their completed Organic System Plans (OSPs). This is voluntary, but inclusion will help establish communication with these organizations as they transition, help align resources and opportunities with programs such as NRCS, Organic Transition Initiative (OTI), Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP), and provide transparency to NOP for reporting/metrics. NOP will release a generic OSP form in fall 2023 to allow transitioning entities to submit an OSP before an entity’s final selection of a certifier.

[Inert Ingredients in Pesticides](#): NOP has assigned the NOSB the task of providing recommendations for how NOP should proceed on EPA List 3 and List 4 inerts in pesticides before the sunset date of March 15, 2027. NOP provided a summary of the 2022 Advanced Notice of Public Rulemaking (ANPR); industry comments supported removing references to EPA List 3 and List 4 materials and were in general agreement with the proposed alternatives to the lists noted in the ANPR. The alternatives would allow inert ingredients that EPA allows in minimal risk pesticides and passive pheromone dispensers. The remaining non-classified inert materials will need a recommendation from NOSB to NOP on how to proceed.

[NOP response to NOSB recommendations \(April 2023 meeting\)](#): NOP has provided comments back to NOSB topics addressed in the [2023 meeting](#). In addition to topics mentioned in the memos above, NOP has addressed that it will work with other USDA programs to share NOSB’s memo regarding that organic operations should qualify for Climate-Smart Agriculture grants. NOP has also provided a briefing on current work 2023 priorities; of the many topics, a new standard for Organic Pet Food and Mushrooms is listed, as are the recommendations for nitrogen fertilizers (see OTA’s 2021 comments on [ammonia extracts](#)). *From OTA News & Insight, July 19, 2023*

Sector News

National List 2023-2024 Sunset Review Notice

The USDA has published a Federal Register notice announcing the outcome of the 2023 and 2024 Sunset Review of materials on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List). This notice renews 76 substances based on recommendations from the National Organic Standards Board's (NOSB) sunset review and identifies which substances on the National List will be renewed. See the [Federal Register notice](#) for a complete list of renewed substances. A renewal means the substance keeps its status as being allowed or prohibited in organic production and/or handling.

USDA AMS NOP Organic insider newsletter April 14, 2023

AAFCO Approves label change

Association of American Feed Control Officials has approved a change in labeling that will make pet food labels resemble human food labels and include “standardized nutrition information, clear ingredient statements, and storage and handling instructions”. This will be the first significant change to labeling in over 40 years.

OTA Regulatory Periscope newsletter | Week of 8/7/23

SOE News: Organic INTEGRITY Database Adds Functions

As part of implementing the Strengthening Organic Enforcement final rule, the USDA Organic INTEGRITY Database ([INTEGRITY](#)) now includes an international Trade Partner Module (GLOBAL). This new module increases access and transparency to quality data in organic supply chains worldwide, increasing USDA's ability to protect the integrity of organic products sold in the United States. The Trade Partner Module allows international certifiers to report on farms and businesses certified under organic equivalency arrangements. In addition, USDA plans to add an Import Certificate Module to the database in the fall of 2023. When the system is fully deployed—target day May 2024—USDA-accredited certifiers and certifiers working with standards under equivalence arrangements will be able to generate electronic import certificates through the GLOBAL module. *Wolf & Associates newsletter, June 1, 2023*

No Improvements Required, Finds Peer Review of NOP

The latest [peer review](#) of the National Organic Program's accreditation processes and conformance to National Organic Program regulations did not identify any opportunities for improvements. In the comments, reviewers did note that some links in the NOP Quality Manual were not working, recommended that NOP finalize its document retention and disposition plan, and cross-train a staff member in Appeals Management. [See NOP's response](#).

Wolf & Associates newsletter, June 1, 2023

Update on US/Mexico GMO Corn Dispute

The U.S. rejected Mexico's proposal to jointly research the health effects of genetically modified (GM) corn, according to *Reuters* and Mexico media. Mexico's move to decrease dependence on GM corn imports and focus more on national food self-sufficiency has caused friction between the two countries.

The two countries failed to reach an agreement during a meeting with USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack, according to Mexico's Deputy Agriculture Minister, Victor Suárez, who criticized Washington's refusal to agree to impact studies on animal and human health. As tensions intensify, it appears the countries are moving closer to a formal trade dispute over Mexico's decision to stop importing GM corn for human consumption by 2024, with plans to eventually also cut down on GM corn imports for animal feed. Mexico believes that GM corn negatively impacts native biodiversity and could have potential implications on human health.

The U.S. argues that Mexico's GM ban breaches the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA) and could harm U.S. farmers. Mexico suggests the immediate impact on trade will be minimal because the country is self-reliant in producing non-GM white corn, a staple food ingredient. They have also proposed to expedite the ban on GM corn in tortillas, potentially applying within two months.

USMCA trade dispute consultations continue, and Canada also announced its intention to join the dispute process. Mexican Economy Minister, Raquel Buenrostro, has met with U.S. and Canadian trade representatives, however, they reached no resolution on Mexico's GM corn ban.

If the dispute is not resolved within 75 days from the consultation's start (Aug. 16), the U.S. can elevate the matter to a dispute settlement panel. If the panel rules against Mexico, the country could be forced to modify its policy or incur substantial tariffs. *AgWeb, 4 August 2023*

News from Canada

The General Standards Board Office officially launched the 2025 [Review of the Canadian Organic Standards](#)

As [announced by Minister Bibeau on May 3](#), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has reached an agreement with the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) to fund the review of the Canadian Organic Standard (COS), scheduled for 2025, to the same extent as the previous review. The COS is the foundation of Canadian organic production. It is a living document updated every five years to reflect and incorporate new environmental practices, address new concerns over animal welfare, consider new substances, and/or to clarify existing practices described in the clauses of the COS.

Part of the funding for the COS review is being granted to the CGSB, a federal government agency, which provides standards development services and operates on a cost-recovery basis.

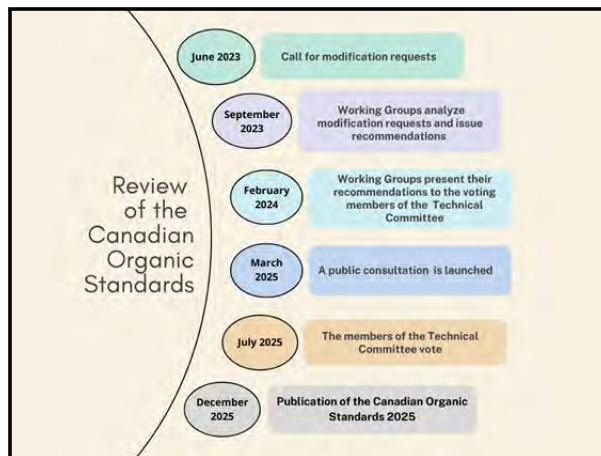
[Learn more about proposed changes to the COS](#)

The first step in the COS review project will be to reconstitute the Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture (TC), the voting members who will ultimately decide on the content of the updated COS in 2025.

Eligible voting members as of 2020 are listed on page 4 of CAN/CGSB-32.310. Voting members are mainly organizations and associations active in the field of organic agriculture in Canada.

Any organization wishing to acquire voting member status should [contact the CGSB](#).

Organic Regulatory Insights, Organic Federation of Canada, July 13, 2023



A National Organic Action Plan for Canada

Canadians are committed to organic – as evidenced by the continued expansion of the organic sector in many segments of the economy. Canada is now the 5th largest organic market in the world worth more than \$9.35 billion in 2021 and growing.

Join COTA, COG, and OFC for this August 22 webinar to learn about the key elements of a National Organic Action Plan for the growth of Canada's organic sector. Click on the photo for registration info.

New CA-EU Bilateral Trade Agreement for Organic Products

A new Agreement will replace the current [EU-CA Organic Equivalency Arrangement \(EUCOEA\)](#).

The Canadian Government is entering into negotiations with the EU to establish a bilateral Agreement for trade of organic agricultural products.

Reason for this undertaking The European Commission implemented a new Regulation for organic production and labelling of organic products, which took effect in January 2022. Among the changes imposed by this Regulation is the need for third countries, including Canada, to negotiate bilateral legally binding Agreements with the European Union (EU) for organic agricultural products. Canada's intent is to replace the existing EU-Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement, signed in 2011 into the Agreement.

Equivalency arrangement vs. agreement Both equivalency 'arrangements' and 'agreements' set out terms by which trading partners recognize each other's technical regulations as equivalent for the purpose of trade. Ultimately, organic products can be sold in either country with just one organic certification. Whereas an 'arrangement' is administrative in nature, an 'agreement' is legally binding and would require going through the Parliamentary process for approval and modifications. **COTA email 7/26/2023**

News from Canada, continued

State of Organics Report 2022: evaluating Canada's supports for the organic sector

Now in its fifth year of publication, Canadian Organic Trade Association's (COTA) **State of Organics Report** describes the most current forms of support for the organic sector from federal-provincial-territorial (FPT) jurisdictions and provides a broad set of summary conclusions. COTA has worked with provincial and territorial partners to produce this year's report, which has shown relatively minor changes since 2021 and even as far back as 2017.

Other jurisdictions, such as the European Union and the United States, have recognized the potential of organics to their social, economic and environmental sectors with substantial policy and financial supports as well as ambitious targets for sector growth. Meanwhile, Canada risks being left behind with piecemeal resources and supports. More than ever, the Canadian organic sector would benefit from a targeted growth plan, developed in collaboration with industry and government working towards the same objectives.



[See it here - https://canada-organic.myshopify.com/collections/state-of-organics-etat-du-secteur-biologiques?mc_cid=5130f38c73&mc_eid=ed8b0572c0](https://canada-organic.myshopify.com/collections/state-of-organics-etat-du-secteur-biologiques?mc_cid=5130f38c73&mc_eid=ed8b0572c0)

From COTA regulatory insights, July 13, 2023

Organic Week Toolkit

Organic Week is for all organic sector partners to get loud and proud about the benefits of organic - for people, animals, and planet. Now in its 15th year, Organic Week will be celebrated September 18-24, 2023! All organic businesses are invited to use the free Organic Week Digital Toolkit. All assets are provided in English and French.



[The Digital Toolkit is available for download](#) and has been **updated** with more organic visuals, social media content, a revised Social Media Guide, print ready POS materials, and more!

COTA accepting BOD nominations

COTA is seeking enthusiastic and committed individuals to run for the upcoming board election happening Monday, November 20, 2023 7:30-9:00 am Eastern Standard Time.

Advance polling is available.

To express your interest or nominate a candidate, please complete the [nomination form](#) and submit it to Tia Loftsgard, Executive Director, tloftsgard@canada-organic.ca no later than **September 29, 2023**. Should you have any questions or require further information, please call 613-482-1717 ext. 200 or contact Tia at her email.

COTA launches Organic Campus program

The program allows colleges, universities, and CEGEPs to become designated as an Organic Campus by meeting sourcing, education and advocacy criteria outlined [here](#). *COTA organically yours newsletter, June 15, 2023*

IOIA and OMRI Expand Training Partnership

When IOIA first envisioned the IOIA Training Institute, it was with the expectation that inspectors would take 100-level training (basic training plus standards training). Later, after they had apprenticed and had some experience as inspectors or reviewers, they would take additional 200-level training in key topics identified as those relevant for all working inspectors:



- Crop Inspectors would take 200-level training in In/Out Balance & Traceability; Crop Input Materials; and Assessing Biodiversity & Natural Resources.
- Livestock Inspectors would also take 200-level training in Feed Audit; and Livestock Input Materials.
- Processing Inspectors would take 200-level training in In/Out Balance, Traceability, & Recipe Verification; and Processing Input Materials.

IOIA sought partners to provide the most cutting edge and current information. The Organic Materials Review Institute joined IOIA in a partnership to deliver Inputs webinars in three scopes. However, one outcome of the IOIA/OMRI webinars was surprisingly different than expected. Participants tended to be those who were specializing in materials reviews – not everyday working inspectors and reviewers.

Responding to this gap, IOIA and OMRI will expand the current series of NOP and COR based Materials Inputs webinars by adding the 100-level series to reach a broader audience. In addition to the 200-level (3 hours) webinars, we will now offer 100-level (2 hours) webinars to make the content more relevant for all newly trained and working inspectors. Many inspectors identify materials as an area where they lack confidence after basic training. These new courses are focused on what the inspector needs to know but are also ideal for consultants, reviewers, and all organic professionals. Certifiers, not inspectors, are responsible for reviewing and approving input materials, but the inspector must carry an amount of material review knowledge to support the certifier.

These affordable courses will be delivered by OMRI materials experts in a webinar format making the practical information accessible and immediately useful. The webinars will be rigorous and with preparatory assignments and post-exams. Each OMRI/IOIA webinar is peppered with “Inspector Take Away!” and “Red Flags”. Content will include how to get the most from the OMRI printed publications and online resources, with lots of opportunity for live Q&A. This new training opportunity can also help inspectors meet new requirements for continuing education in the Strengthening Organic Enforcement final rule.

IOIA and OMRI have partnered since 2012 in webinar training, offering the complete series in 3 scopes by 2013, and following with the COR series in 2014.

To Register - Click through on any of the links below.

Enrollment is limited to 20 for each webinar.

[October 11, 2023: 100 Level IOIA/OMRI NOP Processing Input Materials](#)

This webinar is a 100-level course designed as a way for new organic professionals to gain an understanding of the compliance requirements of inputs used within the processing/handling production scope through a discussion and learning session with staff from OMRI.

[November 15, 2023: 200 Level IOIA/OMRI NOP Processing Input Materials](#)

This webinar is a 200-level course to gain understanding how OMRI evaluates input materials.

[December 13th, 2023: 100 Level IOIA/OMRI NOP Crop Input Materials](#)

This webinar is a 100-level course designed as a way for new organic professionals to gain an understanding of the compliance requirements of inputs used within the crop production scope through a discussion and learning session with staff from OMRI.

Membership News

Post training evaluations - explained!

IOIA has launched a critical new process to its training program evaluation and commitment to continuous improvement in 2023 with 6-month and 12-month post-training surveys. This was an outcome of the Strategic Plan adopted in 2022. IOIA has always collected post-training evaluations immediately after the basic training course ends. The evaluations are often completed even before the final exam is completed and usually before the participant does solo inspections. IOIA wanted to know what participants would say about the training further down the road, after they have put their inspecting skills to work. Did they learn what they needed? Did they learn what was presented to them in class? What was missing? Was everything that they were taught useful to them as working inspectors, reviewers, or other organic professionals? IOIA is recognized globally as the premier inspector training body. How do we maintain that status and relevance, and more important, continue to improve?

To incentivize participation, drawings are held quarterly among those who participate in the post-training surveys.

- First quarter 2023 winner - **Ethan Miller** of Missouri, who promptly donated the \$250 back to IOIA. Thanks, Ethan!
- Second quarter 2023 winner - **Kenya Abraham** of Kentucky, who was headed off to the Wisconsin livestock apprenticeship intensive when she received the news.

The information gathered in these surveys will inform the work of the Training Advisory Council, another strategic initiative. If you receive a request to complete a survey, **please take a few minutes to take it, and earn a chance to win \$250!**

Membership Service Extraordinaire – SOE Training for Inspectors

New – low-cost webinars for inspector members. These can help you meet your new required minimum number of continuing education hours (10 hours per year, plus 5 hours for each additional scope).

SOE 205.101 Changes, What Inspectors Need to Know, with Luis Brenes, AgriVita, Aug 4. Based the number of registrants (43 total, 25 of whom were inspector members – during a very busy inspection season), IOIA provided a bargain with one of our finest trainers. Brenes (Costa Rica), Inspector member and trainer, prepared and delivered the presentation and fielded questions. 205.101(a) in the past addressed exemptions and 205.101(b) addressed exclusions. With SOE, there are no longer any exclusions, while the list of exemptions grew from (a) to (h). SOE reduces the types of uncertified entities in the organic supply chain. Cost for inspector members? \$25 US.

Next up - Grower Group Certification Update with Kathe Purvis and Vitoon Panyakul, Sept. 8. If you inspect grower groups, it is a MUST. European Union & USDA NOP organic accreditation systems both published changes to their regulations in 2022. The regs now include more detail, some changes and, most importantly, clarification to grower group standards and the methodology required for certifiers to conduct inspections for grower groups. This three-hour course includes a precourse assignment and a short post-online exam. Purvis (Australia) and Panyakul (Thailand) both IOIA members, prepared and will deliver the presentations and answer questions. Fee for inspector members and for inspectors from Asia Pacific or Latin America? Just \$75.

THANK YOU Inspector members for maintaining your membership and helping to make it possible to provide membership service for inspectors!

Coffee with IOIA

A regular monthly gathering of **anyone and everyone** - **not just IOIA members** - interested in talking about organic - inspection, certification, materials, whatever is on your mind!

*Remember -
Coffee with
IOIA is
Not Recorded!*



IOIA Forum

A great place to ask questions of fellow inspectors! If you are an inspector member and aren't using the IOIA Forum, you are missing out on a great benefit of IOIA membership! Contact the [Forum Admin](#) to get signed up.

AGM 2024 - February 3 - Texas Redux

IOIA's 2024 AGM and Advanced training will once again be held in conjunction with NOP and ACA training in San Antonio, Texas. The first joint ACA/NOP/IOIA was in 2020 at the same venue.

The event will be located at the Drury Riverwalk Hotel. The Riverwalk is a major attraction in San Antonio.

Initial schedule is:

- NOP training January 30
- ACA training January 31 - Feb 1
- IOIA Advanced training February 2
- IOIA AGM February 3

We look forward to another exciting meet-up in 2024! Details will be posted in this newsletter and on the IOIA website as the agenda is developed. We hope you will join us in February!



Organic Inspector Scholarships - Deadline to apply October 1

Andrew Rutherford Scholarship

The annual Andrew Rutherford Scholarship Award 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.

Organic Community Initiative Scholarship

The annual Organic Community Initiative Scholarship (OCIS) provides full tuition for an IOIA-sponsored basic organic inspector training during the following year. It is awarded to an individual on the basis of need and their potential to have a positive impact on their regional organic community. The OCIS is only open to applicants from **outside of the US or Canada**. 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.

Reynaldo De la Rosa Memorial Scholarship

Our newest scholarship, the Reynaldo De la Rosa Scholarship Award provides full tuition for an IOIA-sponsored organic inspector training course located in Latin America. This scholarship is available to people that are intending to work as organic inspectors in Mexico. Both prospective and experienced inspectors are eligible to apply. It is awarded to an individual on the basis of need and potential as judged by the IOIA Scholarship Committee. The Scholarship pays for tuition, room and board, and a stipend for travel.

The Deadline for returning all Scholarship applications is October 1. Scholarship recipients are notified by December 15. Application forms are available at www.ioia.net/scholarships/

Applicants may choose to attend any IOIA-sponsored course during the year in which the scholarship has been awarded. For 2023-2024, this scholarship is available for basic online courses; in the following years it will be destined for onsite courses in Latin America.

Committee News

Asia Pacific Committee activities:

- Initiated a Grower Group NOP/EU Standards update webinar for September 8. This three-hour course includes presentations of changes for organic grower group certification in EU organic regulations and USDA NOP regulations. Trainers Kathe Purvis and Vitoon Panyakul are members of the Asia Pacific Committee.
- Initiated IOIA/Asia Pacific Committee Organic Grower Group Live Online Inspection Training for October 2 - 6. This is an intensive 5-day course for inspectors of certified organic programs; to add grower group inspections to skills base.
- Supported the development of inspector training in Fiji, now scheduled in November. This training is the fruition of many years of effort to make local inspectors a reality in the Pacific region.
- Developed an [IOIA Asia website](#) to advertise training services (disregard warning messages, the site is safe!)
- [Position statement on Residue Testing in Organic Certification](#) and an article to The Organic Standard.



Kathe Purvis, IOIA Board Member, attended a seminar on June 8 in Seoul, South Korea. Kathe was keynote speaker for “the necessity of chemical residue testing in organic certification” supporting the local speaker, a lawyer presenting a “proposal of revolution of the law to improve the organic certification process”. A panel of an organic farmer, a certifier, a representative of consumers organization, and government officer, raised issues with the Korean organic regulation, and applying severe measures of decertification for incidence of chemical residue detection. The aim of the event was to show residue test as an auxiliary method rarely used to control the organic integrity.

Ethics: The Committee oversees and reviews the IOIA Codes of Ethics and Conduct, maintains the IOIA Ethics Complaint Process, and handles any ethics complaints against IOIA members. IOIA is reviving and invigorating the Ethics Committee. The committee was initiated in the year 2000 after an inspector complaint consumed an enormous amount of the board’s time. Largely through the efforts of Ethics Committee Chair Joyce Ford, an ethics policy was written, investigation procedures were developed, and an inspector complaint form was made available. The Committee’s seven members are appointed by the Board. IOIA Inspector Member and former Board member **Brian Baker** is the new Ethics Committee Facilitator. He will be soliciting applications from new Ethics Committee members, and they will review and update the Ethics Policy as needed. **IOIA Ethics Committee Member Criteria:** shall be current inspector members of IOIA; current or have served on the IOIA Board of Directors, as a director or an alternate, the IOIA Accreditation Committee, or the IOIA Accreditation Review Panel; fluent in English; and shall exhibit high ethical behavior, including honesty and avoidance of conflict of interest. IOIA inspector accreditation is desirable but optional. If you are interested in serving and meet the above criteria, please contact Brian at bb123organic@gmail.com

Membership: IOIA is seeking a **Membership Committee Chair**. The committee will be meeting in August to discuss membership growth and retention strategies, possible collaboration with ACA on joint supporting business membership. This committee also serves the critical function of Nominations Committee, to ensure we have candidates for the Board of Directors. Deadline for nominations is December 1. If you are interested in running for the board or if you wish to nominate someone, please contact Eric Feutz at ebfeuz@gmail.com or the Board liaison to the committee Janine Gibson (BOD liaison to the Committee) at creativehealthconsulting@gmail.com.

Live Online Basic Training - COR Crop, May 15 - 19



The next crop of organic professionals in Canada, with Trainer Garry Lean, top center.

Onsite Processing Training - IOIA and WSDA, May 22 - 26



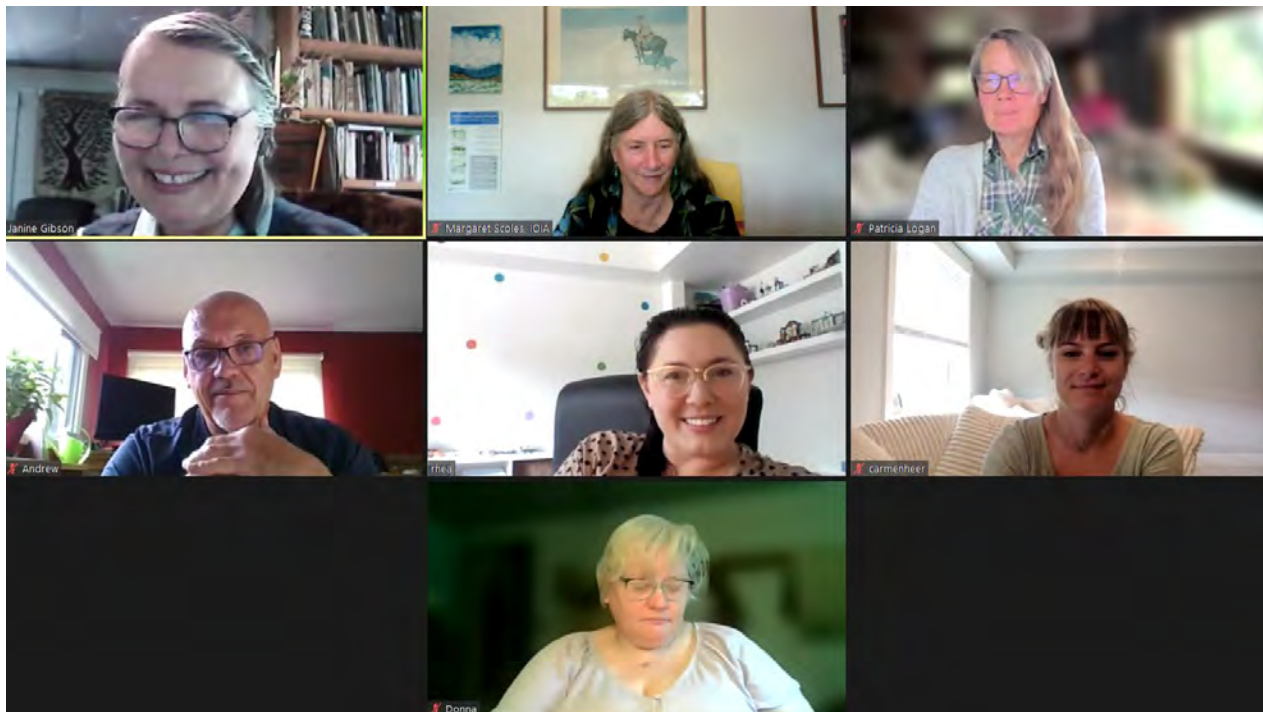
IOIA and Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) cosponsored basic processing inspection training in Mt. Vernon, WA May 22-26. WSDA arranged outstanding field trips and supported the training onsite with staff. Lead Trainer was Nathaniel Powell-Palm.

Online Basic Crop Inspection Training June 12 - 16



Trainers Garry Lean and Luis Brenes, top row left and center, with 10 participants of an NOP based crop course.

Live Online Basic Training - COR Livestock June 26 - 30



Trainer Janine Gibson, Manitoba, top row left, with ED Margaret Scoles, center, welcomed the group. This course was co-developed with Lisa Pierce, British Columbia.

IOIA/FAFO Livestock Apprenticeship Intensive July 24 - 29

IOIA offered the Organic Livestock Apprenticeship Intensive, with funding for the training was provided by a Farmers Advocating for Organic (FAFO) grant. FAFO is an Organic Valley grant committee composed of farmers. Participants worked with experienced inspectors to participate in and complete organic inspections and reports.

Participants were evaluated on their participation during the course and their successful completion of inspection reports. Apprentices are expected to be ready to conduct solo inspections upon completion of an Intensive course.

This training, held in late July at Organic Valley headquarters, La Farge, Wisconsin, was provided at no cost to selected apprentices, including

meals and lodging during the training.



Co-trainer Garth Kahl, in IOIA cap and blue jeans



“Absolutely the best educational delivery I think IOIA has ever done. A true co-sponsor, Organic Valley took incredible care of us and the farms were great!”
Above, Co-trainer Nate Powell-Palm, shown here with OV’s Liz Bell, ace photographer!

IOIA Credentialing Working Group Update

By Silke Fuchshofen

At the IOIA annual meeting in New Orleans, outgoing board member Chuck Mitchell made a passionate statement about a much needed next phase toward professional organic inspection training. Basically, everybody agreed, and the idea for a credentialing work group (CWG) was born.

Then Chuck used the momentum and made an announcement via the google groups inspector forum. We had our first meeting on February 17th with 13 inspectors interested and nine of them participated in the zoom meeting, including Margaret. Until now, we have had eight meetings in which we discussed many core questions about what the requirements for a legitimate credentialing system are and what we envision for our professional purposes. Within our group, different people had experience with different credentialing systems and shared their insights.

Within the multitude of contributions, we used a Miro-board to track and group discussion points. Here are some of the outcomes of our discussion:

- We decided to only address the intent and the requirements of SOE at this point. Everybody in our group agreed that the goal would be for other international organic standard holders to join the program, especially since many inspectors have to cover multiple regulations in the same inspection.
- We would not aim for ISO certification but setting it up to comply would smoothen the path for other international standard holders to use the same system.



Silke Fuchshofen, IOIA's new part-time Coordinator for the Working Group!

Our stakeholder analysis was thorough, but we had differing opinions on when to bring other stakeholders into the meeting. Still, in June we took the step and invited two members of the Alliance for Organic Integrity (AOI), and two members of the ACA. Ellie Hudson had joined earlier. She is now working for the ACA, but we included her for her experience in creating credentialing programs. The ACA has created their own "Section H" work group which addresses the currently more pressing requirements of S.O.E.; credentialing is not one of them. Some of the members of the CWG are participating in the "Section H" workgroup, so that the exchange with the ACA will be alive. The Alliance for Organic Integrity has been in discussion about credentialing with Margaret for quite some time. AOI presented their work on fraud prevention at the IOIA inspector training in New Orleans and the cooperation between IOIA and AOI will continue.

We jumped into this discussion fueled by the sense that this is needed, but with little knowledge about the actual path to creating a credentialing system. Now are at a very different point in the discussion and the IOIA decided to create a small position for someone to facilitate and guide this group forward. And, while writing this short report on the CWG, I got word that Dr. Jenny Tucker released the documents the IOIA had developed for the USDA in 2011 (the CORI project) for the work of IOIA, ACA, and others. These documents include inspector and reviewer training plans and a proposal for the organization of a credentialing program. That is great news for our group!

All the News that doesn't fit here ... can be found on the IOIA website

A great feature of IOIA's new Information Management System is the ability to post news articles on our website.

A printed newsletter has always put severe limitations over our desire to share so much more of the organic news of interest to inspectors than space allowed. It's a good sign that we have so much that is going on in our sector!

To find All the News that doesn't fit in our newsletter, we invite you to check out our News Articles page. Follow this link for our 'inspectors digest' of relevant news articles. <https://www.ioia.net/news-articles/>

You can also access this page via the main menu from any IOIA website page - News & Events => Current News.

Raw Manure and Compost Management

by Dr. Brian Baker, Guest Contributor

Those who buy organic food expect it to be safer and healthier than non-organic food. Most food scientists consider exposure to foodborne pathogens to be the greatest food safety risk. Bacteria such as *E. coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella* spp. are responsible for food poisoning illnesses and even deaths. These pathogenic microorganisms are in animal manure and human feces.

Producers apply both uncomposted (raw) and composted manure to soil to recycle nutrients. Organic standards require raw manure and compost to reduce exposure to foodborne pathogens. Organic producers must incorporate raw manure into the soil prior to planting. Crops grown for human consumption require intervals of 120 days from application to harvest for crops in contact with the soil and 90 days for crops not in contact with the soil.

Crop producers that use raw or composted manure are supposed to include the practice on their Organic System Plan (OSP). The certifying agents are then supposed to review the planned manure usage to see whether it meets the NOP's requirements. Specific decisions as to what cropping systems, harvest intervals, and pathogen reduction methods are sufficient to meet the NOP requirements are the certifying agent's responsibility. Inspectors verify practices described in the OSP, discuss possible concerns with the producer, and report those concerns to the certifying agents.

Inspection involves field observation; auditing application dates, tillage dates, and harvest dates; and sampling. The intervals between raw manure application and harvest need to be consistent with what the certifier approves in the OSP. While "in contact with the soil" is subject to interpretation, certifiers often require root vegetables, leafy greens, and strawberries to have the longer interval. Soil may splash on tomatoes, peppers, or other edible crops not in direct contact with soil. Such a situation may merit a photograph, discussion of possible pathogen contamination with the producer and reporting to the certifying agent if harvest is within 120 days of raw manure application.



Janine Gibson and Brian Baker inspecting input operations, IOIA training in Corvallis OR, 2008.

Composting manure reduces foodborne pathogens and mitigates their risks to humans. Foodborne pathogens cannot survive temperatures that favor heat-loving (thermophilic) organisms. Manure must reach the range of 131-170°F to kill most pathogens. The carbon-to-nitrogen (C:N) ratio needs to be favorable to reaching thermophilic temperatures, in the range of 25:1 to 40:1. While few operators determine the C:N ratio through analytical methods, compost feedstocks must balance high-nitrogen manure with high-carbon plant materials such as straw or wood chips. In static aerated piles or in-vessel systems, operators must maintain these temperatures for three days. A windrow system requires a 15-day period in the thermophilic range, with mixing the materials at least five times in that period.

The composting facility for on-farm composting operations should be observed, preferably with an active system in place. Feedstock records must show that operator did not add prohibited substances such as sewage sludge or synthetic urea. Feedstock records

also provide data to estimate whether the C:N ratio is in the range that can reach the appropriate temperatures. Inspectors can conduct mass balances of feedstocks and compost to see if yields are feasible. Compost results in mass and volume reduction through the respiration of the composting organisms. More compost than feedstock may be evidence that operators have concealed additional feedstocks or purchase from unverified third parties. Operators are supposed to keep temperature logs to make sure that piles reach and maintain thermophilic temperatures for the required minimum periods. Operators of windrow systems are also supposed to maintain turning records.

Inspectors play a key role in ensuring organic food safety by verifying certified organic operations take the appropriate measures to reduce foodborne pathogens in manure.

BOD minutes highlights (full minutes available to inspector members on the IOIA website)

April 20, 2023 - Conference Call

Attendance: Beth Dominick, Chair; Janine Gibson, Vice Chair; Allan Benjamin, Treasurer; Kate Newkirk, Secretary; Terrance Layhew, Director; Margarito Cal, Director, Kathe Purvis, Executive Member at large; Others: Margaret Scoles

Treasurer's Report & 1st Qtr Financial Reports – Accepted.

Annual Meeting for 2024: Cost of New Orleans, keynote and A/V costs was higher than expected. AGM per attendee costs were greater than membership dues. Check with Gayle, have our meeting on Saturday to get people to come to annual meeting. Make it attractive and promote to get >30 people there. Go to San Antonio with ACA for 2024 AGM.

Canadian \$\$ donation from OFCC: Motion - Terrance defer to management! Approved.

The Organic Standard group subscription: \$420 for 6 newsletters. Good content. Margaret will sign MOU and pay.

Strategic Plan and 2023 Annual Work Plan: Staff evaluations will be done next week. Executive will schedule Margaret's evaluation later in year. Margaret – two points about strategic plan, 1. Credentialing not in strategic plan, but #1 priority of board members in internal poll was credentialing. Members created Credentialing working group, 2. In the poll of board members what to go to NOP for RFA funding, DEI didn't make the cut. Neither of these (credentialing or DEI) were in strategic plan and budget.

BOD onboarding: Involve Kathe and Margarito in what to add this fall. List time requirements!

New Business: Margarito - Scholarship - regarding assessing financial need and definition of historically disadvantaged. Committee feels difficult to capture and acknowledgement of "historically disadvantaged" - may not be the correct term. Finds it hard to evaluate financial need complicated due to international nature. Committee removed the word financial from financial need. Use "socially disadvantaged" as this is what the US government uses. Beth encourages committee to take a look at mentorship application and IOIA's commitment statement.

May 18, 2023 - Conference Call

Attendance: Six BOD members present, regrets from Kathe Purvis. Others: Margaret Scoles

Board meets new Business Development Director: Drew Gourdie from Toronto welcomed.

Asia Pacific Committee: - Position Paper - IOIA Position on Lab Testing for Organic Certification. Continue training agreement? Extend the agreement with them which included they could keep money they generated. Extend another year, last year. Janine Motion - extend the agreement 1 more year and recommend charging more for their time and effort. Can Kathe represent the Board in Seoul Korea meeting? Attending as IOIA Board Representative provides standing in the community. Board would support Kathe representing IOIA.

Request for Endorsement of Soil Position Statement: Terrance motion to pass off to Policy Committee.

ACA/IOIA collaborative membership development: Joint Committee to work on membership levels. Margaret attend with Drew. Explore - Join one, get membership in the other. Supporters are non-voting but still could be perceived as influencing.

June 15, 2023 - Conference Call Attendance: All 7 BOD members present. Others: Margaret Scoles

Asia Pacific Committee: Kathe Report on Korea Trip. Good to have the IOIA presence help Korean organic farmers. Position Paper presented at 2 sessions, served a good purpose. Isidor wanted international perspective in order to make the point that pesticide residues do exist. **Position Paper Support:** Post Position Paper on Policy Committee Page as Asia Pacific Committee. Isidor and Kathe will prepare the paper to print in some format in The Organic Standard publication as the APC of IOIA. No direct endorsement by board of the Position Paper. Board is supporting the AP Committee.

Discounted IOIA Membership: APC would like to offer potential members who are not trainers a \$60 membership. Discounted membership of \$60 does not apply to trainers. **Motion** Approve APC recommendation that members who are not trainers are offered \$60 membership, applies to both inspectors and supporting individuals. Motion carries.

ACA/IOIA collaborative membership development Ellie suggested we collaborate. ACA has a membership consultant; many questions similar to ours. We share some of the same Supporting members. Board in favor of exploring.

IOIA "Partners": No IOIA Definition for strategic partner - See Alliance for Organic Integrity website (there is an official application for a partner). Explore the term 'Strategic Partner' used in IOIA Strategic Plan.

2024 AGM Date: ACA - IOIA will be scheduled Friday, Feb 2, for training and Saturday, Feb 3 for Annual Meeting. 🍷



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KEEP IOIA STRONG – LEND YOUR STRENGTH AND GET INVOLVED!

2023 Calendar

September 9 - 11 [Biofach India](#)

September 14 - IFOAM International "I grow your food" day. [More info here.](#)

September 20 - 23 [Expo East](#)

September 18 - 24 [Organic Week Canada, including CHFA NOW Conference and Trade Show](#)

October 23 National Organic Coalition (NOC) pre-NOSB meeting. [Register here.](#)

October 24 – 26 [Fall 2023 NOSB Meeting](#), Providence, RI.

November 7 – 9 [Organic BC](#) Conference will take place in Penticton. The theme of this year's conference is Building Bridges. "It's our 30th anniversary and we are planning our biggest and best event yet!"

November 20 - 21 [Organic Summit 2023](#), Ottawa, Canada

2024 AGM under development for San Antonio, Texas,
January 30 ~ February 3, 2024 in conjunction with
the NOP and ACA training conference.

*PLEASE SEE PAGES 2 & 3 FOR THE CURRENT LIST OF
IOIA LIVE ONLINE, ONSITE, WEBINAR AND SELF-PACED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES*