

The Inspectors' Report



McEvoy Takes Helm at NOP

IOIA is very pleased to report that **Miles McEvoy** has been hired to serve as Deputy Administrator of the National Organic Program (NOP). McEvoy assumed the position on October 1. He replaces Barbara Robinson, who has served as Acting Director since February 2008.

McEvoy has solid credentials in the field of organic agriculture. For the past 20 years, he has led the development of the Washington State Department of Agriculture's Organic Food Program. It was the first state program to work at synchronization with other certification standards in product certification (ISO Guide 65) and international organic standards (IFOAM accreditation in 2004). In 1993 the program established the WSDA Brand Names Materials List that evaluates materials for compliance with US and international organic standards. In 1993-1995 he was the founding Director of The Food Alliance, a program that blends sustainable farming practices and social welfare components into an eco-label program. In 2001, he helped establish the WSDA Small Farm and Direct Marketing Program. McEvoy helped establish the National Association of State Organic Programs (NASOP) in 1998 and was serving as NASOP President until taking over the new position. He also assisted the Montana Department of Agriculture in developing their organic certification program and has been working with the Oregon Department of Agriculture in developing their organic certification program. He has spoken at state, national and international agricultural conferences on organic certification and the role of government in supporting sustainable agriculture, including the IOIA Annual Meeting in 2002. WSDA has been an IOIA supporting member since 1993.

In his September announcement on the appointment, Secretary Vilsack also announced that the NOP will become an independent program area within AMS because of the increased visibility and emphasis on organic agriculture throughout the farming community, evolving consumer preferences, and the enhanced need for governmental oversight of the widely expanded program. The NOP is responsible for regulating the fastest growing segment of U.S. agriculture: U.S. sales of organic foods have grown from \$1 billion in 1990, when the Organic Foods Production Act established the NOP, to a projected \$23.6 billion in 2009. Congress increased NOP funding to \$2.6 million in FY08 and to \$3.2 million in FY09.

Organically grown and marketed agricultural products are of key interest to the Obama Administration, and the NOP will be receiving increased funding and staffing in the new fiscal year.

McEvoy Vows to Strengthen Brand Organic in NOP Role

McEvoy's new position pulls him from the farmer-certifier world of the strongly organic Northwestern U.S. smack-dab into the crucible of national organic policy power-politics. This puts him at the junction of the USDA's bureaucracy and the pointed recommendations of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB), the advisory panel empowered to be the voice of the U.S. organic community, advising the USDA Secretary on how best to implement the organic program.

There is optimism in the US organic community in anticipation of greater responsiveness by the NOP to the NOSB's recommendations under the new Obama-Vilsack administration.

[See **McEvoy**, page 4]

2010 AGM and Advanced Training

Rio Rico, Arizona

Advanced Training plans are shaping up to provide an excellent series of mini-trainings March 4-6, 2010. The trainings will focus on inspection for specialty standards, plus livestock topics, and food safety.

See full article on **page 6** for a sampling of the presenters.

IOIA To Launch Web- based Learning in 2010

After investigating web-based service providers for the past year, IOIA entered into a contract with Great America Networks Conferencing to launch a new web-site for IOIA communications and training. Services include audio, web-based (video/audio combined) and the capacity for full-fledged real-time video conferencing. One of the deciding factors in selecting GANC was the capacity for VOIP (voice over internet protocol). This will be a great asset [see **Web**, p 4]

2009 Membership Directory Updates

(Changes made by R. Wenzel 11/25/09)

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

Address Changes

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Welcome Returning Former Members

(not printed in the 2009 Directory)

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Welcome New Members

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Supporting Individual Members:

Bangart, Lyle (Chilton, WI)

Beach, Elijah (Winona, Minnesota)

Beyer-Junfin, Virgilia Adele (Quemado, Texas)

Bitter, John (Santa Cruz, CA)

Brophy Clark, Kelley (Nipomo, CA)

Cripe, Carol (Valley Center CA)

Crowder, Fred (Novato, CA)

Earons, Lee (Santa Rosa, California)

Edgerton, Wayne (Roseville, Minnesota)

Govis, Julia (Chicago, Illinois)

Gregg-Skinner, Michelle (Bellville, OH)

Hickman, Jason (Fresno, CA)

Hofmann, Wallace C. (Wickenburg, AZ)

Hoinacki, Beth (Philomath, OR)

Hudson, John (Monroe, Wisconsin)

Long, Del (Benton City, WA)

Maliz, Niaz (Claymont, DE)

Mankus, Carly (Millersville, Pennsylvania)

Morgan, Nancy (Salem, OR)

Neuhs, Peter (Morro Bay, CA)

Oolman, SusAnn (Clarks Grove, MN)

Pedretti, Joseph (Readstown, Wisconsin)

Piurkowski, Penny (Stoddard, Wisconsin)

Spalt, Angela (Crabtree, Oregon)

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IOIA Board of Directors

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The Inspectors' Report is the newsletter

of the International Organic Inspectors

Association. IOIA is a 501 (c)(3)

educational organization, whose mission

is to address issues and concerns

relevant to organic inspectors, to provide

quality inspector training and to promote

integrity and consistency in the organic

certification process. Editor: Diane

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Upcoming Trainings

California - December 7 – 11, 2009 IOIA will cosponsor Basic Crop Inspection Training and Processing Inspection Training running concurrently December 7-11 at the Gaia Napa Valley Hotel & Spa in American Canyon. Certified operations will include wine grapes for the Crop course and wine making for the Processing course. The Gaia Hotel is the first Leader in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified hotel in the Napa Valley. IOIA and Demeter Association will cosponsor Biodynamic Inspection Training on December 12-13 at the same location, with a field trip to a biodynamic certified operation.

Lima, Peru – January 4-8, 2010 IOIA and Control Union Peru will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Farm Inspection training using USDA National Organic Standards as a reference with comparison to EU standards. The course will be held at the Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina in Lima, Peru. Instruction will be conducted in Spanish. Please contact Fiorela Bustamante or Mariana Gonzales at ph.: (511) 719-0418 or (511) 719-0416, fax: (511) 421-7573 or e-mail: fbustamante@cuperu.com or mgonzales@cuperu.com for further information.

Brandon, Manitoba – January 25-29, 2010 IOIA and Assiniboine Community College will cosponsor Basic Organic Process Inspection Training using the Canadian Organic Standards as a reference. The course includes 4 days of instruction including a field trip to a certified organic livestock operation, plus ½ day for testing. For more information about this training, please contact Mary Petersen at Ph: 204-725-8700 Ext 6683 Fax: 204-725-8740; e-mail: PeterseM@Assiniboine.net Assiniboine Community College is located at 1430 Victoria Avenue East in Brandon, Manitoba, Canada R7A 2A9.

Rio Rico, Arizona - March 4 - 8, 2010 IOIA will sponsor Advanced Organic Inspector Training in conjunction with the 2010 Annual Meeting (March 7) at Esplendor Resort in Rio Rico. The venue is located about 40 minutes south of the Tucson International Airport and 20 minutes north of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. The training will focus on specialty certification (mushrooms, aquaculture, apiculture, sprouts, and greenhouse), livestock topics March 4-6, plus opportunities for educational field trips and reviewer training. For more information about the venue, visit www.esplendor-resort.com. **See page 6** for more details about the training.

Korea - March 29-30, 2010 IOIA and Korea Federation of Sustainable Agriculture Associations (KFSAO), will cosponsor a 2-day Advanced Organic Inspector Training. The subject will be HACCP, how it relates to organic systems, and the parallel to Organic Control Points. The course will be held in Seoul Korea March 29-30, 2010. For enquiries, please contact Isidor Yu at Ph: +82-10-9133-5431 Fax: +82-31-521-2180 e-mail: community02@hanmail.net

Latin-America - April 5-9, 2010 IOIA and Eco-LOGICA will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Farm Inspection training using USDA National Organic Standards as a reference. The course will be held April 5 - 9, 2010 with the location still being decided and announced later. Instruction will be conducted in Spanish. Please contact Sue Wei at ph.: (506) 2297-6676 fax: (506) 2235-1638 or e-mail: swei@eco-logica.com for further information.

Brandon, Manitoba - May 3-7 and May 10-14, 2010 IOIA and Assiniboine Community College will cosponsor a Basic Organic Crop Inspection Training (May 3-7), followed by Basic Organic Livestock Inspection Training (May 10-14), using the Canadian Organic Standards as a reference. The courses each include 4 days of instruction including a field trip to a certified organic crop, respectively livestock operation, plus ½ day for testing. For more information about this training, please contact Mary Petersen at Ph: 204-725-8700 Ext 6683 Fax: 204-725-8740; e-mail: PeterseM@Assiniboine.net Assiniboine Community College is located at 1430 Victoria Avenue East in Brandon, Manitoba, Canada R7A 2A9.

Watch upcoming IOIA newsletters and the website for details as these and other trainings develop.

NOSB Votes to Crack Down on Organic Personal Care Claims

In a milestone victory resulting from years of work by the US organic community to address fraud in the organic marketplace, the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) has voted 12 to 1 for the NOP to enforce the law for organic personal care just like they do for organic food. This would mean shampoos and other body care products that claim to be organic, but are not certified, would be forced to drop the organic claims made on their products or improve formulations to meet organic standards.

"I'm really pleased by the NOSB's recommendation," says Ronnie Cummins, Executive Director of the Organic Consumers Association (OCA). "Brands that are using the word organic improperly should be on notice that USDA enforcement is imminent. Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan has said that she is going to get 'tough on crime' in the organic industry. At the November NOSB NOP director Miles McEvoy announced a 'new age of enforcement' in organic. I expect them to make organic cosmetics fraud a top priority. In the meantime, retailers should start cleaning up their body care aisles."

At the end of September, the OCA promised to announce the names of brands that they had compliance issues with, and also the list of compliant organic brands in order to promote certified organic personal care. That list is available on their website, www.organicconsumers.org

Source: Organic Consumers Association, Nov 5, 2009

McEvoy, from page 1

McEvoy accepts these challenges, but feels ready to strengthen and grow the organic program, even in difficult economic and political times.

In an inspiring first address to the NOSB on November 3, McEvoy opened by outlined the founding principles behind the NOP, including the need for collaboration within the organic sector; development of clear and consistent rules to enable improved compliance; openness and transparency in the rule-making process, and a commitment to upholding high standards while at the same time employing sensible practices. He also acknowledged the IFOAM Principles of Care, Health, Ecology & Fairness, the interconnectedness of everything, and the importance of staying true to organic principles.

McEvoy then went on to address his priorities for NOP, starting with publication of the access to pasture final rule (now in the Office of Management and Budget, and expected out soon); and also including:

- ◆ preparing a training module for implementation of the pasture rule
- ◆ developing a strategic plan
- ◆ implementing a peer review process
- ◆ website revision to make it more user-friendly
- ◆ hiring more qualified regulation, compliance, and training staff (expected to nearly double)
- ◆ significantly more numerous and accessible trainings for staff and ACAs
- ◆ implement the NOSB recommendations
- ◆ Quality Manual
- ◆ Develop a Program Manual
- ◆ uphold and enforce the standards

“The Age of Enforcement” will put more teeth into the program by requiring certifying agents to conduct a percentage of unannounced inspections, utilize pesticide sampling as required by OFPA to identify problems and enhance organic integrity, and develop a system of risk-based inspections.

McEvoy also stated his desire to host NOSB meetings around the United States,



rather than always in Washington, DC. He also indicated that products labeled "made with" organic ingredients may no longer have the word "organic" in their brand names. (NOP is currently requesting input from certifiers on this issue, with the intention to prohibit the practice.) Additionally, he stated that OMRI is the best reference on allowed materials, and that there should be only one list of such materials to avoid the inconsistency that currently results from the existence and use of multiple lists.

In closing, McEvoy offered a quote from Wendell Berry likening an organic farm to a natural system in both its structure and its “benign effect” on the environment.

In related training news, the NOP expects to hire a full-time training officer by 2010 and to continue to make more on-line training modules available. To date, four draft modules are on line including Labeling, Certification, Compliance, and Investigations.

These are all exciting topics that bode changes in the way inspectors do their work.

McEvoy’s complete PowerPoint presentation is available on the ioia website at www.ioia.net/McEvoy2009.pdf
Sources: USDA Office of Communications; Organic Trade Assn. NOSB Report, Nov 2009

Web from page 1

for our international membership. Most other services that rely on toll-free numbers are very costly from outside the US and Canada. Participants can participate through Skype or similar VOIP service at little or no cost.

The modest debut was on-line training on September 23 in NOP crop standards for the four participants who registered for the October basic livestock training without having completed a previous basic crop inspection course. One of the four was unable to participate but accessed the recorded presentation at a later date. All four declared the training very helpful and subsequently did well in the Livestock course. This was accomplished with presentation by the ED from her desk in the Montana office, back-up comments and support from Trainer Garry Lean from his desk in Ontario, and participants from their desks in Vermont, Colorado, Wisconsin, and Maine. It reduced on-site meeting room costs and travel time for the participants.

A second event was a demonstration of the features of the site for the October 8 Board of Directors conference call.

This service will greatly enhance IOIA membership service, improve accessibility to consistent and inexpensive training, and increase the capacity for inspector-certifier dialogue. As the first step toward making IOIA accreditation more meaningful, certifiers will be invited to dialogue with IOIA through the new website. Luis Brenes of Costa Rica has volunteered to do the first training from outside the US and Canada to check it for glitches. Members who missed the trainings in Montreal on the EU regulatory update or Personal Care Products will have the opportunity for this material via on-line training. IOIA has devoted much time and resources to upgrading the basic organic inspection trainings over the past 3 years. The new site provides the vehicle to allow IOIA to focus on continuing education for experienced inspectors. Most members don’t attend the AGM advanced trainings, and those who do attend want IOIA to avoid too much repetition. The high cost of bringing quality speakers to the AGM for 2 or 3 dozen members means that IOIA provides these trainings at virtually no profit. Web-based training has the capacity to insure [continued on page 5]

Web, from page 4

that all members can access training materials without the added expense of travel.

How will IOIA use the site?

- ◆ Training can be provided from any location, with an in-person audio presenter, and a PowerPoint presentation. For the non-video conference training, the participants can't actually see the presenter. The participant can ask questions, though. If there are numerous participants, participants are generally muted but can use 'raise hands' electronically so that the presenter can un-mute the person and address the question. There is capacity to edit, highlight, share documents on the presenter's computer, to send documents (quizzes, supplemental resources) during the presentation. Presentations can be recorded for further access. As examples, presenters at the Annual Meeting in Arizona will be asked to make themselves available for additional web-based offerings of the same material.
- ◆ Routine Conference Calls. When used only for audio, the conference call service is lower cost than IOIA's previous provider, so IOIA Board and Committee calls have started using this service.
- ◆ Realize low cost, much-needed Train the Trainer capacity to add Trainers, introduce new curriculum materials, and provide for Trainer dialogue.
- ◆ Reduce our carbon footprint (one step toward 'greening' our inspection work, a concern voiced at the 2009 AGM).
- ◆ Video-conferencing for Annual Meeting? Maybe...

The web-based learning schedule will offer one or more trainings in the first quarter of 2010, and an event estimated every 2 months afterwards. Check out the site at <http://ioia.ganconference.com> and watch the IOIA website and newsletter for the e-learning training schedule for 2010.



Notes from the ED

By Margaret Scoles

During the past quarter, I attended or spoke at several conferences. One of those was a stimulating **Sustainability Forum** at Eastern Wyoming College in September, where I presented "What is Organic and Is It Sustainable?" after a showing of the movie *Food, Inc.* I was allowed a whopping 20 minutes to cover the topic, which I just barely managed to do with the help of a firm timekeeper (my daughter, who is an art student at the college). The movie showing was a fairly controversial event. Torrington, Wyoming is the location of the 3rd largest cattle auction in the US and exists primarily as a channel to move calves to the feedlot industry. A local spokesperson for a farm group was relieved to find out that I too produced cattle, was raised on a cattle ranch, and could think like a farmer. The dialogue reminded me that one doesn't learn much by talking only to people who think the same way. **True dialogue involves different opinions and perspectives and sometimes healthy conflict.** I particularly enjoyed the panel, which included a diverse group of experts including biodiesel, conservation housing, what's up with new livestock technology, and the director of the Western Region SARE office in Wyoming. It is a small world. Less than a month later, I found myself writing a letter of support for Demeter Association's grant proposal for a farmer workbook on biodynamic production addressed to that same person. September ended with the **Montana Nonprofit Association Conference** and AGM. This organization is a valuable professional resource to me as an Executive Director. And as an added bonus, I enjoy the company and save money by rooming with my sister, also

the ED of a nonprofit in Montana. We live on opposite sides of the state, about 600 miles apart. After 3 days at home, I headed for the **Wisconsin Basic Trainings** for the first half of October. By the time you read this, I will be on my way to **California** trainings in Napa Valley for Dec. 7-14. I'm particularly excited to be registered for the IOIA/Demeter

Biodynamic inspection training Dec. 12-13, complete with a trip to the biodynamic Benziger Family Winery. I will be co-trainer for the processing course with **Stanley Edwards**. This training will hopefully go differently than the last one, in Pennsylvania, when I assured Stan that I would be there to help him get acquainted with new curriculum materials. Instead I went to the hospital, and he taught the course alone.

Sandwiched among all of that travel, I read a few books. One of those was Barbara Kingsolver's *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*. Yes, I admit to being a little slow to get this one read. It was published in 2007. I read absolutely everything she writes, but I read mostly fiction (another admission). I admit also to having an ulterior motive. I wanted to invite her to be our AGM speaker and it wouldn't do to invite her without being honestly able to say, "I've read everything you've published." IOIA should be honored to know that we received a personal call from her publicist at Harper Collins. Unfortunately for us, the call included an extremely nice 'no', along with the comment, "your work is so important!" I hope you inspectors are listening. **Our work is important.** But I'm not giving up. Perhaps not this time, but maybe next. When best-selling, well-known authors are writing books about why consumers should eat local, eat organic, grow some of their own food, cook together as families, and eat consciously, we can feel good about some efforts to buck the madness of many aspects of our current food system.

Finally, what's new and good? I'll keep this brief: **IOIA Friend Miles McEvoy** is at the helm of the NOP. This means more staff, training, and resources for the NOP. And what's new at IOIA? IOIA is in discussion with the NOP about how IOIA can be an important part of the new training effort. The new IOIA training website offers endless possibilities for inspector training and dialogue. And the new format for the advanced trainings at the Annual Meeting. IOIA has enough staff to be planning our 2nd Annual Holiday party! There is so much to be thankful for in this holiday season, as I write this on the morning of US Thanksgiving. Have a good holiday season with your families. Don't forget to send in your membership update and dues. And please plan to be in Arizona if you can.

2010 AGM and Advanced Training - Rio Rico, Arizona March 4-6, 2010 from page 1



Deborah Brister, Aquaculture Research Fellow with the Dept of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, University of Minnesota and now under contract with the MN Dept of Natural Resources to develop Best Management Practices for aquaculture, will deliver a **half-day organic aquaculture workshop**. Brister provided the first IOIA Organic Aquaculture inspection trainings in 2002 and 2003. Prior to this fellowship, Brister served as Sustainable Aquaculture Program Manager for the U of MN's Institute for Social, Economic and Ecological Sustainability. She has taught an upper division sustainable aquaculture course at the University and is an aquaculture researcher with experience

in a variety of species including rainbow trout, tilapia, Atlantic salmon, northern pike and walleye in recirculating systems, raceways and integrated aquaculture/hydroponic systems. Brister has been extensively involved in the development of organic aquaculture and has participated in developing feasible national and international organic aquaculture standards. Since 1999, she has worked closely with the NOP and was coordinator of a National Organic Aquaculture Workshop sponsored by the Institute in June, 2000. The workshop drew national and international participants from the aquaculture, organic, NGO, government, academia and food retail sectors together in an unprecedented fashion. This led to an ongoing commitment by participants to continue to work together towards national organic aquaculture standards. In addition to authoring numerous articles on organic aquaculture, she has served as co-chair of the NOSB Aquaculture Working Group, was co-chair and coordinator of the IFOAM Aquaculture Group. Organic aquaculture recommendations have been approved through the NOSB, US rules are expected soon, and inspectors interested in inspecting aquaculture will find this training essential.

Harriet Behar and **Aaron Brin** of Wisconsin will provide a **half-day of organic apiculture** inspection training. Behar and Brin are both organic inspector members of IOIA and beekeepers. They are also members of the ACA apiculture working group, which just finished the new ACA Final draft organic apiculture guidance document. Behar is also the organic outreach coordinator with MOSES (Midwest Organic Sustainable Education Service) and past IOIA BOD Chair. They will discuss the NOSB recommendation on apiculture, current standards being certified to, and how the livestock standards are being applied to bees. **Tina Ellor**, of Phillips Mushroom Farms, and current Chair of the NOSB Crops Committee, will present information about the cultivation of the most common types of mushrooms and issues for the organic inspector. How are NOP crop standards currently applied to this non-plant species? **Sarah Flack** of Vermont is tentatively confirmed for livestock topics, including calculation of Dry Matter Intake for pasture. Depending on interest, an entire day of livestock topics will be scheduled. Other specialty topics are **Personal Care Products** (Bob Durst of Oregon), **Food Safety** (tentative, an effort is being made to engage the USDA produce inspectors for the border), **Greenhouse and Sprouts, Risk-Based Inspection, and Inspector Professionalism** (from the inspector and certifier perspective). Certifiers are being invited to collaborate with IOIA to provide **Reviewer Training** for the first time.



As an added bonus, **Eric Mader**, **National Pollinator Outreach Coordinator** with the **Xerces Society** for Invertebrate Conservation, will present a session on **Pollinator Conservation** that will be open to all members at no extra charge. He is an Adjunct Assistant Extension Professor at the U of MN's Department of Entomology, and has authored several books and government management plans for native pollinators. More info about the Xerces Society is at: www.xerces.org. The Xerces Society, through a partnership with OFRF and Organic Valley, has developed a **Pollinator Conservation Toolkit**, which includes guidelines on specific organic farm practices and pesticide threats to pollinators. Included in this training package is a brief overview of native bee biology, information on how to access technical and financial resources for pollinator conservation, and guidelines on how pollinator conservation efforts mesh with organic certification requirements. The Pollinator Conservation Toolkit including organic farm management guidelines will be available for \$25. Concurrent or repeat sessions will be scheduled if needed.

NEW THIS YEAR:

A **separate certificate** will be issued for **each** specialty workshop. Members can earn a certificate in organic aquaculture inspection, organic apiculture inspection, etc.

Field trip options for March 8 will include the organic Green Valley Pecan Growers operation, located between Rio Rico and Tucson. The **National Organic Program** has been invited to provide the keynote address. We have not received a confirmation at this time.

Esplendor Resort is located in the Sonoran desert about 40 minutes south of Tucson International Airport and 20 minutes north of the port of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. For more details about the facility, visit www.esplendor-resort.com. This is a comfortable, authentic southwestern venue in a scenic and rural setting with a mountain backdrop. Esplendor overlooks the Santa Cruz River valley and bills itself as "*Uncomplicated, Unpretentious, Unforgettable*". Weather can never be guaranteed, but it should be sunny. Typical weather in the Tucson area is sunny 25 days or more in the month of March. Average daytime high is 72°F (22°C). Nighttime lows can be chilly (37°F or 3°C on the average). AGM meeting space includes indoor and outdoor space near the outdoor heated pool. Hardier members should bring their swimsuits. The resort is known for an excellent restaurant. A variety of other dining options and a grocery are within walking distance. Three state campsites nearby are another option for members.

Nogales is the largest port in the western US for fresh produce coming into the US from Mexico, including both organic and non-organic. The area is famous for birding habitat, historic missions, and the nearby Tubac art colony. Esplendor is about one-hour's drive from the **Saguaro National Park** near Tucson, the **Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum**, and many other desert attractions.

Competitive airfares to Tucson are available through Southwest Airlines, but all other major airlines also fly into Tucson. Some will find it more economical to fly into the larger airport in Phoenix, and take the air shuttle to Tucson. Rio Rico is readily accessible by rental cars from the airport with virtually no city driving required. The Tucson Convention & Visitors Bureau www.visittucson.org provided IOIA with a booking incentive payment. This fund will allow IOIA to provide shuttle service from the Tucson Airport for inspector members. Bob Scoles, Montana rancher and wife of the ED, has offered to drive the shuttle.

Bring family, spouses, friends! They will find lots to do. More details, updates, and area recreation options will be posted on the IOIA website home page at www.ioia.net as sessions are finalized, agenda is prepared, and speaker bios are available.

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

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ORGANIC FARMING CONFERENCE (OFC)
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The Organic Farming Conference is the largest organic farming conference in the U.S.

Organized by the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES), and held annually in La Crosse, WI, the OFC is an extraordinary, farmer-centered event.

With over 60 informative workshops, 140+ exhibitors, locally-sourced organic food, live entertainment and inspirational keynote speakers, the OFC is celebrated as the foremost educational and networking event in the organic farming community.

Full conference flyer available at www.mosesorganic.org/ofcflyer.pdf



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Organic Funding Brings Needed Change to NOP

In its first nine months in office, the Obama Administration has taken numerous steps to build NOP and to include provisions for organic agriculture within USDA agencies.

To start, USDA has awarded more than \$19 million in grants across the country to address critical organic agriculture issues through the integration of research, education and extension projects. Further project details are posted on the web site of USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA, formerly the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service), which administers the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative.

Kathleen Merrigan, USDA's Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, recently announced that USDA had applied to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for a review of its accreditation process and program. Under the review planned for fiscal year 2010, NIST's National Voluntary Conformity Assessment Systems Evaluation program will evaluate NOP's accreditation program to assess its ongoing conformity with international standards for managing accreditation programs. Receiving such recognition would support NOP's credentials as an accrediting body and satisfy regulatory requirements for NOP to obtain peer review.

In May, Merrigan also announced USDA's intentions to create a division dedicated to organic agriculture within the department. Historically, NOP has been part of the Transportation and Marketing Program within USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. In addition, efforts are underway to expand staffing at NOP, starting with a new Deputy Administrator, Miles McEvoy (see story on page 1), and includes bringing in compliance and enforcement capability within the agency.

Also in May, USDA offered \$50 million in new funding to encourage greater production of organic food in the United States. Available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the program was open to producers either certified through NOP or in the process of transitioning to organic production.

Meanwhile, the 2008 Farm Bill has jump-started organic data collection, and provided more money for organic research. USDA also is conducting the first-ever wide-scale survey of organic producers. In addition, USDA hopes to complete an evaluation of crop insurance prices and surcharges for organic crops by the end of the year.

MOSES Gets USDA Grant

A USDA grant to address the needs of beginning farmers and ranchers was recently awarded to the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES).

The MOSES grant of \$151,515 is being used to fund the "Developing Farm Financial Knowledge of Beginning Organic and Sustainable Farmers" project. The three year project is designed to respond to the needs of beginning farmers involved with organic and sustainable agriculture to better understand farm financial management.

"New farmers need to have a sound understanding of farm financial management in order to have a successful farming operation," says Jody Padgham, education director at MOSES. "This project will help farmers who choose to farm using organic and sustainable practices learn tools and systems to further that understanding."

The 2,285 farmers participating in this project will learn how to use a diversity of simple tools and resources to assess their financial situation and achieve their farm financial goals. One of the project products will be a comprehensive, easy to understand book on farm financial management with an emphasis on using data to increase profitability.

Additional day-long trainings and a support website will be developed to bring key concepts to a broader audience.

MOSES was one of 29 institutions to receive the USDA grants from a pool of more than \$17 million earmarked to help beginning farmers and ranchers and enhance the sustainability and competitiveness of U.S. agriculture. The funding is part of the USDA initiative, "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food," which was launched in September 2009.

The Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) is a nonprofit education-outreach organization working to promote sustainable and organic agriculture.

New Members on NOSB

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the appointment of five new members to NOSB, with terms beginning Jan. 24, 2010, and ending Jan. 24, 2015. Appointees are Joe Dickson, Food, Organic and Environmental Quality Standards Coordinator for Whole Foods Market, retailer seat; Jay Feldman, Executive Director of Beyond Pesticides, environmental position; John Foster, senior manager of organic integrity for Earthbound Farms, organic handler seat; Wendy Fulwider, an organic farmer from Viroqua, WI, organic producer seat; and Annette Riherd, an organic fruit and vegetable farmer from Oklahoma, a second organic producer seat.

IFOAM decries world food security summit strategies

The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) has issued a press release decrying strategies at the World Food Security Summit in Rome to push for increased investment in genetic engineering in agriculture. Instead, IFOAM stressed, there needs to be a paradigm shift to foster organic agricultural practices to fight poverty and world hunger in rural areas.

http://www.ifoam.org/press/press/2008/20091116_Fight_Poverty.php

Company director jailed for selling fake organic food

According to the Guardian (UK), Neil Stansfield, the 41-year-old director of U.K.-based One Food Limited, was jailed for over two years on Sept. 22 for selling "organic" products that turned out to be nothing of the sort. In addition, he also received a six-year directorship ban for the fraud. An investigation by Trading Standards officers revealed that Stansfield, along with his wife and the firm's operations manager, bought non-organic ingredients from supermarkets, and had employees repackage them before they were sold to consumers across the UK. The five-year scam netted the trio £500,000.

The scam first came to light in autumn 2007, when Trading Standards officers received information that the company, based in Daventry, was receiving regular deliveries of what were suspected to be non-organic ingredients. Trading Standards bought items online from the firm through its [Sector continued on p 9]

Sector, from previous page

"Swaddles Organic" Web site, which claimed to provide "organic, natural and ethical meat, produce and grocery items." "Organic salmon" bought from the site was later found to contain a synthetic additive used in feed for farmed salmon and when officers raided the premises in Dec. 2007 they found paperwork showing non-organic ingredients had been bought. Stansfield's wife Katie, 44, who was company secretary from June 2004, was given a 50-week sentence suspended for two years, 150 hours of community work, and a three-year directorship ban. Operations manager Russell Hudson, 40, received a 40-week sentence suspended for two years and 150 hours of community work.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/sep/2/director-jailed-fake-organic-food>

China executes two over tainted milk powder scandal

China has executed two people for their role in a scandal involving tainted milk powder that resulted in six children dying, officials have said.

More than 300,000 other infants were made ill from milk powder contaminated with melamine, an industrial chemical used to make plastics and fertiliser.

Zhang Yujun and Geng Jinping are the only people to have been executed over the scandal, court officials said. Nineteen other people were sentenced to prison terms.

Zhang Yujun was convicted of endangering public safety by dangerous means, for selling more than 770 tonnes of the tainted milk powder from July 2007 to August 2008, the official Xinhua news agency said.

Geng Jinping, who managed a milk production centre, was convicted of supplying milk containing melamine to the now-bankrupt Sanlu Group and other dairies.

The two men were sentenced in January in Shijiazhuang, capital of Hebei, where Sanlu was based. Their appeals were rejected by the Hebei Provincial Higher People's Court in March.

Xinhua said the executions were carried out on November 24, but did not say where.

Public outrage

Melamine is used in the making of plastics and fertilisers. When added to

food products it indicates a higher apparent protein content but can cause kidney stones and kidney failure.

Milk dealers and middlemen, including Zhang and Geng, sold the milk to major dairy companies who failed to test it for its purity and nutritional value.

Sanlu had been China's largest seller of milk powder until news of the racket broke in mid-September last year.

It emerged that Sanlu had known it was selling toxic milk - and allowed around 900 tonnes of it to leave its dairies before it stopped production.

The company's former chairwoman, Tian Wenhua, was sentenced to life in prison in January this year after pleading guilty to producing and selling fake or substandard milk. She was the highest-ranking executive charged over the scandal.

The case provoked widespread public outrage in China and came after a series of similar food safety incidents, including another one of contaminated milk powder four years previously which left 13 babies dead. It led to product recalls across the globe, and further damaged China's reputation for producing safe and reliable products, correspondents say.

In December 2008, the government ordered 22 firms implicated in the tainted milk to pay a total of 1.1bn yuan (\$161m; £97.5m) to the hundreds of thousands of families involved.

One lawyer said the problem with the tainted milk stemmed from an inadequate regulatory system.

"It's hard to understand why these people are given such harsh punishment because generally speaking... there is a lack of monitoring and regulation," said Li Fangping.

"It's the food supervision and inspection authorities that are responsible for this."

Policy Change to Limit Influence Pushes Lobbyists Off Advisory Panels

Hundreds, if not thousands, of lobbyists are likely to be ejected from federal advisory panels as part of a little-noticed initiative by the Obama administration to curb K Street's influence in Washington.

The new policy -- issued with little fanfare this fall by the White House ethics counsel -- may turn out to be the most far-reaching lobbying rule change so far from President Obama, who has also sought to restrict the ability of lobbyists to get jobs

in his administration and to negotiate over stimulus contracts.

The initiative is aimed at a system of advisory committees so vast that federal officials don't have exact numbers for its size; according to the most recent estimates from the General Services Administration, 52 government agencies use 915 advisory committees organized under the law, with a total membership of more than 60,000. Other estimates put the figure at about 1,000 panels. Federal officials say they do not know how many panel members are lobbyists.

Under the policy, which is being phased in over the coming months, none of the more than 13,000 lobbyists in Washington would be able to hold seats on the committees, which advise agencies on trade rules, troop levels, environmental regulations, consumer protections and thousands of other government policies.

Lobbyists and many of the businesses they represent warn that the latest policy will severely handicap federal regulators, who rely heavily on advisory boards for technical advice and to serve as liaisons between government and industry.

Most committee members receive no pay for their participation. They often are urged to take part by companies, trade groups or advocacy organizations that hope to sway government decisions to their advantage. While their operations vary, the panels tend to hold open meetings and issue reports and recommendations, and they often wield significant influence with policymakers because of their expertise in arcane subjects, from nuclear plant safety to wild burro management.

Administration lawyers determined that they couldn't ban lobbyists from advisory committees directly because most of the panels are overseen by individual agencies rather than the White House; so White House counsel Eisen encouraged -- rather than ordered -- the prohibition. Nonetheless, administration officials said, most Cabinet secretaries have implemented the recommendation, usually by barring renewals or new appointments for lobbyists.

Lobbyists up in arms

The reaction from the lobbying community has been swift and overwhelmingly negative. Some of the loudest criticism has come from the Industry Trade Advisory Committees (ITACs), a [please see **Lobby**, page 22]

Update on Canada's new Organic Regulation and Standards

by Kelly A. Monaghan

It has been an exciting time in Canada over the past few months -- what we have all been planning and preparing for has finally come to pass! Since June 30, 2009, Canada's Organic Products Regulations has been in effect, as has the world's first equivalency agreement for organic standards between Canada and the United States.

All stakeholders are working together to iron out the many details of how to implement this new reality. It will likely be many months if not years before all of the routes that need to be navigated are mapped out. Some of the issues that the industry is discussing include:

- ◆ How will organic certificates (for products destined to the U.S.A. from Canada and vice versa) be different than they were prior to the equivalency agreement?
- ◆ What if Canadian buyers need or want their imported products to maintain the NOP's "100% organic" designation?

One issue that has generated much discussion is that of the Sodium Nitrate "carve-out" and whether it will be required for all products or only for primary (not processed) products. Shortly after the Equivalency Agreement was signed, the NOP issued a directive to certifiers indicating that processed products would not be included in this carve-out. Representatives from the Canada Organic Office have advised us that subsequently the NOP has confirmed with them that processed products are indeed included, but to date this information has not yet been formally communicated to the industry on either side of the border.

A Canada/U.S. task force made up of officials from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Canada Organic Office and the United States Department of Agriculture's National Organic Program is working via regular communications and annual face-to-face meetings to review issues arising from this new trading relationship. I am advised that this topic is on the agenda for their next meeting which is underway

as I write this entry (the first week of December 2009).

Other Trading Partners

Representatives from the European Union were in Ottawa on November 12, 2009 to discuss with Canadian government representatives the possibility for a formal trading relationship between organic goods produced in the two regions. These negotiations are in the final stages after over eight years of work to this end and the Government of Canada's goal is to enter into a trade arrangement, regarding organic products, with the European Union, recognizing each other's regulatory regimes as equivalent.

Discussions are ongoing with representatives of various other countries and regions (Costa Rica, Australia and others) in an attempt to streamline organic trade

The Standard & PSL

Over the summer the 4th Ballot of the CGSB's Technical Committee was completed which resulted in a number of minor changes to the Standard and additions to the PSL which are currently being reviewed by the Standards Council of Canada. It is hoped that the CGSB will be publishing this amended standard and PSL before the year is out. The industry is still working with the CGSB and other government departments in the hopes that the CGSB will soon be able to provide copies of the Standard and PSL at no cost.

This does not mean that the Technical Committee and the volunteer working groups have retired! Research and review on comments continues with plans for a 2010 Ballot of the Technical Committee in January of 2010 underway. Comments and suggestions for improvement of the Standard & PSL are still welcomed and will be added to the work lists as we anticipate that this work will continue on an ongoing basis.

For Sample Suggestion Forms and guidance on filling them out, please visit http://www.tpsgc-pwgscc.gc.ca/cgsb/on_the_net/organic/index-e.html

Products Outside the OPR's Current Scope

Personal care products, aquaculture, textiles and fertilizers are a few of the items that are not included in the scope of the Organic Products Regulation (OPR) and therefore are not allowed to utilize the new Canada Organic logo. This is only because they are not included in the Canada Agricultural Products Act which is the enabling legislation for the OPR.

The Technical Committee of the CGSB has approved the formation of task forces for several of these product groups to encourage industry stakeholders to work together in identifying appropriate organic standards. It is hoped that eventually these products may be able to use the Canada Organic logo via an arrangement between the applicable regulation that governs the product and the Canada Organic Office.



Standards Interpretation Committee

The Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC) is a body formed in the spring of 2009 made up of seven elected individuals from the CGSB's Technical Committee voting membership.

They are currently setting up their systems in order to fulfill their mandate of providing interpretive guidance to certification bodies on the National Standards for Organic Agriculture.

New OTA CA Site

Lastly, the Organic Trade Association in Canada has recently launched a website which provides information for producers, consumers and other stakeholders on Canada's new regulation, standard and PSL including links to a variety of other useful resources.

www.organicbiologique.ca

Kelly Monaghan is the current Chair of the Canadian General Standards Board's Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture and she also acts as IOIA's Membership Chairperson. Visit her new website at www.ashstreetorganics.com.

November NOSB Meeting Summary of Key Decisions

Source: OTA NOSB Report November 2009

Retailer Certification: Given continued confusion around voluntary retail certification and the lack of clear guidance that exists for retailers, the Certification, Accreditation, and Compliance Committee (CACC) developed a guidance recommendation. The recommendation strives to improve consumer understanding of the distinction between “organic” and “certified organic” retailers. Guidance recommendation passed by a vote of 12 to 1.

Personal Body Care Standards: In August 2005, USDA extended its regulations to cover the organic claims made by personal care products meeting the composition requirements for organic food. However, USDA has never had jurisdiction to enforce these regulations against companies that are not voluntarily certified. Private standards have emerged, as have many new personal care products making organic claims. With this growth came consumer confusion about the meaning of organic as it applies to personal care products, as well as manufacturer confusion about competing private standards and the applicability of NOP to their products. The NOSB recommendation sought to address this problem by calling on NOP to amend sections 205.102, 205.100(a), 205.102, 205.300, and 205.311 of the current rule to explicitly include organic personal care products in the scope of the Program. The recommendation passed by a vote of 12

Nanotechnology: The NOSB clearly did not want nanotechnology in organic food, but after lengthy debate and proposed amendments, the Materials Committee withdrew a recommendation on nanotechnology. The committee will continue to revise the recommendation and present an updated version at the Spring 2010 NOSB meeting.

List 4 inerts in pesticides: The Environmental Protection Agency has historically had a classification system for inert ingredients used in pesticides. This classification included two lists of ingredients: List 3 and List 4. To meet the safety standard established by the Food Quality Production Act, EPA was required to reassess the items on this list, resulting in new classification lists. In light of this new classification, questions have arisen around the fact that NOP regulations currently reference and allow in pesticides used in organic production operations inert ingredients that appeared on EPA’s List 4. Specifically, questions have been raised about whether the “Inerts List” system is still effective and available for NOP to reference in its regulations. In its current guidance discussion document, NOSB’s Crops Committee requests that inert ingredients reassessed by EPA but not previously authorized for use under NOP remain prohibited in agriculture until they are successfully petitioned for use in organic production. During the public comment period, concerns were raised about both the prospect of NOSB having to review each of the list 4 inerts, as well as the possibility that these materials could be added to the National List without individual review. The Crops Committee will take these concerns into account and continue to work on this issue for the Spring 2010 NOSB meeting.

Greenhouse Production: Many comments were received. The Crops Committee recommendation document will be reworked. No vote was taken.

Vaccines: When the final rule was published, vaccines were classified as synthetics, and Section 603 allowed vaccines as a class for use in organic livestock production. At the same time, however, the rule stated that organic products cannot be made using excluded methods (i.e.: genetic engineering), but that vaccines were exempt from this provision “provided that [they] are approved in accordance with section 205.600.” In other words, vaccines were permitted to make use of methods otherwise prohibited for use in organic production, so long as those methods satisfied the criteria outlined in the rule related to synthetic substances. Some have interpreted this information to mean that genetically engineered vaccines are permitted as a class for use in organic livestock production, while others have argued that the use of such vaccines is prohibited unless the vaccines undergo the review process required of all synthetic substances used in organic production. A Livestock Committee recommendation called for a rule change whereby section 205.105 (e) of the Rule be truncated to no longer make reference to excluded methods. According to the Livestock Committee, such a change would eliminate the need for each vaccine to undergo evaluation and be petitioned for inclusion on the National List. Moreover, it would allow vaccines produced using excluded methods to continue to be used in organic production and handling. Consumer groups, such as the Organic Consumers Association, as well as some others were strongly opposed. Other NOSB members and members of the gallery voiced an alternative opinion, noting that genetically engineered vaccines have been in use for many years in organic, and that few alternatives to such vaccines exist at this time. Requiring organic producers to use non-GMO vaccines, they argued, would thus reduce their (the producers’) ability to treat animals. Moreover, it would force organic producers to remove from organic production any animals treated with genetically engineered vaccines, and in the process, compromise the viability of their organic business. After hearing these comments, the Livestock Committee revised its original recommendation to state that vaccines made without the use of excluded methods must be used if they are commercially available. The revised recommendation passed by a vote of 11 to 2.

Animal Welfare: Current regulations offer little in the way of specific performance metrics with which to evaluate the welfare of organic livestock. This creates challenges in terms of consistency in the organic certification process, as it relies on Accredited Certifying Agents (ACAs) to use their discretion in making assessments about organic animal health. In an effort to provide ACAs with clear guidance in the evaluation process regarding the welfare of organic livestock, the Livestock Committee presented a

[continued on page 12]

NOSB, from page 11

discussion document that outlined proposed rule changes that employ detailed physical descriptions, as well as diagrams and photos, as part of a unified numerical scoring system. After comments, the Livestock Committee revised its original recommendation substantially to incorporate feedback it received during the public comment period. Included in these revisions was the removal of all metrics related to stocking densities and a requirement that producers must include information about animal welfare in their organic system plans. The revised recommendation passed by a vote of 13 to 0.

Excipients: Prior to December 17, 2007, no excipients were allowed in organic production. This recommendation called for the rule to be changed to state “Excipients, only to be used in the manufacture of animal health care products used to treat organic livestock when the excipient is: Identified by the FDA as Generally Recognized as Safe; Approved by the FDA as a food additive; Included in the FDA review and approval of a New Animal Drug Application of New Drug Application; or approved by APHIS. The recommendation was further amended to say “only to be used in the manufacture of drugs or animal health care products...or approved by APHIS.”

Molluscan Bivalve Aquaculture: Several years ago, NOSB’s Livestock Committee was charged with considering the inclusion of aquatic animal species in organic agriculture. Out of this charge came the Aquaculture Working Group (AWG), a group of twelve aquaculture experts appointed by USDA to assist the Board and NOP in developing recommendations related to organic aquaculture. The recommendation for bivalve mollusks was the fourth and final section of aquaculture recommendations developed and presented by AWG. George Lockwood (Chair, Aquaculture Working Group): “What we are proposing is a set of standards that substantially differentiates organic bivalve aquaculture from conventional. These standards require oceanographic studies of the water in which the bivalves are grown to ensure that there are no sources of prohibited substances entering the area of phytoplankton production; frequent sampling for coliform bacteria as indicators of inflows containing prohibited substances and other contaminants; and frequent testing of the tissue of bivalves being grown for a wide range of industrial and agricultural chemicals and metals. This monitoring program is similar to the US NOAA Mussel Watch Program that detects and monitors changes in chemical contamination of coastal waters around the U.S. The adoption of the proposed standards will restrict organic bivalve aquaculture to the most isolated and remote growing waters far away from areas with high levels of human activity. The recommendation passed by a vote of 11 to 2.

Petitioned Materials chart on opposite page

Nominations anyone?

IOIA Bylaws require that Board of Directors candidates be nominated at least 60 days prior to the AGM. The AGM date is March 7, so **members can nominate candidates until January 6**. If you would like to nominate someone or yourself, please email Kelly Monaghan, Membership Chair, at kellyamonaghan@sympatico.ca before January 6, preferably earlier. Each candidate will be asked to answer a few questions and submit a short bio. Candidates should be willing to participate in conference calls (typically once per month), attend the Annual Meeting and possibly one other in-person meeting during the year, and participate in fundraising activities. Each Board member is liaison to one or more IOIA committees.

Members of the BOD must be selected from among Inspector members who are actively inspecting. The BOD positions up for re-election are currently filled by Gene Prochaska (Indiana) and Stephen Bird (California). BOD positions not up for re-election are filled by Bob Durst (Oregon), David Konrad (Ontario), and Eric Feutz (Arkansas). Second Alternate position is also up for election in 2010. Lidia Girón of Guatemala currently serves as Second Alternate. Julio Perez (Florida) is serving the first year of a 2 year term as First Alternate. IOIA strives to have at least two candidates for each position, so four candidates are sought for BOD and 2 for Second Alternate. All terms are 2 years. IOIA limits consecutive terms to 3 terms. No directors are currently serving a third term. Gene Prochaska and Stephen Bird have both declined to run another term.

To nominate someone for **Inspector Asset of the Year** or **Inspector of the Year**, please request a nomination form from the IOIA office or from Kelly Monaghan. Inspector of the Year must be an IOIA member and should exemplify the ideal inspector or one who has distinguished him/herself in promoting organic integrity. Inspector Asset of the Year need not be an IOIA member but should be someone who has furthered the cause of organic inspectors. The Membership Committee selects the recipients. To propose amendments to the Bylaws, submit your proposal to the IOIA office or directly to Arthur Harvey, Bylaws Committee Chair, at arthurharvey@yahoo.com. Allow enough time for Committee review. Bylaws amendments to be voted on at the Annual Meeting must be mailed out at least 45 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

Be Sure to Join Us!
2010 IOIA AGM
March 7
Advanced Training
March 4 – 8
Esplendor Resort
Rio Rico, Arizona
Details on page 6
See You There!

Petitioned Materials

*Sunset items

Committee	Material	Section of Rule	Action	Explanation
Crops	Manganese Sulphate Monohydrate		Not recommended	Already appears on the National List as a plant or soil amendment (601(j))
Crops	Peracetic acid 1. To expand use for plant disease control 2. To annotate the current listings for hydrogen peroxide to allow up to 5% peracetic acid	205.601(a)(6) and 205.601(i)(7)	1. Not recommended 2. Recommended	1. Peracetic acid is a broad oxidizer. 2. Peracetic acid and hydrogen peroxide are often not sold independently of each other.
Crops	Hydrogen Chloride for de-linting cotton seed*	205.601 (n)	Re-listed	No chemical or mechanical alternatives found.
Crops	Ferric phosphate for snail bait*		No vote taken	Sent out for another TAP review; will be voted on in Spring 2010
Livestock	Eprinomectin (parasiticide)	205.603	Not recommended	This material is similar to other materials currently on the National List; NOSB is not expanding materials in the avermectin class.
Livestock	Chlorhexidine	205.603(a)(6)	Recommended	This material is needed for both medical and surgical procedures.
Livestock	Xylazine	205.603(a)(23)	Recommended	The amended annotation clarifies the original petition.
Handling	Egg White Lysozyme*	205.605(a)	Re-listed	No new information is available
Handling	L-Malic Acid*	205.605(a)	Re-listed	No new information is available
Handling	Microorganisms*	205.605(a)	Re-listed	No new information is available
Handling	Activated Charcoal*	205.605(b)	Re-listed	No new information is available
Handling	Cyclohexylamine*	205.605(b)	Re-listed	Effective alternatives have not yet been found.
Handling	Diethylaminoethanol*	205.605(b)	Re-listed	Effective alternatives have not yet been found.
Handling	Octodecylamine*	205.605(b)	Re-listed	Effective alternatives have not yet been found.
Handling	Peracetic/peroxyacetic Acid*	205.605(b)	Re-listed	No new information is available
Handling	Sodium Acid Pyrophosphate*	205.605(b)	Re-listed	No new information is available from TAP review
Handling	Tetrasodium pyrophosphate*	205.605(b)	Re-listed	No new information is available from TAP review

Sustainable Ag Flourishes on Social Networking Sites

A quick glance thru the winter events calendars shows a new way is emerging for farming groups to communicate. Organizations like Oregon Tilth; Ohio Ecological Food & Farm Association; Organic Trade Association; and Ecological Farming Association now have Facebook pages, where they post events, educational information, photos, video and much more, and engage in real time interaction between members. An OTA staff person reported on the recent NOSB meeting via Twitter – literally the next best thing to being there, and that helped get this information out to the organic sector at large much quicker than previous methods. StumbleUpon, MySpace, Delicious – all of these formats are finding their way into the sustainable and organic agriculture movements, largely as a result of so-called smart phones and their internet capabilities. This mode of communication fulfills its potential to energize these groups and unite them in common cause. They are great tools for activism - many of the Farm Bill victories of this past year were helped along by people interacting thru these venues. Once you start looking for who is on these networks, it becomes apparent that, for as many alleged disavowers of technology (specifically computers!) that we have in the organic community, this is one technology that has found a way to really bring people together, and that the good news is that social networking leads to improvements in education for farming communities and continued opportunities to help these communities, their farm lands, and their environments, to thrive.

EcoSocial Training – A Valuable Vision

Another historic training first for IOIA: Nine IOIA inspector members, plus one representative from a supporting certifying agency member, met for the first IOIA-cosponsored EcoSocial inspection training in the US in Woburn, Massachusetts, near Boston on September 23. Alexandre Harkaly, Director IBD Certifications (middle of back row), presented the training. Participants were inspired and encouraged to see this positive step to go beyond the scope that is addressed in organic certification. Also, the program includes a requirement for a plan of ongoing improvement. IBD describes the program as “a guarantee seal that promotes Human, Social, and Environmental development in developing countries.” The IBD standards require that the product is organic, to start with. It is a new and extended fair trade standard. Besides the fair price to the producer, the standard requires that no child labor is used. All participants along the chain of custody need to show something: In the ecology



requirements the product cannot be grown by cutting a piece of jungle. Restoration of historic land use can be a way of meeting the ecological requirement. Making funds available to improve health care and decrease analphabetism is another way to meet social requirements. It seems that some Europeans are increasingly interested to see that the use of third country agricultural products are more than organic only.” Maarten Samsom, an IOIA inspector member (at far left in photo, although he is not a liberal, it is pure coincidence that he appears at the left in the picture), filled in as facilitator for IOIA and handled on-site logistics. He extended his role beyond facilitation to hospitality, even meeting participants at the airport and chauffeuring to a restaurant. *“The program’s concepts are refreshing and inspired. EcoSocial is a valuable vision for our materialistic time.”* Participant Jennifer Clifford

LaCrosse, WI hosts IOIA Organic Inspector Training

By Joyce E Ford



Joyce Ford in the classroom

The weather cleared up just in time for participants to take their farm tours in LaCrosse, WI during the week of October 5-9. Twenty two students took the class, representing the Midwest, but also the Northwest, Pennsylvania, and Texas. One USDA compliance officer attended the class. We also had one international student from China, Yanni Liang.

Congratulations to Yanni, as she is the IOIA Organic Community Initiative scholarship winner from 2008. She is spending her summer interning at the MOSA office in Viroqua, WI. Yanni hopes to grow organic

food and start a health food store in China when she returns.

Several mornings before class officially started, we formed a circle in the classroom, and spoke to whatever topic Garry had on the board. After being in the same classroom for 2 days and looking forward to a 3rd, Wayne Edgerton stated, “At least dairy cattle have access to outdoors.”

Garry Lean and Joyce Ford were the trainers, with Margaret Scoles providing assistance when needed. As usual, the 1st 3 days were given over to class instruction, interactive exercises and quizzes. 3 farm tours were organized, two to row crop farms, and 1 to an organic orchard with on-farm processing of apples into apple juice. A special thank you is given to Aaron Brin, Bonnie Wideman and Chris Fanta at Midwest Organic Services Association (MOSA) for helping make this course a success.



Yanni Liang, Organic Community Initiative Scholarship recipient, and IOIA Inspector member Bill Stoneman, hard at work during the audit trail aspect of the livestock field trip.



Wisconsin Livestock Training

A group of 17 participants from Maine to Kentucky to California met in Wisconsin on Oct. 12-16 for Basic Livestock Inspection training. Garry Lean was Lead Trainer, assisted by ED Margaret Scoles as second Trainer and field trip group leader. Half the group toured an organic dairy and wrote a



sample inspection report. The other half toured an organic beef operation to complete their report assignment. Unseasonably chilly, wet weather added a real-life challenge to the tours. As luck would have it, the sky broke out blue and clear on the final morning, when the course finished with the test.

WSU/IOIA Training

Dr. Oumar Badini, Associate Director for West Africa Programs International Research & Development, Washington State University was a driving force behind the IOIA/WSU Crop Inspection Training in Pullman, WA on October 20-25. Seeds for the training were sown when four West Africans including Oumar attended an IOIA training one year ago in Oregon as part of their sustainable agriculture training program at WSU. All of the participants from Africa in 2008 and again this year were Norman Borlaug fellowship recipients. USDA funding supported their attendance. Karen Uetrecht of USDA in Washington DC visited each course. Ten participants in the course traveled from Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and South Africa for this training. Dr. David Granatstein, Sustainable Agriculture Specialist, joined the group as the 11th participant. Lisa Pierce, IOIA Trainer, customized the typical 4.5 day IOIA basic training to extend for 5 days, with more detail on international standards. The field trip exercise was hosted by the certified organic Soil Stewards Farm at the nearby University of Idaho, 5 miles from Pullman. Planning training to occur in Africa will be the next step in the collaborative process.



Where's the Beef? Our group went to the field to find out.

Dr. Oumar Badini, Associate Director for West Africa Programs International Research & Development at Washington State University ö



IOIA/KFSAO Basic Organic Livestock Inspector Training Isidore Farm, Jeju Island, Korea

By Lisa Pierce

I was just about to start my session when I noticed the splatters on my new shirt... Isidor just shook his head and said, "Lisa, did you use chopsticks again?" And so began the 10th IOIA organic inspector training in Korea. The IOIA/KFSAO Basic Organic Livestock Inspector training was held at Isidore Farm on Jeju Island, Korea. The 21 participants in the course had a range of backgrounds from current inspectors to government representatives to staff of one of the largest milk companies in Korea. Co-trainers for the livestock course were Isidor Yu and myself. Special acknowledgement to Dr. Tae Young Heo for his great pictures and presentation on livestock healthcare.



Jeju Island picture of farm from hill or oreum as they are called here (extinct secondary volcanoes)

The IOIA/KFSAO training was held at Isidore Farm on Jeju Island. Jeju Island is an island south of the Korean mainland famous as a destination for honeymooners and the first IOIA training in Korea. Think subtropical, think mandarin oranges, think palm trees. Or at least that is what I was thinking, being a Canadian and it being November. Day two of the training I woke up to a sprinkling of snow. Apparently, given the vulgarities of elevation, mandarin oranges and snow can co-exist on the same island.



Materials Section of Course



A happy cow in any language is.... A Happy Cow!

Isidore Farm was self contained as the site of our accommodation, cafeteria, and field trip. The isolation and solitude, however, was a little too much for some participants who lamented the absence of a 'Family Mart' (Korean for 24 hour convenience store). St Isidore is the Patron Saint of Agriculture. Isidore Farm was founded by Father McGlinchey of Ireland in the 1950's after the devastation wrought by the Korean War and other atrocities. Prior to Isidore, agricultural activity on Jeju was largely restricted to smallholder properties on the edges of the island. Initial ventures on the property included the introduction of lamb and wool production and development of cooperative ventures with local farmers. The farm has since evolved into a certified organic beef and dairy operation, thoroughbred estate and a complex of other projects that include retreat center, nursing home, youth center and hospital.



About 80% of the country is mountainous. Livestock production in Korea is constrained by the land base and the high cost of imported feed. Statistically, Australia has the greatest land under organic management at 12,023,135 hectares. Australia, however, has only 1,438 producers or 8,361 ha/producer on average. Not surprisingly, 97% organically managed land in Australia is extensive grazing land. Compare that to Korea with 9, 729 hectares land under organic management with 7,507 producers or 1.3 ha/producer. (Based on 2007 statistics from IFOAM/FiBL Statistics and Emerging Trends 2009) This is compounded further on Jeju, a volcanic island where the land is porous and surface water is scarce. Given this different context, the feed ration for cattle in Korea has a high percentage of grain, from 60% to as much as 80%. The feed ration in Korea contrasts with the Canada standards requirement for ruminants, that at least 60% of dry matter in daily rations consist of hay, fresh/dried fodder or silage. (CAN/CGSB 32.310-2006 Amended 2008: 6.4.3b.) These differences provided good fodder for discussion during nutrition and feed audit sessions of the course.

In addition to the standardized IOIA curriculum, some new activities and exercises were introduced in Korea. Isidor Yu, for example, highlighted the identification of organic control points and expanded the concept to include the entire certification process. A seven

step HACCP like decision making and evaluation process was developed from a certification agency perspective. Several of the participants in the The IOIA/KFSAO Basic Organic Livestock Inspector training were actively engaged in the organic certification system in Korea but were not organic inspectors (worked in government or commercial sector).

The IOIA/KFSAO Livestock training is over but I have indulged in the opportunity to further walk the fields, hang out with the dairy cows on Isidore Farm, climb Mt Hallasan and pick oranges on an organic farm. My gratitude to Father McGlinchey, the staff at Isidore Farm, and Mr Kung and his family is immense.

Chõngmal komapsũmnida.

In borrowed clothes (but warmer),

Lisa in Korea



Minutes Highlights [full minutes are available in the Members-Only Section of www.ioia.net]

IOIA BOD Conference Call July, 30 2009

Attendance: Bob Durst (Chair), Eric Feutz, Dave Konrad, Steve Bird, Gene Prochaska, and Margaret Scoles, ED.

Minutes submitted by Eric Feutz, Secretary

Special topic meeting at ED request: ED Compensation, Job Description, and Evaluation

Compensation, Base Salary, Training Compensation: The ED provided a summary of all incomes received from IOIA for the past five years and answered questions on the history of the compensation structure. ED provided information about the ED's time for managing IOIA trainings and about the office staff's time in preparation and on occasion assisting with the trainings. The ED answered questions from the BOD about details of the job description and how and where staff has assumed responsibilities listed in the ED Job Description. ED commented although additional staff have helped reduce the ED's time per training that there has been consistently more trainings and the ED's overall time on trainings has remained relatively constant.

Evaluation, How Often, By Who: Margaret noted there have been two evaluations from the BOD in the 10 years as the ED and requests more feedback on the job performance from the BOD. ED leaves at 7:00 PM EST for an Executive Meeting on ED compensation.

Executive Meeting: Attendees discuss the information provided by the ED on past compensation, job description and ED's compensation in comparison to other not-for-profit organizations as provided in the Montana Non Profit Wage & Benefit Report provided to the BOD by the ED. Discussions addressed how to approach the ED's compensation and that based on future discussions and decisions by the executive committee, changes in the ED's compensation need to be included in the next annual budget process.

Action Point: Bob will send evaluation forms to BOD for review and comments.

IOIA BOD Conference Call August 13, 2009

Attendance: Steve Bird, Bob Durst (Chair), Eric Feutz, Dave Konrad, Gene Prochaska, and Margaret Scoles, ED.

Minutes submitted by Eric Feutz, Secretary

Treasurer's Report: Second quarter balance running a negative bottom line that is typical for this time of year, but still doing better than expected, approximately \$14,000 over projected to date. IRS Return has been filed and was signed by Steve Bird. Steve acknowledged Gene's assistance with reviewing the IRS returns. Dave suggests clearer wording in the future as to how much is actual operating expenses and how much is cash reserves.

Steve gives overview of budgeting, P&L Budget vs. Actual, if we are identifying our priorities and staying within goals and controls. Overall budget looks pretty good and staying right on. Specific line items:

- ◆ **Grant income:** Have \$8,000 budget, to date income is zero. ED doesn't see any grant monies coming in. Thought it may come from the COG project but that income showed up in training, not in a grant.
- ◆ **Total resource sales:** Budget \$6,000, but at \$3,000 and do we expect more? ED noted this was partly due to less trainings and manual sales and expected to catch up by year's end.
- ◆ **Fundraising:** budget \$500 and zero so far. ED noted it is actually \$1,000 budgeted for the year and asks if some should be used for new brochures to take to events and potential funders. We would do a smaller version that might replace our current tri-fold. BOD approved using fundraising line item for brochure. **Action Point:** Margaret will proceed with developing new brochure.
- ◆ **Bank charges:** Seems to be a lot in budgeted line item and questioned why. ED notes that processing credit card payments charges costs about 3% in bank charges. Until mid-2008, all credit card processing charges were attributed to this line item. Rita more recently started allocating CC processing charges as closely as possible to the individual trainings. Bank charges are not going down in reality. However, they are being allocated differently, so the amount that shows up in bank service charges is going down and is below budget. **Action Point:** ED will check with Rita to see if there is an explanation about why the increase in staff taxes, unemployment, etc. seems disproportionately higher relative to increases in staff compensation.

There is a whole series of trainings budgeted at zero and it throws the budget vs. actual off for income and expense line items, although not the net. Steve suggests we should have an estimated total trainings and actual costs. As BOD members with fiduciary responsibility, it is hard to monitor how we are doing with such large discrepancies between budgeted income and expense line items vs. actuals. What would it take or how burdensome is it to modify the budget? ED explains that we don't know the trainings at the beginning of the year, and it would be hard to closely estimate actual gross amounts per training in budgeting. Net is much easier to project accurately than actuals. Thinks we could come reasonably close but redoing the budget during the year would be burdensome. Creating a budget with a reasonable gross amount for IOIA managed and cosponsor-managed trainings would be possible. Steve says we should be looking at the allocation of resource with staff and how many we reasonably can do each year. And did the trainings meet our expectations? Do we reach what we are expecting? Gene suggests developing business and work plans that will assist with estimating the budgeted amount for trainings. BOD accepted Treasurer's report. **Action Point:** Work towards having budget estimates for trainings in the next annual budget.

Committees:

Accreditation: Steve reported that the Accreditation Committee (ARC) has met and began process for accreditation. Initial meeting was brainstorming on how to make it work. **Action Item** was to initiate contact with certifiers and have BOD's approval to have a conference call with CAs to see how it might be beneficial to them.

IOIA logo: We need to get a contact person for the logo committee. Does it need to be from the Board or staff? Dave comments about web based logo contests. BOD agrees this may be an effective and affordable means to obtain new logo designs. No BOD person is designated, but ED will move forward with project.

NOSB recommendation: ED received a request from a supporting member for endorsement to the NOSB. Person works for a certified handler and has been a presenter at IOIA training but we didn't give endorsement for the last requests in part because they were certified producers. General consensus was that previous decision still holds. Request will be denied.

Web-based learning/Training Institute: This is a vehicle for IOIA to expand the number of trainees. Dave suggests that accreditation discussion should include input into this training discussion. General agreement that this vehicle is inappropriate for basic training, but it can be good for advanced training on special topics. Need to survey the certifiers to learn what they need for accreditation and specific areas for inspectors trainings to include. ED gets the go ahead to start working toward web-based training.

Action Point: Send out to the BOD or inspectors to see who the right person are to contact at CAs.

In-person BOD Retreat: General consensus that there does not seem to be a need for this, but maybe should add the time for this at the next AGM. Benefit to planning retreat then is efficiency and lower cost without duplicate travel.

Health Reimbursement Arrangement: General consensus is that ED should proceed with more research on HRA and proposed language for the Employee Handbook for next meeting.

Action Point: ED to talk to Rita and the accountant, David Gardner, to further investigate HRA concept and to determine what is needed to set it up. **Action Point:** ED to draft HRA language for the Employee Handbook

BOD Conference Call September 10, 2009

Attendance: Bob Durst(Chair), Eric Feutz, Gene Prochaska, Steve Bird and Margaret Scoles, ED.

Minutes submitted by Eric Feutz, Secretary

2010 Member Dues Rates: Steve comments that in consideration of the current economic conditions it is not a good time to increase dues and that the financial state of IOIA is positive.

Bob: Motion to keep the current membership dues rates for 2010. Eric seconds the motion. No objections. Motion approved.

Use of IOIA Name by Non-members and Members:

ED Report – reference: Current IOIA policy states that use of IOIA name or logo by members should be reviewed by the Membership Committee. *Bob:* Where do we stand on this Policy? What happens if we have non-members improperly using IOIA name and/or logo in ways that are detrimental to the organization? Do we need to wait until we find out more about our legal rights? Does IOIA have a registered trademark for the logo and acronym? Action will likely need to wait until a new logo has been selected.

Action point: ED will follow up about logo and registration.

Action Point: The decision is made to put use of IOIA name/logo on agenda for future BOD meetings.

Training Issues

◆ **Web-based learning:** Attached table to the ED report shows difference in costs and features from GAN and Ready Talk, that are the primary choices. GAN has created a demonstration website for our training and BOD activities. Biggest differences between the two is GAN has capacity for VOIP and video conferencing while Ready Talk does not. BOD consensus to allow the ED and staff to choose the service provider.

◆ **Curriculum Budget:** ED - asking to increase the 2009 curriculum budget to \$16,815. Table in the ED report references the projected costs for curriculum development for both NOP and COR trainings.

Steve - Motion to increase the budget for curriculum development to \$10,000. Requests Finance Committee convenes to review additional increase for this year and next year's budget. Gene seconds the motion. No objections. Motion approved.

Action Point: Steve and ED to convene Finance Committee meeting to consider increases in curriculum budget.

Personnel Issue-HRA Health Reimbursement: ED - The plan allows IOIA to control the money and how much we put into the fund. The funds go into an asset (earmarked) account.

Bob - The BOD is in favor, but this is an item that is not a crises or immediate concern. Need to include in next year's budget based on more information, typical rates etc. Steve - Acknowledges that the board supports this and will work on adding into the next annual budget. ED - Comments that the staff members are really happy to know the BOD is considering to approve this program.

Technical Editor - potential new position: ED- is this important to consider for next year's budget?

Action Point: Add line item for Technical Editor in 2010 Budget.

AGM issues: Confirm Date for 2010 AGM date is moved from March 14 to March 7. No disagreements from BOD or members surveyed by the ED.

BOD Election Idea: Bob and Margaret - Membership/Nominations Committee brought up an election idea – that we have a slate of candidates for the open BOD positions at each election instead of meeting the goal in the Policy Manual to have two candidates for every position. This concept is for discussion by the BOD only to provide feedback to the Membership Committee on whether this concept is worth their time to pursue.

Action Point: Margaret will send letter of appreciation to the Membership/Nomination Committee.

ED Report - Food Safety: ED - Need to decide how pro-active IOIA will be on the addressing the food safety issue in trainings. Many certifiers are doing this on their own but maybe we should we start a discussion with the certifiers for feedback for meeting their needs.

Logo: The points in the ED report obtained from the Logo committee, and feedback from the committee chair. ED checked out the websites that manage the logo design contests that were provided by Dave Konrad.

Action Point: ED will notify Committee Chair that the BOD prefers going with logo design choices and we are willing to offer \$500.

[See Minutes, page 22]

Ireland Bans GM Crops, Prioritizes Organic Agriculture

According to the advocacy group GM-Free Ireland, in mid-October the Irish government announced a plan to ban the growing of genetically modified (GM) crops on the island, and to introduce a voluntary labeling program for food made without the use of GM animal feed (including meat, poultry, eggs, fish, crustaceans and dairy products). The move comes as Ireland positions itself as a global source for GM-free products and has created a funding scheme to increase organic and local production. The Proposed Renewed Programme for Government includes support for organic, seasonal and direct markets. The President of the Irish Cattle and Sheepfarmers Association, Malcolm Thompson, said he was delighted by the announcement, adding, "The Government's new GM-free policy is the fulfillment of what we at ICSA have held for the last five years. I very much look forward to its full implementation." According to Michael O'Callaghan of GM-free Ireland, "The WTO's economic globalization agenda has forced most Irish farmers to enter an unwinnable race to the bottom for low quality GM-fed meat and dairy produce, in competition with countries like the USA, Argentina and Brazil which can easily out-compete us with their highly subsidized GM crop monocultures, cheap fossil fuel, extensive use of toxic agrochemicals that are not up to EU standards, and underpaid migrant farm labor." The new policy, adopted as part of the Renewed Programme for Government, was the result of a coalition agreement between Fianna Fáil and the Green Party.

Unlike similar bans in other European countries that allow for trial uses of GM field crops, Ireland's policy will expressly prohibit the cultivation of any kind of GM crops. The island's geographic location and offshore winds prevent contamination by wind-borne GM pollen drift, making it an ideal candidate for such a ban. This, in combination with the rigor of the new labeling system, will provide a selling point for Ireland to market GM-free foods.

Historical Note: Several years ago Prince Edward Island considered banning GMO's. The Standing Committee on

Agriculture held public hearings which resulted in the largest public response in Island history. While some farmers did and still do support the use of GMO's, the initiative demonstrated significant public support for a ban. Just days before the Committee was to issue its report the Agriculture Minister (Kevin MacAdam) interceded and declared that GMO's would not be banned. The Premier at that time was Pat Binns. Today, Mr. Binns is Canada's ambassador to Ireland. MacAdam made an unsuccessful bid for Member of Parliament. Today he is a political advisor to Peter MacKay the federal minister responsible for Prince Edward Island.

Rules on Modified Corn Skirted, Study Says

As many as 25 percent of the American farmers growing genetically engineered corn are no longer complying with federal rules intended to maintain the resistance of the crops to damage from insects, according to a report released November 5 from an advocacy group.

The increase in farmers skirting the rules, from fewer than 10 percent a few years ago, raises the risk that insects will develop resistance to the toxins in the corn that are meant to kill them, the report says. And it raises questions about whether the Environmental Protection Agency and the agricultural biotechnology industry are adequately enforcing the rules.

The data "should be a wake-up call to E.P.A. that the regulatory system is not working," Gregory Jaffe, the report's author, wrote in a letter Thursday to Lisa P. Jackson, the administrator of the federal agency. Mr. Jaffe is the biotechnology project director at the **Center for Science in the Public Interest**, a Washington advocacy group that does not oppose genetically engineered crops but favors stricter regulation.

The crops in question, called BT corn, have bacterial genes spliced into their DNA that cause the plants to make toxins that kill certain insects when they feed on the crop. In 2008, about 49 million acres of BT corn was grown, accounting for 57 percent of domestic corn acreage.

So far there appears to be little sign that insects are growing resistant to the toxins in the corn. If they were to, however, it would not only render the crops ineffective but would hurt organic farmers who use sprays of bacterial BT toxins as natural pesticides.

To stave off such resistance, E.P.A. requires farmers in the Corn Belt to plant 20 percent of their fields with non-BT corn to serve as a refuge for insects. The idea is that if an insect becomes impervious to the BT toxin, it is likely to mate with a nonresistant insect from the refuge, and the offspring would not be resistant.

Four big biotechnology companies — Monsanto, Pioneer Hi-Bred, Syngenta and Dow AgroSciences — jointly do an annual survey of corn growers to assess compliance.

Mr. Jaffe obtained these reports from the E.P.A. under the Freedom of Information Act. From 2003 to 2006, about 90 percent of farmers growing corn resistant to the corn borer established refuges of the required size. But the rate fell to 80 percent in 2007 and 78 percent in 2008.

Only 74 percent of farmers were setting up a big enough refuge for corn resistant to the rootworm in 2008, down from 89 percent in 2006. And only 63 percent of farmers had their rootworm refuges close enough to their fields.

Nicholas Storer, chairman of Agricultural Biotechnology Stewardship Technical Committee, the industry group that does the surveys, said the seed companies recognized the problems and for the last two years have been undertaking a "Respect the Refuge" campaign, sending postcards to farmers and putting billboards alongside highways in the Corn Belt.

The E.P.A. said it would evaluate the report and take action if necessary.

Source: New York Times, November 5, 2009

GM Video Catalog

This is an amazing resource of online videos about GMOs, a great way to show others the truth about this world wide contaminant and corporate takeover of our food supply.

<http://www.gmwatch.org/gm-video>

Resources

Feds publish comprehensive organic dairy report

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has published a comprehensive report called the "Characteristics, Costs, and Issues for Organic Dairy Farming." Get it at:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR82/ERR82.pdf>

"Impacts of Genetically Engineered Crops on Pesticide Use: The First Thirteen Years"

A just-released study revealing that herbicide usage has increased over the past 13 years due to the widespread adoption of GMO agriculture. The author is Charles Benbrook, Ph.D., Chief Scientist at The Organic Center

Genetically-engineered corn, soybeans, and cotton now account for the majority of acres planted to these three crops. A model was developed that utilizes official, USDA pesticide use data to estimate the differences in the average pounds of pesticides applied on GE crop acres, compared to acres planted to conventional, non-GE varieties.

The basic finding is that compared to pesticide use in the absence of GE crops, farmers applied 318 million more pounds of pesticides over the last 13 years as a result of planting GE seeds. This difference represents an average increase of about 0.25 pound for each acre planted to a GE trait.

GE crops are pushing pesticide use upward at a rapidly accelerating pace. In 2008, GE crop acres required over 26% more pounds of pesticides per acre than acres planted to conventional varieties. The report projects that this trend will continue as a result of the rapid spread of glyphosate-resistant weeds.

The full report is 69 pages, and is accessible from The Organic Center website. The Executive Summary is posted separately (15 pages).

http://www.organic-center.org/reportfiles/EXSUM_13Years20091116.pdf

<http://www.organic-center.org/reportfiles/13Years20091116.pdf>

Supplemental Tables

<http://www.organic-center.org/reportfiles/SupplementalTables2.pdf>

For free copies of all Organic Center studies, visit: www.organic-center.org.

FDA issues 2009 Food Code The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued the 2009 Food Code, a model food safety code for retail operations and institutional food service establishments, available online at <http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/RetailFoodProtection/FoodCode/FoodCode2009/default.htm>

The Food Code is the result of collaboration between FDA, USDA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Conference for Food Protection. Although it has no legal effect on its own, it is a model intended to be adopted by state and local governments. As of January 2009, some version of the code has been adopted by 49 of the 50 states and three of six U.S. territories.

606 Site This useful site, developed by the Accredited Certifiers Association, can help determine whether a 205.606 non-organic ingredient is in fact not commercially available.

<http://606organic.com/>

Thanks to Duncan Cox for submitting this tidbit to the IOIA Forum.

Healthy Farm Index

University of Nebraska-Lincoln researchers have designed a tool called the Healthy Farm Index to help farmers measure their farm's ecological health. Indicators for the Healthy Farm Index include production factors such as yield, diversification and acres; biodiversity, including habitat, birds, crops and livestock; ecological practices that affect the soil, water and landscape; and personal satisfaction with profit and farm management.

<http://organic.unl.edu/hfi/hfi.shtml>

Non-GMO Shopping Guide Free downloadable 9 page guide.

<http://www.nongmoshoppingguide.com/SG/Home/index.cfm>

New Documentary on Ag Over-production Policies

The people that brought us *King Corn*, a short documentary film about the life of a corn seed from field to table, have done it again. *Big River* covers the territory around farm policies that pay farmers to overproduce commodity crops such as corn and soybeans that result in pollution from overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Info: <http://bigriverfilm.com/#>

Get Inspired Michael Pollan, author of *In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto*, winner of the James Beard Award, and *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* (2006), which was named one of the ten best books of the year by both the New York Times and the Washington Post. Michael Pollan gave a great presentation recently at the Bioneers Conference in California. Check it out at <http://www.youtube.com/user/Bioneers#p/u/18/ok-FkWr8LSo>

New Report on GM Risk Assessments

'Risk Reloaded' - Risk analysis of genetically engineered plants within the European Union has been described as "a hugely important report - very well informed and thoroughly researched and referenced".

The GM lobby has long claimed that, unlike in the U.S., GM food safety risk assessments in the EU are overly rigorous. This report shows this claim to be completely untrue. By Christoph Then and Christof Potthof. October 2009

http://www.testbiotech.org/sites/default/files/risk-reloaded_engl.pdf

Organic Crosswalk Online

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has released a Guide for using the Conservation Stewardship Program during Transition to Organic. *The Organic Crosswalk* is available online at: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp/

NCAT Releases Report on Farm

Energy Audits The National Center for Appropriate Technology has released a new report, *"Farm Energy Audits: Availability, Usefulness, and Cost."* Based on interviews with dozens of audit providers, agencies, utilities, farming and energy organizations, as well as hundreds of agricultural producers from around the U.S., the report offers recommendations for improving energy efficiency efforts in rural areas.

The availability of energy audits remains extremely limited in most rural parts of the country. The demand for farm energy audits has recently increased, though, partly because audits are required and encouraged by a major USDA grant and loan program: the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). From 2003 to 2008, this program awarded over \$140 million in grants to 2,035 energy projects in all 50 states.

Download the report at:

http://www.ncat.org/pdf/2009_Farm_Energy_Audit_Report01.pdf

Minutes, from page 19 IOIA BOD Web Conference Call October 8, 2009

Attendance: Bob Durst (Chair), Eric Feutz, Lidia Giron, Julio Perez, and Margaret Scoles, ED. Julio (First Alternate) and Lidia (Second Alternate) acted as full BOD members. Rita Wenzel, IOIA Office Manager, and Dan Ripperden, GAN were present until 7:06 p.m. for GAN conference topic. Minutes submitted by Eric Feutz, Secretary.

Not a quorum of BOD members to conduct a full decision meeting. Agreed by all attendees to focus on the GAN demonstration and ED presentation from the MT Nonprofit Association Conference.

Introduction to Great America Networks Conferencing (GAN): Margaret invites Dan Ripperden of GAN to explain features of the web-based conferencing program.

Latin American Membership

Margaret: just sent out our membership renewal and we are losing more members in LA. We are no longer receiving Spanish language articles from Carlos Escobar for printing in our newsletter. Lidia, LA forum, Diane Cooner was helping but nothing new is happening. Main problem is the language. Julio, can we get a database so maybe he can contact them and see what we can do more to offer them? Instead of writing an article in Spanish maybe translate articles to put in the newsletter or on the website that would be of interest, even old articles that are still relevant. Bob, What can IOIA provide to for the LA and SA communities that will show some benefits? Julio, good idea to contact regional organizations to get contact information of inspectors in the area and then put a survey together.

Action Point: Julio - will contact Luis Brenes for names of Latin American inspectors.

Action Point: ED to have Sacha locate email addresses of LA and SA participants to IOIA trainings.

Lidia - Maybe they should make a plan to propose to the BOD. Julio - Will help with translation.

ED Report & Policies: Margaret gave PPT presentation of the MNA Conference. The ED demonstrated the GAN web conferencing with a Power Point presentation covering the Montana Nonprofit Association Conference Sept

28-30 and topics from sessions that were attended. After ED reported on advice from the financial consultant at "Consultant's Corner" that we report to both IRS and membership using accrual method, ED was questioned during the meeting why we do cash accounting.

The ED was informed that the best information from the conference is that spending lots of time or financial resources on outside help for developing a business plan is not recommended. Instead, have the BOD spend that time and resources on strategic planning. The ED noted this simpler approach to business planning is consistent with what was suggested by Steven Bird in previous meetings.

- ◆ Whistleblower - ED noted we need a clause in the IOIA policy manual for protection of staff, BOD or members who may disclose misconduct of the BOD or staff. Not an IRS requirement but is required by Sarbanes-Oxley Act.
- ◆ CEO Transition - The ED noted this is an issue that has not been addressed by the BOD and was noted as an important aspect for the strategic planning of Nonprofit organizations. Typically CEO spends 3-4 years in this role with an organization, so turnover is to be expected and BODs must be prepared for it.

[Full minutes of these and other meetings are available in the members only section of the IOIA website, www.ioia.net]

Lobby, from page 9

collection of more than a dozen panels that provide policy advice and technical assistance to the Commerce Department and the U.S. Trade Representative. The ITACs, whose roughly 400 members include at least 130 lobbyists, officials say, have taken the lead in attacking the White House policy as misguided and harmful to U.S. business interests.

"This action will severely undermine the utility of the advisory committee process," the letter read. ". . . The characteristics that make many Advisors valuable to the Administration [are] the same characteristics that are being used to artificially disqualify them from participation in the Committee system."

'New voices'

"If the result of this new approach is that business owners join the conversation in D.C. about issues affecting them, that's fine," Eisen said in an interview. "It's

healthy to move away from the professional advocates for the special interests and let some new voices be heard."

And though lobbyists are unhappy, some good-government advocates say the policy is sound.

"You may lose a lot of expertise, but these people are also paid to have a point of view; they have an agenda," said Mary Boyle, a vice president at Common Cause. "We support what the administration is doing to get deep-seated special interests out of the business of running our government, so this seems like a step in the right direction."

Source: Washington Post, November 27, 2009

It's Everywhere

Bisphenol A, commonly abbreviated as BPA, is an organic compound with two phenol functional groups. It is a difunctional building block of several important plastics and plastic additives. With an annual production of 2-3 million tonnes, it is an important monomer in the production of polycarbonate.

Suspected of being hazardous to humans since the 1930s, concerns about the use of bisphenol A in consumer products were regularly reported in the news media in 2008 after several governments issued reports questioning its safety, and some retailers have removed products made of it from their shelves.

The website www.keepitorganic.org has a permanent link to the November 2009 Consumer Reports article that discusses Consumers Union latest tests of canned foods, including soups, juice, tuna, and green beans, that have found that almost all of the 19 name-brand foods tested contain some BPA. The canned organic foods that were tested did not always have lower BPA levels than nonorganic brands of similar foods analyzed. They also found the chemical in some products in cans that were labeled "BPA-free."

The US FDA was to have issued a reevaluation, but the self-imposed deadline of November 30, 2009 has come and gone with no word. Food safety advocates are pushing to ban BPA.

Keep It Organic is dedicated to providing the organic shopper with information about the right packaging choices for keeping organic foods. Many packaging choices may contain synthetic chemicals that migrate into foods and beverages, thus altering the natural organic integrity of foods.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

IOIA has several publications for sale. Order here or through our website, www.ioia.net

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- Farming with the Wild: Enhancing Biodiversity on Farms and Ranches; Written by Daniel Imhoff, Watershed Media, 182 p.; 2003; \$20.00
- Organic Dairy Farming, Edited by Jody Padham, Community Conservation, Project coordinated by MOSES, 156 p.; 2006; \$15.00
- Building Soils for Better Crops (2nd Edition), by Fred Magdoff and Harold Van Es. 240 pp. \$20
- COG Organic Field Crop Handbook, 2nd Edition, Expanded and Rewritten. Published by Canadian Organic Growers. An invaluable resource. While preserving the best of the now out-of-print and no longer available first edition, this edition is updated to include info on GMO's, E. coli issues in manure, and many additions to the crop section. 222 pages, spiral bound, \$30.00.
- Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 2nd Edition, published by Sust. Ag Network, \$19.00
- Organic Livestock Handbook, published by Canadian Organic Growers. Edited by Anne Macey, 179 pp, spiral bound, \$30.00
- Organic Tree Fruit Management, published by COABC, 240 pages, \$30.00
- Steel in the Field, published by Sustainable Ag Network, 128 pages, \$18.00
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\$15 members \$25 non-members

IFOAM/IOIA Int'l Organic Inspection Manual:

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Keep IOIA Strong - Lend Your Strength And Get Involved!

2010 Calendar

January 4-8 IOIA Basic Crop Training, Lima, Peru – details page 3 inside.

January 15 - 16 Minnesota Organic Conference. St. Cloud, Minnesota
<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/food/organic/>

January 20 - 23 30th Anniversary EcoFarm Conference: *Where the Future is Planted*. Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, California on the shores of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.
<http://eco-farm.org/index.php/efc>

January 20 - 23 19th Annual Practical Tools and Solutions for Sustaining Family Farms - Southern SAWG. Chattanooga Convention Center, Chattanooga, Tennessee
<http://ssawg.org/conference-.html>

January 21 - 22 12th Annual Midwest Value Added Agriculture Conference and 4th Annual Wisconsin Local Food Summit. Eau Claire, WI. www.rivercountryrcd.org/valad.html

January 22 - 24 NOFA-NY's 28th Annual Organic Farming and Gardening Conference. Saratoga Springs, New York.
<http://www.events.org/nofany-conference/cpage.aspx?e=21411>

January 25-29 IOIA and ACC Basic Process Inspection Training. Brandon, Manitoba – details page 3.

January 29 - 30 Texas Conference on Organic Production Systems 2010. A collection of workshops, exhibitors, locally-sourced organic food, and inspirational keynote speakers, the conference is recognized as a statewide educational and networking event in the organic production community. San Marcos, Texas. www.tofga.org

February 4 - 6 PASA Farming for the Future Conference. PASA's 18th annual Farming for the Future conference was a success in early February. We welcomed over 1,900 people from 30 states and 6 countries. State College, Pennsylvania. <http://www.pasafarming.org/our-work/farming-for-the-future-conference>

February 5 - 12 Networking Association for Farm Direct Marketing and Agritourism (NAFDMA) Convention 2010. Lancaster, Pennsylvania. <http://www.nafdma.com/>

February 5 - 6 Rural Advantage/Healthy Farms Conference. Plan to attend the Rural Advantage/Healthy Farms Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska. Haymarket Holiday Inn. Our keynote this year is by Congressman Jeff Fortenberry. Lincoln, Nebraska
<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=226164845253>

February 7 Bob Fest Agricultural Fair 2010. Keep it Green Hawaii & Native Fm presents Bob Fest Agricultural Fair 2010 Sunday, February 7th starting at 12:00 noon to 6:00 PM at Mo'ohau Park & Bandstand in Hilo. International reggae artists & local Hawaiian bands will perform. Hilo, Hawaii
<http://www.myspace.com/bobfestagfair>

Feb. 9, 10 & 11 Northern Plains Sustainable Ag Society's Annual Winter Conference, Watertown Event Center, Watertown, South Dakota. Keynote speakers Tom Stearns, founder of High Mowing Organic Seeds, Wolcott, Vermont and Dr. Paul Dettloff, DVM, Arcadia, Wisconsin, staff veterinarian for Organic Valley, plus workshops, variety of exhibitors. For more information call 1-701-883-4304, or e-mail npsas@drtel.net.

February 9 - 11 Northern Plains Sustainable Ag Society's Annual Winter Conference. Watertown Event Center, Watertown, South Dakota <http://www.npsas.org/events.html>

February 13 - 14 "Growing with Integrity, Eating with Intention" OEFFA's 31st Annual Conference OEFFA's 31st annual conference and Ohio's largest organic/sustainable agriculture gathering. This event will feature nationally recognized keynote speaker Joel Salatin. Granville, Ohio.
<http://www.oeffa.org/conference2010.php>

February 15 - 17 The Missouri Agritourism Conference and the 30th Annual Small Fruit and Vegetable Conference Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri.
<http://mtngrv.missouristate.edu/commercial/Conference2010.htm>

February 20 Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota's 19th Annual Conference.
<http://www.sfa-mn.org/conference.php>

February 25 - 27 The Organic Farming Conference. LaCrosse, WI.
www.mosesorganic.org/conference.html

March 4 - 8 IOIA Advanced Training and AGM, Rio Rico, Arizona. Full details page 6.

March 21 - 24 Building Stronger Rural Communities - MAFO's 21st National Conference *Pathways to a New World of Work*. Hyatt Regency on the Riverwalk, San Antonio, TX
http://www.mafofarmworker.com/conf_theme.html

March 23 - 26 Food Safety Education Conference. Atlanta, GA.
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/atlanta2010>