



The Inspectors' Report

Published by the Independent Organic Inspectors Association

Volume 4, Number 2

Spring 1995

Notes from The Chair

By Rick Martinez

Here we are at the next edition of the INSPECTORS' REPORT already. Boy, how time flies whether you're having fun or not. I am presently sitting in an airport in the Dominican Republic recovering from the worst bout of diarrhea I ever have experienced. So I am not having fun, but the duties of my office have me pressing forward.

In March, I was able to take part in the IOIA training in San Diego, and meet with some of our west coast members for the first time. It was a very stimulating training and, as IOIA trainings go, had very full days. But we did manage to partake in the (see Notes, page 3)

IOIA Applies for Membership in Co-Op America Business Network

Co-Op America is dedicated to creating a just and sustainable society by harnessing economic power for positive change. Co-Op America's unique approach involves working with both the consumer (demand) and the business (supply) sides of the economy simultaneously. Co-Op America's programs and publications are designed to:

- 1) Educate people how to use their spending and investment power to bring the values of social justice and environmental responsibility into the economy.
- 2) Help socially and environmentally responsible business emerge and thrive.
- 3) Pressure irresponsible companies to adopt socially and environmentally responsible practices.

All business members of Co-Op America are screened and must take the following "green business ethics pledge": "As a member of Co-Op America's Business network, my company conducts business according to standards that reach beyond contemporary practices in addressing the needs of consumers, employees, the community and the environment. I certify and can demonstrate that we strive to operate in a socially just and environmentally sustainable manner."

The membership fee for the IOIA is \$45.00. Upon acceptance the IOIA will be listed in the next issue of Co-Op America's National Green Pages, which will connect us to other consumer and business members. The Co-Op America Business Network (CABN) is the largest association of green businesses in the world. In addition to any IOIA benefits that may flow from this, the IOIA gains the satisfaction of supporting an organization which has at the foundation of its existence the understanding that economic success that is subsidized by social and environmental degradation is not sustainable.

Inside → Minneapolis Report...Training Survey...Election Reform...
Murrietta Hot Springs Report...Notable Quotes...New Members...& More!

Executive Committee Meeting Summary - March 18, 1995

by Janine Gibson, IOIA Secretary

Present: Rick Martinez, Chair; Chip Kraynyk, Vice Chair; Jim Riddle, Treasurer; Janine Gibson, Secretary; Gary Ulbrich, Board Member.

We welcomed new and continuing board members. There are a lot of resourceful people in our organization and we want to give you every opportunity to share your skills with us as volunteers on committees and the board. **SO KEEP US IN MIND** when you're planning future commitments!

We started with basics like our **MISSION STATEMENT** and getting the wording clear. We also need to have **CLEAR EXPECTATIONS** of committee work, goals, budgets, following our bylaws and policies, and reporting regularly to the membership. Remember, the **NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION DEADLINES** are the 15th of August, November, February & May.

We acknowledged the fine quality of work that's already been done in IOI. **SINCERE THANKS** to Jim and Joyce and all the others who worked so hard on our **EXCELLENT NEW MANUAL & APPENDIX**.

Rick is drafting **BYLAW CHANGES** regarding apprentice/supporting members, for input and future action. We want supporting memberships and perhaps a limit to how long a person may remain as an apprentice inspector.

FUNDRAISING: Four main categories - grants and contributions, trainings, membership dues and product sales. What are our organizational needs? We need to finance our staffing needs to run our office. We would benefit from accounting, legal and business organizational services.

BERNARDO ROJAS is inviting participation to join him in **STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL FUNDING** contacts and potential fundraisers. We need support in this area! Foundational grants seem possible, professional fundraisers an option, as are increased support from members skills...Chip wants to pass his outline for fundraising activities on to another for implementation, someone who has a **TRACK RECORD** and knows the basics.

Proposal to consider joining Co-Op America with its resulting membership advantages (Business consulting, Green Pages, etc.) We have \$12,665.66 in our checking account. We are in good financial shape. Membership renewals are due as well.

NEXT YEARS ANNUAL MEETING: location ideas, climate selection, in conjunction with Advanced Inspector Course? Focus on board meetings with well-defined time slots for adequate discussion.

NOMINATION PROCESS: Chip will use newsletter to encourage people to become familiar with/involved in the board activities. The organization could be broken into bioregional subgroups who could put forth nominees for board involvement.

IOIA CAPS are being designed for purchase. Get ready to get **YOURS!**



1995 IOIA Dues Due!

Recently IOIA sent out reminders to individual members for renewing their membership. We thank all those of you who have responded so quickly. If you haven't yet sent in your dues, please do so.

For those of you who are no longer inspecting but are still involved in the organic industry, you may want to keep your subscription to **The INSPECTORS' REPORT** for \$10.00/year.

IOIA Inspection Manual Available

IOIA's Organic Inspection Manual (121 pages) and Appendix (190 pages) is now available for \$25.00 to IOIA members and \$35.00 to non-members. A bulk rate of \$20.00/copy is also available for 10 or more.

This manual is a reference for organic inspectors, certifiers and government regulators, as well as organic farmers, processors, handlers, retailers, and consumers. It covers the inspection of farms, livestock and processors as well as general information on inspector protocol, job description, Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics.

Notes, from page 1

amenities of the site. I find the level of expertise of the attendees as well as the presenters at IOIA training increasingly high and is something that is both satisfying and encouraging. Both the Costa Rica and San Diego training are something that all IOIA members can be proud of and are indicative of the hard work that went into them.

The board has held one executive committee conference call meeting and has a full board conference call meeting scheduled for May 13th, so we are shaking out the wrinkles and beginning to build up a head of steam.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, one of the top priorities is to put together an organizational plan for IOIA. This is an important step for not only insuring our future but also an important step in our transition from a small group of fellow inspectors to the professional organization with the infrastructure to support the needs of a rapidly expanding membership. Phil Hale has been a tremendous help and impetus in starting the process and has provided us with a rough draft from which to begin.

As with the task of the organizational plan, there is an immense amount of work to be done, and within our membership lies a vast pool of diversely talented people. I encourage all of our members to get involved in whatever way possible. It is through membership involvement that things get accomplished. Your contributions can make a difference, be it an article for the newsletter, involvement in a committee or work on a specific project such as the business plan. WE NEED YOU! I see increasing membership involvement as the #1 priority and essential to our long term success. So beware, I may be calling you next to ask for your input or help, but nothing would please me more than for you to call me, offering your help.

Well, they just announced last call for boarding, so I'll be signing off. Until next time, Happy Inspecting!



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Anderson, Ardell, Minnesota, USA
Bardarson, Gordon, Manitoba, CANADA
Bjornson, Stefan, Manitoba, CANADA
Boatman, James R., Idaho, USA
Brin, Aaron, Wisconsin, USA
Brown, Scott C., Illinois, USA
Burdorf, Gary E., Minnesota, USA
Callaghan, Pamela, California, USA
Crossley, Rod, California, USA
Cunningham, Terry, Minnesota, USA
Davis, Joseph B., Indiana, USA
Doherty, Linda Brandt, Minnesota, USA
Dwwyor, Lizabet K., Alberta, CANADA
Ehlert, Fred, California, USA
Fields, Allan L., Wisconsin, USA
Foster, John P., California, USA
Fullmer, Jim, Oregon, USA
Fussell, Weyman, Virginia, USA
Gergen, Eugene, Wisconsin, USA
Hildebrand, Stanely J., Missouri, USA
Hnatiu, William G., Saskatchewan, CANADA
Iceta, Diego I., Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
Landa, Pedro A., Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
Mather, Faye, California, USA

McDonald, James E., California, USA
Mendenhall, Anne, New York, USA
Meyer, Vincent, South Dakota, USA
Mizuno, Yoko, Chiba, JAPAN
Moerman, Erich P., British Columbia, CANADA
Moricz de Tesco, Estaban, Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
Nadler, Hunter P., California, USA
Northcraft, Philip D., California, USA
Okuda, Michi, Alberta, CANADA
Olcott, Keith, Massachusetts, USA
Pate, Richard, New Mexico, CANADA
Robles, Gonzalo, MEXICO
Scherck, John C., Indiana, USA
Shaffer, Bob, California, USA
Summersfield, Dawne, Manitoba, CANADA
Schneider, Judy, Missouri, USA
Thierrin, Raphael, Alberta, CANADA
Volesky, M. Jean, Iowa, USA
Von Gunten, Beth, California, USA
Wakelin, Ron, Saskatchewan, CANADA
Wunderlich, Dennis, Minnesota, CANADA
Ziegler, Michael R., Florida, USA

FSMIP Project Completed

by Jim Riddle

IOIA's Federal State Market Improvement Program (FSMIP) grant project entitled "Organic Food Inspector Training Program" has now been completed. The FSMIP grant provided \$44,750.00, and IOIA was expected to provide \$44,750.00 in matching funds. The matching funds and in-kind services documented by IOIA totaled \$91,692.14, which far exceeded the required 50% match.

The goal of the project was to develop inspector training curriculum and resource materials to bring consistency to the organic inspection process. The project was conducted by IOIA to help facilitate the marketing of certified organic products, help implement the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) of 1990, and contribute to the creation of a sustainable agricultural system.

In order to achieve these goals, IOIA developed an organic inspector job description, designed core training curriculum, conducted organic farm and process inspector trainings, wrote an organic inspection manual, established regional training criteria, and developed apprenticeship guidelines. The following article briefly describes each of these achievements.

A. JOB DESCRIPTION

Throughout the past year, IOIA sought input from the USDA, members of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB), the Organic Certifiers Caucus (OCC), individual certification agencies and experienced inspectors in order to develop the Organic Inspector Job Description found on page 7 of the IOIA Organic Inspection Manual. Comments from these same sources were used to develop the Inspector Qualifications found on pages 8 and 9 of the manual. These documents clearly present a description of the tasks and qualifications of organic inspectors, and represent a general understanding by which most organic inspectors and certification agencies currently operate.

B. CORE CURRICULUM

IOIA worked with above mentioned agencies, as well as University personnel, organic farming and processing industry representatives, State Department of Agriculture staff and numerous veteran inspectors in order to develop core curriculum for basic organic farm and process inspector training courses. The

curriculum is designed to educate a person who already has a general understanding of organic farming and/or processing on organic inspection techniques and protocols. All new attendees are required to complete a rigorous application form, which is used to assess their suitability for admission to the course. Course attendance and course completion criteria were also established.

C. INSPECTION MANUAL

IOIA collected and developed various resource materials over the past year for use at the inspector training courses. These resources were then used for writing the IOIA Organic Inspection Manual and accompanying Appendix. The manual is designed to serve as a training tool to support the core curriculum, as well as a field handbook to guide both inspectors and inspected parties through the organic inspection and certification process.

The manual provides general information on the organic industry, organic standards, inspector preparation and inspector ethics. It also contains specific instruction for the inspection of organic farms, livestock operations and processing facilities.

The appendix contains the Organic Foods Production Act, the final recommendations of the NOSB, a detailed explanation of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), a list of food production and processing associations and food labs and consulting services. The manual and appendix are valuable tools for inspectors, certifiers, educators, farmers, processors, government regulators, policy makers and consumers.

D. INSPECTOR TRAINING COURSES

IOIA conducted training courses in 1994 in Florida, North Dakota, California, Hawaii, British Columbia, Manitoba, and Russia. In 1995, IOIA has held trainings in Costa Rica, North Carolina, California and Minnesota, and will be holding courses in Guatemala and possibly Chile. Grant funds were not used to conduct trainings held outside the U.S., but the same basic curriculum was followed.

126 trainees successfully completed IOIA farm inspector courses in the U.S. within the grant period. 63 completed IOIA process inspector courses. 44 people completed the farm inspector course outside of

(FSMIP, continued on page 5)

FSMIP, from page 4

the U.S. in 1994. So far in 1995, 174 trainees have completed IOIA courses.

The courses include basic instruction on inspection techniques presented by experienced inspectors, as well as presentations from international and regional certification agency representatives, USDA staff, State Dept. of Ag. personnel, University researchers, farmers and industry experts.

E. REGIONAL TRAINING CRITERIA

IOIA worked with representatives of international and regional certification programs to establish criteria for the implementation of consistent, high quality regional inspector training programs. These criteria are available from IOIA upon request. IOIA has assisted regional programs by sending out training materials as requested. We have provided resource materials to State Dept.'s of Ag. in MD, NH, TX, WA, CA, NM, ID, NC, UT, AZ, LA, FL, KY and MN, as well as providing assistance to numerous international organizations. We have worked with a wide variety of certifiers including OCIA, FVO, QAI, OGBA, CCOF, OVONA, OTCO, CFSA, the NOFA's, MOFGA, TLSA, FOG, GOGA, NMOCC and OEFFA.

F. APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

IOIA developed apprenticeship guidelines which are included on page 10 of the manual. These guidelines had already been drafted prior to the signing of the grant contract with the MN Dept. of Ag. They were then circulated for comments and finalized during the project.

The guidelines have been followed by novice inspectors during their apprenticeship inspections. The IOIA office has helped make connections between novice and veteran inspectors in order to facilitate the apprenticeship process, but a structured apprenticeship program has not been implemented.

G. SUMMARY

Many people both within and outside of IOIA helped with this project, as evidenced by the significant value given to in-kind services. Your contributions are much appreciated. The manual and the training courses have been very well received. IOIA members can feel confident that this project, supported by the USDA, has been true to the goal of helping bring consistency to the organic inspection process.

Accreditation Report

By Pete Gonzalves

The first round of accreditation reviews is underway and the next quarterly deadline for submission of your application is June 30. **SPECIAL NOTE** - Please send your completed applications to IOIA, with Attention Accreditation Committee indicated on the outside of the envelope. This will be helpful to us in the prompt processing of your valuable application. Thank you!

Clarification

Last issue we ran an article that was submitted by IOIA Board member Gary Ulbrich, California, about the formation of a new labor party. We have received feedback from some members as to the relativity of this article to IOIA members. What with previous mention of inspectors running into difficulties getting paid from some certifiers, plus tension arising from various employer/employee issues within the CCOF, Gary Ulbrich replies, "I saw this article and thought that it would be of interest to all working people, especially independents."

Election Reform

- Bylaw change proposed

By Chip Kraynyk

At this time, the IOIA Bylaws call for an election of the Board of Directors at the annual meeting. These bylaws also allow for nominations from the floor immediately prior to the election. There are some obvious problems that accompany this approach. During the last election in Costa Rica, for example, the IOIA membership that attended the meeting saw and voted on a list of candidates which was different from the one used by the members who had voted by mail. Nominees from the floor had no opportunity to introduce themselves, or make their case to the full membership. Also, attending the annual meeting can be the difference between being elected or not for a candidate.

To correct these problems, I propose that the IOIA discontinue the practice of holding the election at the annual meeting, and that voting should be done by mail. Perhaps, the ballot would be a tear-out in the next newsletter that follows the meeting. This same newsletter would include information pertinent to the election, like annual meeting report, recent Board activities, and articles from the candidates.

If you have any comments on this proposal, please contact me or any Board member by phone or mail.

Certifiers Pick Up the Pace

In a strong show of support for the industry, the Organic Trade Association (OTA) and its Organic Certifiers' Caucus (OCC) announce a three-step plan to move reciprocity forward within the organic certification community.

The announcement was made jointly by Robert Anderson of Walnut Acres, president of OTA, and Annie Kirschenmann of Farm Verified Organic, coordinator of the certifiers advisory group to the association.

The steps to be implemented are:

- ✓ An early April release of a definitive description of the process underway to achieve reciprocity, so the industry can understand the complexities of the discussions taking place and the progress being made.
- ✓ A formal progress report issued by the OCC in June.
- ✓ A meeting, called by OTA, OCC and USDA, of representatives of all private and public certification groups, will be held late spring in Washington, DC, in order to seek ways to reach consensus on final issues regarding reciprocity.

The Washington meeting also will focus on certifier education and provide an opportunity for USDA and FDA to present accreditation requirements for certifiers. These will include criteria for performance, evaluation, on-site inspections, application processes and other aspects of the standards which will enable certifiers to do their jobs effectively within the National Organic Program.

"We are committed to the preservation of the integrity and diversity of the organic industry and its certifying community," says Anderson. "There is a great future ahead and we believe with these three steps we will aggressively move forward to meet our opportunities."

Anderson points out that these steps build on a process already existing within OTA which includes the association's mediation service, the OCC's complaint procedure and the caucus' information exchange which provides the basic framework for reciprocity.

Echoing Anderson's remarks, Kirschenmann adds, "We've spent a lot of time airing differences and learning about each other, necessary steps in the evolution of common recognition. Now it's time to bring this process to the next level, even if it means agreeing to disagree in some cases," she remarks.

"We must see the implementation of the Organic Foods Production Act as soon as possible. Our market is growing rapidly. Accreditation of certifiers will allow us to respond more quickly to the demands of manufacturers, processors, distributors and consumers," she stresses.

The OCC was formed within OTA in 1992 to provide certifiers with a forum in which to discuss issues of concern to them and to provide input to the National Organic Standards Board.

NOFA Needs Director

Jennifer Morgan, the well-liked executive director of the Northeast Organic Farming Assn., New Jersey chapter (NOFA-NJ), is stepping down from that job at the end of June to work more on consulting and specific programs "that expand the organic markets". This position is open the first of June, Jennifer would like the month to train her successor. If you are interested in her job, call 609-737-6848.



IOIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rick Martinez	Chair
Chip Kraynyk	Vice Chair/Acting Chair, Nominations Committee
Janine Gibson	Secretary
Jim Riddle	Treasurer/Training & Bylaws Committees
Philip Hale	Alternate/Membership Committee
Gabriela Soto-Munoz	Latin American Committee
Gary Ulbrich	
Norm Bernhardt	
Linda Kaner	Alternate
Roberto Mack	Alternate

The INSPECTORS' REPORT is the newsletter of the Independent Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA). Editorial Staff: Diane Cooner, Box 1259, Guerneville, CA 95446. Phone/FAX (707) 869-3017, e-mail Wofpop@aol.com. All relevant articles welcomed (WordPerfect 6.0 compatible, 3.5" disk).

Published quarterly on recycled paper.

Need to Know Seed Treater Checklist

Use of a seed treater would be an organic control point for the inspector to further investigate.

The following is a suggested checklist for identifying questions when inspecting a grain cleaning facility that also treats seeds. This information should be included in your narrative report. OCIA developed and distributed this list to their approved inspectors.

1. Does the facility have a seed treater?
2. If so, was it operational during your inspection?
3. Was organic product in the facility during operation, at any time, of the seed treating equipment? This applies to any type of raw material or packaged product.
4. Are any of the treater legs shared with the organic legs?
5. Is any of the treater equipment shared with the organic equipment?
6. Is the treater physically isolated from the organic process? Totally _____ Partially _____
7. Describe the shared doorways, rooms, partitioning between the treater and organic operations.
8. Is negative air pressure applied to the seed treater?
9. Is negative air pressure applied to the bagger, hoppers, or building in general?
10. Have you provided a facility and diagram which shows the seed treater equipment in relation to the organic equipment?
11. Flow chart, same question?
12. What materials are being used in the seed treater and in what form are they?
13. Where is/are the seed treating chemicals stored?

Notable Quotes and Outrageous Statements

In an effort to not take ourselves too seriously, we hold "Notable Quotes and Outrageous Statements" competition at IOIA inspector training courses. During a course, attendees are asked to submit any memorable statements. Later in the course, the entire group decides by acclamation which statements are the "winners".

The recent courses in California and

Spring 1995

Exploring Oilseeds
&
Other Organic Phenomena



I.O.I INSPECTORS
WELCOME

Minnesota produced an inordinately large number of notable quotes. Maybe it was the food, the weather or something in the water. At any rate, we would like to share some of the memorable moments with members unable to attend.

FROM CALIFORNIA:

"Proper use of pesticides can lead to safe food."
HACCP video

"Because we are ignorant we make good inspectors. The manual is based on ignorance." Jim Riddle

"I never trust the lab." Debra Flores (lab owner)

"I spent more time drinking beer on the beach than anyone here so I guess I'm the most qualified to talk about tropical agriculture." Charlie Heermans

"Make me a pea and run me through your line."
Jim Riddle

"What do we do Sunday morning besides note the emptiness in our lives?" Vince Ivory

FROM MINNESOTA:

"When I used to be a farmer riding on a tractor in Idaho, I used to wonder about all those idiots in Washington...And now, I am one." Beth Hayden (USDA)

"When looking at the health of livestock, look at the same things you would in your best friend." Bill Welsh (livestock producer)

"You can bring a steer into heat with these drugs."
Dr. Richard Holliday, DVM

"The Paperwork Reduction Act is a very lengthy and time consuming project." Beth Hayden

"Attorneys drive litigation for their own interests."
Tim Sullivan (attorney)

"I won't go into fraud just yet." Jim Riddle

"Pregnant children should not drink the water."
Joyce Ford

IOIA'S MINNEAPOLIS TRAINING

by Joyce Ford

3 inspector trainings were held in Minneapolis, April 3-10, 1995. First was a 2-day livestock inspector training attended by 30 people. Speakers were Dr. Richard Holliday, holistic veterinarian from Iowa; Louise Hempstead, Organic Valley's quality control advisor; Margaret Scoles, veteran inspector; Bill Welsh, organic hog, beef and poultry farmer; and George Siemon, NOSB Technical Advisor on Livestock and dairy farmer. The group visited a dairy farm on the second day. The USDA was represented by Beth Hayden. We learned a lot of interesting ways to prevent health problems for livestock operations as well as the various aspects of a livestock operation that need to be inspected.

The 3-day farm inspector training was attended by about 40 people. We would like to thank our speakers; Prescott Bergh, Harriet Behar, Tim Sullivan, Kevin Edberg, Jim Riddle, Glen Borgerding, Janine Gibson, and Joyce Ford, for their excellent presentations. Glen brought a hands-on fertilizer identification quiz that was quite interesting and challenging.

Roni Brunner from OGBA and Clara Van Eaton from FVO presented their programs and answered questions about their inspector policies. Joyce Ford gave an overview of OCIA's program, paperwork and inspector policies. We also discussed apprenticing and how best to facilitate this process.



From Argentina to Minnesota: Left to right, Diego, Joyce, Pedro, Jim & Estaban

As usual, the days were packed with all of us sharing who we are. At night we played ping pong, sang songs and had campfires by the shore of Silver Lake. I would like to personally thank Janine Gibson for her dynamic energy in making this training a memorable experience for us all! Also, thanks to all who took the course and gave their time and energy to make us better inspectors.



Participants at IOIA Training, Silver Lake Camp, Minneapolis, Minnesota

People were able to choose between a grain/egg operation and state of the art CSA vegetable operation for their field trips. We found these field trips to be extremely valuable in learning what inspectors and producers are doing out there!

The 3-day process inspector training featured Tom Harding, OCIA president, as keynote speaker. He gave us an interesting overview of the international organic industry as well as the importance of the job we are doing as inspectors. Peter Murray from Eden Foods helped us understand organic control points, process flow charts, sanitation issues, boiler additives and processing aids. Jim Florin from OGBA led the discussion on audit trail for processors. Another highlight was touring Schroeder's Dairy where Organic Valley milk is packaged.

Training Camp by The Lake

By Raphael Thierrin and Allan "Buck" Fields



For that Professional Look. A visit to Schroeder's Dairy, St. Paul, MN

question, the pink highlighter on the organic label. The line between trainee and trainer dissipated. Beatles' songs, Neil Young ballads echoed around a heart warming bonfire.

The mystery of community was understood and we learn to revel in it. A commitment to soil nurturing is reaffirmed. Materials Lists are decoded. We feel much more comfortable with them. The series of lectures present the attendees of all 3 workshops with an overload of information,



The udder delight of inspecting a dairy barn...



Leon Stoppel, Beth Hayden, Jeff Riesgraf (farmer) & Harriet Behar in the Milkhouse...

Organic inspectors are ready for the 1995 seeding and harvest seasons! Thirty five attended the Minneapolis IOIA training at the Salvation Army Camp located on the northern shore of Silver Lake.

Stories were told: the processing inspection from hell, the difficulty on asking the right

dissipated by interactive sessions, such as the visit of a CSA certified organic farm.

Joyce, Jim and other veterans did a professional job in coordinating this event. Small irritants concerning accommodation were soon smoothed away, leaving us in a comfortable mood to enjoy knowledgeable presenters with impressive credentials. IOIA has been able to attract a highly qualified cross-section of the organic industry to these training sessions.

New strands of energy were created in this organic soup-- let's hope that they sustain us in the days ahead.

IOIA SURVEY FOR FUTURE INSPECTOR TRAININGS

IOIA's Training Committee is surveying inspectors and certification agencies to determine specific topics for advanced inspector trainings. Please take this opportunity to let us know what you need or want to learn. We have listed some ideas that you may just check, if you are interested in that topic. Please call IOIA office with your ideas, or send/fax this form to IOIA, Rt. 3 Box 162-C, Winona, MN, USA, 55987-9514, phone/fax (507) 454-8310.

Name _____

Listed are ideas for topics for future IOIA inspector trainings. Please check if you are interested or need this type of training.

- _____ Sample collection for residue analysis
- _____ In-depth discussion on assessing soil fertility
- _____ In-depth discussion on pest management
- _____ Specific types of farming _____
- _____ Biodynamic farming
- _____ In-depth discussion on livestock - beef, poultry, eggs, dairy, sheep, etc.
- _____ Grazing management
- _____ In-depth discussion with certifiers on _____
- _____ In-depth discussion on laws and regulations
- _____ Inspector liability issues
- _____ Audit trail case studies
- _____ Identification of organic control points
- _____ Specific types of processing _____
- _____ Status of materials

Other: _____

Suggested Speakers: _____

Suggested Resources: _____

Suggested Locations: _____

LONG HAIREd ORGANIC FARMER

(Long Haired Country Boy)

by Glen Borgerding

(Glen sang this song at the Minneapolis training one night.)



Some folks say I'm crazy, backwards and deranged
Even my county agent thinks I'm a little strange

Chorus:

But I ain't askin' nobody for nothin'
My crops just grow up on their own
If you don't like the way I do things
You just leave this long haired-organic farmer
alone.

The weed inspector's watchin' me, he says
I'll have to spray
But he don't understand the things
I'm trying to do anyway

Chorus

The fertilizer salesman says I'm mining out
my dirt

But sometimes I don't think that he really
gives a shirt

Chorus

The certifying agency wants to tell me
what to do
And now the USDA is messin' things up, too

Chorus

Environmentalists' lobby, they say they're
on my side
But I think I would just as well have them
take a long ride

Chorus

Independent Organic Inspectors Association

I AM INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING:

IOIA Membership Application (Membership includes quarterly newsletter and membership directory).

PLEASE SPECIFY CATEGORY

Individual (Annual dues \$50.00 US)

Organization (Annual dues \$250.00 US)

The INSPECTORS' REPORT - Quarterly newsletter \$10.00/yr US

1994-94 IOIA Membership Directory - \$10.00 US

IOIA Inspection Manual and Appendix, \$25.00 US for members, \$35.00 for non-members

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY. Mail to IOIA, Rt. 3, Box 162-C, Winona, MN 55987, USA

Name _____

Phone _____

FAX _____

Address _____

Business Name _____

Business Phone _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Date _____

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Report from Murrieta Hot Springs, California

By Erich Moerman

During the week of March 27 to April 1, 1995, I and up to 50 other persons convened at one of the grander old dames of Holiday Resorts. The MURRIETA HOT SPRINGS turned out to be an ideal environment to kindle new friendships, affirm old acquaintances and to indulge in the amenities of the spa whilst attending the Farm and/or Processor Inspectors Training Course. Applause to Howie Ross (QAI) for such a find.

As a newcomer to the philosophy of 'Organic Farming', the wealth of information presented over such a short time would have overwhelmed me, were it not for the professional manner in which the material was conveyed. All ten speakers managed to inject good doses of wit, humour and anecdote such that one rarely drifted into the "alphastate".

Kudos to Jim Riddle on a superb job as host and coordinator. Jim's steadily metered style and dry wit was a good balance to Joe Smillie (QAI), the animated expatriate Quebecois. You are Eh-l as an entertainer, Joe!

Besides these two headliners, we enjoyed the other speakers as well, from Chip Kraynyk, who's memorable comment went something like "In all my travels I've never met another inspector" to Charlie Heerman who took time away from the tropical beach to preach to those not so lucky to enjoy his Budweiser lifestyle.

The charming Rick "Valentino" Martinez brought in the Latin Quarter as he regaled us with his "Indiana Jones" - type inspector experiences into the depths of Central America.

Debra Flores directed all to more earthly matters followed by Mr. T. Crisantes who gave an impressive slide show of exemplary organic crop production in Mexico.

The Keynote Address by Grace Gershuny was more fully appreciated by her seasoned comrades; we newcomers took greater delight in Grace's company at the dinner table. That of course brings us to our menu plan of that week. Approvingly organic, tasteful and well presented, the menu to some was a wee bit lacking in caloric content. Fortunately our mellifluous Howie managed to appease everyone in due course. Albeit the repetitive breakfast display could have been a scene from the film "Ground Hog Day".



Participants at IOIA training, Murietta Hot Springs, Calif.

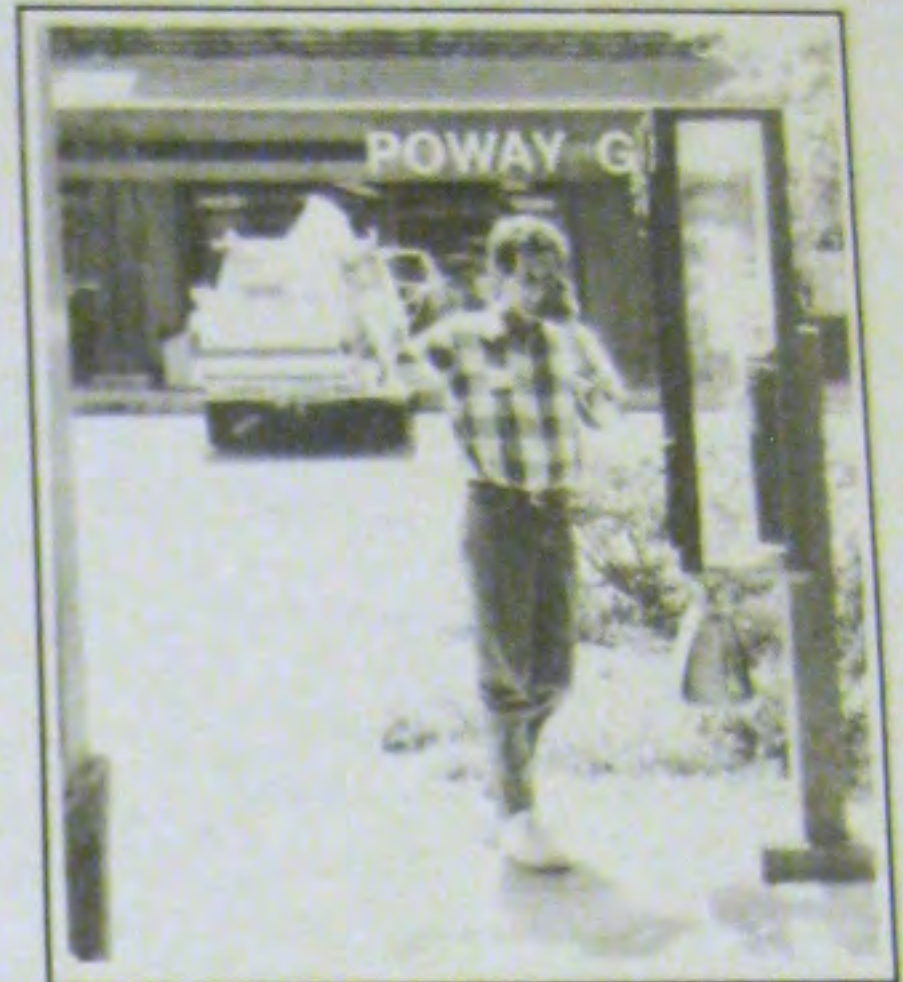


"What's in that tank?" Murietta training farm field trip

A lively discourse developed during presentations by Rod Crossley, Dr. Joe Montecalvo and Rees Moerman (yes, my bro), who each in their turn proffered much food for "Processing Thought." Once you know what really is "out there", organic is the only way to go!!!

On our last day aspect of Processing to Quality Management were covered by George Kalogridis, and Claudia McQuillan. If memory serves me, one speaker was a not show. This is where Jim may have had the last laugh; if was April Fool's and we were all 'suckered in' to believe that the processor exam would start right then due to the circumstances.

I should mention that field trips pertinent to each course, one an organic citrus orchard near San Diego, the other an organic pasta food processor in Poway, was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We all got to see some countryside, continued to develop our friendships and more importantly really saw what inspection is all about. Mind you, a herd of 30+ inspectors in one place is a bit surreal.



"How do we get there from here?" Howie Ross, QAI, call for farm field trip directions....

Closing remarks prior to exams by Jim and Joe followed three short agency introductions by Clara Van Eaton (FVO), Howie Ross (QAI), and Brian McElroy (CCOF). Now I could go on waxing eloquently and I know I've inadvertently omitted some speakers etc., but then you just had to be there: Leon Kaplan was unforgettable when he stated that acting stupid during an inspection may be an advantage. Of course, you all infer that he means to feign ignorance, right?



L to R: Mike Wise, Michi Okuda, Yoko Mizuna, Joe Smillie, Joe Montecalvo (with Grace Gershuny standing) enjoying a light lunch at Murrietta....

Jim said not to make this report more than two pages. I strive to be concise and laconic as every inspector should aim to be. Clara was adamant that one aims for this as well as get those reports done one time. My excuse? I was "volunteered" by the old guard during a "spell" in the hot tub. Methinks it was the purported Lithium in the waters, that I now deduce was a critical control point. And so I close to say that we all, in hot water and out, became richer for the experience.



"Welcome to Murrietta Hot Springs...!"

IOIA Board of Directors Meeting, May 13, 1995

By Janine Gibson, IOIA Secretary

Present: Chip Kraynyk, Chair; Jim Riddle, Gabrielle Soto, Bob Mack, Gary Ulbrich, Janine Gibson. Regrets - Rick Martinez. Joined us later - Norm Bernhardt.

1) Agenda Approval & Additions: India Training, Canadian committee, consumer bulletin, communication, accreditation review.

2) Mission Statement: Discussion of alternative wording approved.

The mission of the Independent Organic Inspectors Association is to provide the organic industry with trained and qualified inspectors, to promote consistency in the inspection process, and to address issues and concerns relevant to organic inspectors.

This is a Board-endorsed change that will be voted on by the membership as a bylaw change at the next Annual General Meeting. Members are invited to share their comments on this revision.

3) Directives to Committees from the Board: Additions to draft of a) list of committee members, b) list of publication schedule for ongoing committee reports for newsletter, c) in the opening paragraph add-submit to the board for their review, a list of the following information by July 15th, d) list of committee chair fax/phone/email numbers (as well as board list), e) send responses to the office for distribution after July 15th. Action: Janine to contact Robert Dixon as past chair to write a Job Description for Chair of Communications for Newsletter Volunteer Needed Column, and to clarify his resignation.

4) Financial report: refer to printout sent by Jim to Board. Jim and Joyce to prepare a staffing budget for starting date of May 1st.

5) Next year's annual meeting: Proposed 30-50 people for 5 days middle of January to end of March: 1 day for annual meeting, 1 day for board retreat, 3 days advanced course; Chip willing to drive to location if needed for scouting purposes.

6) Guatemala Training Update: As per Jim's report, with the change that Gabi, not Bob Mack, is involved.

7) Peru Training: Scheduled for September, will contact IOIA by middle of June with needed information for regional training - agenda & experienced trainers, etc. Financing is still pending, summary in English for the committee would be helpful.

8) Chile training: Proposal being designed with Rick & Bob for submission in July, to be conducted in November 95. Action: Rick & Bob to share Spanish translation of our current training criteria with Gabi. Jim to provide English copy if needed.

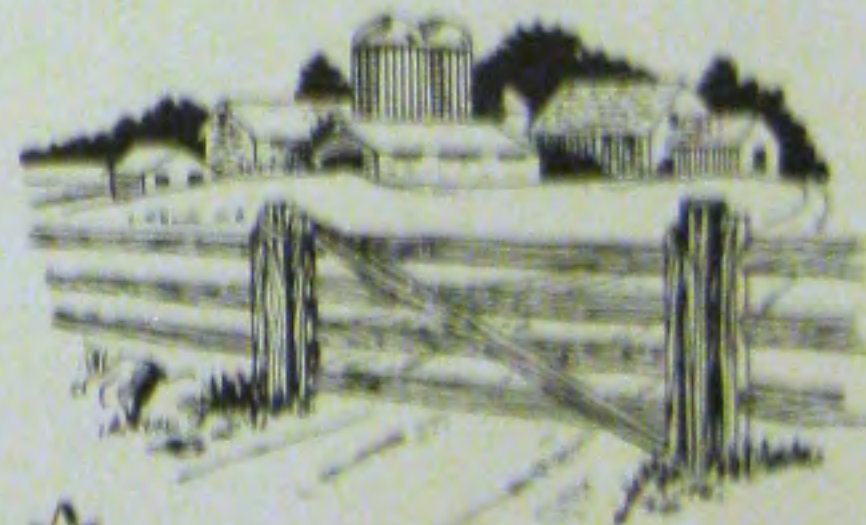
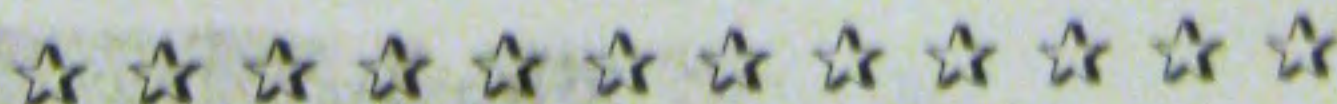
9) Regional Training Criteria/Coordinators: Proposed Amendments need to be discussed by Training Committee members before Board discussion. Action: Jim to take responsibility for committee discussions in order to forward this work proposed by Rick.

10) Proposal for Apprentice Inspectors Guidelines: This is a membership committee discussion prior to board discussions. Action: Jim and Joyce are initiating a collection of policies (policy Manual) previously passed by our organization in order to facilitate member/committee orientation.

Board of Directors....

- 11) IOIA Logo Registration: Unclear about costs, Rick proceeding.
- 12) Volunteer Needed Column: Good idea: tasks need to be clearly outlined and members skills/time focused effectively.
- 13) Fundraising Sub-Committee: Needs an experienced point person - perhaps Rick could draft a job description for newsletter. Discussion of policy about committees raising their own funds, we are not currently tax exempt. We ask Rick to research the ramifications of tax exempt status with a lawyer.
- 14) Other Business: Caps - miscommunication due to changes in fibre costs - researching organic cotton caps. 6 panel 12 oz organic cap - total costs of 144 caps = \$1145. A number of colors available for one lot, environmentally friendly dyes, 4-6 week turnaround time from order; colors natural and navy and plum, final order choice delegated to Phil, Joyce and Jim; Spanish on 3 dozen? Action: Gabi to confirm with Jim Spanish spelling and colors (by fax).
- 15) OCC Liaison: Joe Smillie is willing to stand as our liaison if a new liaison is required. We appreciate and support this.
- 16) India Training proposal: Training criteria, manual & invoice, brochure & cover letter to go out to research funding support available, then to Training sub-committee for review.
- 16) Canadian Committee: Janine has sent manuals and accreditation criteria to COAD on behalf of IOIA.
- 17) Education Outreach: Gary networking with organic stores to distribute IOIA flyer varied to reach consumer. Jim recommends Gary get a packet from Organic Trade Assoc. to see what is available and how info on us could be worded to bring supporting members on board as a fundraising/info raising venture.
- 18) Accreditation Review Panel: Concerns about confidentiality, draft being written by committee re: procedure. Action: recommend Board review draft.
- 19) Enhancing Board/Member Communication: To solicit concerns and feedback/direction, volunteer skills available and insure members know a Board member who is available to them. GO CHIP!!
- 20) Jim submitted IOIA listings at reasonable cost on our behalf.
- 21) Approved purchase of headset for secretarial use, approx. \$75

Thanks and Adjourned.



Resources

Farmer's Market Workbook: How To Start A Farmers' Market in Your Community is available for free
(Resources, continued on page 16)

Resources...

through the Sustainable Food Center, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to food and agriculture issues. The 11-page workbook covers topics such as start-up costs, raising money, site, attracting the community, publicity, structure, and operation. This book goes beyond theory: the folks at the Sustainable Food Center helped organize and operate a farmers' market in the Austin, Texas Eastside community, a low-income, minority area of the city.

To order a copy of *Farmers' Market Workbook*, write to Erik Peterson, Sustainable Food Center, 1715 E. 6th St., Ste. 200, Austin, TX 78702, or phone 512-472-2073.

Biological Control of Insects and Mites by Daniel Mahr and Nino Ridgeway, North Central Regional Extension Publications, 104 pages, Sept. 1993. This practical handbook emphasized awareness of pest life cycles and how you and nature can work together to curb populations of harmful insects. 70 color photos, with review of common natural predators, when to purchase and how to encourage their activity. To order, specify NCR 481 and send \$12.25 payable to University of Wisconsin Extension,

mail to Cooperative Extension Publications, University of Wisconsin, 30 N. Murray St., Room 245, Madison, WI, 53715-2609, (609) 262-3346.



INDEPENDENT ORGANIC
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Upcoming Events...

July 10-16, 1995 - IOIA Training, Guatemala. This course offered in Spanish only. IOIA's Rick Martinez, Bob Mack & Mark DuPont instructing along with other experienced inspectors, agronomists & food science specialists from Latin America. Contact in Guatemala is Rafael Solorzano Gonzalez (ph/fax: 502-2-20781).

September 1995 - Tentative IOIA Training in Peru. Still in the works. Contact Gabriela Soto in Costa Rica (ph: 506-224-3712, fax: 506-234-1627). Contact in Peru is Gerardo Medina Medina (ph: +(51 14)-247773, fax: +(51 14)-331073).

November 1995 - Tentative IOIA Training in Chile. Contact Rick Martinez (ph/fax: 813-889-8218). Still in planning stages. Contact in Chile is Virginia Astorga Zanzi (ph: 56-2-632-4955, fax: 56-2-632-6533).



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