



The

Inspectors' Report

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PUBLISHED BY THE INDEPENDENT ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

Notes from The Chair

By Brian Magaro

As you know, being active IOIA members, I have served for the last 3 years as the Treasurer of IOIA. After the AGM election in Vermont I was offered the opportunity to continue my participation on the IOIA Board of Directors as Chair. This election saw the largest turnover in board members since the beginning of IOIA. I wish to thank those "retiring" from the board as "old board members" for their many hours, days and years of service to IOIA. This includes; Harriet Behar, Chair; Stanley Edwards, Vice Chair; Janine Gibson, Secretary; Chip Kraynyk, At Large member and Past Chair; and Jacklyn Smith. And, in addition, Arthur Harvey as a very dedicated Alternate. They have a combined total of **over 29 years of service** to IOIA. Given their dedication and support for IOIA, I know that if there is a need, they will be there for the incoming Board. Again, **thank you** (clap, clap, clap, clap, clap...).

Secondly I would like to thank all who were on the ballot for this election. Normally, in most elections that we get to vote in outside of IOIA, it is a matter of choosing the lesser of the evils. In the 2003 election for the IOIA Board it was the total opposite end of that spectrum. Many who attended the AGM and those that contacted the IOIA office about the mail-in ballots all said the same thing: "this is the toughest election yet because everyone on the ballot is great". The election resulted in the following choices by the membership for Board members: John Foster, Ann Baier, Dag Falck, Luis Brenes, and Garry Lean (see Ballot, page 9). Doug Crabtree was elected by the membership as Alternate. Remaining members of the Board are Jack Reams, who is now Treasurer, (see Notes, pg 4)

Omnibus Rider Throws Wrench into NOP

US Organic agriculture got turned on its head February 13 when Congress adopted the 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. Buried inside the 3,000-page, \$397 billion government-wide spending bill was a paragraph that guts organic livestock standards. At issue is a provision, now passed into law, which prohibits the USDA-NOP from using funds from their 2003 appropriation to enforce the organic feed requirement in the NOP Rule.

The criterion used is that if organic feed prices exceed two times the cost of non-organic feed, the USDA could not enforce the requirement that the producer use organic feed. It further directs the agency to complete an on-going study of organic feed availability and to add a price component to the study. Enforcement of the feed requirement is essentially on hold until the study is complete and unless the study documents that organic feed is available at no more than twice the price of non-organic feed. Supporters of the measure say that as long as organic feed stays at no more than twice the cost of non-organic feed, the issue is moot. But this provision is a hostile opening salvo in the unresolved discussion on what defines 'commercial availability', an ambiguous phrase in the Federal Rule that has blown back on the Organic Sector in a big way. Commercial availability was never meant to apply to feed, but only to seeds and ingredients in processed products. It is a weird opportunist twist on a somewhat ambiguous "commercial availability" clause. While it sounds like the ambiguity of the commercial availability caused this to happen, "commercial availability" was never intended in the Rule to apply to Feed.

Organic farmers and their supporters say they are troubled by the department's reluctance to act sooner. At the time the legislation was passed, Kevin Herglotz, a spokesman for Ms. Veneman, said the agency had no opinion on the changes in the provision. Congress "asked if U.S.D.A. has a position and we told them we did not," he wrote in an e-mail message on Feb. 13. Whether the agency assented to the provision or simply stood by and watched as it passed, the National Organic Standards Board said its actions were "unconscionable." In a letter sent to Ms. Veneman on Feb. 20, the standards board, which was created to help the USDA in developing and implementing the organic standards, said, "Department of Agriculture representatives on hand at the time the language was inserted in the legislation did not object to this provision."

The letter went on to say that "this single paragraph presents a great threat to the consumer's confidence in the new federal organic standards. . . . To stand idle as this language was inserted is unconscionable."

Veneman's statement stopped short of endorsing an effort by Senator Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., to repeal the language. Nonetheless, organic food supporters welcomed her statement. "I think that USDA's statement provides the perfect justification for quietly saying: Let's repeal this," said Bob Scowcroft, head of the Organic Farming Research Foundation. Scowcroft and others have been anything but silent about the Deal measure. Lining up against (see Rider, pg 14)

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.....**And More!**

New Accreditations

Congratulations to the following newly accredited members.

P= Processing; C = Crops;

L = Livestock

New Accreditations:

Bob Howe: P

Billy Hunter: C,L,P

Stephen Grealy: C,L, P

Renewals:

Greg Blakeney: C, L, P

Luis Brenes: C, P

Joyce Ford: C,L,P

Lidia Gaivironsky: C

Al Johnson: C,L,P

Chip Kraynyk: C, P

Michael Wise: C,L,P

The next deadline for Accreditation is October 1. For more info, contact the IOIA office.

ITAP Moves Along

The newest feature of the IOIA website is the *Inspectors Technical Advisory Panel*, or **iTAP**. Not to be confused with any other panels, this is strictly inspectors answering inspectors questions about areas in which they have expertise. Diane is hoping to have this up and running soon after this newsletter is published. Watch for an email advising you of the new service coming online, and please contact Diane direct at webgal@ioia.net if you want to participate.

Something to Think About

"Many times you feel an aversion to people and you don't know why you feel an aversion. It's because the feverishness in them pushes you away, pushes you out. When you are devoid of feverishness, all things flow to you." Sri Sri Ravi Shankar: *Astavakra Gita course, tape 26. Thanks to Lisa Lanza for sharing this.*

Read This Now

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

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2003 Directory Updates

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

Address Changes:

Richard Aching

5 Broome Street La Puerta Avenue

Diego Martin

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Ekuko Asano

Email: ekuko@beige.plala.or.jp

Lisa Pierce

1410 Pratt Rd

Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1W7 CANADA

Phone: (250) 752-3635

Fax: (250) 752-3689

Jim Riddle Email: jriddle@hbc.com

Cyril Welsh, Jr.

20 Allen Lane

Georges' River, NS B14 3J8 CANADA

Carol Wilson

Email: carolaw5@yahoo.com

Michael Wise

Business Phone: (559) 322-0517

Supporting Members:

Japan Organic Inspectors Association (JOIA)

Tomoko Abe

482-113 Yamanogo, Nagaramachi

Chosei-gun, Chiba-pre 297-023 JAPAN

Phone: +81-4-75-30-7753

Fax: +81-4-75-30-7754

Email: joia@ops.dti.ne.jp

Welcome Returning Former Members:

(not in 2003 Directory)

Ryofoo Kanazawa

1026 Tatsuashi

Yaita, Tochigi Pref. 329-2505 JAPAN

Phone: 81.287.44.2764

Business Phone: 81.287.44.2764

Email: kanazoo@hotmail.com

Laura Rankin

154 Barnhart Road

Westminster, MD 21158 USA

Phone: (410) 346-6007

Fax: (410) 346-6007 Call first

Michael Ziegler

P O Box 993

Vero Beach, FL 32961-0993 USA

Phone: (407) 562-7322

Work: (407) 567-1598

Email: zieglersarm@hotmail.com

Welcome New Members:

Inspectors:

Debra Bunn (Concord, NH)

Peter Kalogridis (Florida, USA)

Amy Leblanc (East Wilton, ME)

Supporting Individual Members:

Bill Barkley (Ontario, CANADA)

Kim Black (Lawrenceburg, KY)

Robert Dixon (British Columbia, CANADA)

Elizabeth Whitlow Inman (Camp Meeker, CA)

Wayne Jones (Manitoba, CANADA)

Robert McCoubrey (British Columbia, CANADA)

Jose Saenz (Springfield, MO)

Andrew Thompson (British Columbia, CANADA)

Directory Changes:

John Trinterud (Inspector)

George Danner (*Inspector*) Inspected for "OCIA"

IOIA Board of Directors

Brian Magaro.....Chair

John Foster.....Vice Chair

Jack Reams.....Treasurer

Ann Baier.....Secretary

Dag Falck.....Member-At-Large

Luis Brenes.....Board Member

Garry Lean.....Board Member

Chris Kidwell.....Alternate

Doug Crabtree.....Alternate

Garth Kahl.....Alternate

THE INSPECTORS' REPORT is the

newsletter of the Independent Organic

Inspectors Association (IOIA). IOIA is a

501 (c)(3) educational organization,

whose mission is to address issues and

concerns relevant to organic inspectors,

to provide quality inspector training and

to promote integrity and consistency in

the organic certification process. Editorial

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Guerneville, CA 95446 USA. Phone/fax

707-869-3017, amani@sonic.net

Deadlines are Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1 &

Nov 1. Relevant articles are welcomed.

We strive for accuracy, but the Editor and

IOIA cannot be held responsible for

errors or omissions.

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Upcoming Trainings

Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, CANADA

IOIA will sponsor Advanced Organic Inspector training on April 27-28 at Woodacres in Moose Jaw. Organic aquaculture inspector training is scheduled on April 26. The agenda is under development but will focus on the needs of western province inspectors. Training on the NOP, Organic Control Points for Grain Handling Facilities, Sampling for Residue Analysis, and livestock topics will be included. IOIA will handle registration. For more information or application forms, contact the IOIA office or the IOIA website at www.ioia.net. A minimum of 15 people is required for each course, or that course will be cancelled.

Manitoba, CANADA

IOIA and Assiniboine Community College are cosponsoring Basic Organic Farm Inspector training in Manitoba. This distance education course covers IOIA's basic farm inspector curriculum. Individualized study Feb-mid April is supported by videos, audiotapes, Email, fax, and telephone tutorial support. Deadline to apply was February 3, 2003. The course concludes with an on-site practicum May 2-4, 2003. ACC handles registration.

Tokyo, JAPAN

IOIA will co-sponsor Japanese language Basic Farm Inspector Training with the Japan Organic Inspectors Association (JOIA) to be held in Tokyo, JAPAN, April 19-21, 2003 and Basic Process Inspector Training May 17-19, 2003. JOIA will handle registration. For more information, contact JOIA at joia@ops.dti.ne.jp or +81-4-75-30-7753 or +81-4-75-30-7754 (fax).

Winthrop, Maine

IOIA will sponsor Basic Organic Farm and Livestock trainings June 12-17 at United Methodist Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop, Maine. The Farm training, from June 12 through noon on June 15, will include field trips to certified organic farms. The Livestock training, from June 15 pm through June 17, will include most aspects of livestock inspection with a primary focus on dairy and a dairy field trip. GreenTree International of Milford, Connecticut and IOIA will cosponsor Basic Farm training at the same location on June 12-15 for a delegation from the China Quality Certification Centre. This course is open to other attendees but will be designed to accommodate the special needs of the delegation for which Chinese is a first language. Winthrop is located near Augusta and less than an hour from the Portland airport. For information or application forms, contact the IOIA office or the IOIA website at www.ioia.net. For each course, a minimum of 15 attendees is needed. For more information about the location, visit www.mechuwana.org but please do not contact the Camp directly for reservations.

Wilsonville, Oregon

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

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

IOIA Scholarships Available for Organic Inspector Training

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

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

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

For application materials and information, visit www.ioia.net to download application forms or contact the IOIA office, ioia@ioia.net. The deadline for returning Scholarship applications is November 1. Scholarship recipients are notified by December 15.



*2003 Rutherford Scholarship
Winner Elaine Ferry*

Notes, from page 1

and myself. I would also like to thank all who participated for your support of IOIA by voting with mail-in ballot or by your attendance at the AGM in Vermont.

The **incoming Board** met on February 23 for their first Board meeting and a get-to-know the terrain session. This meeting was reported back to me by a few “old Board Members” who attended portions of the meeting as “an impressive group that will certainly represent and support the IOIA membership”. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am and adjourned at 9:00 pm with a few breaks and dinner in there, too. The meeting went well with the agenda covering first-of-the-year housekeeping and visiting old and new issues. Minutes of the meeting are included in this newsletter (see page 10). The minutes have taken on a new format that we feel will allow easier minute taking at the meetings and a easier read for the members. Let us know what you think.

In the past few months the Board has been looking into the possibility of self-funding **training upgrades**. During the AGM there was discussion on the *IOIA Training Upgrade Proposal* which included the allocation of IOIA funds to design specific training modules for basic and advanced trainings. These would be designed to allow for consistency in all trainings. The membership present at the AGM was hesitant in spending a large chunk of money on the development of these training modules and requested that the Board research this further for presentation to the membership at a later date, possibly the next AGM. The Board will also be reviewing the FSMIP Grant that was submitted in 2002 with a very strong possibility for resubmission to other potential funders in 2003. Part of this grant was to include monies specific to the development of new training modules with matching funds from IOIA. So we will keep you posted.

In November 2000 the IOIA Board met in LaVeta, Colorado for the first-ever facilitated **strategic planning** Board retreat. The LaVeta retreat laid down long range plans for 1, 3 and 5 year goals. During the Board meeting

on February 23 the newly elected Board set in motion plans to have a two-day retreat at the IOIA office in Broadus Montana in October. There was a consensus that a 2-day retreat with the full board would be wise to review our goals, amend if necessary and solidify direction for IOIA. Everyone, including our fearless ED Margaret, felt that with all the “new blood” on the board, this year was good timing for the retreat. Time will also be spent conducting a regular board meeting during the stay in Montana. This is, as are almost all things in life, subject to change.

So let's talk 100% Feed. Many if not all of you know of the Omnibus spending bill that passed on February 13 which carried a hidden rider (agenda) weakening the livestock feed standard and granting a reduction in 100% organic feed for organic livestock, just four months after the standards took effect. This issue is covered in our lead story on page 1. What I would like to speak on is how this situation affects us.

After leaving the AGM in Vermont I traveled to Ohio, then up to Michigan and flew to Wisconsin for the Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference in LaCrosse. One workshop titled “Here We Go ‘Round the Materials Bush”, with speakers Miles McEvoy, Washington State Organic Program Manager; Brian Baker, Research Director with OMRI; and George Kuepper, Technical Specialist with ATTRA, touched on the subject about what do we (as inspectors) do in the field concerning the issue around this weakening of the standards and what the certifiers may be looking for from us. The indication was to “Continue to play by the rules”. I have spoken with several certifiers confirming their position, **which is to enforce the 100% rule and have us inspect to it.** No changes. When a violation occurs the certifier would issue a non-compliance letter and denial to the USDA. The condition of feeding less than 100% organic feed will still be recognized as a noncompliance. So hold down the fort.

IOIA **committees** are in place, doing great work and will be kept in close contact with the Board. In 2002 IOIA had the most member support through committee participation yet. This does not mean that there isn't room for *you* to participate through involvement on a committee of your choice. Visit the IOIA

web site (www.ioia.net); read the committee reports on page 5, or contact IOIA for additional information on how you can continue your member support through committee **involvement**.

One area where we all can make a huge difference is to know all the membership services that are available to you and share that information with one inspector that you know who is not currently an IOIA member. Remember that IOIA is a very respected and trusted voice in the industry that all members *and nonmembers* benefit from. **Help by bringing in a new member** (or bringing back an old member) through your own enthusiasm about IOIA. *We* are the conduit for producer to consumer trust which is what the industry has been built on and what needs to continue. Keep up the good work and speak up, let the Board know what you think, **share your ideas**. I know you have some. Ë

Training Manager Report

By Margaret Scoles

Lisa Pierce, IOIA's new Regional Training Manager, spent a week of grueling days in the IOIA office in early February. We developed a Work Plan which has Lisa taking over all regional trainings by June 1 and participating in all IOIA-managed trainings for the remainder of 2003. Until June 1, Lisa and I will be working together in her training period through the completion of regional trainings in Japan, Mexico, Ecuador, Manitoba, and Missouri. IOIA-managed trainings will remain under the management of the IOIA office indefinitely. IOIA-managed trainings are the most profitable for IOIA, but the number of such trainings is limited partly by staff resources. IOIA tries to meet the need for inspector trainings by providing the Regional Training option, where cosponsors take on more of the work as well as the financial risk. It is hoped that the addition of staff in Canada will facilitate at least one IOIA-managed training in Canada each year. Lisa is also upgrading her Spanish and will be active in the Latin American trainings next year held in association with the AGM.

On Feb. 19, the IOIA BOD approved a TC Pool Agreement, to be signed annually by all TCs. A per-training addendum to the Pool Agreement, with specific duties and timelines spelled out, should improve IOIA's training management.

Upgrading and standardizing the IOIA training program and training for TCs are on the list of urgent projects. Ë

Committee Reports

2003 brings new chairs to some committees. Others need more members to share the workload. We thank past chairs Drew Stuckey and Maarten Samsom for their dedication and devotion, and welcome new chairs and members alike to the process!

Accreditation: Interim Chair: Chip Kraynyk, 719-742-5445, krayorganyk@webcoast2coast.net
Liaison John Foster 503-474-2824, john@onlinemac.com
Members: Linda Kaner, John Foster, Alex Hanley, Margaret Scoles. **This committee is actively seeking a new Chair.** Contact Chip if you are interested. 5 people signed up for the committee during membership renewals. The committee continues to search for ways to expedite the inspector accreditation process.

Business Plan: Ad Hoc, Chair: Jack Reams, marlene_reams@telus.net 604-858-9815. Liaison Brian Magaro, 717-732-7940, magarob@aol.com
Jack is our newly elected treasurer, so he will be continuing to work with Brian and staff to develop a business plan for IOIA that reflects the Strategic Initiatives developed in LaVeta in 2000.

Bylaws: Chair, Arthur Harvey, 207-388-2860, arthurharvey@yahoo.com
Liaison Garry Lean, 705-887-5230 garrylean@sympatico.ca
Members are: Lance Christie, Wendy Lee Clark, Al Johnson and Mischa Popoff. 2 members also signed up during AGM. This committee will continue its work of proposing changes whenever current wording creates a problem such as unintended consequences or confusing wording. Also, continues to review members' proposals for clarity and suitability.

Canadian Committee: Co-chairs Jim Hudson, jhudson@sk.sympatico.ca 306-543-0662, Rochelle Eisen, 250-494-7980, rare@vip.net
Liaison Dag Falck dfalck@junction.net, 250-379-2614. This is a large committee that picked up 9 new members during renewals. They continue to work to increase visibility to international

affinity groups via press releases and the internet, and to maintain an inspector presence in the Canadian organic community.

Communications: Chair Bob Howe, earthorganic@aol.com 845-657-9592.
Liaison Brian Magaro (see Business Plan). Put on a great display of committee reports for AGM. Current goal to get iTAP program operational for membership via website ASAP. Also looking at press kit, a promotional presentation, generating media exposure, reducing costs via eNewsletter. Got 1 new member during renewals.

Compensation/Working Conditions: Chair: Eric Feutz, 573-256-7643, brandt_01@email.msn.com
Liaison Doug Crabtree dcrabtree@state.mt.us 406-444-9421
Board is hoping that certifier-member Doug will be an asset to this committee in its dealings with certifiers in general. No new members.

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

Ethics: Chair Joyce Ford, jford@hbc.com
Liaison: Brian Magaro (see Business Plan). A quiet year, no conflicts to report. We thank all inspectors who make good ethical decisions in their work!

Finance: Chair/Liaison: Jack Reams, see Business Plan. Presented budget to AGM, see page 22. Planning at least 2 financial planning conference calls with ED/treasurer. Also, develop 2-5 year financial projections, work with fundraising to develop specific fundraising packets, and work more closely with membership committee. Picked up 2 members at renewal. Also absorbed the adhoc Pricing committee duties.

Fundraising: Chair Diane Cooner, 707-869-3017, amani@sonic.net
Liaison Jack Reams, see Finance. Reconfiguring FSMIP proposal to international development angle. Work with Finance & ED to increase assn. income. Welcome to new members Eric Pawlowski and Ann Baier, both of whom have fundraising experience.

Latin American: Chair Lidia Gaivronsky, 5411)4 503-3106, gaivi@sion.com
Liaison Luis Brenes, lbrenes@racsaco.cr +506-226-1681. Working on results of Latinamerican survey. Chair Lidia continues to answer messages from Latinamerican people, to translate press releases, to send resources for the website. Working to increase IOIA exposure in LA and to increase membership, organize advanced courses in Spanish, and to have a Spanish language page in the newsletter on a regular basis. Gained 3 new members, Homero Blás Bustamante, Carmen Pape, and Lois Christie.

Membership: Chair Chris Kidwell 530-628-4560, ckidwell@tcoek12.org, Liaison Brian Magaro (see Finance) Working towards electronic membership application forms and moving most of process into IOIA office. Also, work on getting certifier feedback via inspector report reviewers as a means to improve inspector report quality; and design, develop and execute telephone exit surveys with all members that do not renew, with eye to retaining membership. Members David Dahmen, Sarah Cushing, and Billy Hunter are joined by 3 new signees, Kelle Kersten, Carmen Pape and Charles Richtmyer.

Nomination Committee: Subcommittee of Membership. Stan Edwards will coach the new Vice Chair of the BOD in the fine art of starting early to enlist nominees for 2004.

Regional Training Oversight: Chair Harriet Behar, harrieta@mwt.net
Liaison Ann Baier, ahbaier@aol.com 831-426-2052. Ongoing, approving trainings and TC's. **Actively soliciting for new members.** See V11N4, page 6 for membership guidelines. So far we have Billy Hunter, who joined at the AGM.

Scholarship: Chair Rochelle Eisen, 250-494-7980, rare@vip.net
Liaison Ann Baier, see RTOC. Working in application-editing mode, preparing for the 2003 round. Members are Aaron Brin, Bob Howe, Chris Kidwell and Nancy Ludwig.

Training: Chair Janine Gibson, 204-434-6018, Janine@mb.sympatico.ca
Liaison Ann Baier, see RTOC. 2003 goals: to update and improve failing grades policies; implement TC contracts that were developed in 2002; continue planning & implementation of training revision process; continue to deliver IOIA trainings. Picked up 9 new members; will also work to keep this committee from being too unwieldy due to size.

Notes from the ED

By Margaret Scoles

Vermont was wonderful!

We had **great food**. The Board enjoyed a wonderful meal (gingered parsnips!) and hospitality at Maarten Samsom's home (sort of a "Last Supper" for the outgoing board).

We had **fun**. I taught Luis Brenes how to make snow angels. We went to founding BOD member Joe Smillie's home for sushi, organic wine and VT cheese and laughed ourselves silly with the sneak preview of the totally irreverent PowerPoint presentation "A Strategy for IOIA's Future".

We remembered **old friends**. If we count Phil Hale in drag (ala PowerPoint), there were a total of 5 founding BOD members present. (Joe, Monique Scholz, Jim Riddle, and myself) It was great to see Monique well on her way to recovery from her injuries late last year. It had been years since we'd seen Carlton Holcomb, Debra Bunn and others.

The **AGM** was very pleasant, positive, with an election that had us all on the edge of our seats.

The experience of working with the outgoing and incoming Boards as we experienced a major turnover of BOD members was tremendous. I really enjoyed watching the new Board review their strengths and decide how they fit together to form the new Executive. IOIA is in good hands.

Thank you to Maarten, Drew Stuckey, and Diane Cooner, tireless workers behind the scenes who ran countless errands and ferried materials and people to and from the Inn at Essex.

I wish you all well as you gear up for your summer inspection season.

Next year's AGM will be in **Latin America**. Start planning now!



Outgoing Secretary Janine Gibson receives an award from ED Margaret Scoles for her years of service to IOIA



Candidate Dag Falck discusses his views on IOIA's future at the AGM

IOIA Goes International

By Diane Cooner

IOIA has arrived at a special place in its 12-year history - for the first time, the board of directors is composed of mostly non-US members, giving the organization an international focus that it has long desired. The new board and staff are excited about the future of IOIA: more members are getting involved in committees and on special projects; our services continue to be in demand; and even the USDA is asking for our feedback (!) on compliance situations.

The AGM was attended by 50 members. Along with absentee ballots, they voted in a new slate of directors (see page 10 for complete info).

This election is also significant in that 4 long time board members stepped down from their leadership roles. Harriet Behar and Stan Edwards served 6 years, Janine Gibson also gave 6 years, and Chip Kraynyk served a total of 10 years. All outgoing board members were presented with awards of appreciation from IOIA. These beautiful pieces were handmade from dried prairie flowers with calligraphy by Broadus, Montana artist Ardith Rost.

Committee reports were delivered, for a short version see page 5. For the full AGM reports, look for 'Committees' on the Administration page of our website.

Diane gave a demo of our website to encourage members to visit and use. She also had a preview of the new iTAP (Inspectors Technical Advisory Panel) project, which should be up and running very soon.

Another matter of business at the AGM was voting on the 9 ballot measures that were put before the membership. While

the 2003 Ballot Committee was tallying the absentee ballots, attendees were discussing all of the measures, some at length, only to find that the 'live' count resulted in a certain vote, and when the absentee ballots were tallied they changed the outcome of the live vote. There is a lesson in here somewhere, but democracy marches on (see Ballot Box, page 9 for actual results).

Meals for the AGM were provided by the New England Culinary Institute. The special dinner/dance menu was followed by a cheese tasting that was coordinated between our own concierge, Maarten Samsom, and NECI. Maarten shared a variety of organic and biodynamic cheeses, NECI provided the merlot to go with them. Together it was a real treat!



Outgoing Vice Chair Stan Edwards gets award

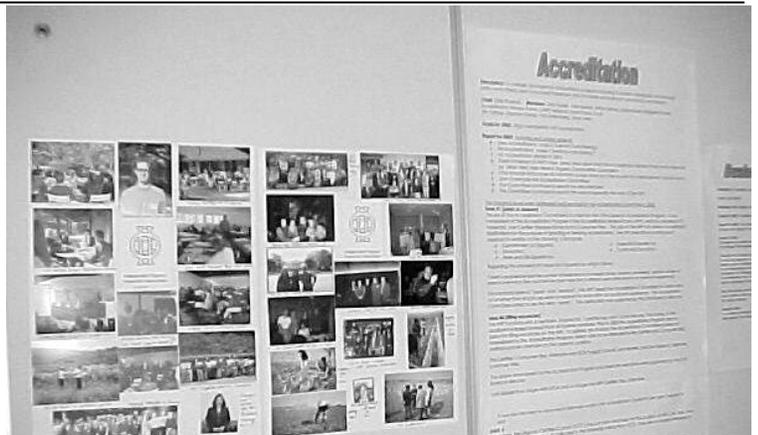
Special thanks go to **Maarten Samsom**, for being our concierge extraordinaire. He not only greeted as many members as he could, he arranged for a flower and fruit welcome in member's rooms, loaned his car and home as needed, gave sightseeing directions and maps, provided Margaret and Diane with a computer in their room so they could stay up until



Concierge Maarten Samsom

ridiculous hours taking care of business, cooked a gourmet meal (that rivaled NECT's fare) for outgoing board members, and just generally made every attendee feel very, very welcome

to Vermont. Thank you so very much, Maarten!



Committee presentations at the AGM



It's No Joke – Chip Kraynyk with his Award of Appreciation

OMRI's **Emily Brown Rosen** was surprised by a special award that she received. In addition to a nice paper t-shirt proclaiming 'What Would Emily Say?', Rosen received a prairie flower plaque honoring her as IOIA's 'Most Valuable Asset' for 2002, for her ongoing contributions to the IOIA Forum and to general inspector understanding of materials issues.

The AGM dinner featured speaker **Grace Gershuny**, who gave a short history of how the organic movement got started, how regulation came to be part of the process, and generally how we came to have OFPA and the Federal Rule as we know it



A surprised Emily Brown Rosen



Not quite sure what this was about, but I think it has something to do with Patti Bursten Deutsch

A brief slide show followed Grace's speech, in which past chairs' Jim Riddle and Chip Kraynyk (and founding member Joe Smillie) were slightly roasted (in the honorary sense). In fact, it seems that this was a rare occasion in which a practical joke was put upon Chip, rather than he being the perpetrator. Kraynyk was genuinely surprised by the prank, and later told Janine Gibson that he was flattered to have been honored in such a way.

It was discussed to permanently disqualify Margaret Scoles from the Outrageous Statement Awards, since almost everything she says is outrageous, but it was then decided that if we didn't write them down, these jewels would be lost forever, so Margaret remains in the running, even though she says she has a room full of OSAwards and doesn't want anymore. Tough luck! An adhoc group discussed putting together a book



listing all Outrageous Statements thru the years.

Past Chair Harriet Behar with her Award of Appreciation.

The AGM dance featured local bluegrass that got everyone up and dancing!



Meet the 2003 IOIA Board

The new board met for first time on February 23, the day after the AGM, and through consensus the group took on the various positions that were available. It was really great to watch the process and see this group of people explain what each had to offer and what roles they had the talents to take on. In a relatively short time, the following slate was voted on by the group:

Chair - Brian Magaro, Pennsylvania

Vice-Chair- John Foster, Oregon

Treasurer - Jack Reams, British Columbia

Secretary - Ann Baier, California

Member At Large – Dag Falck, British Columbia

Director – Garry Lean, Ontario (Finishing Jacklyn Smith's 1 year term)

Director - Luis Brenes, Costa Rica

Our new alternate Doug Crabtree, Wyoming, is following in the footsteps of former alternate Arthur Harvey's active participation by taking on the liaison position with the Compensation/Working conditions committee, and also working as board liaison with state operated certifiers.

Chris Kidwell, alternate, has agreed to serve as chair of the membership committee. Garth Kahl, our other alternate, is liaison with OTCO at this time. Both have 1 year left on their terms, as do Magaro and Reams.

The group also agreed to be proactive in their duties, and email suggests they already have their sleeves rolled up and are at work for the organization.



Faces Please - from left, Doug Crabtree, Jack Reams, John Foster and Luis Brenes



From left, Luis Brenes, Brian Magaro, Garry Lean, Ann Baier, and Dag Falck

Brian brings years of experience running his own catering and auctioning businesses, as well as inspecting.

John has served on the OMRI board for the past few years. Jack, by his own admission, 'usually ends up at the top of whatever he gets involved in.'

Ann has experience with non-profits, both managing projects and starting up her own, directed at offering practical help for youth on organic farms.

Dag has extensive experience in conflict resolution and mediation. He has been inspecting for 15 years.

Garry has recently retired as a tenured professor of agriculture and has been involved in organics since 1973.

Luis is a former university extensionist and has been inspecting since 1995. He hopes to bring IOIA to a truly international level.

Alternate Doug is Program Manager for Montana Dept. of Ag's new Organic Certification Program. Chris Kidwell and Garth Kahl have both been alternates for the past year, and have one year remaining in their terms. Both are longtime inspectors, and both speak Spanish.

Brian



John



Jack



Report on 2003 Election from 2003 IOIA Ballot Committee

Committee Members: Drew Stuckey, Diane Cooner, and Margaret Scoles

Paid Ballot Counter: Kristi Benjamin, employee of The Inn at Essex

Number of Paid IOIA Inspector or Apprentice Inspector Members as of 2/22/03: 251

Number of Mail-in Ballots (BOD election and Proposed Bylaws Amendments): 72

Quorum at AGM

Number of Members required for Quorum at AGM (15%): **38**
Number of Members voting at AGM in person: **34**
Number of Members voting at AGM by Mail Ballot: **72**
Number of Members voting at AGM by proxy: **15**
Percentage of Members voting in person or by proxy at AGM: **20%**

Quorum for Issues which were the subject of the Mail Ballot

Number of Members required for Quorum for Bylaws Amendments (25%): **63**
Number of Members voting at AGM by Mail Ballot: **72**
Number of Members Voting at AGM in person: **34**
Percentage of Members voting at AGM: **42%**

Mail Ballots requested the members to vote for 4 BOD nominees and one alternate, all from the same slate. During the AGM, the membership voted to vote for 4 nominees, with the top 4 vote recipients being designated to the 4 open positions on the BOD, and the 5th highest vote recipient being elected to the 1-year position vacated by the resignation of Jacklyn Smith. A 2nd election was held for alternate. Both mail ballots and in-person votes were counted the same for the 5 BOD positions.

Election Results: BOD members elected, 2-year positions: Luis Brenes, Ann Baier, Dag Falck, John Foster
BOD member elected, 1-year position: Garry Lean
Alternate BOD member elected, 2-year position: Doug Crabtree
All 9 Bylaws Proposals were approved by the membership.



*The elusive
Garth Kahl,
board alternate*

- Notes:**
1. Six (6) ballots were not identified by the sender so were invalid and not counted.
 2. Ballots from Peter Miller and Leanne McCormick were not counted because their dues were not paid.
 3. Two (2) ballots were invalidated by the Ballot Committee/paid ballot counter because the members had voted for more than 4 nominees for the BOD.
 4. Ballots, tally sheets, and member list voting records are retained at IOIA office in a sealed envelope.
 5. Election results were announced to the members at the Annual Meeting. The actual number of votes for each candidate was also announced.

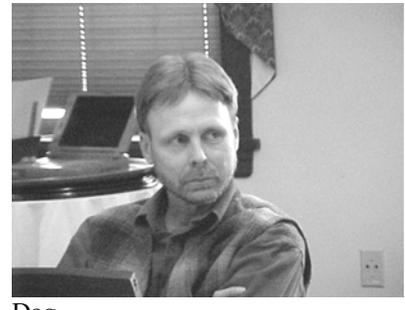
Meet The Board



Garry



Anne



Dag



Luis



ED Margaret and Alternate Chris Kidwell



Doug, our newest Alternate

Minutes of the Board of Directors

Board of Directors Retreat / Full Board Meeting, Burlington VT, February 23, 2003

Present Board Members: Dag Falck, John Foster, Ann Baier, Jack Reams, Luis Brenes, Brian Magaro, Garry Lean, Doug Crabtree (Alternate). Present Staff Members: Diane Cooner (IOIA staff); Margaret Scoles (Executive Director). Absent Members: None.

Brian called the meeting to order at 9:00AM. Those present approved the agenda.

Agenda Item #1: Elect Executive Committee

Discussion: We reviewed the skills and interests that each person brings in order to determine how we can best configure our team to accomplish the work of the Board of Directors. We considered the Bylaw that the Vice-Chair serves as chair of the nominating committee, and recognized the value of the role of a facilitator. The following configuration was proposed:

Chair: Brian Magaro, Vice-Chair: John Foster, Treasurer: Jack Reams, Secretary: Ann Baier, At-Large Executive Committee Member: Dag Falck. Luis Brenes and Garry Lean will be regular Board Members. Alternates: Doug Crabtree (newly elected) Chris Kidwell and Garth Kahl.

Motion made by: Dag **Seconded by:** Luis **Motion Wording:** To vote for all the Executive Committee positions with one vote.

Vote: For: 7 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

Motion made by: Dag **Seconded by:** Jack **Motion Wording:** To appoint the Executive Committee as proposed: Chair: Brian Magaro, Vice-Chair: John Foster, Treasurer: Jack Reams, Secretary: Ann Baier, At-Large member: Dag Faulk

Vote: For: 7 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 Motion Carried.

Decision: The Board voted to appoint the entire slate as written above. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #2 Establish Note-taking responsibilities and procedure

Decision: Ann will take responsibility for note-taking at this meeting, will be responsible for ensuring that it happen at future meetings in a manner that is appropriate to each meeting and allows for her full participation.

Agenda Item #3: Board Orientation Packet

Margaret introduced the Board Orientation Packet and provided a copy of it to each member and alternate.

Agenda Item #4: Review of IOIA's Program

Margaret reviewed pertinent information about IOIA membership, training, inspector accreditation, newsletter, publications, website, committees, international membership, fundraising, Annual General Membership meetings and Board retreats, and committees.

Motion made by: Luis **Seconded by:** Garry **Motion Wording:** To replace outgoing Committee Chairs Drew Stuckey with Bob Howe, and Maarten Sampson with Chris Kidwell; to reappoint the remaining Committee Chairs as listed above to a two-year term, and to affirm "no change" for those appointed last year.

Vote: For: 7 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 Motion Carried (Passed Unanimously).

Decision: The Board unanimously passed a motion to appoint new Committee Chairs to replace outgoing Chairs, and to reappoint Committee Chairs as listed below for a two-year term. We acknowledge that there is no change to committee chairs appointed last year.

Motion made by: Luis **Seconded by:** Dag **Motion Wording:** To have no Japan committee, but to recognize IOIA's relationship with JOIA as a sister organization.

Vote: For: 7 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 Motion Carried (Passed Unanimously).

Decision: The Board unanimously passed a motion to have no Japan committee, but to recognize IOIA's relationship with JOIA as a sister organization.

Actions:

Diane will write a letter to all past and current Committee Chairs, notifying them of changes and/or reappointments as listed above. Margaret will provide a copy of the report from the Committee on Committees. Garry will take the lead on reviewing this and offer a recommendation by email before the next Board meeting. In light of our discussion of IOIA's Code of Ethics with respect to conflict of interest, John will draft a short statement that, once finalized, each Board member will sign to disclose any potential conflicts of interest. He will send this out for Board input before the next meeting.

Agenda Item #5 Financial Reports

1. The Board reviewed 2003 Profit/Loss, Budget and Balance sheets. Luis requested that future reports be presented with the corresponding report from the most recent period, such that the Board can more easily see trends and movement of funds.

2. Decision on Broadus Bank CDs. Margaret asked for input on whether to renew CDs or withdraw the funds. The Board agreed that funds should remain in the CDs until we have need of them.

3. New treasurer needs to be able to sign bank cards, and have access to the Safety deposit box in Broadus.

Motion made by: Brian **Seconded by:** Dag

Motion Wording: To have Margaret, Jack and Phoebe as signatories on the safety deposit box, giving individual access. Margaret will regularly update the Board on the contents of this box when financial reports are given.

Vote: For: 7 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 Motion Carried

Decision: The Board unanimously passed a motion to have Margaret, Jack and Phoebe as signatories on the safety deposit box, giving individual access. Margaret will provide regular updates when financial reports are given.

4. Margaret provided guidance to new Board members on submitting requests for reimbursement. An invoice and copies of receipts are required for reimbursement.

Agenda Item #6 Board Calendar

The Board agreed on a schedule for meetings: Complete listings in website version.

Agenda Item #7 New Business: Reimbursement of Expenses for Incoming Board Members

Discussion: We discussed reimbursement of expenses associated with incoming Board members' attendance at the Board meetings associated with this AGM. We considered questions of equity and fairness, budget, expectations, and policy implications.

Consensus: To pay meals and lodging for newly elected Board members during the time of the Board Meetings, and half their travel costs to attend this meeting.

In favor of: 6 **Stand Aside:** 1 (Doug) is it important/not customary to use names here? **Block:** 0

Decision: The Board agreed, through a consensus process, with one member standing aside, to pay meals and lodging for newly elected Board members during the time of the Board Meetings, and to pay half their travel costs associated with their first meeting attendance.

Decision: The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm.

Commitments to Action

Agenda Item Reference	Person	Action	Timeline Before the next Board meeting=BNM At the next meeting=NM
Process Note #1	Dag	Send articles about Consensus decision-making to the Board by email.	BNM
Process Note #1	Brian	Provide copies (?) of The Modern Rules of Order; a Guide for Conducting Business Meetings.	BNM
#2	Margaret	Provide a copy of the updated Bylaws.	When complete
#2	Diane	Send a copy of Committee reports by email.	BNM
#2	BOD	Replace bylaws in packet with updated copy	When received
#4	Diane	Write a letter to all past and current Committee Chairs, notifying them of changes and/or reappointments as listed above.	When complete
#4	Margaret	Provide a copy of the report from the Committee on Committees.	BNM
#4	Garry	Garry will take the lead on reviewing this and offer a recommendation by email to be discussed at the next Board meeting.	BNM
#4	Margaret	Obtain a current set of committee goals from the Chair of each Committee which these are missing, and Incorporate Committee goals into the Policy Manual.	NM
#4	Diane	Write Stanley to inform him that the duties of the Pricing Committee have been shifted to the Finance Committee, and the Pricing Committee is considered dissolved.	BNM
#4	John	Develop a draft statement to be filled in and signed by each Board member to disclose potential conflicts of interest, and send out for Board input.	BMN
#5	Margaret	Present financial reports together with the corresponding report for the most recent previous reporting period.	NM

Future Agenda Items

Item	Description/Detail/Comments
#3	Diane has no written contracts.
#4	Create consistency between the Policy and the Bylaws with respect to standing committees
#4	Broad discussion on the structure of training. Roles of the Board, Training Coordinators, Training Committee, managing potential conflicts of interest, training staff inspectors for state agencies in IOIA trainings.
#4	Committees: Selection Criteria for membership on committees, and strategies for increasing membership participation on committees.
#5	Clarify the criteria for Inspector Membership in IOIA. Review implications of the eligibility of all inspector members to be elected to the Board of Directors. Is there a need for a new category of membership in IOIA? e.g. certifier member?
	See list entitled "Post 2003 AGM IOIA Board Meeting".

Suzanne Vaupel

The worldwide organic movement lost another advocate in late January when Suzanne Vaupel, attorney and former vice-president of IFOAM, died after a short battle with ovarian cancer.

After finishing law studies, Suzanne focused her work on supporting the rights of farm workers in California. Though this work she came into contact with organic farms and the movement. For her, it was logical to not only care about the conditions and well being of humans, but also of the soil, plants and animals. With this motivation, Vaupel became involved with CCOF and later the Organic Trade Assn. She was elected to the IFOAM world board in 1998.



Certifier News

Guest Editorial:

OCPP/Pro-Cert Canada (OC/PRO)

Recent media coverage in the western prairies raised allegations of fraudulent organic certification and demanded more emphasis residue sampling and testing. IOIA received a 3-page press release from OC/PRO, written as a response to the negative media. The article presented OC/PRO's policies and procedures, based on the international organic model involving annual field inspection coupled with targeted testing for unpermitted substance use in suspect cases. "Bio-assay" techniques are used as one method of screening applicants, followed by more detailed assessments in suspect cases. Bioassay techniques involve the use of plants as indicators of substance use, and according to Hamm, are an accepted procedure for field (and laboratory) testing/monitoring of fertilizer and pesticide use as well other phototoxic substances in soils or crops. For a full transcript, contact procertorganic@yahoo.com.

Residue Testing in Organic Food Certification

By J. Wallace Hamm, M.Sc., P.Ag.

Recently, there has been some public criticism alleging that organic certifiers need to do more residue testing of soils and crops to verify that organic food production does not inadvertently (or deliberately) include fertilizer and pesticide use. Further, that random testing is needed to increase confidence in the organic certification process. The sincerity of the critic's motives must be viewed in the light of his simultaneous launching of a 'residue testing' service to certifying agencies. OC/PRO affiliates upon solicitation by the 'critic/residue tester,' declined involvement for several reasons:

1. OC/PRO has scientifically acceptable policies and procedures for assessing unpermitted substance use before, during and after crop production;
2. OC/PRO's system is ISO Guide 65 compliant and accredited by the Standards Council of Canada;
3. OC/PRO affiliates have access to accredited laboratories for residue testing and have the internal expertise to interpret the test results;

4. The 'critic/tester' has no known professional expertise or experience in fertilizer and pesticide residue chemistry, sampling, sample storage, analyses and data interpretation.

Pro-Cert, the western affiliate of OC/PRO has detected the deliberate use of pesticides on one farm in some 12 years of annual inspection in which period an estimated 1.3 million acres of organic crops were inspected. In this **one case** of deliberate use of an herbicide, which occurred after Pro-Cert's inspection, the application event was observed by another certifying body. The producer admitted to the unpermitted substance use and was denied extension of status. No contaminated food entered the organic food chain and the producer did not reapply for certification in subsequent years. There was no need for herbicide residue analyses in this case as the bioassay evidence was adequate to decline certification. That decision was not disputed or appealed.

During the same 12-year period there have been numerous cases of herbicide drift documented by Pro-Cert inspectors who inspect all the organic fields in a certified enterprise each year. The affected fields were reverted to transitional status on the basis of the bioassay evidence and no residue tests were required to make the decisions. In most cases the producer reported the drift event to the inspector.

Given the above, there is a need to assess whether or not random testing of the harvested crops needs to be conducted as a 'back-up' to augment growing season bioassay evidence coupled with targeted residue testing. In researching this issue we determined that the organic food buyers and traders routinely conduct broad-spectrum substance analyses on organic produce at numerous points in the food delivery chain. The importing country regulators also routinely conduct random sampling and substance analyses. In addition, the CFIA conducts random tests of both conventional (pesticide treated) and organic grain and produce.

We have not received any negative 'feed back' from these ongoing random pesticide and other residue tests performed on OC/PRO certified food.

In further assessing the need for more residue testing in organic certification it is a scientifically proven fact that fertilizer, pesticide and other substance use during crop production is often not reflected in and/or measurable in soil, plant and grain analyses. Further, that field bio-assays conducted by trained professional agronomists are often infinitely more effective in detecting substance use than analytical procedures which for many substances have detection limits well below those of sensitive plants.

Finally, there is the cost of a random testing program, which would have to be superimposed on the existing bioassay inspection program costs. Given that a single broad-spectrum herbicide analysis costs approximately \$700 per sample, and assuming that one field/crop per farm would be analyzed per year, the annual organic certification cost would be doubled or tripled. These very substantial additional costs are out of all proportion to the real or perceived benefit of such a program.

The above logic led OC/PRO management to the conclusion that annual bioassay oriented inspection by trained professionals of all organic and transitional fields in an enterprise are an adequate basis to verify organic compliance. Further, that substance residue tests need only be conducted when bioassay evidence indicates that unpermitted substances may have been used and then only when the producer disputes that determination. Random on-farm crop testing was deemed unnecessary, too expensive and less effective than targeted testing in cases firstly deemed suspect by bioassay evidence. It is also redundant with domestic and international residue test programs already in place.

The author is a director of Canadian certifier OC/PRO. He has some 32 years of experience in soil and plant testing, agronomy and forensic assessment work, and has been accepted as an expert witness by the Courts of Western Canada in some 15 cases, many involving fertilizer and herbicide use, misuse and residue effects. E

Caroe Appointed to NOSB

Andrea Caroe, Vice president of Certification Services for QAI, has been appointed to the Environmentalist position on the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman selected Ms. Caroe to serve the 5-year term of office that will run until January 24, 2008.

Before earning her current role at QAI, Caroe began her career in the organic industry in 1994 working in various capacities including inspector, technical review committee member

and consultant. Caroe currently sits on several Organic Trade Association (OTA) committees, and acts as a co-Chairperson of the OTA's Organic Certification Sub-Committee of the Quality Assurance Council (QAC).

More OCIA Changes

OCIA International recently fired its top two executives, Sam Welsch, Executive Director; and Lynn Moorer, legal council and director of operations, due to what one board member termed 'irreconcilable differences.' Welch had served 2 years of a 5 year contract.

As reported in *Organic Business News*, Welsch said one of the biggest issues between him and the board was it was 'micromanaging', rather than setting policy. For the past two years, he had made several attempts for the board to comply with national requirements from USDA to create a new organization that would avoid possible conflicts of interest. He said OCIA was under the threat from the NOP to correct the deficiency by Feb. 1 or lose its accreditation. He went on to say that the board did not have the power to fire Moorer, who did not receive severance pay. Welsch did receive severance pay and is starting his own certifying company, OneCert. OCIA underwent a number of improvements in internal management in the past two years, but apparently the tactics used to whip members into shape on compliance and conflict of interest issues were more than the board was willing to take.

Rick Martinez, a past IOIA chair who attended the recent OCIA AGMM, reports: "The AGMM was, in my view, a very positive event, especially in light of the challenges coming in. The membership approved a restructuring plan that included approval of regional offices in Canada and Mexico. There was a lot of discussion of Chapter fees and financial issues. The interim director Jeff See [current head of information technology, with OCIA for 2 years], was approved as the director. Those seemed to be the major issues." Inspectors who met with Amy Griner, acting OCIA/IOIA liaison, in Vermont reported that Griner satisfactorily answered a number of past issues, was open to discuss inspector issues

including inspector dismissal protocol, interpretation of certain standards, OCIA's farm inspection report format and the inspectors role at determining Potential Major Non-compliances, and was also candid and willing to work with inspectors.

NZ, UK & Quebec OK with NOP

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service has officially recognized that the conformity assessment programs of New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and Quebec are sufficient to ensure conformity to the technical standards of USDA's National Organic Program.

Soil Assn Receives UKAS Accreditation

Soil Association Certification Ltd has been accredited to EN40511 by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS), the first UK organic certifier to get this accreditation direct from UKAS.

OMRI Appoints New Mgmt

The Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI), the nonprofit organization that provides technical reviews and maintains comprehensive lists of materials and ingredients for use by organic certifiers, growers, ranchers, and processors, has installed a new management team. The individuals will work out of OMRI's Eugene, Oregon headquarters.

OMRI has added to its technical leadership by tapping **Laura Morrison** as its operations director. Morrison, who holds a Ph.D. in plant sciences, comes to OMRI from Oregon State University, Corvallis, where she was a researcher in the Department of Crop & Soil Science and is an international expert on agricultural botany and domesticated plant diversity. Prior to her academic career out West, Morrison worked at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in its former Office of Toxic Substances. Morrison also has experience working as a legal researcher and writer.

Senior director and Board president Mary Mulry also announced the appointment of **Dave DeCou**, a member of the OMRI Board of Directors, to the post of interim managing director. DeCou, a local Oregon organic farmer and recognized leader in the organic industry, joined the OMRI Board this past summer. DeCou also is an active member of the Organic Trade

Association Board of Directors. "Dave is widely respected as an organic industry expert who can bring together the diverse sectors that we serve," Mulry commented. Together with the OMRI staff, we have an effective management team on board to help expand OMRI services.

The OMRI president detailed that Morrison would manage OMRI internal operations with a focus on OMRI's research and educational activities. Meanwhile, DeCou will direct his efforts to OMRI's involvement in the National Organic Program (NOP) and the technical role that OMRI will play in serving the USDA and the organic industry.

"We are committed to continue to build our Brand Name Product review program, certifier services, research, and educational outreach in the coming years. With the implementation of the final USDA organic regulations, OMRI can focus on expanding these services to the organic community," Mulry noted.

UMOFc

by Harriet Behar

From February 27-March 1, farmers, consultants, buyers, educators and consumers from all over the U.S. came together for the Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference in LaCrosse WI. Now in its 14th year, almost 1400 people participated in a wide variety of seminars.

On the first day, seven different all-day sessions were presented as part of the "Organic University" allowing participants to get involved in more hands-on in-depth learning on market gardening, wholistic animal health management, transitioning to organic and more. A large exhibit floor had everything from tools and fertilizers, to certification agencies to educational opportunities and the greatest book bazaars for the organically-minded you have ever seen! Keynote speakers on Thursday, Friday and Saturday stressed the need for farmers and consumers to serve their local markets as one way to preserve sustainable prices and build community. An original folk music concert and rock and roll dance gave us a chance to loosen up after long days of learning and networking, and organic meals gave everyone a chance to meet new friends and reconnect with long time buddies. Organic inspectors from the East Coast and Midwest were well represented both as attendees and presenters as well as the National Association of State Organic Programs and the National Organic Program. The conference takes place in early March of every year, watch the IOIA newsletter next fall for more info. E

Rider, from page 1

the provision are lawmakers, organic farmers, the Bush administration and major food corporations that are investing millions of dollars to create their own organic foods.

The controversy has been simmering since June 2002, when Representative Deal sought a waiver on the use of organic feed on behalf of Fieldale after it complained it couldn't find enough organic grain for producing organic chickens. But Lynn Clarkson, owner of Clarkson Grain Co. of Cerro Gordo, Illinois, said he would have no trouble providing the company with all the organic corn and soybean it needs, some of it produced by Georgia farmers. "I can't understand why the USDA is even listening to these people," said Lynn Clarkson back in June. "You have about a dozen producers of organic chicken in this country, including Tyson Foods, and why the government would want to set up a special category for this one company, which would just kill the organic food industry, is beyond me." Clarkson said that Fieldale officials contacted him on several occasions, asking about the availability of organic soybean and corn, which sells for roughly twice the price of conventional grain. "Every amount they asked about, we can provide," he said. "But they object to the price."

"You would want to know what is the supply," Deal said. "No study was done, not even by the USDA. We asked them to do it in advance of the new standards." Alisa Harrison, a USDA spokeswoman, said that a study is being done now but she didn't know when it would be completed. Mr. Deal said through a spokesman

that he was disappointed that his fellow lawmakers were trying to overturn his provision. "The congressman feels he was trying to level the playing field for all organic participants," said Chris Riley, the chief of staff for Mr. Deal.

Rep. Deal argues that since organic crop producers are allowed to use conventional seed, if organic seed is not commercially available, organic livestock producers should be allowed to feed conventional feed. According to Jim Riddle, founding chair of IOIA and current NOSB member, this argument holds no water.

"Crop producers are required to use organic seeds, if they are commercially available. If the necessary varieties are documented to be not available in an organic form, they can use conventionally grown, untreated seeds. They must not use fungicide or insecticide treated seeds or genetically engineered seeds.

Poultry producers are allowed to use day old chicks from conventional hatcheries. The chickens must be managed organically from the second day after hatching. As Richard Mathews has pointed out, poultry are already allowed to use conventional "seeds", in that they may use eggs and chicks from conventional hatcheries. They are not required to use organic chicks, even if they are commercially available."

"Both crop and livestock farmers must follow the standards through the entire production cycle. For crop producers, that means organic management and only approved materials through harvest and sale. For livestock producers, it means 100% organic feed and only approved medications and feed supplements for the life of the animal," according to Riddle. "This is not about one chicken farm,"

said Ken Cook, president of the

Environmental Working Group. "This is an example of the marketplace solving environmental problems without any federal subsidies and now it's being sabotaged." Fieldale and its employees contributed \$4,000 to Mr. Deal in his last election.

The national standards, reached after years of hard-

fought negotiations, were meant to assure consumers that what was labeled organic was organic, and to streamline a hodgepodge of state and local regulations that had developed over the previous 30 years.

"We spent over a decade of bipartisan effort to get these standards, and then in a back room deal with a couple of Republicans they wiped out over a decade of work," said Senator Leahy, one of the architects of the organics label law. Leahy is taking the lead by introducing the Organic Restoration Act to repeal this rider. Co-sponsored by Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Senate Bill 457 currently has over 60 backers, including 20 Republicans. This is a significant hurdle, because if all the votes are retained, this makes the bill immune to both a filibuster and a budget point of order. Representative Sam Farr (D-CA) will be introducing this same bill in the House as HR 955. Tomas Hensley, vice president of Fieldale Farms, said his company will lobby against Leahy's bill.

The True Implications

Montana Organic Program director Doug Crabtree was able to learn much about the true implications and likely fate of the rider from direct interactions with Jim Riddle, Richard Matthews, Barbara Robinson and other NOP staff at the recent National Association of State Organic Programs (NASOP) meeting in WI. Crabtree reports that the NOP representatives assured them, "The "rider" does NOT change the rule requiring 100% organic feed for organic livestock. The provision merely prohibits the USDA from spending funds, provided under their FY 2003 budget, to enforce the feed requirement. USDA does not have the opportunity to spend funds until and unless a certified operation appeals an adverse action taken by a certifying agent. Since the feed requirement is unchanged in both the law (OFPA) and the rule, certifiers must still enforce it. That means that an operation feeding non-organic feed would be denied certification or that the certifier would propose suspending or revoking their certification. When (and if) the operation filed an appeal with the USDA, the appeal would likely be successful since the USDA is now prohibited from spending funds to oppose it. However, the "rider" is only effective until September 30, 2003. Even if an operation makes a successful appeal and uses non-organic feed, they would still be in "non-compliance". NOP officials stated that they would take immediate action to suspend or revoke the certification of any operation using non-organic feed on October 1, 2003. They also indicated that any certifier failing to

Text of Section 771

"None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to require that a farm satisfy section 2110(c)(1) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6509(c)(1)) in order to be certified under such Act as an organic farm with respect to the livestock produced on the farm unless the report prepared by the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to the recommendations contained in the joint explanatory statement of the Managers on the part of the House of Representatives and the Senate to accompany Public Law 107-171 (House Conference Report 107-424, pages 672-673) confirms the commercial availability of organically produced feed, at no more than twice the cost of conventionally produced feed, to meet current market demands."

enforce the feed requirement would face suspension or revocation of accreditation as of October 1, 2003. The bottom line: Anyone who uses this "rider" to justify feeding non-organic feed will face swift and decisive action and their status as organic will be short-lived.

"The response to this rider has been very encouraging. Everyone from the organic community, state programs, private certifiers, USDA and most of the US Senate and Congress has spoken with a unified voice in opposition to the weakening of organic standards. The whole ordeal is proving to be another galvanizing moment for organic agriculture," according to Crabtree.

Representative Ron Kind, (D-WI), one of the new bill's sponsors, said the incident was "a wake-up call for us that we need more coordination, more supervision and therefore we are organizing an organic caucus" to monitor future actions so that the growing organic food industry would be protected from further assaults. If anyone still harbors doubts about the need for campaign finance reform, this should highlight yet another compelling reason to pursue reforms until they are a done deal.

* * *

Jim Riddle has written a summary on how the rider to the omnibus spending bill addresses organic feeds. Jim is secretary of the NOSB and an organic policy specialist.

"What does this rider accomplish? The rider restricts the USDA from using

Veneman's Statement – February 26

"The National Organic Program is the product of 10 years of hard work and development by many interested parties with an extensive amount of public input. The program has benefited from bipartisan support from inception through publication of final program requirements which were implemented late last year.

"I am concerned that the language inserted in the Omnibus Appropriations Act could weaken the National Organic Program. It is important to maintain a strong organic program that ensures the integrity of the organic label placed on consumer products. The best way to do that is by maintaining the organic standards as we implemented them in October 2002. I support bipartisan efforts to ensure those USDA standards remain in place. Since becoming Secretary I have worked to implement the National Organic Standards rule, ensured the standards met consumer expectations, and made every effort to prevent those standards from being weakened. To suggest otherwise or to question my commitment or the Department's commitment to a strong organic program is simply wrong."

any funds in the appropriations bill, which funds the government through Sept. 30, 2003, from being used to require that organic livestock farms feed 100% organic feed, unless a study mandated in the 2002 Farm Bill confirms that sufficient quantities of organic feed are available to meet current market demands at not more than twice the price of conventional feed. The rider regulates how USDA uses funds. It does not amend OFPA or change the National Organic Standards. 100% organic feed is still required.

Certifying agents use funds to "require that a farm satisfy" the organic requirements. No USDA funds are used in that process. So how might USDA funds be used to satisfy the organic feed requirement? Here are some ways that come to mind:

- 1) If an accredited certifier is not requiring organic feed, the USDA could not use funds to investigate or take action to revoke accreditation until after Sept. 30, 2003;

- 2) If complaints are received about a livestock operation not feeding organic feed, the USDA could use no funds to investigate until after Sept. 30, 2003; or
- 3) If an accredited certifier suspended or revoked an operation's certification based on the operation's failure to provide 100% organic feed, and the operator appealed to the NOP, the NOP could not take action, therefore the operation's certification would not be revoked.

According to Barbara Robinson, if an operator is not certified, but makes an organic claim, the NOP has no authority to subpoena the records of non-certified operations. Under the rider, NOP could not use funds to investigate or take action against such operations over the organic feed issue. States still have full authority to take action, however, either as SOPs or under state truth in labeling statutes (e.g. Maryland Dept. of Ag worked with state's attorney general to prohibit non-organic chickens from being sold as organic chickens in Maryland).

One of the most troubling aspects of the rider is that it could be used as precedence to set a "ceiling" in the unresolved discussion of commercial availability. Does "no more than twice the cost" apply to seeds and minor ingredients? Reading the exact text above, it only discusses "feed", but the larger implications are troubling.

The USDA is working to finalize the feed availability study. Preliminary results show that prices have spiked above twice-conventional prices at times, but generally are less than twice the price. Recent organic feed prices have consistently been less than twice the cost of conventional feed. Persons with information about organic feed availability and prices should get that information to Barbara Robinson.

The rider sends a signal that Congress does not support the organic program. It also demonstrates how (see **Feed**, page 19)

What you can do

US members can contact their representatives in Washington and urge them to support the **Organic Restoration Act** that was introduced on Feb 26th by Senator Patrick Leahy and Representative Sam Farr. The language inserted into Section 771 of the Omnibus Appropriations Bill undermines the integrity of the organic label for meat, poultry, eggs and dairy. Repealing this section is in the interest of consumers, organic farmers and the environment. Repealing this section will encourage continued growth of organic agricultural production in the United States, one of the bright prospects for U.S. agriculture overall.

The OTA website, www.ota.com makes it easy to send messages to your members of congress and to see where they stand on the bill. If your congressperson is already on board, be sure to send them a message of thanks. It is also important to thank Sec. Veneman for taking a strong (though belated) stand to protect the integrity of organic standards.

The Senate bill is Leahy's Organic Restoration Act S. 457

The House bill is Farr's Organic Restoration Act HR 955

Outside the US Please let your local health food store know what you are doing. Tell them to carry NO products by Fieldale Farms, the company in GA that instigated this movement to gut the organic livestock feed standards. They also produce poultry under the Springer Mountain Farms and Redding labels.

Curso Regional en Guayaquil, Ecuador

por Lidia A. Gaivironsky

En la sede de la Universidad de Loja, en la ciudad de Guayaquil, Ecuador, se realizó entre el 4 y el 7 de febrero de 2003 el Curso Básico de Inspección de Finca Orgánica, copatrocinado por IOIA, la Universidad Particular de Loja y la Fundación BIOCON. Los coordinadores fueron Luis Brenes (Costa Rica) y Lidia A. Gaivironsky (Argentina). Participaron 31 estudiantes entre los que había Ingenieros Agrónomos, Biólogos, Auditores ambientales, representantes gubernamentales, de diferentes ONG's relacionadas con la producción orgánica, y de empresas productoras de insumos orgánicos.

Las prácticas de inspección se realizaron en dos fincas, una de ellas con mango orgánico (liderada por Oscar Gallo, de Biocon), y la otra con plantaciones de banano y de orito (baby banana, *Musa spp*) también orgánicos, que fueron lideradas por Luis Brenes y Lidia Gaivironsky respectivamente.

En esta oportunidad el curso se realizó a lo largo de 4 días, a pesar de lo cual los participantes opinaron que era muy intensivo y que sería adecuado que tengan mayor duración.

Los participantes expresaron su satisfacción por el curso y por la organización y el apoyo logístico brindados por la Universidad de Loja y la Fundación Biocon, que fueron excelentes.

El premio a la "frase célebre" correspondió a Miguel Serrano: " si no se puede traer la documentación (registros) desde Guayaquil a la finca, entonces llevemos la finca a Guayaquil" .



Outstanding in their field! Attendees take a photo break during Advanced training in Vermont

Guayaquil Training

by Lidia A. Gaivironsky

In the Universidad de Loja, Guayaquil City, Ecuador, between February 4 and February 7, 2003, IOIA conducted the basic Organic Inspector Training (Farm) co-sponsored by Universidad Particular de Loja and Fundación BIOCON. The TC's were Luis Brenes (Costa Rica) and Lidia A. Gaivironsky (Argentina).

The students (31) were Engineers, Agronomists, Biologists, Environmental Auditors, Public Officials, NGO representatives, etc.

The mock inspections were done in three groups and two farms: one, led by Oscar Gallo from Fundación Biocon, on organic mango.

The other two were on the banana plant, led by Luis Brenes, and orito (baby banana) by Lidia Gaivironsky.

The course lasted four days in this opportunity. The students' evaluation about the course and the Universidad de Loja and Fundación Biocon organization were very good.

The Outrageous Statement winner was Miguel Serrano: "If the documentation cannot be brought from Guayaquil to the property, then we take the property to Guayaquil."



Basic Processing Attendees

Processing in Vermont

Following a successful AGM, future processing inspectors, certification coordinators from VT and ME, and industry representatives gathered for a 3.5-day basic processing inspection training. This intimate group of 17 was very interactive and this turned out to be a high level class, where the intricacies of the NOS and inspection protocols for many processes were discussed in great depth. Grace Gershuny inspired the class to study the USDA standards, and Emily Brown Rosen of OMRI helped us understand the National List. Field trips were arranged with a large coffee roasting company and a cream cheese plant, in the far edge of the "northern kingdom". It did not matter that the weather was cold because of the long days spent in the classroom and the exquisite food served by the New England Culinary Institute. This was the first time in VT for TC Luis Brenes, who experienced snow for the first time and took a large container of maple syrup back to his family in Costa Rica. For co-TC Stanley Edwards, a new chapter as an "old board member" began with this training assignment.

Jim and Emily Rock on the Rule

by Joyce E. Ford

Attendees at the Advanced Inspector Training at Essex, Vermont consistently gave Jim Riddle and Emily Brown Rosen high marks for their day long discussion on the National Organic Program Rule, including crops, livestock, processing/handling, and approved materials for all three categories. After 8 hours, Harriet Behar stated, "We know more about what we don't know than the other inspectors don't know."

Al Quaglino, Quality Assurance Manager, PrimusLabs, gave us a tremendous amount of information about types of sampling for residue testing, sampling protocols, shipping samples and what happens to samples at their laboratory. Although inspectors will need to contact individual labs for their specific protocols and mentor with a sampler, Al gave us the vocabulary and confidence to gather samples for residue tests that will stand up in a court of law.



Al Quaglino of Primus Labs



Mr. NOSB, Jim Riddle

Janine Gibson, President of Canadian Organic Growers and Chair of the Editorial Committee (Organic Standards Committee of the Canadian General Standards Board) gave us her usual energetic update on the Canadian standards. Regarding the controversy over Canada's stance that organic certification is not mandatory, Dag Falck noted, "We have a Rule. We just don't have to follow it."

Jim Riddle, wearing his hat as NOSB International Committee member, reported on JAS and EU updates. US equivalency with the EU is currently under negotiations. Inspectors should note that the equivalency agreement the USDA signed with JAS is only for US organic products exported to Japan, not for products Japan may export to the US.

The Inn at Essex was a charming New England inn. A number of inspectors rented skis and went cross-country skiing in the early morning and evening. The organic food, sourced largely by IOIA and prepared by the New England Culinary Institute, was absolutely delicious, a gourmet feast each day. IOIA will be keeping this facility in its list of training facilities for future events. Last but not least, Julio Perez overwhelmingly won the Outrageous Statement Award. When discussing what constitutes outdoor access for organic poultry, he questioned, "**If you have a TV monitor showing scenes from a forest, is that 'access to outdoors'?**" Julio received an IOIA T-shirt, organic maple syrup and organic chocolate bars.



Joyce Ford presents Julio Perez with a tee shirt and 'Vermont Maple Syrup from Wisconsin'. Perez won the Outrageous Statement Award for his comments on access to outdoors



Jim Langer discussing structural pest control during the Basic Processing Training. We're not sure if he was talking about the size of the rats, roaches, or amount of paperwork required, but it was a BIG topic



OCIA Inspector Update with Amy Griner

Board of Directors Conference Call Minutes – Full Board - Saturday December 7, 2002

Present: Harriet-Chair, Brian-Treasurer, Stan-Vice, Chip, Jacklyn, Margaret, Janine-Secretary, regrets from Jack

AGENDA

1. Approve agenda– Harriet, Amended as suggested below
2. Chair’s Report – Harriet- met with OCIA staff in Nebraska, positive feedback for our work as trainers of inspectors. Good rapport valued. Harriet about to write her last “Notes from the Chair.”
3. Secretary’s report- Janine-Minutes from October accepted as presented. Margaret appreciated “From the Dungeon”! Janine accepts responsibility for doing the minutes for the AGM.
4. Vice-Chair’s Report –Stan-Nominations Committee formed a little late in the year, Stan plans to work with the new Vice-Chair to help the committee be functional earlier. He has drawn up forms with timelines and duties to help the committee function. Standard questions have been developed to help present the nominees to the membership- questions such as how many inspections they have done in the previous year, and what other activities inform their potential work on the board. 10 people are on the slate and it seems Stan has done a great job! Informal policy suggested that any outgoing member should be extremely active in finding their replacements, to increase effectiveness. Harriet points out that we have been discouraged from doing that to ensure “new blood” comes to the board. Stan replies that once the outgoing board member has a suggestion, that name is turned over to the committee and they do the follow up work. We could do a questionnaire where nominees state their political positions for IOIA to encourage information exchange prior to voting. Most bios are in and they are great!
-*Jacklyn Smith’s resignation, Appointment of Alternate BOD member-General Discussion. We regretfully accept Jacklyn’s resignation, effective the end of this call. Brian/Stan moves that the board act on replacing Jacklyn at the AGM February 23rd. Discussion of rational- no more meetings until the AGM so no need to fill position, (The point was made that there is a board retreat on Feb 19th) it is common in organizations to not fill vacancies if an election is near, and thirdly if we don’t act now to fill the position, Arthur will be on the ballot. If we act now we remove the opportunity for members to vote on his position on the board. This leaves more room for the democratic process. Vote called; 4 yes and 1 no. Chip Kraynyk no. Carried. Chip expressed his belief that Arthur’s lawsuit is a matter of his private life, may be considered by some to be an honorable example of the revolutionary spirit which underpins organics and that Arthur has done nothing unethical, irresponsible or illegal. Chip also expressed his desire for the record to state his belief that the Boards decision represents a selective application of IOIA bylaws.
5. Treasurer’s Report – Brian- felt it was very useful to conduct the internal audit, as per the membership request.
 - a. Balance Sheet to date See attachment.
 - b. Audit Report See attachment. Helped to structure internal strengths!
 - c. Business Plan – in motion.
 - d. Proposed Budget 2003 See attachments. Harriet asks if we raise the ED salary, what impact would that have on the budget? Could we develop another budget with a \$28,000.00 fee? General Discussion. Discussion of need to include \$1000 for board meeting recording fees, if they will be needed for secretarial support. Discussion of file storage and protection options.
 - e. Executive Director Powers- Common understanding that ED’s have the right to hire and fire staff. Discussion of ED Job description and the need for amendment to address this more clearly. Margaret suggests we delete the last phrase of section 21 as needed with executive board approval” Stan/Brian Carried- no objections.
 - f. Rate of Exchange Discussion re Membership Dues: Members in some countries pay more for membership because of their exchange rates. International member services cost more and we currently subsidize cost of membership services as part of our commitment to our international activities.
6. Executive Director’s Report – Margaret See attachment. Good news-Phoebe doing well. M requested increase in raise and hours and Phoebe is pleased.
7. *Training Manager’s Report – Margaret See attachment. Policies need confirmation. Trainings going well - plans for 2003 look good. Training Committee response generally positive for the pre/post payment for each training, which is a change. Lower 2 – 2 1/2 day training due to no report to grade, so less work than the longer trainings because of this. Discussion of regional training cost increases and fairness - Harriet suggests we increase the regional fee charging for each training they attend just for the US as a trial period. We support the across the board increase of \$5 per attendee. We accept the \$500.00 first time co-sponsor fee.

Margaret asks that we vote on the lowering on the maximum enrollment per TC per point IV 3 in the TM Report: Janine/Chip Carried!

Request to use material from our manual for paid consultant type use. Joe is reviewing this request and recommends we charge.

Harriet thinks Editorial Review panel should come up with our fee. We agree if it is to be sold, we want to charge.

8. Committee Reports
 - a. Editorial Review Board-Stan- IFOAM Asia has published a Korean Manual that looks a lot like our Second Edition Manual. We were not aware of this and it is an example of pirating our material. We value our relationship with IFOAM and want to improve this relationship, but we need to protect our resources and be compensated for material used. Stan thinks \$1500.00 would be fair. (ACTION-MARGARET) PLEASE write a letter to Thomas of IFOAM to establish if our second edition manual was used as a template. Adjournment for a break.
 - b. Latin American Committee-Good ideas and comments have come forward. Appreciation for Stan supporting this effort. Stan is hoping we can identify where IOIA can be effective in improving conditions in Latin America for our members. Stan asks all to read especially question 20. Email suggestions for action to Stan. Electronic tool useful for gathering information like this. Our thanks to Lidia! Continual refinement of objectives will happen.

-
- a. Committee on Committees-Discussion on Arthur's submission. General acceptance with some additions thought required. We thank Arthur for this work which gives us a sense of what is happening now. Margaret asks for submission suggestions, as we need to discuss this more thoroughly to create good policy guidelines. Margaret will be asking committee chairs for budgets as well as criteria of selection of members, which the board needs to approve.
 - b. Accreditation Committee Report: Chip reports John Foster has joined. Lance Christie has expressed interest in joining as well. Chip will remain as a committee member. Accreditation-Late application for renewals will not be printed in the Directory as accredited, and will be entered into the next loop of accreditation reviews.
 - c. By Laws Committee- irate resignation tendered to board from this committee. We need to respond to Rick's resignation and concerns. Harriet as board liaison, is willing to contact the other people on the committee to research the situation. Stan offers to help if needed. Harriet will report back to the board with her findings.
9. Old Business
- a. Certifier Liaison Issues-Garth offered to be the Oregon Tilth liaison
 - b. Progress on Researching Inspector Dismissal Policies of Certifiers, Development of "Certifier Script". Discussion of need to coordinate gathering information about inspector termination procedures. Initial contact should be established by our certifier liaisons and follow up phone calls are required. We ask for this information prior to the board call following the AGM. ACTION-Please use the script that Chip is planning to re-circulate.
 - c. *Policy Manual (Final Approval)- Brian inquires if the typos were corrected. Margaret felt they were but the 501C3 correction was not made. We approve the Policy Manual with the correction of our tax status being one of 501C3. Janine/Brian Carried
 - d. *TC Contracts See attachment. Addendum needs to be developed for specific accountabilities for specific trainings based on the legal review. Discussion about removal of right of refusal from redeveloped wording, some of the TCs who responded to this clause disliked it- straw poll indicate the majority of board members want to remove right of refusal. #3 restrictive part to be removed and distributed to Training Comm. again. Stan/Janine: 3 for 2 against Carried: Chip and Brian voted no.
 1. Revise #3 to remove First two sentences & third sentence. Add-For non-IOIA sponsored or co-sponsored trainings, IOIA certificates shall not be given,(the reputation... Certificates and Use of materials). Add any "exclusively IOIA copy written materials" at the end. Janine will circulate this approved agreement to the Training Committee for them to see our work. TC's will be receiving two copies in the mail.
 - e. *Retailer Training- GORP negotiations with OTA, contract -Harriet See attachment. David let Margaret know that he will redirect first payments to Joyce and Harriet and subsequent payments to IOIA. Margaret will put their discussion in writing for David to sign. Margaret's model has IOIA losing \$600.00 or it possibly could be used for upgrading the manual/project. Harriet will be talking to David about further developments and if the \$600 could be used for the Power Point update.
10. New Business:
- a. *2003 AGM, Election, Ballot Mailing to Membership, AGM Agenda-How members feel about training should be a discussion item; Margaret asks for three topics on Training.
 - a. Report from Election Committee-see Vice Chair Report
 - b. Ballot Committee- Stan reports ballot committee will be appointed at the AGM.
 - c. Bylaws Proposals-8 Ready to go. We can let our opinions be known. The Board needs to see the bylaws proposed and develop a board comment. ACTION- MARGARET- asks for strong opinions only. Jack relays his strong opposition to the Bylaw allowing past chairs on the board in a voting capacity. A majority of board members express their strong disapproval of this ByLaw amendment. Stan suggests we put out a board statement of discouragement. Harriet and Stan will work on it and run it by Jack and the board, in case Brian's effort with Arthur and the By Laws Committee doesn't result in its withdraw.
 - d. Planning for next BOD Retreat, Orientation Packets for New BOD members-
 - b. *New Membership Committee Chair. The board thanks Maarten for his service and we regretfully accept his resignation effective Feb 25th. ACTION: Chris as board liaison is asked to contact all committee members about who might serve as chair.
 - c. *Training Task Force Report: Request for Support in Principle-End of December deadline to prioritize tasks, develop a budget and then get board approval for budget expenditures in Feb.
 - d. Regional Training Coordinator Position: Margaret reports on the interview process and her recommendation of Lisa Pierce for this position in a 1 year contract position. We received excellent, well-qualified applicants and it was a very challenging decision process.
11. Adjournment (Next meeting will be February 19, 2003 in VT, Full Board)

Feed, from page 15

vulnerable Congress is to political and economic pressures. Since we are a "federally regulated industry", the organic community is now vulnerable to being undermined by Congress and federal agencies.

This issue will be the focal point of many discussions at various meetings and conferences in the coming weeks. Hopefully, we can come up with a thoughtful and effective strategy that responds to the short term "crisis" and sets us in motion for dealing with larger, long term issues of integrity and credibility."

* * *

IOIA encourages everyone to contact members of Congress and let them know that such attacks on organic standards and markets are totally unacceptable.

Sources: *Doug Crabtree; Jim Riddle; Margaret Scoles; New York Times; Sacramento Bee; Organic Consumers Association; www.ams.usda.gov; Associated Press; Cox News Service; SANET.*

GMO NEWS

Pigs from GE Studies May Have Illegally Entered Food Supply

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said last month that pigs involved in bioengineering studies may have been sold illegally for use as food (February 6, www.nytimes.com). Although the agency did not believe the experimental pigs posed any risk to public health, the article said, "the incident is the latest of several that call into question whether regulations are adequate to ensure that the food supply remains safe as plants and animals are increasingly engineered to produce drugs and other products." Experimental pigs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign were engineered with foreign genes to improve nutrition and speed growth in their offspring, as an alternative to growth-promoting antibiotics: from April 2001 until last January, 386 piglets were released without FDA's permission to a livestock dealer who may have sold them for use as food. Although the university insisted the offspring it distributed had not inherited the foreign genes, the agency was unable to verify that assertion. The FDA's Deputy Commissioner said that the university may face fines or be required to stop certain research.

Monsanto Woes

On December 18, 2002, Monsanto announced the resignation of its president and chief executive Hendrik Verfaillie, ending a 26 year career with the company. In a press release the company stated that the resignation was a mutual decision. Both Verfaillie and the board of directors agreed "that the company's performance during the past two years has been disappointing." However, according to the St. Louis Dispatch, "industry analysts and those who have closely worked with Verfaillie over the years said they believe the board called for his resignation." Monsanto stocks fell almost 6% at the news; Monsanto's stock has fallen nearly 50% since last January.

Another problem facing Monsanto is the growing number of cases of glyphosate-resistant weeds. For years, Monsanto maintained that resistance

was not a problem. In the past few years, however, cases of resistance have been documented around the world. In 1996, resistant Rigid Ryegrass was found in one part of Australia; then in 1997, it was discovered in New South Wales. Cases of resistant Rigid Ryegrass have also been documented in California (2-5 sites) in 1998, and in South Africa (11-50 sites) in 2001.

In 1997, Goosegrass resistant to glyphosate was found in multiple orchards in Malaysia. Glyphosate-resistant Italian Ryegrass was discovered in orchards in Chile in 2001. In 2000, cases of resistant Horseweed (also known as Maretail) began appearing in soybean fields in the US. Resistance has been documented in Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio and Tennessee. In Tennessee, resistant Horseweed was also found in cotton. Scientists estimate that from 100,000 to one million acres are infested with resistant Horseweed, primarily in Tennessee and Delaware. Also, Iowa State University researchers have tested waterhemp plants from a number of locations around the state. Individual selected plants survived an average of 2.6 times the labeled rate of glyphosate, with some plants able to shrug off even higher rates.

U.S. Delays Challenge to EU's Ban on GM Food

With war looming in Iraq, the Bush administration has decided against antagonizing its European allies and has postponed filing a case against the European Union for its ban on genetically modified food, according to senior administration officials. "There is no point in testing Europeans on food while they are being tested on Iraq," a senior White House official said, speaking on background.

Robert B. Zoellick, the United States trade representative, had warned that the administration would decide by early February whether to sue the Europeans for what he called their "immoral" opposition to GE food that was leading to starvation in the developing world. The conflict will resurface soon, however. Mr. Zoellick said in an interview that he believed GE food could help alleviate hunger worldwide and that he wanted the European opposition to be confronted and unfounded fears erased

so that developing nations would accept food from genetically modified crops.

Experts agree that the United States could win a case at the World Trade Organization and force a lifting of the four-year old ban. The ultimate resolution of this case, however, will rest on labeling - not food aid - and promises to pit European ideas of food regulation against American notions about free trade.

Food Processors Comment on 'Pharm' Plants

Comments filed in early February by the National Food Processors Association (NFPA) urged the U.S. FDA to stay away from the use of food or feed crops to produce plant-made pharmaceuticals "without a 100% guarantee against any contamination of the food or feed supply." This zero-tolerance approach could take away what some have called a potentially lucrative new market for corn, soybean and rice growers. In the comments sent to FDA, Rhona Applebaum, NFPA's executive vice president and chief science officer, comments: "In the absence of demonstrated effective controls and procedures to ensure against any contamination of the food or feed supply, NFPA vigorously opposes the use of food or feed crops to produce [plant-made pharmaceuticals (PMPs)]. Without such proven and effective controls, applications for this technology should be applied only in non-food or feed crops that are segregated from the food supply." NFPA's comments were submitted in response to FDA's and USDA's Guidance for Industry on Drugs, Biologics and Medical Devices Derived from Bioengineered Plants for Use in Humans and Animals, issued Sept. 12, 2002. Applebaum notes however that while NFPA sees the current and potential benefits of the new technology, "maintaining a safe, wholesome and unadulterated food supply must remain the government's primary goal." Applebaum also notes that FDA has a zero tolerance set for articles of food not approved for human consumption. The association's position is that if 100% prevention against adulteration is not achievable, food and feed crops "must not be used in the production of PMPs."

Move to Protect UK organic farmers from GM crops

New laws could be passed to help organic farmers recover losses caused by any commercialisation of genetically-modified crops. Current laws were inadequate to help such farmers whose businesses might suffer because of cross-pollination from GM

crops grown on neighbouring farms. Proposed European liability laws might not offer protection either. "We want to look at whether we need domestic liability legislation," Mr Meacher said, insisting the government remained committed to strengthening the organic sector. The move would address a central issue surrounding how modified and non-modified plants can co-exist if the government approves the commercial cultivation of GM crops later this year.

Down on the Pharm

US biotech companies will be allowed to grow GMO corn to produce pharmaceuticals provided that it is grown at least a mile away from food crops and is carefully monitored by government inspectors.

Tighter regulations for trials of 'pharma crops' were announced on 6 March by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Last year, food corn and soy beans in Iowa and Nebraska had to be destroyed after possible contamination by corn that was being grown by ProdiGene of College Station, Texas, to produce a pig vaccine.

As well as doubling the required safety distance from food crops, the rules require dedicated machinery, extra training for planters, and up to five annual visits to each site by inspectors.

Some biotech companies have advocated excluding pharma crops from the corn belt in the American Midwest to prevent any possible public backlash. There are no plans for this, but the new regulations could have a similar effect, says Rebecca Bech, director for biotechnology and regulatory services at APHIS. The safety zones should keep most trials out of the corn belt, she notes.

Biotech companies hope the regulations will help to build public confidence. "They are based on science and we support them strongly," says Debra Robertson, director of intellectual property at Epicyte, a pharma company in San Diego, which is developing corn to counteract the herpesvirus.

"Strong confinement conditions are only half of the battle," counters Gregory Jaffe, director of the biotechnology project at the Center for

Science in the Public Interest in Washington DC. "You need to increase oversight and make the companies comply." Both allies and critics are concerned that many of APHIS's 2,600 inspectors have been moved to the new Department of Homeland Security. "We've been assured that when the time comes the inspectors will be made available," says Bech.

NEWS BRIEFS

FDA Seeks Food-Supply Rules In Its Bid to Deter Terrorism

The Food and Drug Administration proposed sweeping rules to deter terrorist attacks on the nation's food supply.

Right now, the agency doesn't have a list of food producers and has no way to track imports before they arrive.

Under the proposal, food importers would have to notify the FDA at least one day before a food shipment arrives in the U.S., explaining the contents and estimating the time of arrival. Another provision would require domestic producers of a host of items from fresh vegetables to snack foods to register with the FDA.

Kansas Assists Organic Growers to Avoid Drift

Growers of organic and sensitive crops can now post their crop locations on a web page hosted by the Kansas Department of Ag's pesticide and fertilizer program, so pesticide applicators will know where to use extra caution to prevent drift. Go to Pesticide and Fertilizer and then Sensitive Crops via www.accesskansas.org/kda/

California is developing a similar program that will establish an 'organic site identity preservation system'. A taskforce of members from the California Organic Products Advisory Committee is expected to have a final recommendation by this fall. With over 2,000 registered organic farms in the state, there is a growing interest from companies that do crop spraying and mosquito abatement districts about where organic farms are located, according to Ray Green, enforcement officer for the state's organic program.

Microorganisms Break Down Toxic Pesticide

Researchers in the U.S. and Pakistan have identified a group of micro-organisms that can break down a common toxic pesticide, endosulfan.

Detoxifying pesticides through biological means is receiving attention as an alternative to existing methods, such as incineration and landfill, which are not sufficient for large, contaminated sites. Researchers from the University of California at Riverside and the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan, have identified specific micro-organisms which can breakdown the toxicity of endosulfan. By identifying microorganisms to degrade endosulfan, these researchers were able to reduce the toxic residues in the soil. The results of this study are published in the January-February issue of the "Journal of Environmental Quality."

"Pollutants can be degraded by microorganisms when they use the toxin as a carbon and energy source," said project leader William Frankenberger of UC-Riverside. "We have been successful in isolating two strains that have immense potential for endosulfan degradation." It is one of the most commonly detected pesticides in U.S. water, found in at least 38 states, and is rated by the US EPA as a Category 1 pesticide with "extremely high acute toxicity." Endosulfan affects the central nervous system, kidney, liver, blood chemistry and parathyroid gland and has reproductive, teratogenic and mutagenic effects.

US Seeks Delay on Methyl Bromide

The Bush Administration, in a proposal last month to the U.N., requested "critical use exemptions" for 54 companies and trade groups to continue using methyl bromide 2 years past its scheduled 2005 international ban.

A fumigant used to sterilize soil and protect stored food, methyl bromide was to have been gradually phased out and completely banned in developed nations under the Montreal Protocol, a global treaty to eliminate chemicals that destroy the earth's protective ozone layer. The 1987 agreement, signed by the U.S. and 182 other countries, allows exemptions for uses having no technical or economically feasible alternatives, such as chlorofluorocarbons in asthma inhalers. Critics of the U.S. government request said that over the past decade most U.S. and international users have managed to find alternatives to methyl bromide, and approving the exemptions will only delay shifts to safer chemical and non-chemical replacements. An official from the Natural Resources Defense Council stated that granting the exemptions "punishes responsible growers who have invested time and money into adopting safer alternatives," such as solarization to eradicate soil pests.

IOIA Profit & Loss	<u>Overview</u>	Latin American	500.00
	<u>Jan - Dec '03</u>	Membership	300.00
Income		Training	<u>1,000.00</u>
Annual Meeting	250.00	Total Committee Expense	3,600.00
Donations	1,000.00	Dues and Subscriptions	1,300.00
Inspector Accreditation	600.00	Employee Expense	
Inspector Trainings		Taxes, Soc. Security, Medicare	4,440.00
Northeast US Trainings	70,000.00	Unemployment	<u>1,200.00</u>
Regional Trainings	14,400.00	Total Employee Expense	5,640.00
Sask Advanced	7,000.00	Executive Director Salary	25,200.00
West Coast Trainings	<u>60,000.00</u>	Inspector Training Expense	
Total Inspector Trainings	151,400.00	Northeast US Trainings 03	60,000.00
Interest	1,000.00	Regional Trainings	1,200.00
IOIA Manuals		Sask Advanced	5,500.00
IFOAM/IOIA Manual	12,730.00	West Coast Trainings 2003	<u>45,000.00</u>
Total IOIA Manuals	12,730.00	Total Inspector Training Expense	111,700.00
Membership Dues		Insurance	1,600.00
2003 Dues	7,500.00	Membership Directories	3,000.00
2004 Dues	<u>30,000.00</u>	Newsletter	8,000.00
Total Membership Dues	37,500.00	Office Equipment	500.00
Newsletter Subscriptions	200.00	Office Supplies	1,500.00
Resource Sales		Postage and Delivery	1,500.00
Books	4,280.00	Printing and Reproduction	1,200.00
Caps	400.00	Professional Fees	
Contracts	20.00	Accounting	500.00
T-shirts	<u>300.00</u>	Legal Fees	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total Resource Sales	5,000.00	Total Professional Fees	1,500.00
Retailer Training	<u>2,000.00</u>	Promotion	500.00
Total Income	211,680.00	Regional Training Coordinator	4,800.00
Cost of Goods Sold		Rent	1,800.00
Cost of Goods Sold	<u>2,000.00</u>	Resource Purchases	500.00
Total COGS	<u>2,000.00</u>	Scholarship	
Gross Profit	209,680.00	Community Initiative Scholarship	750.00
		Rutherford Scholarship	<u>750.00</u>
		Total Scholarship	1,500.00
Expense		Support Staff	10,000.00
Accreditation Expense	600.00	Telephone	
Annual Meeting Expense	2,500.00	Website	240.00
Bank Service Charges	3,000.00	Telephone - Other	<u>2,100.00</u>
Board of Directors		Total Telephone	2,340.00
BOD Retreat	2,500.00	Training Manager	0.00
BOD Support	1,000.00	Travel	1,500.00
BOD Travel	5,000.00	Workers Compensation	<u>300.00</u>
Conference Calls	3,000.00	Total Expense	207,680.00
Phone/Office Reimbursement	<u>600.00</u>		
Total Board of Directors	12,100.00		
Committee Expense		Net Income	<u><u>2,000.00</u></u>
Bylaws	250.00		
Canadian	1,000.00		
Communications	200.00		
Compensation	100.00		
Ethics	250.00		

Treasurer's Note: This 2003 Budget was approved by the membership at the 2003 AGM in Vermont with a net income of +\$200. Following the AGM, the Treasurer found an error (Income from the Saskatchewan Advanced Training had been omitted) and submits this corrected budget, showing a net projected income of \$2000.

Resources

Bringing the Food Economy Home: Local Alternatives to Global Agribusiness (160 pgs) by Helena Norberg-Hodge and others, from International Society for Ecology and Culture, is \$18.95 from Kumarian Press (1-800-289-2664, kpbooks@kpbooks.com) or other book sellers.

<http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/> A gateway, via hyperlinks, to the online world of organic farming: learning, advice, tools and information can be found at Use it as an organised guide to web-based material on organic farming.

Why Food Safety Will Continue Driving Growth in Demand for Organic Food Ecofarm 2003 Conference lecture by Charles M. Benbrook is available on the web at: http://www.biotech-info.net/Ecofarm_Food_Safety.pdf

Non-GMO Sourcebook 2003 (2nd edition) listing suppliers of non-GMO and organic seeds, food ingredients and products, testing labs, and other resources is \$49 from Writing Solutions, (641) 472-1491; ken@non-gmosource.com.

Organic Price Index (OPX) from Rodale Institute, a weekly update of wholesale prices for organically and conventionally grown foods by region, to launch in February 2003, is online at www.newfarm.org/opx/index.shtml.

Engineering the Farm: The Social and Ethical Aspects of Agricultural Biotechnology (200 pgs), edited by Britt Bailey and Marc Lappe, is \$25 from Island Press (1-800-828-1302, www.islandpress.com) or other book sellers.

State of the World 2003 (241 pgs), 20th anniversary edition, is \$16.95 plus S/H from Worldwatch Institute, 1-888-544-2303; wwpub@worldwatch.org; www.worldwatch.org/bookstore.

Code of Sustainable Winegrowing Guidelines developed by Wine Institute of California and California Association of Winegrape Growers; for 490-pg workbook and program details, (415) 512-0151; www.wineinstitute.org.



INDEPENDENT ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

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IOIA HAS SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE. PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING IN NORTH AMERICA.

I am interested in the following:

- IOIA Membership Application (includes quarterly newsletter and member directory)
- Please specify category – all funds payable in US \$ - All dues are annual
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- %Supporting Individual - \$75
- %Business/Organization \$100
- %Certifying Agency - \$250
- %Patron - \$500
- %Sustainer - \$1000
- %The Inspectors' Report – 1 year (4 issues) subscription \$30
- %2003 IOIA Membership Directory - \$25
- IFOAM/IOIA International Organic Inspection Manual:
- %\$45 members
- %\$60 non-members

%Building Soils for Better Crops (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.

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

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

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

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

%Organic Livestock Handbook, published by Canadian Organic Growers. Edited by Anne Macey, 179 pp, spiral bound, \$22.00

%Organic Tree Fruit Management, published by COABC, 240 pages, \$28.00

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

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

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See our Caps and Tees in the *Publications* section of our website, www.ioia.net

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2003 Calendar

April 5, Central Minnesota Sustainable Farming Assn Annual Meeting, in Wadena, MN; contact Lynda Converse, (320) 594-2456.

April 6-7, Organic Products Europe, in London, England; for information, www.naturalproducts.co.uk/op_europe/index.htm; or contact Full Moon Communications, 58 High St., Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3RD UK; phone +44 (0)1903 817300; fax +44 (0)1903 817310.

April 8-10, "Building Alliances for the Future of IPM," 4th National IPM Symposium, in Indianapolis, IN; contact Elaine Wolff, Conference Planner, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, (217) 333-2881; ipmsymposium@ad.uiuc.edu; www.conted.uiuc.edu/ipm/20

April 19-21, Basic Farm Inspector Training, co-sponsored with JOIA. Japanese language, in Tokyo, Japan. For info contact JOIA at joia@ops.dti.ne.jp or +81-4-75-30-7753, fax +81-4-75-30-7554.

April 23-25, "Beneficial Use and Protection of Water Quality," 2nd Canadian Organic Residuals Recycling Conference, in Penticton, BC; contact British Columbia Water and Waste Association, (604) 540-4077; bcwwa@bcwwa.org; www.weao.org/events/corr_conference.htm.

April 25-27, "Toxics in the Age of Globalization," 21st National Pesticide Forum, in Austin, TX; contact John Kepner, Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP, (202) 543-5450; info@beyondpesticides.org; www.beyondpesticides.org.

April 27-28, IOIA Advanced Organic Inspector Training, Moosejaw, Saskatchewan, Canada; Contact the IOIA office at 406-436-2031, ioia@ioia.net, or www.ioia.net for application & info.

May 2-3, Organic Beekeeping Workshop, in Chestnut Ridge, NY; contact Pfeiffer Center, (845) 352-5020; beework@preiffercenter.org; www.pfeiffercenter.org.

May 3-4, "Heartland Celebration" of food, farming and healthy living in California's Central Valley, in Stevinson, CA; contact Ecological Farming Association; (831) 763-2111; info@eco-farm.org; www.eco-farm.org

May 8-9, Annual National Food Policy Conference, in Washington, DC; contact Art Jaeger, Consumer Federation of America, (202) 387-6121; www.consumerfederation.org.

May 14-17, "Reconciling Holism and Reductionism: The New Science and Practice of Health Care, Organic Agriculture and Nutrition," in Wageningen, Netherlands; contact Louis Bolk Institute, info@louisbolk.nl; www.suchislife.nl.

May 14-18, "All Things Organic" Conference and Trade Show, in Austin, TX; contact Organic Trade Association, (413) 774-7511; info@ota.com; www.ota.com.

May 17-19, Basic Process Inspector Training, co-sponsored with JOIA. Japanese Language, in Tokyo, Japan; For info contact JOIA at joia@ops.dti.ne.jp or +81-4-75-30-7753, fax +81-4-75-30-7554.

May 27-30, 5th Conference on Organic Agriculture, in Havana, Cuba; e-mail foodfirst@foodfirst.org, or www.foodfirst.org/cuba/events/2002/conferencev.html, or

June 1-3, "Biotechnology: Science and Society at a Crossroad," National Agricultural Biotechnology Council's 15th annual public meeting, in Seattle, WA; contact S. Ristow, Agricultural Research Center, Washington State University, Pullman, WA; (509) 335-4563, nabc15@wsu.edu;

<http://arc.cahe.wsu.edu/nabc/>; or www.cals.cornell.edu/extension/nabc.

June 4-6, Fourth International Conference on Ecosystems and Sustainable Development (ECOSUD) 2003; organized by University of Siena, and Wessex Institute of Technology, UK; in Siena, Italy; for information, www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2003/ecosud03/index.html; or contact Stacey Hobbs, Conference Secretariat, Wessex Institute of Technology, shobbs@wessex.ac.uk.

June 6-7, "Creating Meaningful Solutions," 3rd Annual Sustainable Hog Farming Summit, co-sponsored by Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Animal Welfare Institute, and others, in Gettysburg, PA; phone (914) 674-0622 ext 204; jodefey@waterkeeper.org; www.waterkeeper.org/maineevent.aspx.

June 12-17, Basic Organic Farm and Livestock trainings, in Winthrop, Maine. See page 3 for details. Info/application at www.ioia.net.

July 13-25, "International Short Course on Agroecology 2003," with special focus on interactions between human and ecological communities in rural landscapes, in Santa Cruz, CA; contact Joji Muramoto, Shortcourse Organizer, University of California at Santa Cruz, shortcourse@agroecology.org; www.agroecology.org/shortcourse.htm.

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

November 12-20, IOIA Basic Farm, Livestock and Process trainings, in Wilsonville, Oregon. See page 3 for details. Info at www.ioia.net

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