

The

# Inspectors' Report

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## Notes from The Chair

By Brian Magaro

Prior to the Board of Directors (BOD) retreat in October many members had suggested topics for discussion and issues of concern that they wished the Board to address. The BOD took these offerings very seriously and gave them hours of attention. The results of our discussions can be found in the minutes from the retreat. Please visit your website ([www.ioia.net](http://www.ioia.net)). One topic of discussion brought to the table was that many inspectors feel that IOIA is "creating" too many new inspectors and in so doing creating an imbalance between inspectors and inspections. The perception that follows then is that the certifiers can dangle the proverbial carrot and then choose from the lowest bidders for inspections. I do know that there are certainly more inspectors in my neck of the woods than there were 5, 4 or even 3 years ago. This has not caused me such a hardship as it has made me a more focused inspector. It has caused me to ask more questions of the certifiers; form stronger relationships with fellow inspectors whom I can turn to for support and technical advice; be more conscious of my performance; seek out continuing education; and most of all to appreciate the benefit of IOIA as an inspector association. So, how do you and I dispel this area of concern? Let us first look at how IOIA survives. IOIA is a membership-based organization. In most cases, a membership-based organization is supported by the membership. That is not so at the moment for IOIA. IOIA is supported by membership dues and by revenue received from trainings. The revenue from trainings now offsets the imbalance between dues received and actual membership costs. If you want there to be a [see Notes, page 4]

## ¡PURA VIDA! AGM Set for March 13 in Costa Rica

Don't spend all your money and savings on this coming Christmas! Give your family a gift certificate for your March 2004 vacations, because IOIA is returning to Costa Rica for our 2004 Annual General Membership Meeting on March 13.

AGM issues will include election of 3 Board members and 2 alternates, discussion of the role of alternate Board members, exploring how IOIA can best interface with certification agencies, membership dues, membership services, and much more. If you are interested in standing as a candidate for the Board, please contact Chris Kidwell, Chair of the Nominations Committee (contact info on page 6).

Trainings that are scheduled around the 2004 AGM will include an Advanced Organic Inspector Training on March 11-12; Spanish language Basic Organic Farm Inspection Training on March 15-18; and a still tentative opportunity for experienced inspectors will be offered on the morning of March 14 in Spanish language.

Advanced training topics will include Organic Fiber Processing with **Fred Ehlert** and Food Processing inspection issues (sanitation, chlorine, boiler additives, food contact surfaces) with **David Gould**. Training will be in English language, with accommodation for Spanish speakers. Fred Ehlert is an IOIA member with experience inspecting for a variety of certification agencies and a particular interest in the developing fiber processing industry, including extensive self-education on the topic. David Gould received his formal education in life sciences from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with concentrations in biochemistry, microbiology, nutrition and food science. Prior to his engrossment with the world of organic certification he worked on an organic farm, was an educator, and owned a small organic processing operation. His work in the organic sector has and continues to include inspection, certification, policy and standards formation, technical reviews, and inspector training. Two concurrent sessions are being arranged during the course to accommodate Spanish speakers with further classroom training in advanced coffee audit and English speakers with a tour of local organic coffee processing. Inspectors visiting Costa Rica for the first time are encouraged to plan a few days for sightseeing before or after the event. Passports are recommended.

All events are scheduled at the Hotel Villas Zurqui near San Jose. IOIA plans to continue the 2-year old tradition of providing lunch and dinner on the day of the AGM to all participating IOIA members. "Salsa" music and dancing are planned after the AGM. Lodging is available at a nominal fee to encourage participation by all IOIA members, whether or not attending the IOIA training (this is the first time IOIA has returned to Costa Rica since 1995). Families and spouses are welcome, but please contact the IOIA office well in advance to reserve a family room. Other hotel accommodations ranging from luxury to modest are available 10 minutes from the Hotel.

Hotel Villas Zurqui is a small and modest hotel with accommodations for about 60 people. IOIA will likely have exclusive use. It is located in the Central Valley in the rural outskirts of San Jose, about 45 minutes from the San Jose airport (\$10- \$20 by cab or shared shuttle) and 15 [see AGM, page 5]

### What's Inside....

**NOP Lays an Egg?.....p7**  
**Training News.....p11**  
**Hydrosols.....p15**  
**Retreat Highlights.....p16**  
**Plus GMO's, Resources,**  
**Committee News, Calendar,**  
**....And More!**

## In Brief...

### Special Offers

IOIA offers again for 2004 special Email subscriptions for the *Non-GMO Source* (\$25 emailed directly from the publisher) and *The Organic Standard* (\$5/year, emailed directly from IOIA office). These offers are through special arrangements with the publishers. Please contact the IOIA office for more details. If you are a current subscriber to either publication, you will receive an Email invoice. This offer is provided only to Inspector Members or Supporting Individual Members who plan to become Inspectors. Not available to supporting businesses, organizations, or certification agencies.

### Meatrix Says It All

Heard of the Meatrix yet? The Meatrix is a two-minute Flash animation that spoofs the popular *Matrix* movies. But instead of Keanu Reeves, the Meatrix stars a young pig, Leo, who lives on a pleasant family farm...he thinks. Leo is approached by a wise and mysterious cow, Moopheus, who shows Leo the truth about modern farming -- the truth about the Meatrix!

The film describes the problems with factory farming. See it at: <http://www.themeatrix.com>

It also offers viewers a solution -- the final page directs viewers to the *Eat Well Guide*, a national online directory of sustainably-raised meat, which is available at [www.eatwellguide.org](http://www.eatwellguide.org)

### From The Forum

Those little stickers on loose fruits and vegetables have valuable information on them.

Besides providing the store's cash registers and computers with product ID and price information, these stickers can tell you:

- Labels with four digits indicate conventionally grown food.
- Labels with five digits, starting with an 8, indicate that the food is genetically modified.
- Labels with 5 digits, starting with a 9, indicate that the food is organically grown.

### Membership Updates

Membership Directory corrections are too numerous to print in this issue. The 2004 Membership Directory will be mailed to all paid up members in January, unless you opted not to receive it. The cost of the Directory is included as a membership service for all supporting members as part of IOIA dues. Inspector members must pay \$12.50 to receive a hard copy.

### Database News

We are hard at work on the new IOIA Master Database, which will be used to create the on-line Member Directory, also by mid-January. All IOIA inspector or apprentice inspector members have been emailed passwords to access the database. Thank you to everyone who has helped update your information!

If you have questions or have not received a password or if you've encountered difficulties, please contact Phoebe at the IOIA office ([phoebe@rangeweb.net](mailto:phoebe@rangeweb.net)).

### Welcome New Members:

Gordon Bardarson (Manitoba, CANADA)  
Ramona Belden (Laramie, WY)  
Sona Desai (Burlington, VT)  
Slade Franklin (Cheyenne, WY)  
Jerry Fry (Willow Springs, MO)  
Jacqueline Fulcomer (Fredonia, WI)  
Rueven Grossman (Tualatin, OR)  
Kevin Haas (Cheyenne, WY)  
Jennifer Hall (Seattle, WA)  
Anna Hauser (Athens, GA)  
Kelly Havely (Wheatland, WY)  
Gregory Hunt (Hunting Beach, CA)  
Don Lareau (Paonia, CO)  
Cheryl Laxton (British Columbia, CANADA)  
Gregory Michaud (Fort Collins, CO)  
Gregory Paul Parks (Salem, OR)  
Rowdy Petsch (Meriden, WY)  
P. Mike Quinn (Cheyenne, WY)  
Oscar Somasco (British Columbia, CANADA)  
Mathew Sebastian (Kerala, INDIA)  
Cory Scott-Kubiak (Bend, OR)  
Sandra K. Snider (Powell, WY)  
Ken Stoner (Saskatchewan, CANADA)  
Linda D. Stratton (Cheyenne, WY)  
Dan Van Steenhuyse (Vinton, IA)  
Karen Werner (Douglas, WY)

### INSPECTORS:

Duncan Cox (West Roxbury, MA)

### Dan Campbell

We are sad to announce the passing of Dan Campbell, 49, on August 23, 2003, following an auto accident. Dan worked in Lewiston, Idaho for the Idaho State Department of Agriculture as a Senior Agriculture Investigator and became a member of IOIA in 2002. For those who worked with Dan, and for those who knew him, his good humor and true friendship will be missed immensely.

### Mr. Hideo Yoshihara

Hideo Yoshihara, 63, died on Sept. 9, 2003 during an inspection trip. The cause of his death was a heart attack. He received IOIA/JOIA training in 1999 and 2000. Yoshihara was a graduate of Tokyo Agricultural University and he'd worked in a farm chemical company after graduating. Yoko Mizuno, of IOIA's sister organization JOIA, remembers him saying that he became an organic inspector to compensate for what he'd done in the past (selling farm chemicals) and dedicated himself to promoting organic farming. "He was liked by all generations and he was really a sweet and knowledgeable person," said Mizuno. "The great thing was he did not act as if he knew so much! He was a real modest person." He is survived by his wife, a son and daughter.

### 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 Staff: Diane Cooner, Box 1259, Guerneville, CA 95446 USA. Phone/fax 707-869-3017, [amani@sonic.net](mailto: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

**Gainesville Florida** IOIA and the Florida Organic Growers (FOG) will co-sponsor Basic Organic Process Inspector training from January 15-18, and Basic Organic Farm Inspector training from January 19-22. The IOIA/FOG trainings will be followed by the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (SSWAG) conference that includes farm tours and technical sessions. ([www.ssawg.org](http://www.ssawg.org)) Both inspector trainings and the SSAWG conference will be held at the Paramount Resort and Conference Center located in Gainesville, Florida. The Basic Farm training will include a mock inspection at a local organic mixed vegetable operation. Process training will include a field trip and discussion of organic control points and risk assessment in simple and complex operations with reference to the USDA organic standards. For more information and registration details please contact Carolyn at the Florida Organic Growers office at 352-377-0133 or 352-377-6345 or [fogoffice@aol.com](mailto:fogoffice@aol.com)

**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, **Jan 09-11** and Basic Process Inspector Training **Feb 28-March 01**. These commuting courses will use JAS as standard reference and be instructed in Japanese. JOIA will handle registration. For more information, contact JOIA at [mutsumi.sakuyoshi@nifty.com](mailto:mutsumi.sakuyoshi@nifty.com) or +81-422-56-6651 or +81-422-56-6651 (fax).

**Naramata, BC, CANADA** Certified Organic Association of British Columbia (COABC) and IOIA will co-sponsor Basic Farm Inspector Training (**February 24-27**) and Advanced Training (**March 1-2**). Trainings will be held in conjunction with the COABC conference held **February 28 and 29**, and training participants are encouraged to attend sessions at the conference. The Farm Inspector training will have a unique regional focus and use provincial COABC standards as primary reference while still covering the basic IOIA curriculum including organic farm inspection protocols, investigative skills, risk assessment, auditing farm yields, use of approved materials, report writing and on-farm processing. The Basic training will include a mock inspection to a local orchard, vineyard or greenhouse. Advanced Training will be responsive to needs of provincial inspectors and certifiers. Potential topics include inspector ISO compliance requirements, food safety, conducting label reviews, advanced auditing and understanding NOP requirements for Canadian exporters. Interested applicants please contact Kristen Kane at the COABC office (250) 260-4429 or [office@certifiedorganic.bc.ca](mailto:office@certifiedorganic.bc.ca).

**COSTA RICA** Make plans now! Airfare is still reasonable (hovering around \$500 US roundtrip from most major US cities), training costs are lower to entice members to make the trip. See lead article on page 1 for details. This promises to be a memorable AGM.

**Fayetteville, Arkansas** IOIA and the National Center for Appropriate Technology, managers of the ATTRA project, will sponsor Basic Farm and Livestock Inspector trainings on April 1-7, 2004 at the Mount Sequoyah Conference Center, in Fayetteville, Arkansas. For information or application forms, contact the IOIA office or the IOIA website at [www.ioia.net](http://www.ioia.net). For more information about the location, visit [www.mountsequoyah.org](http://www.mountsequoyah.org), but please do not contact Mount Sequoyah 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.

The late Andrew Rutherford was a farmer, organic inspector, and organic agriculture researcher from southern Saskatchewan. He served on IOIA's initial steering committee and then several years as a Founding Board Member.

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

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

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## Notes, from page 1

balance between inspectors and inspections, then you need to begin with yourself. Through **your** support, IOIA membership can begin carrying the actual cost of the membership services. Then the revenue from trainings can be reinvested into new curriculum development and improving the quality of IOIA's continuing education. That process is in its development stages as you read.

By now all members have received the mailing for membership renewal and many have paid their dues. I wish to speak about the way dues and your support to IOIA has changed. In the information you received with your renewal packet, you have seen that the dues were raised this year to begin to reflect that actual cost of your membership. The baseline dues are listed as \$100.00 with several options to bring the total support to IOIA close to or better than the actual cost of membership, which is \$177.00. Please review the options that the BOD presented to you. If you cannot afford to offer the \$2.00 per inspection in 2003 self-assessment, consider an additional donation, and be creative. Look at the other options - enlist another inspector who is not currently a member, or seek out a new supporting member. There are many ways to close the gap and assist in the shift that needs to happen to make IOIA stronger. If you have already paid your dues, please reread the letter that was included in the mailing and think about continued support in any way that maintains your comfort level. This organization is based on one key factor, **you**.

As I hope you will agree, the BOD, in whom you have placed your trust has chosen a path to return the opportunity of this trust to all members in support of your organization, IOIA. We feel that, if taken to heart, the "dues" proposal will not only sustain IOIA but will expand and strengthen the membership base and the organization.

As chair, I look forward to your continued dialog with the BOD in regard to any issue that you have need to voice or ideas that you have that you feel will help in strengthening the direction of IOIA.

*I hope your winter is one of inspiration and personal enrichment. 🌱*

## Montana Conference a Hit!

Over 120 people attended the first ever, state-wide Montana Organic Conference, in Great Falls on Dec. 5. IOIA and AERO (Alternative Energy Resources Organization) collaborated to organize the event, with the assistance of Event Coordinator Jill Davies. The event was declared a resounding success.

**Dr. Sergei Smirenski**, renowned ornithologist and conservationist and Director of the Muriaviovka Park for Sustainable Land Use, kicked off the event with a keynote on Dec. 4. His appearance was cosponsored by the Conference and Montana Audubon Society.

The conference included plenary sessions with **Dr. Stephen Jones** and **Dr. Jill Clapperton**. Dr. Jones, from Washington State University, is recognized for his expertise as a wheat breeder, as well as his outspoken views on intellectual property rights concerns and defending the public interest at land grant universities. His presentation included updates on his perennial wheat breeding project. Dr. Clapperton, an ag researcher from Lethbridge, Alberta, spoke on soil health, soil life, and the impact of rotations and tillage. Attendees selected from a wide variety of workshops, including Green Manures (panel of researchers and farmers), Organic Vegetable Production, and Organic Livestock Health Issues (**Dr. Joe Snyder, Oregon**). Also of note was an all-Montana organic lunch, a trade show, and a "Buyers' Forum" with opportunities promoting the abundance and diversity of Montana's organic products.

Doug Crabtree, IOIA member and current Program Manager of the MDA Organic Certification Program, assisted Margaret Scoles of IOIA in presenting a 2-hr session on "Transitioning to Organic Agriculture". During that workshop, an organizational meeting was held for the embryonic and as-yet-unnamed Montana organic organization. Future events are uncertain, but the positive evaluation of attendees indicates that there will likely be more conferences.

Scoles and Crabtree were also co-presenters at the NRCS/Extension/Producer training on Dec. 3-4 preceding the conference. AERO sponsored this conference, funded partially by OFRF grant funds. IOIA's

promotional display and resource sale were featured at both events. IOIA benefited financially from speaker honorariums and resource sales at the events. All four of the IOIA members from Montana were active volunteers for this event (Rob Knotts and Bob Herdegen, in addition to Crabtree and Scoles). Dag Falck, IOIA member, attended on behalf of Nature's Path as an exhibitor at the trade show.

## AGM from page 1 🌴🌴🌴

minutes from downtown San Jose. It is on the road to Braulio Carrillo National Park, approximately 1,400 meters above sea level. Weather should be pleasant in March, spring-like warm with sunny days, no rain, and cool evenings. The entire property is about 2 acres with a restaurant and bar. Lunches will be served outdoors on the "rancho" (like a roofed terrace or patio). Other meals will be served indoors in the restaurant. Lodging will be in small chalets, with room for 1 to 3 persons each, separated by gardens. Lodging options will vary in price. Each room has a phone but phone lines for the entire facility are limited (3). Internet access will be provided for 2 hours each evening.

Costa Rica is known for its warm hospitality for both Spanish and non-Spanish speakers. From San Jose, the capital city of Costa Rica, there are many tour choices operated as one-day-excursions. Enjoy an array of activities, from mountain biking, golfing, and deep-sea fishing to snorkeling, rafting, and diving. The Yellowstones and Yosemite of Costa Rica--the lure for 90% of all visitors to the national park system--are Manuel Antonio, with its beautiful beaches; Braulio Carrillo, with its rainforest beside a highway; Tortuguero, a watery, forested world teeming with wildlife; Irazú, where on a clear day you can see both the Caribbean and the Pacific; and Poás, where you can peer into a steaming crater and see the earth's crust being rearranged.

Cost of the advanced training will be around \$500 per person, including meals and lodging, depending on lodging option selected. Training fees are reduced to encourage attendance and help balance the higher cost of airfare for most IOIA members. **Deadline to apply is February 13.** Further details, including information on tourist options while in Costa Rica, and training applications are available from the IOIA website. We hope to see you there!



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## Notes from the ED

By Margaret Scoles

**IOIA Staff News:** Good News...No changes expected! Lisa Pierce will continue as Regional Training Manager for 2004, on a part-time contract. She participated in the BOD retreat in Broadus and assisted at the Oregon training to complete her training. Since June, she has been fully responsible for regional trainings, which has greatly reduced the training-related workload in the IOIA office. Phoebe Amsden will continue as Office Assistant, likely increasing her hours slightly in 2004. She assists both the main IOIA and Canadian Regional Training offices. Diane Cooner will continue as Newsletter Editor and Website Manager. I plan to enjoy no substantial staffing changes for a bit.

**Autumn Activities:** Your ED has been on the road a lot, starting with the trip to Expo East in early September, followed by the Wyoming training later that month, then the Oregon training (our largest training this year) in November. I'm thankful the BOD came to Broadus for the retreat in October. The Curriculum and Program Subcommittee (CAPS) work on Training was a major focus of the Oregon training. The Oregon Tilth Annual Meeting occurred at the same location.

**Dues Deadline Dec. 1:** Moving the payment deadline from Jan. 1 to Dec. 1 helped reduce stress somewhat for the IOIA office. Most of our members have paid up. We hoped to avoid the chronic end-of-the-year crunch.

**Database Update:** The updated 2004 IOIA Membership Directory is well underway. Phoebe has been working diligently to update member data, send out passwords, and encourage members to update their own directory entries electronically. Thank you to everyone who gave it a try! Please contact us if you have tried but been unsuccessful. We hope to have the hard copy directories published by mid-January and mailed out to the members with the pre-AGM packet, as usual. The 'in-progress' On-Line Directory will be available from our website as soon as it is finalized (probably 2 weeks earlier than the hard copies). With so many other changes underway, we kept the appearance and format of the on-line directory much the same. The new master database work is progressing in tandem with this Directory work so that we hope to switch over in early 2004. Phoebe is in charge of both projects.

**Bylaws Amendment: Deadline to vote was Dec. 20.** We need 68 votes to reach the needed quorum for bylaws change; as of Dec. 10, we have about half that many. As soon as we have the results of this ballot, we will be able to decide the appropriate category for some of our members who are currently waiting anxiously in 'supporting-individual-member' limbo but who would like to be listed as inspector members in the next Directory. If we fail to reach a quorum, the bylaws will remain unchanged.

**Accreditation Deadline:** Next deadline is March 1. Please check your renewal dates! Accreditation requires, among other criteria, a minimum of 2 years of inspection experience. The IOIA Accreditation Program is posted on the website.

**Guelph Conference, Jan 24-25:** IOIA is a cosponsor again this year for the Guelph Conference. Members of the Canadian Committee will staff an IOIA educational table display. We have also been asked to outline the organic inspector's perspective and to describe the training that IOIA provides at a workshop on informal/non-accredited educational opportunities. Individuals from various sectors of the organic industry will speak briefly about what their company/organization does, and what employment opportunities exist within their sector - current & projected.

**BOD in Broadus, October 18-21:** We enjoyed balmy fall weather during the Board's stay. As ED, I was impressed to see the ongoing maturation of the relatively new Board of Directors in just 3 days of meetings (no, I do not mean that their hair all turned gray over the meeting!). This meeting was indispensable to IOIA. Brian Magaro as Chair used every Board member as a resource person to maximize the effectiveness of the group. IOIA rented a house for the event to provide inexpensive lodging and added one motel room for the overflow. We all walked daily to the local Judges Chambers' restaurant for meals. The Board prepared their own breakfasts together so they had lots of opportunity to become better acquainted. Highlights outside of the meeting were a quick trip out of town to watch a prairie sunset, one evening of cowboy poetry with local rancher/poet Marie Gotfredson Scoville, failing miserably in our attempt to untie 'the Human Knot', and watching Phoebe's children/friends break a birthday piñata. The selection of Broadus as a location kept the Retreat less expensive than urban locations, helped reduce my travel, and allowed Board members to see the IOIA office. Some of the Board members ended their stay in Broadus with a trip to our ranch. See page 16 for highlights of the Retreat.

### What are our Members Saying and Doing about the Dues Increase?

It is too early to draw hard conclusions on the final impact. Dues were due Dec. 1 (**Reminder: If you haven't paid yet, please do!**)

**Why the Dues Increase:** This was explained in the letter to the members and again in the 'Notes from the Chair'. Last year's internal audit of IOIA revealed to the members the wide disparity between membership income and membership expenses. This year's projected shortfall made a dues increase more urgent. It was due mostly to unexpected shortfall on the Revenue side (poor enrollment in several of our inspector trainings and no increase in our international Regional Trainings). Neither of these situations were expected, based on our recent history.

**How Have Our Members Opted to Pay Dues this Year?** About 30% are paying the additional \$12.50 for the Newsletter and nearly that many the additional \$12.50 for the Membership Directory. To date, 20 members paid the per-inspection assessment, and others have pledged to send it in separately, after their initial dues were paid. Total income from these assessment fees to date is about \$1500 and dues donations with renewals another \$1500. Over half of the invoiced 2004 dues have been collected. Revenue from assessment fees, hard copy newsletter and/or directory, and dues donations, plus the \$25 dues increase for those paying to date, have brought in a net increase of about \$7000. This indicates a strong trend. The remainder of the dues yet to be paid will tell the final story. We anticipate a positive bottom line for the year. IOIA members are to be congratulated on responding! This 'cafeteria' method is also helping us gather data on the number of inspections (all efforts to do so in the past were woefully unsuccessful) and to get an idea of how members prefer to pay dues and what services they value.

**Comments and Questions?** Please plan to be at the AGM in Costa Rica. The dues amount for next year will surely be based partly on the information and comments we gather this year. If you have a thought, please send your comments to a Board member or to me!

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## Committee Reports

**Accreditation:** Chair Jake Lewin, [jake@sasquatch.com](mailto:jake@sasquatch.com) 831-469-3964, Liaison John Foster 503-474-2824, [john@onlinemac.com](mailto:john@onlinemac.com) Members:

Linda Kaner, John Foster, Alex Hanley, Margaret Scoles. **Jake**

**Lewin** has recently taken the helm as chair of the accreditation committee. We also wish to welcome John McKeon of CCOF as our certifier representative on the Accreditation Review Panel (ARP) and Mike Wise as the ARP Chair. Jim Fullmer has stepped down to alternate on the ARP while, Linda Kaner has stepped sideways from the accreditation committee to the ARP. Jake is familiarizing himself with the members and nuts and bolts of the accreditation process. Our two main goals are looking at ways to increase the value to certifiers and inspectors of the accredited inspector status and ensuring that the accreditation process is on track. The committee would like your input and participation. If you have any thoughts on inspector accreditation or would like to be drafted into service please contact Jake Lewin.

**Business Plan:** Ad Hoc, Chair: Jack Reams, [marlene\\_reams@telus.net](mailto:marlene_reams@telus.net) 604-858-9815. Liaison Brian Magaro, 717-732-7940, [magarob@aol.com](mailto:magarob@aol.com)

The business plan is currently being developed as an internal document for presentation to the annual meeting. It contains proposals to enhance the marketing of IOIA and its potential to new and old members alike. The plan also includes working with the Communications Committee to enhance IOIA's role in becoming an expanded educational facilitator to meet the needs of varied, distinct audiences in the organic industry.

**Bylaws:** Chair, Arthur Harvey, 207-388-2860, [arthurharvey@yahoo.com](mailto:arthurharvey@yahoo.com) Liaison Garry Lean, 705-887-5230 [garrylean@sympatico.ca](mailto:garrylean@sympatico.ca) Only one formal proposal has come before the bylaws committee during the past year: We approved the amendment proposed by the Membership Committee that is now being voted upon. It should be noted, however, that if the board approves the proposed committee policies (which came from Joe Montecalvo and

myself), then I will be term-limited out of this job pretty soon.

**Canadian Committee:** Co-chairs Jim Hudson, [judson@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:judson@sk.sympatico.ca) 306-543-0662, Rochelle Eisen, 250-494-7980, [rare@vip.net](mailto:rare@vip.net) Liaison Dag Falck [dfalck@junction.net](mailto:dfalck@junction.net), 250-379-2614.

Message from Janine Gibson, past Canadian Committee Chair: On behalf of the more than 50 IOIA Canadian members I wish to **thank Rochelle** both for her tireless work on the Canadian Standard but also for her efforts co-chairing the Canadian Committee of IOIA. **Thanks also to Jim Hudson**, who has been co-chair, for they are both stepping down. Canadian Inspectors, if any of you would like the opportunity to aid communication between Canadian inspector members, and to help represent IOIA in the Canadian Organic sector as Chair of the IOIA Canadian Committee, please contact Janine at 204-434-6018 or [janine@mts.net](mailto:janine@mts.net). For further Canadian news, please see page 10.

**Communications:** Chair Bob Howe, [earthorganic@aol.com](mailto:earthorganic@aol.com) 845-657-9592. Liaison Brian Magaro (see Business Plan). Nothing to report.

**Compensation/Working Conditions:** Chair: Eric Feutz, 573-256-7643, [brandt\\_01@email.msn.com](mailto:brandt_01@email.msn.com) Liaison Doug Crabtree [dcrabtree@state.mt.us](mailto:dcrabtree@state.mt.us) 406-444-9421 No report submitted.

**Editorial Review:** Chair Joe Montecalvo, [montecalvo@aol.com](mailto:montecalvo@aol.com) 805-772-3574, Liaison Dag Falck (see Canadian Committee). Ongoing. Joe reports he has been very busy updating his sanitation book and Introduction to Food Science course books. The second edition will replace the books that Joe presently has allowed IOIA to use and sell during processing trainings.

Joe also provided IOIA a curriculum template for possible IOIA inspector course trainings in order to enhance the trainings where inspectors may earn continuing education credits. However, his proposals are being reviewed by the Training committee which may report on this at a later date.

**Ethics:** Chair Joyce Ford, [jford@hbc.com](mailto:jford@hbc.com) Liaison: Brian Magaro (see Business Plan). Chair Joyce reports no changes and no complaints.

**Finance:** Chair/Liaison: Jack Reams, see Business Plan. No report submitted.

**Fundraising:** Chair Diane Cooner, 707-869-3017, [amani@sonic.net](mailto:amani@sonic.net) Liaison Jack Reams, see Finance. A fundraising

packet has been developed using a cover letter, our revamped brochure and business card, to target businesses and organizations as supporting members. Diane attended a fundraising seminar and many good ideas that she will start to implement after the first of the year.

**Latin American:** Chair Lidia Gaivironsky, 54114 503-3106, [gaivi@sion.com](mailto:gaivi@sion.com) Liaison Luis Brenes, [lbrenes@racsa.co.cr](mailto:lbrenes@racsa.co.cr) +506-226-1681. Lidia continues to answer messages from Latinamerican people, to translate press releases, to send resources for the website. No specific activity during this quarter.

**Membership:** Chair Chris Kidwell 530-628-4560, [ckidwell@tcoek12.org](mailto:ckidwell@tcoek12.org), Liaison John Foster (see Accreditation). The Nominations Committee, which is a subcommittee of the Membership Committee, has begun working on assembling a slate of candidates for the board of directors and the alternate board member positions open for the 2004 election. There are three BOD seats and two alternate seats up for election. A minimum of two candidates for each board and alternate seat is required. **If you are interested in serving on the board, or would like to nominate someone, contact Chris.**

**Regional Training Oversight:** Chair Harriet Behar, [harrieta@mwt.net](mailto:harrieta@mwt.net) Liaison Ann Baier, [ahbaier@aol.com](mailto:ahbaier@aol.com) 831-426-2052. Ongoing, approving trainings and TC's. The RTOC has been busy reviewing regional training proposals, making suggestions and approving trainings as put forth by Lisa after our input. Training Coordinators for these trainings have also been discussed and approved. All of our work is done via email. See listing of upcoming IOIA regional trainings on page 3.

**Scholarship:** Chair Rochelle Eisen, 250-494-7980, [rare@vip.net](mailto:rare@vip.net) Liaison Ann Baier, see RTOC. Rochelle plans to step down from this committee following the 2003 selection process.

**Training:** Chair Janine Gibson, 204-434-6018, [Janine@mb.sympatico.ca](mailto:Janine@mb.sympatico.ca) Liaison Ann Baier, see RTOC. The Training Committee was consulted via email about the formation of the CAPS Committee and no objections or concerns were raised. No additional names have been put forward however if anyone feeling they have training curriculum and programing experience would like to join the CAPS sub-committee, they are welcome to join the effort to keep IOIA training materials and program current and relevant to today's inspection realities. It's time for a new Training Committee Chair. Anyone with facilitation and communication skills to donate toward helping with this team effort is welcome to put their name forward.♣

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## Has NOP Laid An Egg?

Edited by Diane Cooner

The biggest controversy to yet confront the US National Organic Program is the recent dismissal of an appeal by Massachusetts Independent Certification Inc, (MICI) the certification branch of NOFA-Massachusetts, by a USDA administrative judge over the denial of certification of their client, The Country Hen.

A number of people were contacted for this article, including MICI certification administrator Don Franczyk. Most did not want to be quoted for the record. However, in discussions regarding this case, it appears that proper internal procedures were not followed by the USDA concerning how the appeal was handled. MICI's denial of certification was overturned by the NOP the day after it was issued, before it had been formally received by The Country Hen. The denial was overturned with no consultation by the NOP of MICI, the certifier of record. The NOP, in a written statement, agreed that the applicant's organic system plan for outdoor access was inadequate, yet certification of the operation was ordered by the NOP anyway.

According to MICI, the client came to them seeking certification. There were some issues, not limited to the "access to outdoors" issue. MICI gave the client 3 months to come into compliance. As The Country Hen had already withdrawn from their previous certifier (QAI), they needed "instant" certification, and due to economic circumstance could not wait the 3 months. So they appealed to the NOP. (The national organic rule § 205.680 General covers the Adverse Action Appeal Process, whereby (c) *Persons subject to the Act who believe that they are adversely affected by a noncompliance decision of a certifying agent may appeal such decision to the Administrator, Except, That, when the person is subject to an approved State organic program, the appeal must be made to the State organic program.*) NOP told them to go back to certifier and ask to be denied certification. They did so, and MICI did deny certification, believing that, according to Franczyk, they were 'doing a favor' for their client.

NOP then overrode the denial without any discussion of the matter with the certifier. The certifier appealed to the USDA administrative judge, who ruled that she had no jurisdiction. The appeal to the "Administrator" is considered to be outside of the NOP. The USDA Administrator is above/beyond the NOP program. (Subpart A – Definitions § 205.2 Terms defined. *Administrator. The Administrator for the Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, or the representative to whom authority has been delegated to act in the stead of the Administrator.*)

The outcome was that MICI found that they were certifying an operation with approximately 6,000 chickens/house, with 'access to outdoors' being provided via small 'porches' being built on each building. Doug Crabtree, manager of Montana's Organic Program, says "The problem in the 'chicken porches' case may not lie with the process, but with the decision made by the administrator. The USDA may have been convinced by industry that access to outdoors is not 'healthy' for chickens. This may even be true - if the 'organic' producers use the same genetics as their conventional counterparts. An animal bred to be raised in confinement and kept alive with antibiotics is not ideally suited to the free-range lifestyle of a truly organic flock."

However, there should be a very clear process of how that review is conducted (who is involved, panel of independent judges, etc) and a written statement as to why the accredited certifier was overruled. If it becomes the norm that powerful commercial interests can simply run around and either shop for "easier" certifiers or put pressure on the NOP to "make allowances" for them, then the whole system could quickly break-down and integrity lost.

It is important to note that the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) ruled that under the National Organic Program regulation, certifying agents have no right to appeal rulings of the USDA. "That is true, and it is a major shortcoming of the regulation," according to NOSB Certifier rep Jim Riddle. "Certifying agents should have the same rights as all other parties to appeal adverse rulings. If the case goes to civil court, then the larger issue of certifying agent rights under the Organic

Food Production Act and the U.S. Constitution can be addressed."

In any event, MICI found they were forced to certify The Country Hen, who has since quit MICI and is now on their third certifier in as many years. This situation gives the appearance that certifiers are being forced to certify. However, Brian Leahy, Executive Director of CCOF, compared the situation to HUD housing, e.g., if you're in the program you have to accept people. The Country Hen is currently certified by Natural Food Certifiers, who had other compliance issues but cannot fight USDA due to financial constraints. Still, this situation raises serious questions about the rights of certifying agents to uphold the organic standards, especially on issues such as outdoor access, access to pasture, and commercial availability; issues which necessitate a degree of certifier interpretation.

It also raises concerns about the NOP acting as both an accreditor and a certifier. "This is another systemic problem of the regulation," according to Riddle. The regulation establishes the NOP as the ultimate certifier. Under the regulation, a certifying agent has no power to suspend or revoke certification. They can only issue *proposed* suspensions and revocations. The final determination is made solely by the NOP. The regulation is less clear on the power of the certifying agent to deny certification. Until the Country Hen case, most certifying agents understood that they retained the power to deny certification. That will not be the case if the NOP's position withstands appeal in civil court.

The NOP plays the dual role of mandatory accreditation body and certifier under the regulation. A certifying agent cannot conduct business unless accredited by the NOP. Yet the certifying agent cannot deny, suspend, or revoke certification, and cannot appeal certification rulings made by the NOP. (For the record, certifying agents can appeal adverse accreditation decisions to the AMS Administrator.) Under ISO Guide 61, an accreditation body cannot also act as a certification body in the same sector where it performs accreditations. Clearly, the NOP serves both functions under the regulation.

As noted earlier, many certifiers feel inhibited to criticize the NOP on these and other issues, given that the NOP has such extensive power over their abilities to operate their certification programs.

What happens if the NOP actually violates the OFPA? Is there a "third party" appeal process outside the NOP? It seems that the NOP did make a poor decision in this case. So who ultimately has authority over the NOP? The USDA, in terms of final [see NOP, page 22]



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## CERTIFICATION NEWS

### USDA Publishes Marketing Exemptions for Organic

As a result of a 2002 Farm Bill directive, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service Dec. 2 published a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* to exempt producers and marketers of solely 100 percent organic products from paying commodity promotion assessments for 28 fruit and vegetable marketing order programs. Comments, now due by Jan. 2, should be mailed to the Docket Clerk, Marketing Order Admin. Branch, Fruit & Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., STOP 0237, Washington, D.C. 20250. Fax (202) 720 8938; or email [moab.docketclerk@usda.gov](mailto:moab.docketclerk@usda.gov).

#### Cite Docket #FV03-900-1-PR.

USDA will issue a separate proposed rule to address an organic exemption for 16 national research and promotion programs. For links on this issue, go to: [www.ota.com/pp/usregulatory/fnotices.html](http://www.ota.com/pp/usregulatory/fnotices.html)

### NOP Publishes Rules on Additional Materials Allowed in Organic Production

The NOP published rules Oct. 31 and Nov. 3 to allow the use of new synthetic crop, livestock, and handling materials. These are the first NOP rule revisions since its initial publication, with all of the materials recommended by the National Organic Standards Board. For more info, go to: [www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fedreg/a031031c.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a031031c.html) and [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fedreg/a031103c.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a031103c.html) under Agricultural Mkt. Service. These materials may be used in organic production as of the date of publication.

### Farm Locator™ on the Web

Organic farmers are encouraged to sign up for a free Farm Locator™ web listing operated by The Rodale Institute. The Farm Locator™ feature is part of a collaborative effort between Rodale Institute and New Farm magazine that features a web-based content share program to work with organic and sustainable organizations across the US. To sign up your farm, go to [www.newfarm.org/farmlocator/index.php](http://www.newfarm.org/farmlocator/index.php).

### USDA Accredits COABC

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service has recognized the organic assessment program of British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries-- Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia. As a result, this agency can certify products to be sold as organic in the United States if produced according to U.S. national standards.

### OMRI Seeks Product Review Coordinator

The Organic Material Review Institute (OMRI) is seeking to fill a key post managing the Brand Name review program for organic inputs. OMRI's work focuses on input standards for organic production to facilitate compliance and ease transition to organic agriculture. Through public education and online and printed reference manuals, the organization distributes lists of products and materials suitable for use in organic production under the USDA NOP standards.

The primary responsibility of this position is to manage the OMRI Brand Name Product Review Program. This mid-level position will have an agricultural science background with experience in regulatory enforcement, project management, and knowledge of the industry.

Visit their website for more info: <http://www.omri.org/jobswww.omri.org/jobs>

### Nat'l Standards for New Zealand

The Green Party is hailing a victory for New Zealand's organic produce industry, with the launch on November 4th of national standards for organic certification.

### California Holds Certifier Training

The California Organic Program recently held certifier training. Supervisor Ray Green is hoping that the training impressed upon attendees that they are now agents of the federal government, charged with inspecting, investigating and prosecuting as needed. He emphasized that certifiers need to fully document everything to support their actions, and that all parties involved need to follow procedure. Attendees commented that the best part of the training was the administrative law judge that was present, who explained the brave new organic world we're in.

### Lewin Moves to CCOF

IOIA member Jake Lewin has shifted gears and will be starting off the new year as Director of Marketing and International Programs for California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF).

Lewin will be responsible for all aspects of client recruitment and retention, in addition to oversight of CCOF's international efforts including international programs, trades issues, international marketing, and CCOF's landmark export assistance program, Certified Organic Products Export Strategy (COPES).

After Jan 1, Lewin can be reached at CCOF's main office: 831-423-2263 and [jake@ccof.org](mailto:jake@ccof.org).

### IFOAM seek Executive Director

The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements has 747 members in 97 countries, including producers, certification bodies, trade development NGOs, consultancy and research. The Head Office, with 13 staff members, is located in Bonn, Germany. IFOAM is now recruiting an Executive Director who will lead the organisation from the Head Office. Skills in communication, managing people, strategic thinking and planning is essential. Experience in policy, lobbying and promotional work in the field of agriculture, environment or sustainable development will be highly regarded. A commitment to the IFOAM mission is a precondition. The job description and more details are available on [www.ifoam.org/ed](http://www.ifoam.org/ed)

### First Regulator/Certifier Emerges from Down Under

SAFE Food Queensland (SFQ), Australia, the State Government's food safety regulator, has received approval to broaden its activities, which include acting as an accredited certifying organisation. The organisation reportedly sees the move as a 'logical extension' of their current activities. Up to now all organic certifying bodies operating in Queensland have been private, but recently there has been a significant commercial push for a suitable Government agency to adopt the role.

SFQ adopted the move because certification by a Government agency is regarded more highly by some overseas market compared to the private sector. SFQ is approved by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service for two organic certifications, i.e. for livestock processing and production. According to SFQ's Manager of development and regulatory policy, Mr Phil Pond, the organisation has developed a food safety



scheme for dairy products and was completing similar food safety standards for seafood and eggs. He said 'If we receive enough interest, we may well put an organic standard together for those other commodity groups.' *Source: Organic Newslite*

### U.N. Report Highlights Organic

A recent U.N. report on restructuring economic activity to make it more sustainable included lengthy discussion that lead to the remarkable conclusion that:

"Based on the above evidence, it can be said that pragmatic\* organic agriculture is a realistic pathway to feed the growing world population and to secure the natural resource base needed for a long term sustainable future. But it has to be complemented by other measures, especially efficiency of food distribution...[and population stabilization]."

It will be interesting to track the discussion set off by this report. It is notable, as well, that FAO head Jacques Diouff recently gave a major speech re needs in Africa to meet regional food security challenges -- number 1, water development; 2, better roads and infrastructure -- and NOT biotech. The U.N. system seems to be more attune to (and willing to admit) the basic changes needed in agriculture than any U.S. based government institutions. To view the report, go to <http://www.unu.edu/unupress/unupbooks/uu24ee/uu24ee00.htm#Contents>

*\* The text makes clear that pragmatic organic farmers allow use of some inputs and technology from off the farm, consistent with organic principles, whereas some purists reject almost all inputs.*

### Emerging Power Bloc in Developing World Is Key Outcome of Collapsed Trade Talks

Trade talks at the WTO's 5th ministerial summit in Cancun last September, intended to address a development agenda in further liberalizing global trade, broke down when developing nations closed ranks and refused to tackle new issues until farm subsidies of wealthy nations and market access were dealt with. The 4-day meeting came to an abrupt halt when several groups (including one led by delegates from China, Brazil,

and India) refused to continue talks that had sidelined the dialogue on agricultural reform and moved instead to cross-border investment, antitrust, and related issues, which were seen as intrusive and potentially damaging to their domestic economies. The impasse underscores the deep ideological rifts between rich and poor nations over the effects of free trade, while the emergence of a united front in the developing world is viewed as a potential counterbalance to U.S. and European Union interests, and seen as a critical juncture for the global trading system. News and information from major media and other sources is compiled online by Eldis Gateway (<http://www.eldis.org/trade/wtocancun.htm>); ICTSD (<http://www.ictsd.org>), and Evian Group, a free-trade think tank (<http://www.eviangroup.org>).

### Abundant Life Burned Out

Abundant Life Seed Foundation of Port Townsend, WA was destroyed in a fire this past summer.

The 29-year-old nonprofit group works to protect the genetic diversity of seeds through education and research. The organization had amassed 2,000 rare varieties of seed, some of which were 1,500 years old and many of which were the only known examples in the world.

ALSF lost their collection of native, heirloom, and rare seeds--both their catalog inventory and their World Seed Fund collection. They estimate about 200 varieties are being grown out by farmers in their network. However, upwards of 1,800 carefully tended varieties were destroyed. ALSF also lost their membership and financial records and computer equipment, Executive Director Matthew Dillon said. Fortunately, 200 varieties of seed were being grown when the fire hit, allowing them to rebuild a fraction of their inventory.

The fire appears to have been arson. This catastrophe demonstrates the wisdom of not concentrating seedstocks in any one place (as, for instance, the national germplasm repositories do or the Monsanto of the world would like to) and of networking, rather than centralization, as the wisest strategy for such treasures of the commons.

For info on how you can help, go to: <http://www.abundantlifeseed.org>



IT'S A GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS THING

### Decline in Atmospheric Methyl Bromide Is Attributed to Int'l Treaty

A "surprisingly large drop" in atmospheric levels of methyl bromide, a soil fumigant and pesticide that contributes significantly to the destruction of the earth's stratospheric ozone layer, has been recorded by scientists at the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. They attributed the decline, a 13% drop since 1998, to mandatory curbs on the chemical under the Montreal Protocol, a United Nations treaty that has overseen a 6-year phaseout due to be completed by January 1, 2005. The study predicts a continued drop in methyl bromide in the air as long as its use on the ground continues to decline. According to the NOAA chemist who led the study, the projected declines do not take into account the possibility of continued substantial use of methyl bromide under exemptions to the treaty, which have been sought by the U.S. and 14 other nations (New York Times, Aug. 16; Greenwire, Aug. 18). Earlier this year, the U.S. EPA granted exemptions allowing continued use of methyl bromide by produce and tobacco farmers and other users, who say no cheap alternatives exist. More info at: ([www.noaanews.noaa.gov](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov)).

### New Forecast Suggests Decline in Oil and Gas Reserves Will Have Greater Global Impact than Climate Change

World oil and gas supplies will peak soon after 2010 because global reserves are 80% smaller than earlier estimates, according to new research by the Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas (<http://www.peakoil.net>). Other studies have shown that oil and gas production will decline around 2050, allowing more time for societies to adjust. Those arguing for more imminent decline say that the resulting "production crunch"--where demand exceeds supply--will lead to explosive prices for fossil fuels, with potentially disastrous results unless people move to alternative energy sources. Kjell Aleklett of Sweden's Uppsala University, a geophysicist who helped prepare the new estimate, said the decline would affect world population more than climate change, since existing reserves are too small to create enough carbon dioxide to bring about the more extreme predictions of melting ice caps and searing temperatures. The group's conclusions were reported by CNN (Oct. 2, <http://www.cnn.com/world>) and London's Independent (<http://www.independent.co.uk>), and the scientific debate has been covered in New Scientist magazine (Aug. 2, Oct. 4).

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## News from The North

By Janine Gibson

### ad Hoc Organic Regulatory Committee (ORC) Consults with Organic Sector In Canada

In conjunction with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), the ORC with members from across the organic sector in Canada are developing a labeling regulation. This proposed new "law" will be a regulation under the Canadian Agricultural Products Act which is overseen by CFIA. Canada is in the challenging position of transforming its current voluntary national standard (CGSB 32.310-99) into a mandatory regulation. The timeline is tight with efforts to meet the EU deadline for Admission to the "Third Country" list, a requirement for access to the thirsty EU market. See the Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia (COABC) or Canadian Organic Growers (COG) websites for more info and meeting dates & places.

Two inspector members of IOIA, **Rochelle Eisen** and myself, have been serving on the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) Organic Committee. Rochelle has been very active on the Permitted Substance List working Group, and I have very much appreciated her input there as well as serving with me on the Editorial Working Group, which I chair as IOIA rep.

**Jack Reams**, current IOIA board member and Canadian Committee liaison, is a third inspector with voting privilege on the CGSB Organic Committee, which will shortly be considering what will hopefully be the final draft of the revised standard.

Be sure to read the Canadian Committee report on page 6.

### Cabinet papers warn Canada off GM crops Farmers fear long-term threat to food exports

A secret briefing to the Canadian government has warned that the country's massive food exports are at risk from its continued use of GM crops.

The paper, which has been obtained under the Access of Information Act, warns the cabinet of the "pressing need to immediately address these concerns". Such fears contrast with

the government's repeated endorsement of GM crops and technology as a great opportunity for Canada.

The paper, which was drafted by a senior civil servant, says that "producers are becoming worried about losing markets and losing choice over what they produce", while consumers are becoming more worried that they cannot distinguish between GM and non-GM products.

"These concerns could precipitate a loss of confidence in the integrity of the Canadian food system, which could be very disruptive to the domestic system as well as Canada's ability to export to demanding markets."

Some pages of the secret document, which have been blanked out, concern advice on how to deal with the growing public fears and the potential loss of further export markets for Canadian goods.

Canada is the third-largest producer of GM crops after the US and Argentina. But the paper says that the production of GM canola is affecting the value of non-GM canola in some markets. It says: "The EU was effectively closed to all Canadian commodity canola." The Canadian farmers' greatest fear, however, is the introduction of GM wheat, of which trials are imminent.

The Canadian Wheat Board has just surveyed its overseas customers in Europe, Japan and the US, with 82% saying that they would not take GM wheat. The export market for milling wheat into bread is worth £2bn a year to Canada.

The paper says that large Canadian producers in other fields have already taken defensive action. Flax producers, for instance, will not produce a GM version, while the largest potato processor, McCains, has declared it will not purchase GM potatoes. Jim Robbins, a farmer and business consultant for the Canadian National Farmers Union, said that large exports of oilseed rape had been lost to Europe as it was impossible to separate GM and conventional crops. In Canada, they had all been mixed together.

Cross contamination, it said, was now "irreversible". Canadian farmers feared the same would happen with wheat, prompting a loss of exports and a crash in prices.

"I cannot see how it would be possible to separate GM wheat and non-GM wheat,"

Mr Robbins said. "It is also very difficult, not to say impossible, as we have discovered with canola, to prevent the spread of GM canola plants into conventional crops."

He said the Canadian government's problem involves the lack of legal regulation to thwart the introduction of GM wheat, prompting the potential for contamination of conventional crops. Mr Robbins believes fears for the environment could be a useful defence, pointing out that if GM wheat - basically a grass - escaped into the Canadian countryside it might become an extremely difficult weed to eradicate because it would be herbicide resistant.

*November 13, 2003 The Guardian*

## Natural Health Bites

A new series of free articles aimed at helping Canadians attain good health and improving their quality of life is now being offered to all Canadian community newspapers.

Titled "Natural Health Bites," this series of articles will offer readers ideas and solutions on how to reach optimum health. Some of the most common health concerns will be addressed, and solutions to overcome these challenges will be offered. The common thread through all of the articles will be natural health, which is based on following a healthy diet, getting regular exercise and rest, along with supplementing the diet as required.

The goal of this series of articles is to inspire Canadians to:

- take charge of their own health
- make the best food choices for themselves and families
- get off health programs that only treat the symptoms and not the illness
- lose unhealthy fat and keep it off
- take the necessary steps to lead a healthy active lifestyle

The target audience of these articles is all Canadians: young, old, male, female, young mothers, seniors, labourers, professionals, recreational athletes, students - anyone who would like to be healthier and have more energy would be interested in this series.

These articles are produced through the sponsorship of members of the Canadian natural health community. They will not be written with any type of commercial focus. The goal is to make Canadians aware of the healthy choices available to them, and to get them into a healthier frame of mind.

The information in the articles comes from the latest clinical studies and from leading natural health experts. They are produced through Canadian Natural News Service.

For more info on Natural Health Bites, contact Bruce W. Cole at 705/526-8444

Email: [cnhr@idirect.co](mailto:cnhr@idirect.co) Fax: 705/527-1118.

# IOIA/WBC 2003 Farm and Livestock Trainings

By Renée King

Wyoming was host to its first organic inspector training September 15-20, 2003, which was co-sponsored by the Wyoming Business Council (WBC). The trainings were held at the beautiful and historic Vee Bar Guest Ranch west of Laramie, WY. There were 17 students in the Farm course and 14 in the Livestock course. The classes consisted of many Wyomingites; 1 Coloradoan; officials from the Montana, Utah, and Wyoming departments of agriculture; University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension personnel; Wyoming Business Council personnel; and individuals from as far away as Vermont and even India! Our cowboy hats go off to Vermont resident Pete Zuck, who used the Wyoming IOIA training as an excuse for a road trip of monumental proportions!

**R. P. Kelli Belden**, soil scientist with the University of Wyoming (UW), gave an enlightening talk on "the living soil." **Dr. Steve Paisley**, also from UW, spoke on body condition scoring of beef cattle and had the best pictorial to date of the cow's reproductive cycle—a cow on a bicycle!

Our intrepid instructors, **John O'Malley Burns** (Farm) and **Margaret Scoles** (Livestock), kept the classes on task with lots of educational activities and laughs. **Seth Winterton**, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, also provided excellent assistance during the courses. The entire Vee Bar was at our disposal including the private fishing pond and saloon—the saloon was a favorite site for group activities



*Getting ready to duck - Farm OSA winner Greg Michaud*

and even a little relaxation. The Vee Bar chef prepared excellent meals and students enjoyed organic beef, vegetables, coffee and natural wheat bread mixes from various Wyoming companies.

This training was unique in that it was an experiment in progress. John and Margaret both used a comprehensive approach to teaching the Farm and Livestock courses in the hopes of creating standardized training curriculum for future IOIA courses. John, Margaret, Seth, and I held a

post-training meeting to discuss the course, review positive and negative aspects, and suggest improvements. Good things are in the works for future IOIA trainings!

Our Farm field trips took place on a sunny (and, of course, windy) Wyoming afternoon at OCIA certified vegetable and alfalfa operations. The Farm test was administered the next day during a typical Wyoming fall snow. However, by the time we took our Livestock field trips at a beefalo ranch, it was warm again and students enjoyed lunch in the Rocky Mountains with a herd of very friendly beefalo. Our Livestock field trip groups were also able to take a quick tour of the University of Wyoming's state-of-the-art slaughter facility. The level of livestock knowledge in this class was very impressive.

The Outrageous Statement box was practically empty until the last day of the Farm training. This was a serious group of students that took some time to loosen up, but once they did, the results were hilarious.

**Greg Michaud** of Ft. Collins, CO received the Outrageous Statement Award for the Farm course. John O'Malley Burns, in an apparent attempt to prevent the stereotyping of farmer gender, asked the class

"What can a grower do to reduce the size of her buffer?" Without hesitation, or shame, Greg blurted out "Diet!" **Kelly Havely** of Wheatland, WY received the Livestock course Outrageous Statement Award for his explanation of why the beefalo ranch's wandering bull was named Clinton. Kelly explained that it was after a particular US president "Because he won't stay home!" Both students received a canvas tote bag emblazoned with "Naturally Wyoming" on it, and inside the bag were two confectionary delights made in Wyoming—"Bison Balls" and "Moose Doodles!"



*Wyoming Farm Group*



*Livestock Group at the Cat Nap Corral*



*No pets allowed in the Vee Bar saloon, but they forgot cats don't read - or care!*



*Livestock OSA winner Kelly Havely gets his Moose Doodles*



*And the significance of this photo is....? 3 vegetarians with carcasses. John's Pick!*

## When Will You Stop Torturing Us? A Taiwan Training Report

By Jim Riddle

**Bin-Hhy Yang** won one of the outrageous statement awards during the Taiwan inspector training, held November 17 - 21, 2003, at the Transworld Institute of Technology, Yunlin Province, Taiwan. Bin-Hhy, who was concerned about keeping up with the pace of the course, made several notable statements, including, "I am not dumb, but I only have Chinese frequency to catch up during the class." and "How long do you guys like to torture me before I can become an independent inspector?"

**Li-Ling Lin** won the IOIA t-shirt when she said, "Receiving my certificate of organic farm inspector is the beginning of my career in organic industry."

The Taiwan training was co-sponsored by Florida Certified Organic Growers and Consumers, Inc (FOG)/Quality Certification Services, Transworld Institute of Technology (TIT), and the Integrated Agricultural Development Foundation (IADF). I served as TC, and was ably assisted by **Marty Mesh & Angela Caudle** of QCS. The primary organizer and translator was **Dr. Nan-Jing Ko** of IADF.



*Jim Riddle with Bin-Hhy Yang, who is just starting his career as a tortured organic inspector*

Attendees were very interested in Marty's beard, asking questions such as, "Does Marty's beard affect his inspection, especially for processing?" "Marty's beard is very attractive. I wonder he will look like Bin Laden if he wears his flat hat." "Do you have trouble to go to bed? Does beard need to cover under blanket or leave out?"

Attendees also asked practical, science-based questions, including, "Can we use to prevent mosquitoes and spiders in storage shed by smoking natural plant materials such as tobacco leaves, lemon grass, etc.?" "Could pathogens and insects easily build up at my organic farm when neighbor's field is spraying pesticides?" "There are big acreages in the States. I think there are lots of animals in the fields in your country. I wonder you have organic animal products to export to Asian countries? Such as: organic worm, organic bird egg, organic rat."

Of the 20 students who attended the course, 15 passed all grading requirements to receive IOIA Certificates of Completion. 5 attendees did not receive 75% on the exam, and received letters of attendance.

Many new exercises, an inspection report template, and power point presentations were developed for the course. The new materials were all saved on a CD which was submitted to the IOIA office.



*Jim with OSA winner Li-Ling Lin. We are still trying to figure out why attendees at our Asian trainings smile so much. Is it the materials? Or the instructors?*

"issues of concern" for excellent follow up discussions. I took digital photos during the field trip, and we viewed and discussed them the next day in class. This was probably the most valuable post field trip discussion that I have been a part of as a TC.

Just as I was setting up for class on the final day of class, (with 2 power points yet to give, plus the final exam), the electricity in the building went out. As I had throughout the week, I had to quickly adapt to changing circumstances. We worked from the manual for the presentations, gave the test in the college cafeteria (which still had power), and held the "outrageous statement" award ceremony at a local restaurant during an evening party organized by the students. Holding the ceremony off site provided a nice ending to an exhausting, challenging, and highly rewarding week.

The course was preceded by a public seminar on the NOP, IFOAM, JAS, the situation in Taiwan, and the fundamentals of plant health management. All course attendees, along with about 40 other people, took part in the seminar.

We began the course with an in depth discussion of the pre-course assignment. This is proving to be a valuable way to get students involved and motivated, right from the beginning.

The course was not without challenges. For example, the evening before the farm inspection field trip, we learned that the sight we had selected was no longer available. Luckily, one of the farmers in the class agreed to host the field trip. This meant that an organic farm plan, field history sheet, and farm map all had to be created after dinner.

The field trip turned out to be a smashing success. There were sufficient



*Marty Mesh sure had a long row to hoe at this training. He also got some tips on possible future employment impersonating Osama.*

## Wilsonville Oregon Organic Livestock Training

By Harriet Behar

Nineteen experienced and novice inspectors and interested certification personnel attended a livestock training in Wilsonville OR from November 16-17, 2003. This course focused on dairy, beef, swine and poultry and did not discuss apiculture or aquaculture issues. We were privileged to have two excellent outside speakers, Dr. Joe Snyder, a veterinarian and President of the Board of Directors of Oregon Tilth and Harry Markos, a dairy nutritionist who works with many organic dairy herds in the Pacific Northwest. Both of these speakers brought real-life scenarios to our course and helped the attendees understand both feed ration balancing as well as how to evaluate animal health issues and health promoting activities. The group split into two and visited two different organic dairy farms. Although it got dark early, and the weather was rainy, we were able to review most of the pertinent aspects of the dairy farm, as well as get close to the animals and understand the farmers' organic management systems. Each group completed a field trip worksheet, which was scored as part of their final course grade. Harriet Behar led the course, and used a wide variety of photos to illustrate the various points in the NOP standards, as well as think through the issues. Meg Kuhn won the outrageous statement award with her statement: "Oh, the vulva....so that's at the back end of the animal, not at the front."



*She said that, eh? Meg Kuhn, OSA winner, getting her cool chick puppet from Harriet*



*Oregon livestock attendees, along with a couple of the usual suspects*

## Wilsonville OR Advanced Training

By Harriet Behar

Advanced IOIA training participants enjoyed some beautiful sunny late fall weather in the Portland OR region, but only during their breaks, as we spent quite a bit of time expanding our knowledge during a wide variety of sessions. Overall attendee evaluations gave this course an "awesome" rating. Bob Durst shared a few complicated processing audit trail exercises with us and the group shared the various ways these could be inspected as well as dealing with the challenges at complex processing facilities. Miles McEvoy and Jorli Baker took us through the requirements of other types of organic certification other than the NOP, including EU, CAQ and JAS. Miles then continued with a presentation on the NOP and the items currently being discussed and developed. John Foster entertained us with his presentation on "What are certifier's looking for", with examples of clear and quite muddy statements from inspection reports and exit interviews. **It always pays to reread what we have written and make sure it makes sense to someone who wasn't present on the inspection.** Sticking to the facts is a good policy. This was reinforced by Seth Winterton, who discussed how to write a report that can hold up to legal scrutiny. He reminded us that Murphy's law applies here too, and probably the worst report you have ever written would be the one that



*Torturing themselves for a long time - Advanced Inspectors in Oregon*



*He may be on to something - Two-time OSA winner Miles McEvoy gives advice on dealing with USDA*

someone would chose to challenge. In the evening, we had a fun, wide ranging and stimulating inspector exchange in a relaxed atmosphere. Many attendees cited this interchange as the most valuable session. Our work is solitary and we gain a lot by sharing and learning from our peers.

The second day, Tony Fleming lead us through a quick hydro-geology overview and how knowledge of this can aid us in review of both farm and processing operations. The interactive exercises were appreciated by the group. Harriet Behar gave a short, but graphically detailed, presentation on how to inspect retail stores who have requested organic certification. This is a growing area of organic certification and the handout will help the attendees remember the unique organic control points found in retail stores. Bob Durst presented on organic personal care products with discussion on the various areas of controversy or should I say "non-consensus". This helped us all see why organic personal care products continue to challenge both organic manufacturers and certification agencies. Joe Montecalvo lead us through discussion of water issues at processing facilities as well as discussion on organic control points in some specific processing venues, such as fruit juice production.

Miles McEvoy won the outrageous statement award, but in keeping with the holiday spirit it was decided to edit his comment from this publication at the last minute!



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## Wilsonville, Oregon Basic Farm Training

By Janine Gibson

Twenty one students including 4 from Korea and 17 from across the United States attended the IOIA Basic Organic Crop Inspection Training held in Wilsonville, Oregon November 12th –15th, 2003. John Burns and I were the Training Coordinators working with new curriculum suggestions developed by John. Guest presenters included Brian Baker of the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI-Permitted Materials) and Margaret Scoles, IOIA Training Manager, (Assessing Soil Fertility.) The exam was administered by past board member Drew Stuckey so that John and I could participate in a Curriculum and Program Committee (CAPS) planning meeting.

Students and trainers all enjoyed the beautiful learning environment of Spring Hill Farm, where we toured the 18 acres of hoop houses, greenhouse and row vegetable crop production hosted by owner Jamie Kitzrow. The Outrageous Statement Award was presented to Shanti Leinow, who during a discussion on objectivity declared, "Just leave your heart in the truck!"

Course evaluations were positive with appreciation expressed for the delicious food and beautiful grounds of the Namasté Retreat Centre. Students noted the difference in styles between John and myself, commenting we are a balance for each other.

### Quick CAPS

Following the training, John and I, both members of the IOIA CAPS, met with other committee members and guest Joe Montecalvo to discuss future training options and curriculum design for IOIA trainings. Seven members of the CAPS Committee met in Oregon for a working committee meeting. There weren't enough members at any one time for most of the meeting to really make decisions. Chair Lisa Pierce will be reviewing minutes of that meeting and will be organizing another meeting in the near future.

### Regional Training News

By Lisa Pierce

As the Regional Training Manager I am thankful and appreciative of the opportunities I have had this year to meet with many of you – Brian, Ann, Gary, Jack, Dag, John, and Luis of IOIA Board, Margaret and Phoebe, training coordinators, volunteers, members and members in waiting. I am struck with the diversity of our group and the overriding sense of being 'connected' – of serving this larger entity called IOIA. It is an exciting time of many challenges and decisions to be made together. And part of what is so exciting is that I keep hearing very similar ideas expressed again and again from many different people. Somehow there is this communal sense of change and direction. That is the spirit that keeps me thinking and going. The expression of that spirit, however, is a little more mundane – a little more administrative. Currently there is a multitude of administrative changes in process and in search of time and funding. These include procedures to be included in revised Training Coordinator and Co-sponsor manuals, revised training checklists and Training Coordinator directory.



**Left:** Training Manager Lisa Pierce joins Ann Baier, Brian Magaro and John Foster in the Famous "Until the Knot" exercise. The idea is that the group forms a circle and crosses arms to hold hands with the person next to them. Everyone then works to 'untie the knot' created by all those crossed arms. We pulled it off at the LaVeta retreat, but it sounds (and looks) like they were overcome with laughter this time. Not surprising, looking at the usual suspects in this photo! That's Margaret's innocent face on the right...

**Right:** Your Board, hard at play. It's okay, they deserved it. These retreats do have some playtime scheduled, but mainly it's 3 days of non-stop discussion, strategizing, and planning the future of IOIA. Everything from policy to procedure, communications to membership and training gets covered. So while everyone LOOKS like they're goofing off, it's probably more like nervous exhaustion. And don't let Jack's 'poker face' fool you. He's a cut-to-the-chase guy, but he's likely the one that got the laughs out of Brian, Ann and John!



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## Inspecting Hydrosol Production (and a bit on Essential Oils)

By Gay Timmons

Okay – let's make this as easy as possible . . .

### What is “hydrosol”?

Hydrosol is a colloidal solution that results from steam distillation of plant material. Hydrosol may be a co-product of essential oil production (in which case the oil is separated from the hydrosol) or it may be the only product of the distillation process. A “colloidal solution” (for those of you that don't have a few chemistry classes under your belts) means that there are little particles floating around in a liquid base that do not settle out of solution. An English scientist, who worked on rubber, created the word “hydrosol” in the 1800s. He sought a term or label to describe rubber that is, chemically speaking, a colloidal solution.

### How is hydrosol made?

Water is heated into steam and is put through a sealed container of plant material (usually freshly harvested) under some level of pressure. This production process is called steam distillation. If you really think about it - the steam has to pick up molecules that will move in steam – small stuff. When the distillation is all done, there is a mass of spent plant material that remains in the container. The other resulting product of the distillation process may be filtered to remove bacteria, yeast, and mold. The final product may be hydrosol and/or essential oil.

### What do inspectors need to know?

The question the organic industry needs to answer for compliance is: how much of the final hydrosol product is actually from the plant and how much is from steam (vaporized water)? This is a simple production question **that should be audited by all inspectors** on this type of inspection – calculating the starting plant material minus spent plant material as it equates to the finished products of hydrosol and/or essential oil. A similar inspection of juice production would cause us to think that the result of this process should be somewhat less than the gross weight of the plant material.

There are a few details to keep in mind: if you run steam through an

herbaceous plant (like mint) you will have a higher hydrosol yield than if you run steam through branches of Douglas fir – the amount of moisture and oil in the plant will have a large influence on the yield of the final hydrosol product. This is also true for essential oils: certain plants have much higher oil content than others – catnip has a very low oil content while oranges have a relatively high oil content, so if you inspect a production facility for catnip, you would look for an extremely low yield (less than a quarter of one percent) of essential oil compared to the starting plant material. The steam extraction of rosemary essential oil would give you a significantly higher yield (I don't know this number off the top of my head).

As inspectors, you may see essential oil production and you should be informed that there are references that list the acceptable range of oil production for virtually every essential oil that is produced. These ranges are specific to the species of the plant – there may well be 300 Sages (Genus: *Salvia*) and each species may have a slightly different expected oil and/or hydrosol yield. This is an industry that is at least thousands of years old so rest assured that the info is available – it just may take some digging because it is not a big industry in this country. (Mints, however, are common to the Pacific Northwest – most of the peppermint and spearmint oils come from this region – it is a good example of essential oil production methods and experience.)

### What is it used for?

Hydrosol has been made and used for hundreds of years (if not more) and has been recognized for its medicinal qualities along with its aromas. As an example, witch hazel is a hydrosol. Some other products (not as the direct result of a steam distillation process) are simply essential oil and water blended and these may be called “floral water” - but they are **not** hydrosol. Currently there are a number of cosmetic companies using hydrosol as an ingredient in order to meet the 70% requirement of the State of California for use of an organic or “made with” label claim. There is currently a study being done at the University of Mississippi looking into the plant material content of hydrosol (I would expect this to be different for every genus and perhaps for every species). The results of this study may be

a tool that inspectors can use. However, the basic point and production relationship to be identified during an inspection is the harvest yield and the resulting product yield after processing. Chemistry is not a part of the organic production we are asked to verify as inspectors.

### In Conclusion:

As an inspector you need to understand the idiosyncrasies of every crop and production facility you inspect. If you don't know what they are, the Internet and other inspectors are your best resources. When it comes to hydrosol, all I have explained is what it is and an introduction on how to inspect it. How it is used in a personal care or cosmetic product is an entirely different discussion. As you have probably learned, there are **no** standards for cosmetics. Work is in progress to define the standards, but we are not “there” yet. Just remember that, as organic inspectors, we are charged with verifying a “production system” – don't get side tracked by other issues.

*Gay Timmons consulting firm is Oh, Oh Organic*

### Hotel Key Card Alert

Southern California law enforcement professionals assigned to detect new threats to personal security issues recently discovered what type of information is embedded in the credit card type hotel room keys used throughout the industry.

Although room keys differ from hotel to hotel, a sample key that was being used for a regional Identity Theft Presentation was found to contain the following information:

- Customers (your) name
- Customers partial home address
- Hotel room number
- Check in date and check out date
- Customers (your) credit card number and expiration date

When you turn keycards in to the front desk, your personal information is there for any employee to access by simply scanning the card in the hotel scanner.

Remember the last time you checked out...you simply left the card in your room for the maid or took it out of your pocket while waiting for your flight at the airport and left it there without giving it a second thought.

Simply put, hotels do not erase these cards until an employee issues the card to the next hotel guest. It is usually kept in a drawer at the front desk with **YOUR INFORMATION ON IT!!!!**

The bottom line is, keep the cards or destroy them. **NEVER** leave them behind and **NEVER** turn them in to the front desk when you check out of a room. They will not charge you for the card. *Pasadena Police Department*



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## Highlights from BoD Meeting and Board Retreat, October 18-20, 2003, Broadus, Montana

(Note. Actual minutes will be finalized and approved on Dec. 17 and posted on the IOIA website.)

**Present Board Members:** Dag Falck, John Foster, Ann Baier, Jack Reams, Brian Magaro, Luis Brenes, Garry Lean

**Present Staff Members:** Margaret Scoles (Executive Director) and Lisa Pierce (Regional Training Manager).

**TC Pool Agreement - Discussion:** Lisa described the changes she proposes for a new 2004 TC Pool Agreement (TCPA) form, and asked about IOIA policy regarding such agreements. The Board emphasized that IOIA procedures should allow for contracting only TCs who have a current TCPA with all relevant attachments on file at the time of their application. The Board charged Lisa with making needed changes to create the 2004 TCPA. The Board also requested that Margaret and Lisa revise the TC manual, develop a TC evaluation process and a flow chart of procedures. They should send these to the Training Committee for input, and finally bring them for approval by the Board. Procedures must control for potential conflicts of interest. For example, selection of future members of the RTOC might seek to balance the composition of the RTOC with TCs and non-TCs. The Board also acknowledged that it is important that the Regional Training Manager be closely involved with trainings, either as a TC or an observer, in order to have a clear sense of the work.

**Action Points:** Lisa will develop and maintain documented procedures, including a flow chart, to facilitate efficiency and consistency in the work of the RTOC Committee and the training process. Ann will draft a message to the RTOC and Training Coordinator to express the Board's concerns about the appearance of potential conflict of interest presented by having a majority of RTOC members being TCs, and request that they address this concern.

**Curriculum and Program Subcommittee (CAPS) Discussion:** Develop IOIA core curriculum modules for each training course. The TCs will then customize the delivery of these modules for different audiences by providing examples appropriate to the context. This subcommittee will meet during three days to develop the core curriculum, beginning with desired learner outcomes and designing goals, then designing core elements and modules to achieve these. Lisa is the current chair of CAPS. Margaret is the recorder. John Foster, Ann Baier, Stanley Edwards, John Burns, Janine Gibson and Harriet Behar are members. Desired products for the work of CAPS: A Curriculum Guide (mandatory) that outlines learning objectives and core elements; Binder of resources including participatory exercises, quizzes, tests, etc.; and a TC training manual. **Motion:** Allocate \$1500 to the training budget to facilitate the development of CAPS and their work in developing an improved Training Curriculum, to be tracked in the "Training: Other" budget category.

**b) Accreditation** 1. Accreditation Committee Chair Motions: Accept Jake Lewin as a member of the Accreditation Committee and appoint him to be chair of that committee. Accept John McKeon of CCOF as the certifier representative of the ARP.

**Action Point:** John will communicate that the Board has approved Jake's appointment to chair of the Accreditation Committee, and John's appointment to be Certifier Rep of the ARP. The Board expressed their thanks to John for his work. The Board recommends that the chair of the Accreditation Committee (Jake) facilitate organization of the ARP to fulfill its functions in a timely manner.

**Certifier Script Discussion:** This project began before full implementation of the NOP and accreditation of certifiers. Recognizing the changed landscape these changes represent, the Board believes it is necessary to update this project as a service to our membership. In this way, IOIA can help address the issue of consistency in the certification process by facilitating good communication between inspectors and certifiers. **Action Point:** Brian will work with Chip to rework the previous Certifier Script project into a new Certifier Survey project, and bring a proposed plan back to the Board for approval.

**Certifier Involvement Policy Discussion:** The goal of this discussion is to decide whether to maintain the policy on Certifier Involvement, remove it or modify it. The current policy on certifier involvement reads "*Certifier Involvement Policy: Due to potential conflict of interest, IOIA Board members should not hold Board of Directors positions or in-house staff or management positions with organic certification agencies.*" The Board has sought input from the membership regarding this policy. Based on the many comments received, the concern over conflicts of interest lies primarily with respect to those people who hold positions with certifiers in which they make decisions related to selecting, hiring, reviewing and rehiring inspectors. The members who responded indicated little or no concern about in-house or employee inspectors who do not make decisions about inspector employment. The policy would be made clearer by deleting the words "in-house staff". Management staff are welcome to be supporting members of IOIA, not inspector members. Note: We understand by "management staff" the position with a certifier of one who manages inspectors, such as certification director or inspector coordinator. Following an in-depth discussion on the nature of IOIA as an organization, the BOD reached consensus that IOIA is an organic inspector's association. Moved: Luis Second: Jack

**Motion:** Change the policy on Certifier Involvement by removing the words "*or in-house staff*".

**Motion:** Board requests that the Bylaws committee write a proposed Bylaw amendment that would raise the revised policy on Certifier Involvement to the level of a Bylaw. Endorse: All

**Discussion:** IOIA seeks to maintain better relations with certifiers who are listed as supporting or certifier members of IOIA. IOIA inspector members who also have certifier roles are expected to participate only as inspectors until their membership status reflects certifier member status.

**Motion:** Create a certifiers' advisory council to the BOD that is made up of all supporting IOIA certifier members in good standing. Endorse: All

**Agenda Item #9: Confirmed time and dates of 2004 AGM and BOD meeting.**

**Agenda Item #10 Reformatted Policy Manual Discussion:** Margaret described how she reformatted the policy manual and proposed some changes. The Board reviewed the policy manual and identified several portions that should be part of procedures manuals for training, etc. It was also noted that the RTOC oversees all trainings, not just Regional trainings, and should therefore be named the TOC.

**Decision:** The Board directed Margaret to move highlighted verbiage to appropriate procedures manuals, and to write clear written definitions of "policy" and "procedure". The Board understands that procedures don't need to go into the policy manual, nor go through the document control procedures. They should, however, be available for review and input by the Board.

**Action Point:** The Training Manager (Margaret) and Regional Training Manager (Lisa) will create appropriate Procedures Manuals for Training, Training Coordinators, and Personnel (including job descriptions for all relevant staff positions, such as Training Manager, Regional Training Manager and office staff positions). Once these Manuals are established, staff will include any future changes in their reports to the Board.

**Review of the Mission Statement and Goals Discussion:** It is the responsibility of the Board to keep the organization relevant and responsive to the changing environment in which we work. The mission statement is expressed and implemented through the organization's goals. We believe the Mission Statement is strong and reflects our current work in the world. We will make changes as needed to the Goals, in the spirit of tuning up an engine, so that they evolve to remain relevant and guide our activities.

**Motion:** Add to Goal #2: "and continuing education." and "Continue developing high quality training relevant to the organic certification process." Endorse: All

**Review of Strategic Initiatives** Margaret handed out the La Veta Strategic initiatives paper and a single page of IOIA Interview Highlights. The Board chose to focus on Training as the highest current priority. The Board reviewed these documents, noting that several items have been

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accomplished; several are in progress (with the work of CAPS being an important element); others need attention in the future (e.g. accreditation); and a few require reassessment to determine whether they should remain as strategies to accomplish IOIA goals (for example, ISO accreditation).

**Dues Increase** Discussion: The Board reviewed the budget, focusing on income and expenses according to their classification as training or membership services. Presently, IOIA is depending heavily on training to subsidize the organization's membership services-in the amount of \$20,000 last year. **Motion:** Raise 2004 Inspector Member dues. Request donations from members and suggest several options for closing the deficit. If the difference is not raised, the dues will be increased next year to a level that covers the costs of current membership services at that time. Move: Luis Second: Jack

**Committee on Committees Follow-up** Objective: Decide whether the proposals of the Committee on Committees (CoC) will become part of the policy manual after reviewing these point by point. Each point will be either in, out or in with modification.

**Motion:** Accept the work done by the CoC as amended by the Board, and implant these policies, as amended, into the policy manual. Endorse: All **Action:** Garry will work with Margaret to merge the new language from the CoC as amended by the BOD into the policy manual.

**Role of Alternates on the IOIA Board** Action: Brian will contact Bob Howe as chair of the Communications Committee and get input from the membership regarding the following: The Board is proposing a phase out of the Alternate to the Board of Directors position, because it appears that we are not fully utilizing their capacities. The Board believes that the position of alternate is not the best use of human resources, and would like to promote active participation and tap our member resources in a more appropriate and productive manner. Subject to findings of the above, direct the Bylaws Committee to draft a proposed amendment to phase out the position of Alternate to the Board.

**Agenda Item R8: Open training policy** Discussion: We are moving forward toward a proposed removal of IOIA's open training policy that is based on input from members, some of which is documented in the Food for Thought paper that Luis prepared for the June 5 Board meeting. The change is intended and expected to improve both the cash flow and relevance of IOIA. It will also address inspector concerns about training competition. The change helps us fulfill our mission. The whole BOD reaffirms the discussion and values expressed in the Executive Committee meeting minutes from June 5, 2003:

*"After seeking disagreement or reservations, the EC agreed that we are ready to begin moving from an open training policy to one that considers in-house or customized training opportunities. The EC recognizes the BOD's role in assessing current directions of the organic landscape, and developing policies that keep IOIA relevant and responsive to the current state of that environment. Updating the training policy is consistent with IOIA's mission to provide quality training, and to promote consistency and integrity in the organic certification process. A policy change should be drafted with appropriate detail for consideration by the entire Board. We still recognize the value of open trainings, and will draft the new policy to provide appropriate incentives for open trainings over in-house or customized trainings."*

**Motion:** Remove the following sentence from the policy manual: "Trainings must be open to all qualified applicants; IOIA does not provide in-house, closed trainings. Endorse: All

**Business Plan** Discussion: The Board discussed the elements of a business plan for IOIA. Our assumption is that this business plan is for internal use by the BOD and membership of IOIA, and that it will guide our work in the development and marketing of products and services. We discussed and brainstormed around:

1. Description of the business.
2. Organizational Plan (description of what is in place)
  - Organizational chart
  - Strategic Initiatives
  - List of products and services
3. Marketing Plan (things we plan on doing)
  - Demonstrate and communicate the value of this organization to the world.
  - Financial sustainability through income generation and reinvestment
  - Increased visibility
  - Recognition of the importance of proper training and the role of inspectors in the industry; the value of IOIA-trained and member inspectors
  - Improve training: basic (pre-requisite?) training curriculum in general principles and standards of organic production, processing and certification; basis for further steps toward advanced training.
  - Consumer (learner)-centered focus: Training programs meet the needs of several distinct audiences: inspectors and potential inspectors, inspected parties (producers and processors), industry people, retailers, regulatory bodies, government agencies, certifier staff, collaborating organizations, consumer groups, etc.

**Motion:** Enhance the scope of the Communications Committee to include marketing as reflected in the IOIA business plan that is being developed. Endorse: All

**Action:** Brian, as Board liaison to the Communications Committee communicated to Bob Howe during the retreat to seek ideas on the Communications Committee's role in developing marketing work and to explore a possible change in the name and description of the committee. The current committee description clearly matches proposed marketing activities to a significant degree. The Committee is to be renamed the Communications and Marketing Committee. Communicate the changes we propose and ask him to rewrite the description of committee responsibilities so that these can be updated in the policy manual and bylaws.

**Action Points:** Brian will place review of the draft business plan on the December Board meeting agenda with the goal of developing a time frame and first steps. Jack will create a rough draft of a business plan. Each BOD member will send an email to the Committee Chairs for which they are liaisons to gather information about how they see the work of their committee serving the membership. List these as benefits of membership. The communication should 1) Ask each committee to answer the question asked by the membership, "what have you done for me this year?" This is also to access how we are doing in terms of functioning committees. Opportunity to strengthen ties by going to each of the committees. And 2) ask committee chairs to provide annual budget reports and proposed budgets for 2004 for their committees.

**Fundraising** We have a fundraising committee, with Diane Cooner as chair. Grantseeking is part of that committee's work. When we submit grants it is important to list matching and in-kind support. The Board acknowledged that it is important to keep records of the economic value of volunteer time, in-kind services, and other financial contributions (such as expenses for which reimbursement is not requested) that can help IOIA leverage additional funds in the future. Quantify and put a value to volunteer time and effort. Action Point: Margaret will distribute a volunteer log form (in-kind donations) to help people record their contributions to IOIA. [see **Retreat**, page 22]



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## Resources

**Community Culture and the Environment: A Guide to Understanding a Sense of Place**, (280 pgs), tools and methods for understanding human dimension of environmental protection; single copy is free from National Center for Environmental Publications & Information, US EPA Publication Clearinghouse, (513) 489-8190; ncepiwo@one.net.

**Towards Sustainable Agriculture for Developing Countries: Options from Life Sciences & Biotechnologies** (32 pgs), covering key issues from January 2003 conference in Brussels, <http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2003/sadc/>; for print copy, contact marianne.parel@cec.edu.int.

**Agribusiness Center** website, a news and information center from Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, <http://www.agribusinesscenter.org>

**World Resources 2002-2004** (328 pgs) is \$27 plus S/H from World Resources Institute, 1-800-537-5487, <http://www.wri.org/>; 36-pg summary is online at [www.pdf.wri.org/wr2002\\_execsumm.pdf](http://www.pdf.wri.org/wr2002_execsumm.pdf).

**Safe Food: Bacteria, Biotechnology, and Bioterrorism**, 2003 Marion Nestle. Investigates the responsibility of biotech in the food industry for the growing number and severity of food safety issues including food borne illnesses and bioterrorism. Three examples -- microbial contamination of meats, genetically modified ingredients, and newly emerging hazards -- demonstrate contemporary food safety issues. The political, corporate, and institutional framework surrounding food safety is examined and consumer, government, and food industry action are explored as ways to ensure a safe future for food. 349 pages. US \$27.50. Contact University of California Press, (800) 777-4726; fax (800) 999-1958; email orders@cpfs.pupress.princeton.edu; <http://www.ucpress.edu/>.

**New Organic Search Engine**  
<http://www.accessorganic.com>

**American Grassfed Association**, new group promoting grassfed livestock industry, [aga@americangrassfed.org](mailto:aga@americangrassfed.org). <http://www.americangrassfed.org>

**Organic Agriculture in Wisconsin: 2003 Status Report** (24 pgs), <http://www.wisc.edu/cias/>; or contact Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems, University of Wisconsin, (608) 262-5200.

**Swept Away: Chronic Hardship and Fresh Promise on the Rural Great Plains**, 50-pg report updating economic conditions in agriculturally based communities in 6 states, <http://www.cfra.org/>; print copy is \$10 from Center for Rural Affairs, (402) 846-5420.

**Essentials of Producing Organic, Certified Seed** (30-minute video) is \$20; **Raising Organic Seed: A Handbook for Growers** (60-pg companion book) is \$10, both from Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society, 9824 79th St. SE, Fullerton, ND 58441; (701) 883-4304; [trhaigh@itctel.com](mailto:trhaigh@itctel.com).

**International Society of Organic Agriculture Research** (ISO FAR), a new interdisciplinary organization founded in June 2003, [http://www.iol.uni-bonn.de/index2\\_e.htm](http://www.iol.uni-bonn.de/index2_e.htm); contact Ulrich Kopke, Institute for Organic Agriculture, University of Bonn, [iol@uni-bonn.de](mailto:iol@uni-bonn.de); or Urs Niggli, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Switzerland; [admin@fibl.ch](mailto:admin@fibl.ch).

**Food Sovereignty: Constructing an Alternative to the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Agriculture**, working draft (Sept. 7) of joint declaration from 30 farm, rural, labor, environmental, and consumer groups, <http://www.farmaid.org/>; or <http://www.iatptradeobservatory.org>, phone (612) 870-0453.

**Rethinking U.S. Agricultural Policy: Changing Course to Secure Farmer Livelihoods Worldwide** (59 pgs), <http://www.agpolicy.org/blueprint.html>; print copy is free from Agricultural Policy Center, University of Tennessee, (865) 974-7407; [jgbrown@utk.edu](mailto:jgbrown@utk.edu).

**The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: Reconciling Trade in Biotechnology with Environment and Development**, 2002 Christoph Bail, Robert Falkner, and Helen Marquard (editors). Describes, in detail, the Cartagena Protocol, a framework of international rules to govern biotechnology in the age of globalization and free trade. Discusses the process involved in the creation of protocol and assesses implications for the environment, trade, and development. 578 pages. UK £24.95. Contact earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk; Web site <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/>. The Cartagena Protocol can be viewed in its entirety at the following website: <http://www.biodiv.org/biosafety/default.asp>

**Seeds of Deception: Exposing Industry and Government Lies About the Genetically Engineered Foods You're Eating**, 2003 Jeffrey M. Smith. Includes extensive and varied evidence to support claims that industry marketing and government pressure, rather than science, has resulted in the infiltration of genetically engineered (GE) foods into America's food system and influenced public acceptance. Outlines the history of U.S. policies towards GE foods and compares it with those of other countries. 289 pages. US \$17.95. Contact Yes! Books, (888) 717-7000; fax (888) 329-7000; email orders@seedsofdeception.com; <http://www.seedsofdeception.com/>

**The African Consumer**, Vol 3 N.1, 2003 Consumers International. Details highlights from the 2003 World Consumer Rights Day on corporate control of food and genetically engineered crops, and the 2002 African Leaders' Conference on Biotechnology and Food Security. 16 pages. Available at <http://www.consumersinternational.org/roof>

**IPM Online Homestudy Courses** on variety of integrated pest management topics, including new offerings in pest identification, <http://www.hort.uconn.edu/IPM/homecourse/coursinfo.htm>, or contact Univ. of Connecticut IPM Program, [ipm@canr.cag.uconn.edu](mailto:ipm@canr.cag.uconn.edu).

**Marketing Profiles for US** The U.S. Department of Agriculture has launched a web site providing marketing profiles for all 50 U.S. states, including information on organic agriculture. The site is located at [www.ams.usda.gov/statesummaries](http://www.ams.usda.gov/statesummaries).

**Oz Search Engine** Australian Organics, [www.bfa.com.au](http://www.bfa.com.au)

**Upper Midwest Organic Resource Directory**, 4th edition. This is a user-friendly reference that provides quick access to resources about organic agriculture: certification agencies, suppliers, buyers, processors, consultants, resource groups, publications and events in the region. To order your copy contact MOSES, view online or print off the web at (<http://www.mosesorganic.org/directory.htm>)

**Organic Fact Sheets from MOSES**  
MOSES has created a series of fact sheets designed to make some of the concepts and complexities of organic agriculture more understandable and accessible. Download for easy distribution: "What Is Organic Agriculture?," "Introduction to Crop Insurance," "Resource List for Organic Growers, Researchers & Educators," "Understanding Organic Certification" and "Marketing Organic Grains." [www.mosesorganic.org/mosegeneral/edprof.htm](http://www.mosesorganic.org/mosegeneral/edprof.htm)

**Opportunities in Agriculture: Transitioning to Organic Production**, a new bulletin from the USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN,) provides a detailed overview of organic farming and ranching. The 32-page color bulletin lays out many promising strategies to convert successfully, including special sections on livestock production, and profiles of four diverse organic producers. The bulletin also covers typical organic farming production practices, innovative marketing ideas, new federal standards for certified organic crop production, and specific considerations for transition. Preview or download your copy at: [www.sare.org/bulletin/organic/organic2003.pdf](http://www.sare.org/bulletin/organic/organic2003.pdf). Order free print copies by calling 301/504-5236 or e-mailing [san\\_assoc@sare.org](mailto:san_assoc@sare.org). Please provide your name, mailing address, and telephone number. Agriculture educators may place orders for print copies in quantity for upcoming winter conferences, workshops, or other events.

**NCamp's Federal Ag Program Primer** is now online at <http://www.sustainableagriculture.net/primer.php>

**Organic Business to replace the Certification Bulletin of the BFA** This new publication will be revamped to cover more industry and commercial issues as well as technical and regulatory issues facing organic producers and marketers in Australia. CEO of BFA Andrew Monk says that this publication will play a critical role in linking members of the industry not only to what is going on in industry, but in enabling them to play a role in setting the agenda for industry. The next edition, due out in December and being sent free to all members of the BFA, will cover the latest changes to standards, the organic seeds issue, market leads and an outline of the industry workshops to occur between February and April next year.

#### **Growing New Farmers (GNF) Project**

There is a place to turn for the information and encouragement you need. The GNF project has reenergized the Northeast US region's agricultural service network to answer questions, and provide programs and advice to anyone thinking about farming, developing a farm, or taking over a farm operation.

The easiest way for new farmers to find help is through GNF's website, [www.northeastnewfarmer.org](http://www.northeastnewfarmer.org). There you'll find the Directory of Programs and Services, with information on over 300 organizations and programs all over the Northeastern U.S. that help new farmers. The Directory can be searched by geography, topic, organization, and program format. Another feature of the website is Farming Questions, Links and Publications which offers guidance and resources on the questions most often asked by new farmers. There's an "inbox" where new farmers' questions receive customized answers and referrals. The site also hosts on-line discussions and courses that link new farmers to each other and to a wide range of services.

Over 170 agencies and organizations in twelve Northeast states (Maine to West Virginia) are committed to serving and advocating for our next generation of agricultural producers. As GNF Consortium members, they are developing new programs and products, and proposing supportive state policies to remove the barriers new farmers face. More info: GNF Project (413-323-4531) or email [gfn@smallfarm.org](mailto:gfn@smallfarm.org).

**Ontario Environmental Directory** The Ontario Environment Network has announced the launch of a comprehensive guide to over 700 groups, organizations and websites across the province. Available on-line or in print, the new Ontario Environmental Directory is the starting point for anyone interested in research, communication and action on environmental issues.

"Whatever your interest -- from clean air to toxic waste, from wilderness to urban transport, from green living to green economics -- this directory will be of interest to you", says the Coordinator of the Ontario Environment Network, Phillip Penna. "It makes it easy to find groups and resources in your town, region or area of concern".

The directory is unique because it brings together the many different opinions and voices on environmental issues in one place, says Peter Blanchard, the directory's designer. "We want people to participate in Ontario's vibrant environmental community. Whether you're a parent or student, businessperson or politician, this directory is for you. It's for anyone and everyone interested in a greener, healthier world," he says.

Visit the Ontario Environmental Directory at [www.oen.ca](http://www.oen.ca). A print edition is available for order on the web or by calling 705-840-2888.

#### **INCLUDED WITH THE DIRECTORY:**

\* Environmental Search Guide -- topical guide to major sources of environmental information, organizations and resources in Ontario and Canada, arranged by theme. <http://www.oen.ca/dir/searchguide.html>

\* Portal of Portals - annotated directory of environmental portals, directories & networks in Canada and beyond. <http://www.oen.ca/dir/portals.html>

\* Predefined searches/subsets -- the results of any search can be bookmarked or linked to. Create a link to the whole directory, or just the portion that interests you. For examples see: <http://www.oen.ca/dir/searchguide.html>

**New Listserve for Europe Organic Policy** A new e-mail list has been established to promote open discussion on the development of organic farming policies in Europe, covering western, central and eastern Europe, and linking to the newly established research project EU-CEE-OFP 'Further Development of Organic Farming Policies in EU and CEE states.' You can find further information about the project at [www.irs.aber.ac.uk/euceeofp](http://www.irs.aber.ac.uk/euceeofp)

## GMO NEWS

### New Study on GM Wheat

A new study released by the Western Organization of Resource Councils paints a grim picture for the U.S. wheat industry if GM hard red spring wheat is introduced in the near future. The study, prepared by Dr. Robert Wisner a leading grain market economist at the University of Iowa predicts the commercial introduction of GM wheat in the next two to six years would result in a loss of 30 to 50% of U.S. export markets and a 1/3 drop in wheat prices.

At issue is a GM variety of hard red spring wheat produced by Monsanto. Forty percent of U.S. hard red spring wheat is exported, primarily to Asian buyers who have repeatedly indicated that they will not buy GM wheat.

Key findings of the study include:

- \* U.S. average hard red spring wheat prices would be forced down to feed-wheat price levels, approximately one-third lower than the average of recent years.

- \* Durum and white wheat exports and prices also would likely face substantial risk; other classes of wheat would face slightly lower risk.

Loss of wheat export markets would lead to loss of wheat acreage; loss of revenue to industries supplying inputs to wheat producers; losses for other rural farm-related and non-farm businesses, local and state government tax revenues, and institutions supported by tax revenues; and diminished economic health of rural communities and state governments in the spring wheat belt.

A large majority of foreign consumers and wheat buyers do not want GM wheat, said Dr. Wisner. Right or wrong, consumers are the driving force in countries where food labeling allows choice.

A copy of the full report, summary, and related information are available at [www.worc.org](http://www.worc.org).

### New GM Info Online

A 57 page publication by Charles Benbrook, entitled *Economic and Environmental Impacts of First Generation Genetically Modified Crops*, is now available online. This report covers the impacts of GE crops on pesticide use over the first eight years of use. It is the first comprehensive analysis of the impacts of GE technology on pounds of pesticides applied and reaches a surprising finding. While GE crops reduced pesticide use about 25 million pounds in the first 3 years of commercialization (1996-1998), they increased use over 73 million pounds in 2001-2003, largely because of the slipping efficacy of RR technology. View the report at: <http://www.biotech-info.net/technicalpaper6.html>

### Monsanto Pulls Out of Europe

Monsanto announced in mid-October that it was pulling out of its European cereal seed business. The move was widely seen as a sign that it has given up hopes of introducing GM cereals in Europe.

Anti-GM lobbyists said the withdrawal was a sign that Monsanto was "throwing in the towel" in Europe. They said that with Canadian farmers campaigning against the licensing of Monsanto's GM wheat, the company was also facing severe resistance in North America.

At the same time, Margot Wallstrom, the European Union's environment commissioner, accused American biotech firms of lying about the benefits of GM technology and "trying to force it on people".

Two weeks earlier, Bayer, a key GM crop developer, decided to halt their UK trials. The company blamed Environment Secretary Margaret Beckett for her insistence that the locations of all trial sites be made public, saying the position had forced its hand. GM crop test sites are regularly destroyed by protesters. *The Daily Telegraph*, 15 October 2003; *The Observer*, 28 September 2003

### UK Research Not Good for GM

Devastating new research published by the UK Government shows that pollen from GM oilseed rape travels six times further than previously documented and if not controlled can contaminate non-GM crops for generations.

The UK Government has published the results of four different projects (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2003/031013b.htm>) which show that:

- \* Bees can take oilseed rape pollen and pollinate with non-GM oilseed rape over a distance of 26 Km.

- \* If wild GM oilseed rape is not "rigorously controlled" then contamination would not "would not fall below 1% for 16 years."

- \* Modelling indicates that the effects of introducing GM sugar beet could be "extremely severe, with a rapid decline, and extinction of the skylark within 20 years."

The findings are likely to intensify the debate over proposals to allow GM contamination of conventional seed and the co-existence of GM, conventional and organic food production. Adrian Bebb of Friends of the Earth Europe said: "This research shows that allowing GM crops to be grown in Europe will be a recipe for disaster. Containing GM crops like oilseed rape is virtually impossible and will cause contamination for years to come. The co-existence between GM and conventional or organic farming is simply not possible. Furthermore the research shows that our wildlife is being put at an unnecessary risk with birds facing extinction. The public and the environment must come before the commercial interests of the biotech companies."

Another report on GM trials was recently released. The Farm Scale Evaluations (FSE) are online at [www.defra.gov.uk/environment/gm/fse/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/gm/fse/index.htm). The main findings of this report include:

- \* Ecologically significant differences between GM and non-GM crops may be missed because the experiment does not have sufficient statistical power.

- \* Monitoring of important soil organisms was dropped because of money and time constraints. Similarly, rare arable plants were excluded because of time constraints.

- \* Advice on the use of weed killer on the GM crops was given by the biotech companies who developed the technology, leading to concerns that the GM crops may have been managed to maximise biodiversity whilst ignoring the final yield.

- \* Evidence that in the United States additional herbicides are used to achieve the required level of weed control in maize crops has been overlooked, meaning the maize results could be irrelevant.

According to the Guardian newspaper - which claims to have spoken to scientists involved - the research will show that GM oilseed rape and sugar beet damage the environment. The damage to biodiversity is so serious that the UK government is reportedly already considering a ban on GM oilseed rape and GM sugar beet.

### StarLink Staying Power

Three years after a genetically engineered corn banned from human consumption turned up in taco shells and was pulled from the market, contaminated grain is still showing up in the nation's corn supply.

A federal testing program found traces of StarLink corn in more than 1% of samples submitted by growers and grain handlers in the past 12 months.

"The StarLink lesson is that contamination is to some extent irreversible," said Doreen Stabinsky, a scientific adviser to Greenpeace and a genetics specialist. "Years later, you could still see it turning up in the food supply and the grain supply." In the first year after the corn was withdrawn from the market, USDA reported 8.6% of samples tested were positive for the Starlink protein that acts like a pesticide. The contaminated proportion had dropped to 1.2% in the 12 months ending Sept. 30.

*Dec 1, 2003, San Jose Mercury News*

### Time to Switch to Apples?

The Gates Foundation, founded by Microsoft owner Bill Gates and the largest philanthropic organisation in the world, was strongly criticised in mid-October when it gave \$25m to GM research to develop vitamin and protein-enriched seeds for the world's poor. Gates was bitten hard by international charities, farmers' groups and academics in Europe, India and elsewhere, who argued that the money would not go to addressing poverty, the root cause of worldwide hunger, but would promote an agriculture that was of little use to the very poor.

Gates has chosen for his latest venture to partner with the USDA and USAID, Washington's overseas aid organisation - two of the most active pro-GM organizations in the world. Also helping with

money or research are several US government groups and universities who have benefited from government biotech grants. The other major financial partner is the World Bank.

With hundreds of millions of small farmers around the world already in crisis because they cannot compete with US or EU subsidies which mainly go to corporate farmers, the Gates donation is seen to be supporting something irrelevant to most farmers - another kick in the teeth for those in poverty and an endorsement of a widely questioned technology dominated by vested big science interests.

The research will be done mainly by the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture and the International Food Policy Research Institute. Both are part of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (Cgiar). This family of 16 global public institutes forms the world's largest public plant-breeding effort for poor farmers and has immense say on the direction of world agriculture.

Cgiar is the custodian of more than 600,000 seeds, something that has been called the "collective wealth of nature and the food security of the world". Almost every crop that has ever been grown is held in trust, and the unpatented genetic bank is of immense potential wealth to life science companies, not just for food but medicine. *The Guardian, October 16, 2003*

### **New GM Institute at ISU**

Iowa State University will be hosting a new institution created to address critical issues surrounding GM agricultural products.

The Biosafety Institute for Genetically Modified Agricultural Products (BIGMAP), according to their press release, will provide independent, science-based and third-party evaluations of the risks and benefits of genetically modified agricultural products (GMAPs) to consumers and the environment, according to Manjit Misra, director of BIGMAP.

Misra compared the new institute to the Underwriters Laboratories Inc., which was established to restore public confidence in the safety of electricity when that source of energy was in its infancy. BIGMAP would take the idea of UL Laboratory to a new level by including the social, economic and environmental issues of GMAPs. "BIGMAP will serve as a dynamic example of the land-grant mission in the 21st century," said Ben Allen, provost at Iowa State. "It will serve as a valuable resource for policymakers and spur economic development in Iowa. Most important, it will provide a unique educational opportunity to teach students on the safe use of a new revolutionizing technology in addressing human needs."

"We believe maintaining public confidence in the quality and safety of the food supply is of paramount importance to Iowa," said Catherine Woteki, dean of Iowa State's College of Agriculture. "We are committed to developing the scientific safeguards and the educational response needed to form the basis for that public confidence while working to introduce genetically engineered crops."

### **USDA Reports Biotech Infractions**

U.S. biotech companies and research universities have violated strict federal regulations on planting experimental genetically modified crops more than a hundred times in the last decade, the USDA reported in October. The USDA said none of the 115 infractions since 1990 resulted in any harm to U.S. agriculture, the food supply or the environment.

The department published for the first time the number of violations the biotech industry has committed when planting GM corn, soybeans, wheat and other crops not yet ready for commercialization.

USDA said the infractions represent less than 2% of the 7,400 field tests authorized since 1990. The USDA considered most of infractions as minor violations like dirty farm equipment and not enough isolation between. Environmental groups and consumer advocates said they believed many infractions have gone unreported due to the lack of USDA resources and personnel. "I think there is reason to believe there are many, many infractions that go unreported," said Richard Caplan of the U.S. Public Interest Research Group. The USDA also announced it has established a new compliance and enforcement office within the USDA's Biotechnology Regulatory Services. The office, with a staff of four people, will seek to boost inspections, auditing and training.

### **Brazil Gives In to GMO's**

Brazil, the last big country to resist GM crops, has given in to pressure from the US and its own big farmers to allow them to be grown for at least a year.

Opponents of GM foods were disappointed by the apparent U-turn by President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, whose Workers Party (PT) resisted GM crops when it was in opposition. Greenpeace Brazil, the Brazilian Green party and non-governmental groups announced that they would seek to get the decision overturned in the courts.

It was presented as a one-year emergency measure because farmers in Rio Grande do Sul state have for several years smuggled large quantities of GM soya seed across the Argentine border. Monsanto now stands to gain up to \$100m (\$62m) a year from farmers who have been growing its seed illegally.

US producers have long complained that Brazil has had an unfair advantage because many of its farmers do not pay royalties for black-market GM soya.

"Instead of enforcing the law, the authorities have allowed big farming interests to dictate their own terms," said Karin Silverwood-Cope, a coordinator for the NGP Campaign for a GM Free Brazil. Bob Callanan, head of the American Soybean Association, which is fervently pro-GM, said: "We have long been frustrated by Brazil growing illegal GM seeds. This would be a step towards allowing Monsanto to collect the fees due to it and help to end the paper shuffle where EU countries bought Brazilian foods and pretended that it was not GM."

### **UK Insurers Fearful of GM Crops**

A survey of the principle insurance underwriters in the UK, carried out by the new campaigning group FARM, found that neither farmers considering growing GM crops or non-GM farmers seeking to protect their businesses from contamination by GM crops would be able to find anyone willing to give them insurance.

The survey revealed a level of opposition from companies taking on the risks of insuring GM crops comparable to the public's hostility to purchasing and eating them.

All the companies surveyed felt that too little was known about the long term effects of growing these crops on human health and the environment to be able to offer any form of cover.

"50 years ago insurers were writing policies for asbestos without a care in the world - now they are facing claims of hundreds of millions of pounds. The insurance industry has learned to be wary of new things, and there is a real feeling that GM could come back and bite you in 5 years time", said one company spokesperson.

National Coordinator, Robin Maynard said, "When insurers quantify GM crops in the same category as thalidomide, asbestos and terrorism, no thinking farmer should risk their business and public reputation by taking on this unproven, unwanted and unnecessary technology.

'If Government and their friends in the Biotech companies dispute the judgment of the professional insurers, perhaps they will offer unlimited cover to the few farmers willing to risk growing GM crops? In addition, for both farmers and consumers, they need to guarantee, what the insurers clearly believe isn't possible, that GM-crops can be grown without contaminating the crops of the majority of farmers who want to remain GM-free.' *FARM press release, 7/10/03*

### **UK Co-op goes GM-free**

The Co-op has announced that it is banning GM food and ingredients throughout its entire business. The Co-op is Britain's biggest farmer and sells £5bn worth of food annually.

Animals on its 85,000 acres of farms will not be given GM feed, the firm says. And it is banning GM from its entire business after four-fifths of Co-op customers surveyed said they would not knowingly buy food containing GM ingredients. The Co-op will also refuse to grow GM crops even if the government insists it is safe.

The groups move is likely to put pressure on other supermarket groups to eliminate GM ingredients from their food produce. [see **Co-op**, page 22]

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## Co-op, from page 21

Martin Beaumont, chief executive of the Co-operative Group, said: "On the strength of current scientific knowledge and the overwhelming opposition of our members, the Co-op is saying no to commercial growing of GM crops in the UK.

"And we would urge other consumer-led businesses to follow this precautionary approach. Too little is still understood about this technology and how it would impact on our environment in future generations. "Let the science and research continue, but unless or until the case is convincingly made, the government has a responsibility to keep the lid on commercial growing."

*BBC News, 21 October 2003*

## Suit Filed Over GM Crops

Pesticide Action Network North America and several other public interest organizations filed a lawsuit on Nov. 12 seeking to force USDA to safely regulate crops that have been genetically engineered to produce pharmaceutical and industrial chemicals. Info at [www.panna.org](http://www.panna.org)

## Glofish NoGo in California

California recently became the only state in the U.S. to ban the sale of genetically engineered pets. Although new glow-in-the-dark zebrafish (engineered with genes from jellyfish and sea anemones) have been released onto the market throughout the rest of the nation, the CA Game Commission said their decision is based on simple ethics. "I just don't think it's right to produce a new organism just to be a pet. To me, this seems like an abuse of the power we have over life, and I'm not prepared to go there today," said Sam Schuchat of the CA Game Commission. Full story is at: [http://www.organicconsumers.org/ge/ge\\_fish.cfm](http://www.organicconsumers.org/ge/ge_fish.cfm)

## Retreat, from page 17

### Agenda Item R10: Personnel Policies (Employee Handbook)

Discussion: The Board shared comments based on their review of the draft employee handbook. They noted some sections that are not relevant to IOIA and other changes to be made. **Action point:** All BOD review and provide suggestions for revision to

Ann and John. They will then prepare a new draft to be reviewed at the December meeting.

**Human Resources Discussion:** In order to use our human resources well and maintain mutual satisfaction, it is important to configure jobs to take into account employees skills and desires. The Board reviewed an inventory of current staff and contractors of IOIA. They currently include:

- Margaret Scoles, Executive Director and Training Manager, full time employee
- Lisa Pierce: Regional Training Coordinator, part time contractor, maintains own home office
- Phoebe Amsden, Support Staff for Training and Office Management, part-time employee
- Dicee Harrison, Office Assistant, part time employee, minimal hours as needed for filing.
- Diane Cooner, Webmaster and Newsletter Editor, contractor
- Dave Gardners, CPA, contractor to prepare IRS returns

**Summary** In this retreat we have assessed the current environment in the world related to organics, reviewed that work done at La Veta, linked current work to that. We reviewed the mission statement, and reviewed and updated goals. We developed a framework for a business plan, with some ideas for marketing and training. We examined IOIA's resources, policies and structures, including our financial status, human resources, Policy Manual and Procedures Manual. We have addresses every item on the list of agenda items given to us by the previous Board. We made a plan to create a vehicle for expanding relationships, addressed the Committee on Committees proposal, Certifier involvement on BOD and established the basic idea framework for a Certifier's Advisory Council to IOIA. We addressed the role of alternates to the Board, generated ideas for fundraising, made a decision about IOIA dues, addressed a key international membership concern, and developed a certifier involvement policy. We planned the AGM based on a membership decision to hold the 2004 meeting in Costa Rica, recognizing that 40% of our membership is outside the US. And of course, we covered the routine items of approving minutes,

receiving and reviewing the financial report, ED and TM report, RTM reports.

We addressed and responded to all the membership concerns and issues that were brought to the attention of the Board by the membership up to one day before the meeting. Thank you to all members for your time and thoughtfulness in providing input prior to the Board retreat. We discussed matters in great depth, taking into account the interests and concerns of the membership. We are honored to be working together in the service of the membership of this organization. Adjourn: Brian adjourned the meeting at 8:15AM on October 21, 2003.

## NOP, from page 7

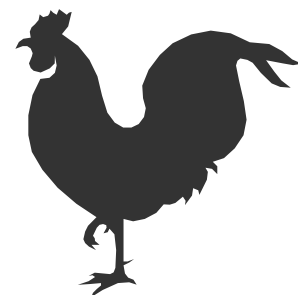
final ruling on such matters. That is correct both in terms of the law (OFFPA) and the NOP rule. It is also vital that there be single, central authority over such standards if we are to have consistent national standards for organic production and handling.

Cooler heads argue that before we go overboard assailing this decision, the organic community should give USDA a chance to build a bit more history and gain more experience in administration of the NOP. This is, after all, still a new program and organic is a new field for the USDA. Perhaps a mistake was made, and surely others will be made as well. In another couple of years, after a record of decisions is established, then it may be appropriate to look critically at their record.

Even though MICI no longer certifies The Country Hen, their attorney, Jill Krueger of Farmers Legal Action Group, will continue to pursue the issue by taking this case to the next level, before a USDA Judicial Officer, to ask that the ruling that they have no case be set aside. This would clear the way for a formal hearing and allow MICI to present their side of the case, which they allege they have not had the opportunity to do.

The loopholes in the regulations and uneven enforcement highlight the inequities of the NOP system, and demonstrate the need for a clear process to be followed. What is not right is to have vague parts of the law that are now interpreted by one person. There needs to be some respect accorded to the certifiers that are accredited by the NOP, just as there needs to be a healthy working relationship between the NOP and the certifiers.

Given time, more will be revealed. ♣





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## On The Road – Report from Oz Land

By Joe Montecalvo

On my recent trip to Australia I visited Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Townsville and the surrounding agricultural communities and over 20 companies doing fresh fruit and vegetable packing operations at the request of Bioteq Limited, a company I have been working with in developing a new sanitizer for direct food contact that meets 7CFR-NOP criteria for organic foods (i.e., leaves no residue). My trip lasted three weeks. The major message I picked up from the trip was that like Europe, the growers and consumers in Australia are anti-GMO and have embraced organic and sustainable agriculture. Most of the packing operations are small compared to what we have in California. However, their wash operations really need to be optimized as many use too much chlorine. Most companies there are not familiar with chlorine issues such as worker exposure and disinfection byproducts like trihalomethanes, which are carcinogenic.

Much of my time was spent giving two hour workshops on organic sanitation requirements and how to use less chlorine in flume wash waters for fruits and vegetables as well as other approaches that reduce chlorine levels but maintain food safety.

I also had the opportunity to visit the major agricultural research facility of the university at Hawksburg. It is interesting to note that no GMO research is being conducted there, unlike many US universities.

Overall, the trip was terrific as we made new friends and enjoyed a country which has a tremendous amount of agricultural and cultural diversity. Laura, my wife, and Joe III, my son, were able to do lots of sight seeing. We enjoyed the country and food there. It was so uplifting to travel there with only 20 million people in the size of a country almost the same size as the US with 270 million. No traffic or should I say no traffic like we have in LA or San Jose/San Francisco.

### NEW PUBLICATION

***Labor Management in Agriculture: Cultivating Personnel Productivity***, second edition. This book focuses on management techniques rather than on legal requirements. Available in English and Spanish. View online at [www.cnr.berkeley.edu/ucce50/ag-labor](http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/ucce50/ag-labor). Price is \$12.50US + tax and shipping. Contact UCCE at 209-525-6800 or [erexendez@ucdavis.edu](mailto:erexendez@ucdavis.edu)



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### INDEPENDENT ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

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MAIL TO IOIA, PO Box 6, BROADUS, MT 59317-0006 USA

IOIA HAS SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE. ORDER HERE OR THROUGH OUR WEBSITE.

- Building Soils for Better Crops (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition), by Fred Magdoff and Harold Van Es. 240 pp. \$20
- COG Organic Field Crop Handbook, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, published by Sust. Ag Network, \$18.00
- 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, \$25.00
- Organic Tree Fruit Management, published by COABC, 240 pages, \$30.00
- Steel in the Field, published by Sustainable Ag Network, 128 pages, \$16.00
- Introduction to Certified Organic Farming. Published by REAP CANADA, 200 pg. \$25.00
- OCC/IOIA Forms Templates \$35 members  \$50 non-members  Comes with disk (Word 7.0)

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## 2004 Calendar

**Jan 9-10** Practical Farmers of Iowa Annual Conference, in Des Moines, IA; contact Sandra Trca-Black, PFI, (515) 232-5661 ext. 101; Sandra@practicalfarmers.org  
<http://www.practicalfarmers.org>.

**Jan 09-11** IOIA will co-sponsor Japanese language Basic Farm Inspector Training with the Japan Organic Inspectors Association (JOIA) to be held in Tokyo, JAPAN, Contact info: JOIA at mutsumi.sakuyoshi@nifty.com or +81-422-56-6651 or +81-422-56-6651 (fax).

**Jan 15 - 22** IOIA and the Florida Organic Growers (FOG) will co-sponsor Basic Organic Process Inspector training from January 15-18, 2004 and Basic Organic Farm Inspector training from January 19-22. The IOIA/FOG trainings will be followed by the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group conference. Paramount Resort and Conference Center located in Gainesville, Florida. For more info and registration details please contact Carolyn at the Florida Organic Growers office at 352-377-0133 or 352-377-6345 or fogoffice@aol.com

**Jan 20-22** "Planned Energy/Agricultural Industry Conference on Greenhouse Gas Mitigation via Agriculture and Its Soils," a national forum being planned, in College Station, TX; more info: Consortium for Agricultural Soil Mitigation of Greenhouse Gases <http://www.casmgs.colostate.edu> or [http://agecon.tamu.edu/faculty/tbutt/casm/casmgs\\_conference.htm](http://agecon.tamu.edu/faculty/tbutt/casm/casmgs_conference.htm)

**Jan 22-25** "Practical Tools and Solutions for Sustaining Family Farms," 13th Annual Southern SAWG Conference, in Gainesville, FL; Contact SSAWG at (479) 587-0888; or Jean Mills, jeanmills@aol.com; <http://www.sawg.org/conf2004/confindex.html>.

**Jan 21-24** 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Ecological Farming Conference at Asilomar Conference Ctr, Pacific Grove, CA. [www.eco-farm.org](http://www.eco-farm.org)

**Jan 24** NOFA-Massachusetts Chapter's Annual Winter Conference, in Barre, MA; contact Northeast Organic Farming Assn. /MA, (978)

355-2853; nofa@nofamass.org; <http://www.nofamass.org/conferences/index.php>

**Jan 31** Annual Winter Conference of Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey, in New Brunswick, NJ; <http://www.nofanj.org>.

**February 1-3** "The IPM Matrix," Association of Applied IPM Ecologists 2004 Conference, in Napa, CA; contact AAIE, phone/fax (707) 265-9349; director@aaie.net; [http://aaie.net/expend\\_control.cfm](http://aaie.net/expend_control.cfm).

**Feb 2-8** "A Bounty of Golden Ideas," a collaboration of the 19th annual North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Conference and Trade Show and the California Small Farm Conference, including pre- and post-conference bus tours, in Sacramento, CA; contact Marcia Touchette, NAFDMA, (413) 529-0386; Marcia@WhiteLoafRidge.com; <http://www.nafdma.com/Conference/Sacramento/>

**Feb 13-14** "30 Years Growing," California Certified Organic Farmers' 30th Anniversary Party and Annual Meeting, in Monterey, CA; Info: (831)423-2263; ccof@ccof.org; <http://www.ccof.org>

**Feb 20-22** "The Western Sustainable Agriculture Movement: Building Relationships and Wielding Power," 10th Annual Meeting of Western Sustainable Agriculture Working Group, in Logan, UT; contact Western SAWG, (406) 494-8636; wsawg@ncat.org.

**February 26th-28** The 15th annual Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference will be held at the La Crosse Center. For info: <http://www.mosesorganic.org/umofc/umofc.htm>

**Feb 24 - March 2** Certified Organic Association of British Columbia (COABC) and IOIA will co-sponsor Basic Farm Inspector Training (February 24-27) and Advanced Training (March 1-2). Trainings will be held in conjunction with the COABC conference held February 28 and 29. For info contact Kristen Kane at COABC, office@certifiedorganic.bc.ca (250) 260-4429.

**Feb 28 - March 1** IOIA will co-sponsor Japanese language Basic Process Inspector Training with the Japan Organic Inspectors Association (JOIA) to be held in Tokyo, JAPAN, For more info, contact JOIA at mutsumi.sakuyoshi@nifty.com or +81-422-56-6651 or +81-422-56-6651 (fax).

**Feb 29-March 2** National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture Annual Meeting, in or near Washington, DC; contact NCSA, (845) 744-8448; <http://www.SustainableAgriculture.net>. Campaign@sustainableagriculture.net;

**March 5-8** National Farmers Union 102nd Anniversary Convention, in Billings, MT; contact NFU, 11900 E. Cornell Ave., Aurora, CO 80014-3194; <http://www.nfu.org>.

**March 13** EcoLOGICA invites IOIA to Costa Rica for our 2004 Annual General Membership Meeting. IOIA accepts! The event will include Advanced training in both Spanish and English. See cover story for details.

**March 20-21** Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association Annual Conference, in Johnstown, OH; contact Gwen Uetrecht, OEFFA, (614) 421-2022; oeffa@oeffa.com; <http://www.oeffa.com>.

**March 29-31** FIRST WORLD CONGRESS ON ORGANIC FOOD: Meeting the Challenges of Safety and Quality for Fruits, Vegetables, and Grains, Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, USA.

The First World Congress on Organic Food will compare possible risks of fruits, vegetables and grains produced by organic versus conventional methods. The Congress is co-sponsored by the National Food Safety & Toxicology Center, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the International Association for Food Protection. For more information about the Congress, including how to register, submit an abstract for a technical presentation, and help sponsor the Congress, go to: <http://www.foodsafe.msu.edu/Organics/>.

Contact: [mitzelf3@cvm.msu.edu](mailto:mitzelf3@cvm.msu.edu)

**Keep IOIA Strong - Lend Your Strength And Get Involved!**



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