



# The Inspectors' Report

Volume 5, Number 1, Winter 1996

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## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

By Rick Martinez

My, how time flies! It is already a year ago that we were dancing the nights away, overlooking the beautiful San José valley. And, as we approach our next annual meeting, I find myself reflecting on the past IOI year.

It has been a very active year for IOI. We held successful trainings in various parts of the world, including one in Russia and two in Latin America. Our membership has continued to grow. Our IOIA Inspector Manual has been very well received, and our Accreditation Program has also received clear support. I must thank Pete Gonsalves and the rest of the Accreditation Committee for a job very well done!!

But there is still a lot of work ahead. If I had to put my finger on any one issue that I consider the most important, I suppose it would be the  
(see Notes, page 3)

## LIVE! FROM OCIA

By Jim Riddle

It's Friday, January 26, 1996, and the OCIA Annual General Membership Meeting (AGMM) has adjourned. I've been here in Guelph, Ontario since late Tuesday night.

It seems that I missed the most controversial day, which was Tuesday. Most of the day was taken up debating whether or not AGMM business could proceed, since the information packets were sent out less than 45 days prior to the meeting, contrary to OCIA Bylaws. Finally, a compromise was reached that all decisions made by the AGMM would need to be ratified by written ballot within 60 days following the meeting. Business proceeded. Déjà vu.

The next day and a half continued with discussions of proposed bylaw changes. One of the most significant changes passed, in terms of its impact on inspectors, was a reclassification of cooperatives as "corporate members". This includes both production and service (or marketing) cooperatives, and means (as I understand it) that the inspection and certification of all cooperatives will have to go through the International office, instead of being handled by regional chapters. We'll see how this is administered.

I also learned that OCIA now has implemented a "mutual recognition" program with FVO, and is in the process of recognizing all other IFOAM accredited certification agencies. Concerning FVO, this means that a full document review is no longer needed. Verification from the other agency is required, usually issued in the form of a Transaction Certificate. I have requested an explanation of this policy in writing, so that we can inform our members so that inspectors are prepared to accurately answer questions asked by inspected parties.

The biggest news during the AGMM was an announcement that the "banana suit" against OCIA, et al, was not certified as a class action suit. It still could proceed in California court, but the potential payoffs for the complainants' lawyers would be significantly reduced, so it is less likely that the case will proceed.

The AGMM spent about one day discussing and voting on proposed changes to the OCIA Standards. Some of the changes were being considered in order to come into compliance with IFOAM Standards for accreditation purposes.

There were many changes passed which affect the work of inspectors. If you inspect for OCIA, you'd better read carefully the 1996 standards, once they have been ratified and published. For crops in temperate zones, the new  
(see OCIA, page 2)

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## OCIA, from page 1

standards will not take effect until the 1997 growing season. For areas with year-round production, the standards will be in effect for the next crop cycle following ratification (April 1?).

One big change in the standards is that "Verification of last year of transition must be in writing and performed by another certified grower or inspector. Exceptions to the transition inspection can be granted only if verification procedures follow protocols established by OCIA." [Protocols not yet established.] This means that new growers will have to plan ahead in order to get certified. Once again, we will have to wait to see how this is to be administered.

Concerning dairy production, the following change to the standards was passed, "The use of antibiotics and all hormones is prohibited in organic dairy. If recourse to antibiotics or hormones is deemed necessary, that animal's production cannot be sold as organic. For new herds and replacements, no antibiotic or hormone use will be allowed 90 days prior to certifiable status." This is a tough standard, but it should clear up a large gray area encountered by inspectors.

OCIA changed the format of their Materials List, so that it contains columns for OCIA status, IFOAM status and NOSB proposed status, along with brief explanations of product use specifications. They also prohibited the use of sodium fluoaluminate, approved the use of "naturally derived ethylene gas" and tabled discussion on the use of arsenate compound treated lumber.

In other news, Tom Harding was re-elected President and Boyd Foster of Arrowhead Mills, Texas, was appointed Chief Executive Officer. The office is being moved from Betty Kananen's farm to a building in Bellefontaine, OH. Also, Michael Pratt has submitted his resignation.

During Tom Harding's closing remarks, a "structural redesign of OCIA's certification system" was mentioned, without any elaboration or discussion. I was informed that this is an ongoing project being coordinated by Peter Murray and Ernie Otter. They are restructuring the framework of OCIA's Standards, clarifying OCIA's certification procedures, identifying Good Organic Manufacturing Practices (GOMP's) and establishing inspection protocols.

According to Peter and Ernie, they are proposing that OCIA inspectors be called "site evaluators". When asked about the current "moratorium" on new inspectors being added to OCIA's Approved Inspector list, they said that

recognition of new inspectors could proceed only after the above-mentioned program changes have been made. In fact, they indicated that they would like to start with a clean slate, with all existing inspectors having to reapply for approval.

It has been five years since I last attended an OCIA AGMM. It has been good to see old friends, meet new OCIA activists, and reestablish ties. I leave this meeting, however, feeling that inspectors operate largely as silent, and often unrecognized, partners in the OCIA system. During my discussions with OCIA members and staff, I expressed an ongoing commitment on behalf of IOIA to work together with OCIA to upgrade the quality of their program while contributing to the harmonization of other programs worldwide.

## Q.A.I. CANADIAN OFFICE OPEN

Quality Assurance International has just opened a Canadian office to meet the increased demand for organic certification services and to comply with impending Canadian organic certification legislation.

Q.A.I., a San Diego, California-based certification service, has operated since 1989 in the U.S., Canada, Latin America, Japan and other areas of the world. Q.A.I. inspects and certifies growers and manufacturers. The new office, located in Collingwood, Ontario, will be operated by Tomás Nimmo, a veteran of the organic foods industry in Canada since 1976, and will be an integral part of Q.A.I.'s world-wide service.

### IOIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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## NOTES, from page 1

long-term financial stability of our organization. As IOIA has rapidly grown to nearly 250 members, the needs and costs of our organization have grown proportionately, while our income has not.

How do we finance this entity, which now has a life of its own? I have pondered this question over and over. I know that it is difficult to ask inspectors to pay more when, for many, the costs are already hard to justify. So that is out.

Who really are the benefactors of our service and who is best positioned to contribute? To answer the first question, the consumer is the ultimate benefactor, but it is the industry who is the most immediate benefactor. They are also the best positioned to support our cause. Then there is the old issue of us keeping at an arms'-length independence from industry.

So, after milling these questions over with other IOI members and several knock-down drag-out conference calls, the board has developed the first drafts of our Consumer and Corporate Outreach programs, where we go directly to the "end users" of our services for financial support. We are pondering other potential sources of income, which are still in the formative stages. For example, there is the possible IOIA participation with the Organic Certifiers Caucus in a grant for developing standardized inspection forms. We could also use some help from any of you who have some time and/or expertise in fund raising.

My second most important issue would be member participation. We have relatively good participation in training events, but in most other areas, support is sorely lacking. This has been a very frustrating realization for myself and other board members, and one for which we have not yet discovered a solution. Chip's "phone tree" should hopefully give us some ideas. If anyone has suggestions, please feel free to call me. That would be a good start. At this time we actually have more board vacancies than we have candidates, which is a very vivid symptom of my concern.

As you may know, there is a board retreat planned in the days prior to the annual meeting. The above mentioned issues, along with a host of others such as normal functional tasks and continuing business, will be the focus of the retreat. The meetings are open to all of you and if you can arrive early, I encourage your attendance. Your input is welcome and needed.

Happy inspecting!!

*Rick*

## SANTA FE OR BUST

*By Jim Riddle*

Finishing touches are being put on the IOIA Advanced Inspector Training course to be held March 26-28, 1996 at the Glorieta Conference Center near Santa Fe, New Mexico. The course will provide stimulating, challenging materials and discussions in order for experienced inspectors to upgrade their skills and stay abreast of changes in the organic industry.

At least one staff person from the USDA's National Organic Program will be on hand to give a presentation entitled "Implementing the Act - Anticipated Impacts of OFPA on Organic Inspectors." They will share their observations concerning the role of inspectors, the inspection process, and the need for consistent reports in context of the soon-to-be-implemented OFPA. This presentation is being offered in order to keep organic inspectors up to date on recent developments and directions so that we can adjust our inspection methods in anticipation of the Act.

Zea Sonnabend and Rod Crossley will be on hand to facilitate an in-depth discussion of the proposed Materials List. The first half of the day will be spent on farm inputs, and the second half on minor ingredients and processing aids. Make sure to bring along any questionable labels and confusing materials that you have encountered during inspections.

Kim Burton from Smuckers/Knutsens will lead discussions on Total Quality Management and its relevance for organic inspectors. She will be discussing organic control points and Organic Quality Management and share with us the concerns of a Quality Assurance manager in relation to producing certified organic products.

John Burns will facilitate a workshop on report writing, during which inspectors will work in small groups to read and critique one another's reports. (Make sure to bring 5 copies of one of your inspection reports, with names, etc. whited out.)

We will be touring the Seeds of Change gardens and facilities. We hope to use the tour as a practicum on collecting samples for residue analysis. We anticipate that Debra Flores, who is an organic inspector and runs a residue testing laboratory in California, will lead this exercise, depending on her schedule, which is still up in the air at this time.

If you have not already registered, the deadline is February 29. After that date, call the office to see if there is still space available.



# IOIA 1996 ELECTIONS

by Joyce Ford

IOIA members will be voting for 3 Board Members and 2 Alternates to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting in March in Glorieta, New Mexico.

For those not physically attending the Annual Meeting, ballots have been mailed out to all members. Ballots must be returned in an envelope clearly marked **BALLOT** on the outside to: Joyce Ford, IOIA, Rt. 3 Box 162-C, Winona, Minnesota, USA, 55987-9514. The envelope must include the sender's name. Ballots can also be faxed to: 507.454.8310 or 507.454.5238 (24-hour fax line). Every effort will be made to keep confidentiality with ballots that are faxed. **DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING BALLOTS BY MAIL OR FAX IS MARCH 21, 1996** as the IOIA office will be closed March



22-31 to attend the IOIA Annual Meeting and Advanced Inspector Training.

Ballots will be opened at the Annual Meeting. All ballots remain secret. Proxy votes may also be used, as outlined in the IOIA Bylaws. If you want a member who will be attending the Annual Meeting to be your proxy, please send that person a signed letter and have them present it to the Board of Directors before the Annual Meeting.

NOTE: Geographic distribution has been a factor in determining the slate of nominees. Board nominees not elected to the Board may run as Alternates at the Annual Meeting. Nominations may also be taken from the floor during the Annual Meeting.

Rick Martinez is currently Chair of IOIA.

Current Board Members not up for election: Chip Kraynyk (Colorado, USA)

Janine Gibson (Manitoba, Canada)

Gabriela Soto-Munoz (Costa Rica)

Gary Ulbrich (California, USA)

Current Alternate not up for election: Phil Hale (Ohio, USA)

## CANDIDATES STATEMENTS

These statements are from inspectors running for the 1996 IOIA Board of Directors and Alternates. They are intended to give you a better understanding of each nominee.

### John O'Malley Burns

Virginia, USA

I would like to serve on the IOIA Board of Directors. For the past 7 years, I have managed my own organic farm and have been an inspector for 6 of those years. I have inspected in the United States and abroad, processing, livestock and production. I have served as a resource person, consultant and advisor to various organizations (public and private) and companies to help them develop organic practices, programs and projects. I have been involved for several years in the training of the staff and members of community based organizations in Latin America, in organic agronomic practices, information systems, marketing and audit trail. In a previous incarnation lasting 12 years, I was a management consultant for maternal child health programs for UNICEF and USAID, focusing on project management, training, evaluation, financial analysis, systems analysis, and information systems development.

A simple platform is:

1. Improve the quality of training for advanced inspectors.
2. Improve IOIA's relationship with Organic Certifiers Caucus, Organic Trade Association, and IFOAM.
3. Improve the apprenticeship program to better assimilate the newly trained inspectors into the process.

4. Assist other inspector organizations in developing around the world.

5. Create a mechanism to reduce the cost for community based organizations to be trained in organic processes.

In the past, I have devoted only 1/4 of my time to organic consulting and inspecting, spending most of my time running Goat Hill Organic Farm, not goats or cheese but salad mix, heirloom tomatoes, culinary herbs and raspberries. For the next few years, my partner, Terri Lehman, will run the farm.

### Leon Kaplan

Santa Cruz, California, USA

I have been an inspector for the past 7 years. I now do inspection work on a full-time basis, about 2-3 inspections a week. I have done inspections throughout America, Mexico and Japan (about 300), including farming and processing.

I was born and raised in Namibia, Africa and received a BA in business, majoring in business administration and economics in South Africa. I have lived in America from 1979. During this time I have in one way or another been involved with organic agriculture or gardening. I became interested in farming while living on a kibbutz in Israel.

The use and destruction of chemical farming in America had a great influence on my desire to learn all that I could about a natural form of agriculture. I have had several years experience working with others and owning my own organic truck farm. I became a full-time inspector 3 years ago.

During this time I have inspected very large farms and processing facilities. I have seen the changes in a very short time from the back-to-land farmers to large conventional farms becoming involved with the organic methods. I have been part of the trend that is making the processors of food accept the importance of organic legitimacy.

This is all very exciting complex work. It is important that we as inspectors know our position in this environment, and that we bring with us



representation, acceptable people skills, and understanding and clarity of what our function is. The industry (certification agencies and clients) have begun to demand this of us and we have to rise to the occasion.

I believe in my application to be a director of IOIA that all of the above are my goals to assist us inspectors as a body of professionals to achieve the desire of the industry. I feel that the work and recognition already achieved by IOIA is exceptional. I want to work with you all to continue this trend. My special interests are specific training, national and international communications, and reciprocity amongst us all. My past business experience, farming experience and intense inspection work are all abilities that I will infuse into my work as a IOIA director.

### **Rick Martinez**

Tampa, Florida, USA

The term for my position on the IOIA board of directors is about to expire and I would like to take this opportunity to announce that I am willing to serve another term.

When I was first nominated to run for the board in Arkansas, I agreed to do so, based on a desire to do my part for a worthy cause. In contemplating my reasons to serve again, I find that they are unchanged. Since becoming a board member, my life has been totally devoted to organic inspection work. This has been a very fulfilling experience for me. It seems it is the niche in life I was searching for, or that was searching for me. It was my attendance at my first inspector training in Nebraska which began my inspector career. For this reason, I feel that I owe a lot to IOIA.

I see this time as a very exciting and critical time for the organic industry as a whole. I feel that IOIA is well-positioned to have a very positive effect on the changes which are taking place. I will continue to work with the membership as well as other board members, carrying out the business of IOIA and representing IOIA on issues relevant to inspectors and the organic industry.

As mentioned in my 'Notes from the Chair' article for this issue, I feel two of the most pressing issues for IOIA members are the long term financial stability of our organization and improved membership participation. I will make these two issues the top priorities for my next term. Another important matter we face is our relationship with certifiers. The importance of a good relationship and active participation between IOIA and the certifiers is crucial. This is another area on which I intend to focus my energies.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the IOIA membership.

### **Dag Falch-Nielsen**

Duncan, British Columbia, Canada

I was trained as an agronomist/agriculturalist at the Agricultural School of Norway. I speak English and Norwegian. I have four years experience inspecting farms, including dairy, beef, herbs, grain,

vegetables and milling for the Island Organic Producers Association. I completed Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia (COABC) verification officer (inspector) training in 1993 and IOIA farm inspector training in 1994. I plan to attend the IOIA Advanced Inspector training in Santa Fe in 1996.

I am committed to promoting organics and helping in the process of ensuring that the highest standards possible are used. I believe it is essential for the survival of us and our environment to stop poisoning our land, animals and plants. I feel very lucky to be a positive force in the movement toward organic practices. I feel that IOIA is doing an excellent job of training inspectors and promoting organics. Networking is essential, and IOIA provides that and lends professionalism to inspectors. I would like to help IOIA keep up the good work.

### **Rafael Lucas Pinto**

Quilmes, Buenos Aires, Argentina

I am a teacher and researcher in crop production at the University of Buenos Aires. I am fluent in Spanish and conversational in English, Italian, French and Portuguese. I completed organic inspector training courses with Gabriel Guet in 1992, SENSASA (Argentina) in 1993, OCIA/CUCEPRO (Mexico) in 1993 and IOIA (farm and process) in 1994 in Florida and 1995 in Costa Rica. I plan to attend the IOIA Advanced Inspector training in Santa Fe in 1996. I have done inspections for ARGENCERT, OIA, OCIA AND FVO. I contributed in the development of ARGENCERT guidelines and bylaws. I am coordinating an inspector training course in Buenos Aires.

My goal is to contribute with qualified professional service to the improvement and clarification of the relationships between different agents active in the organic industry. I am interested in international work, and am willing to serve as a regional representative for IOIA.

#### **Sample Ballot IOIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

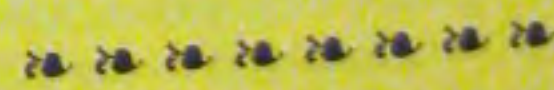
Vote for not more than 3.

- John O'Malley Burns**  
(Virginia, USA)
- Dag Falch-Nielsen**  
(British Columbia, Canada)
- Leon Kaplan**  
(California, USA)
- Rick Martinez**  
(Florida, USA)
- Rafael Lucas Pinto**  
(Argentina)
- 

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**ALTERNATES: Vote for  
not more than 2.**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_





# BYLAW AMENDMENTS

by Jim Riddle

The IOIA Bylaws Committee is submitting three amendments to the IOIA Bylaws to be considered at the upcoming annual meeting. The amendments will be circulated to all IOIA members in advance of the meeting, along with the meeting agenda, nomination materials from candidates for the Board and a mail-in ballot.

The first amendment concerns IOIA's Mission Statement. Current Bylaws state:

**1.02 Purpose, General:** The mission of the Independent Organic Inspectors Association is to provide the organic farm and food industry with a pool of trained, qualified and independent inspectors and to promote consistency in the inspection process.

The amendment, as presented by the IOIA Board, would change the wording to read:

**1.02 Purpose, General:** The Independent Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA) is to provide the organic industry with trained and qualified inspectors, promote consistency in the inspection process, and address issues and concerns relevant to organic inspectors.

The second amendment concerns election procedures, and would change the practice of electing Board members during the annual meeting to electing them by mail-in ballot following the annual meeting. This issue was discussed fully in the Summer, 1995, *Inspectors' Report*. It was put to a vote of the membership, and received unanimous support, (21 votes) yet failed to receive enough votes to change the Bylaws by written ballot (majority of eligible voters - 103 votes).

Current Bylaws state:

**3.02 Election of Directors; Terms of Office:** Any Inspector or Inspector Apprentice member may serve as a Director if elected by majority vote of the membership. Each Director shall be elected at the annual membership meeting and serve two (2) years...

**4.01 Executive Committee; Election of Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee of the organization shall consist of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and one non-officer. Any Inspector member on the Board of Directors may serve on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be elected for a term of one (1) year by the Board of Directors at their first meeting following the annual membership meeting.

The amendment would change the wording to read:

**3.02 Election of Directors; Terms of Office:** Any Inspector or Inspector Apprentice member may serve as a Director if elected by majority vote of the membership. Each Director shall be elected for a two (2) year term by mail-in ballot, in a period of time not to exceed ninety (90) days after the annual membership meeting...

**4.01 Executive Committee; Election of Executive Committee:...**The Executive Committee shall be elected for a term of one (1) year by the Board of Directors at their first meeting following the election of the Board of Directors.

The third amendment deals with the number of votes necessary to take action by written ballot. Current Bylaws state:

**2.08 Action by Written Ballot:** (Second paragraph) Approval of the action by written ballot shall be valid only when the number of affirmative votes cast constitutes a majority of members eligible to vote. Directors may be elected by written ballot.

The amendment would change the wording to read:

**2.08 Action by Written Ballot:** (Second paragraph) Approval of the action by written ballot shall be valid only when the number of affirmative votes cast constitutes a majority of a quorum of members eligible to vote. Directors may be elected by written ballot.

If there are other bylaw changes that members would like to have considered at the annual meeting, these should be submitted to the IOIA office as soon as possible, since the Bylaws state that "Proposals for changes shall be circulated in writing to the membership not less than ten (10) days prior to action on the proposed change."



## IOIA ETHICS INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES

The following policies have been developed by IOIA in order to investigate allegations of inspector misconduct. It is recommended that the person/group making the complaint (plaintiff) have tried all possible avenues to work the specific problem out with the inspector prior to making this complaint. A complaint must involve an alleged violation of the IOIA Code of Ethics or Code of Conduct (see below) in order for IOIA to investigate.

1. IOIA will respond only to written complaints. It is required that the plaintiff file an **IOIA Inspector Misconduct Complaint Form**. The written complaint should include documentation of evidence. Hearsay will not be considered as valid evidence.
2. Upon receipt of the written complaint, the IOIA coordinator will acknowledge receipt with return letter to plaintiff, outlining IOIA procedures and time line.
3. IOIA coordinator will also send notification to inspector member of complaint and alleged violations. It is the intent of IOIA that the plaintiff and inspector member named in the complaint should have access to all information concerning the complaint.
4. The IOIA Executive Committee is responsible for reviewing and evaluating the complaint.
5. Possible actions that may be taken:
  - A. No action is warranted if the complaint is found to be invalid or inconclusive.
  - B. Member receives a letter of reprimand from IOIA.
  - C. Member receives a letter of reprimand and is placed on membership probation for one year.
  - D. If member is accredited, the Executive Committee recommends to the Accreditation Review Panel (ARP) to put member on accreditation probation for one year.
  - E. If member is accredited, the Executive Committee recommends to the Accreditation Review Panel to revoke IOIA accreditation.
  - F. IOIA membership is revoked.
6. If the member is accredited, the Accreditation Review Panel will be informed as to any action taken or recommendations made by the Executive Committee. The ARP is solely responsible for action concerning accreditation status. The ARP may request documentation of the complaint and evaluation by Executive Committee.
7. If the plaintiff or inspector member is not satisfied with the action taken, an appeal may be made to the full IOIA Board of Directors within 30 days after notification. Once the investigation, determination and appeal processes have concluded, the same incident will not be re-investigated.
8. When an inspector's IOIA membership or IOIA accreditation status is revoked, the Organic Certifier's Caucus (OCC) or appropriate certification body will be notified.
9. Investigation of complaint, documentation and determination should take no longer than 3 months.
10. It is the intent of IOIA to be fair and objective to all parties involved in a complaint.
11. In order to conduct a credible investigation, IOIA may need to interview the member in question, other inspectors, the plaintiff, certification agencies, and/or inspected parties. It is the intent of IOIA that the investigation take place with as little public discussion as possible, recognizing that complete confidentiality may not be possible.





## ACCREDITATION REVIEW PANEL MEMBERSHIP

By Chip Kraynyk

As you may know, the IOIA has developed an inspector's accreditation program. The purpose of the program is to establish organic crop, livestock, and handler (processor) inspector qualification standards for those members seeking accreditation by the IOIA. Following review of the accreditation applications, accreditation is granted or denied by majority decision of a panel known as the Accreditation Review Panel (ARP). This panel is currently made up of four Accreditation Committee members and one non-IOIA member, but recently the IOIA Board of Directors decided that Accreditation Committee membership will no longer be a requirement for participation. The ARP will now be drawn from the **full inspector membership**. An additional change is that the IOIA has offered a seat on the ARP to the **Organic Certifiers Caucus (OCC)**. Reviewing an application takes about a half hour and can be very interesting work. **If you are interested in participating on the Accreditation Review Panel, please contact me or any board member before or during the annual meeting in Santa Fe.**

See you in the Land of Enchantment...!

## BUKOWSKY AWARDED IOIA SCHOLARSHIP

By Joyce Ford

Tara Bukowsky, a Michigan inspector, was awarded the 1996 IOIA Andrew Rutherford Scholarship on December 1, 1995. Tara has been certification chairperson for Southwest Michigan Organic Growers for 2 years, functions as a farm inspector for a local chapter, and works part time as a registered nurse. She has 3 years organic inspection experience along with 10+ years of growing experience. Ms. Bukowsky has chosen to attend the IOIA Organic Farm/Process Inspector Training held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, April 14-19, 1996.

The IOIA Rutherford Scholarship is awarded to one person per year on the basis of financial need and inspector potential as judged by the IOIA Scholarship Subcommittee. It pays for training registration, meals and lodging to the IOIA organic inspector training of the recipient's choice.

The late Andrew Rutherford was a farmer and inspector from southern Saskatchewan. He worked for the Saskatchewan Research Council in Saskatoon, and was instrumental in putting together a research project entitled, "The Viability of Organic Farm Practices". In 1991, Mr. Rutherford served on IOIA's steering committee which formed the organization, and in 1992, served as a Founding Board Member. He was also a magician.

People interested in applying for the 1997 IOIA Andrew Rutherford Scholarship should contact Joyce Ford, IOIA, Rt. 3 Box 162-C, Winona, MN, 55987-9514, ph/fax: 507.454.8310 or email: jriddle@luminet.net. The deadline for returning applications is November 1, 1996.



Newsletter Editor Diane Cooner, at her home office. Photo by Joyce Ford, who stopped by to visit while on her way to the Eco Farm Conference at Asilomar. Jim stayed home in Minnesota (where it was -40°F) and worked on his tan.

## SUSTAINABLE AG PROMOTED

The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) has launched a public service announcement campaign to promote sustainable agriculture directly to farmers.

The new radio spots feature several farmers discussing their reasons for switching to sustainable techniques. The 30- and 60-second ads are being provided to 750 farm-oriented radio stations in 26 states, and include a toll-free number (operated by Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas) to call for further information.

CSPI's campaign is designed to link farmers that have been considering the transition to sustainable agriculture with knowledgeable experts who can help them implement those changes.

CSPI is a national consumer-advocacy organization specializing in food and nutrition issues.



## INSPECTOR RESOURCES

*Quality and Safety Standards*, Natural Products Quality Assurance Alliance, 342 pages, July 1995. A reference manual of safety and quality assurance standards, practices and regulations within the Natural Products Industry. Its value to the organic inspector is in the good manufacturing practices (GMP's) and processing definitions and explanations for a variety of natural products, especially valuable when inspecting a process that one has not inspected previously. Available directly from NPQAA, 16770 NE 79th Street, Redmond, WA, 98052, tel: 206.861.8408, fax: 206.867.1202. The cost is about \$40.00.

*IFOAM Basic Standards for Organic Agriculture and Food Processing*, International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, 1994. Every inspector should be as familiar with IFOAM standards as they are with any standards of certification agencies. In an effort to help inspectors source this resource, IOIA has purchased at cost from IFOAM the Basic Standards in English and Spanish. Please contact the IOIA office if you wish to have a copy. Cost is \$5.00, postage included. IFOAM also has other publications, including EEC Regulation "Organic Agriculture" - Market Access for Third Countries and A Comparative View of Codex Alimentarius, EEC and USA Regulations, \$15.00 US, and Proceedings from "Third International IFOAM Conference on Non-Chemical Weed Control" (German with English abstracts), \$10.00 US. Please request from IOIA an IFOAM Publication List for a complete listing.

## BOOK REVIEW - The Ecology of Commerce By Paul Hawken

By Chip Kraynyk

We often hear that protecting the environment is incompatible with a healthy economy. Perhaps so, according to Paul Hawken, but only as we continue operating by our current economic design which rewards the exploitation of humans and natural resources. In his book, *The Ecology of Commerce*, Hawken explains how our economy is based on an industrial model which is linear, waste producing, extractive and dishonest. He then goes on to argue that sound economic design should be founded in the biological model which is cyclical, restorative, and superior at conveying accurate information about resources, price and cost. In the United States and around the world, environmental and human degradation amounts to a massive subsidy or welfare program for multinational corporations and the over-privileged. Vested interests with the conservative news media would have us believe that "if everybody would just do their part, we could clean up the environment." From Hawken's point of view, this is an unrealistic though convenient myth, as it only acts to divert attention away from the systemic nature of the problem. *The Ecology of Commerce* is not pessimistic and Hawken offers practical solutions to the world's environmental predicament. In fact, I would venture to say that if this book became required reading from high school up through the leading business colleges, it is likely that we would see some very constructive results.

## Inspectors' Corner - A REPLY

By Gary Ulbrich

Happy New Year, fellow IOIA members! I'd like to respond to brother Earl Hiatt's letter regarding the news articles and an article I wrote which were printed in our newsletters over the past year. Also, some members asked "what do these articles have to do with the IOIA or organic farm inspecting"? Allow me to briefly explain.

First, I was informed that our newsletter needed material. I had gone to a highly inspirational Eco Farm Conference where I took as many notes as I could and to the best of my ability. I apologize for any inaccurate or misleading information. If there are any inaccuracies, I would welcome any other information that would clarify things. However, overall I stand by all the information in all the writings. I believe that everything I submitted, though not specifically about our jobs as inspectors or IOIA might be interesting to members, regardless of their political philosophy, religion or affiliations. There were opinions, facts, impressions and information which one would think would be of interest to anybody who works for a living, especially those concerned with sustainability in all aspects of our lives as well as in agriculture.

This stuff set Earl off. He reacted, responded, and participated, and I respect him for this. However, I do not appreciate being "red-baited" or put into a political box by someone that knows little or nothing about me.

Our organization is in it's infancy and to define ourselves we need to dialogue with each other regardless of our diverse philosophies. Our common interests and priorities should become clearer as we go along. It is my opinion that the newsletter would be quite boring if it only dealt with inspection work and various policies. I hope everybody's "two-cents worth" or "non-sense" inspires other inspectors to participate more in OUR organization.



## RECIPE FOR SUCCESS!

by *Madonna Brock*

The single most impressive aspect of the **Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (SSAWG) Annual Conference** held in Lexington, KY January 19-21, was the incredible diversity of the participating members. A convergence of contrasting elements and interests, SSAWG provides a model for successfully integrating these into a cohesive vision. After all, as one grower asked during his workshop, "Do you know how hard it is to stack uniform round watermelons?"

The key ingredients towards the successful recipe include:

- A. Organizing a schedule in which many participating members' interests are met.
- B. Inviting a range of groups and individuals to coordinate different aspects of the conference.
- C. Placing farmers at the forefront without shying away from uncomfortable conflicts resulting from differences of opinions, observations, or experiences.

The schedule revolved around a structural framework of workshops, farm tours and meetings. Participants had a choice of 24 workshops on a variety of topics addressing production issues, marketing challenges, public policy activism, on-farm research projects, etc. Other groups had scheduled contingent and concurrent sessions, i.e., **Southern Echo, Inc.** held a **Sustainable Agriculture Training Consortium Workshop** for leadership training and development of training programs. Various groups held their annual or quarterly meetings in conjunction with the event.

Entertainment punctuated the Conference: A tasting of regionally produced food prepared by a local gourmet chef, **John Foster**; The **Community Farm Alliance Annual Banquet**, an organic cotton fashion show, auction, line dancing, and poetry reading by **Wendell Berry**.

Farmers shared their stories from all over the South - their efforts toward biological sustainability via crop diversity, soil management, intensive rotational grazing, seed saving, input reduction, value-added on-farm processing, farmer's cooperatives and CSAs, connections with local restaurants, buying clubs, and food co-ops, Harvest and Chef Festivals, bed and breakfasts, local educational facilities, etc. Several workshops focused on affecting political change at local and national levels to encourage sustainable innovations.

Most amazing, as **Hollis Watkins** of Southern Echos put it, was the willingness "to engage in truth-telling". Everyone's issues were given a place and deemed worthy of respect, from university extension agents to the illegal growers of low THC industrial hemp to small berry growers and large cotton farmers.

[Coordinator's note: Madonna represented IOIA at this event, and presented IOIA materials and training information at a resource table.]

### CERTIFICATION LIAISON

**Farm Verified Organic**, an international third party certifier, is looking for a **Certification Coordination Liaison and Inspection Manager**.

#### Duties Include:

- ▶ Management of Grower & Processor Inspections
- ▶ Inspectors' Training Program
- ▶ Area Farm Tour
- ▶ Project Development/ Material Information
- ▶ Supervision of Field Inspection Staff
- ▶ Certification Committee Support and Liaison
- ▶ Grower/Processor & Interoffice Communications Liaison
- ▶ Representation of FVO and quality certification to the public
- ▶ Preference will be given to candidates with experience working in the organic industry

#### Required skills:

- ▶ Proper, informed use of resources and equipment, including computer skills
- ▶ Preference given to Mac experience
- ▶ Communication skills, including telephone etiquette and the ability to respond to and deal with difficult situations, as well as the ability to create and maintain good relationships with grower/processors, inspectors, clients and the general public
- ▶ Ability to work independently and as a team member
- ▶ Ability to publicly represent FVO, it's philosophies, ethics and ideals
- ▶ supervisory skills
- ▶ knowledge of

and/or willingness to learn about the organic food industry and certification standards

#### Position and salary:

- ▶ Full time management position
- ▶ Salary negotiable, commensurate with experience. Salaries paid by FVO generally exceed those of comparable management positions in the area
- ▶ Generous benefits
- ▶ Moving expenses negotiable
- ▶ Please submit resumes to FVO, RR #1, Box 40A, Medina, ND 58467 USA  
FAX 701.486.3580.



## Made In Nature Releases Organic Guidelines

Made In Nature, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dole Food Company, Inc., has recently published a book entitled *Guidelines for the Development of National Standards for Organic Food Production*. The *Guidelines* have been presented to all countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Made In Nature commissioned the compilation of the *Guidelines* to assist governments in the development of their own organic standards. "As the burgeoning organic market is rather new, many nations do not currently have their own national program for organic food production regulation, rather, growers rely on importing their certification," said the company's president Gerald Prolman.

The *Guidelines* contain information on the general principles of organic production, soil management standards, crop management standards, and organic product processing standards. Also contained in the manual are appendices on accepted, restricted and prohibited agricultural inputs, allowable processing inputs, guidelines on organic certification program management, organic certification agency evaluation program guidelines, the U.S. Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, and IOIA's Organic Inspection Manual.

Made In Nature is a leading brand marketer in North America of certified organic produce. To maintain year-round supplies for its upscale retail clientele, the company sources from a variety of regionally diverse countries. "It is an important aim of Made in Nature to foster the development of organic agriculture throughout the world," said Prolman.

Made In Nature intends this document to contribute to positive economic developments, and greatly benefit the environment in the countries that receive the compilation and utilize the materials. The *Guidelines* provide Latin American and Caribbean governments with the basic information to establish their own criteria for a national organic standards program.

For more information contact Gerald Prolman at Made In Nature, 7 Mt. Lassen Drive, San Rafael, CA, 94903, USA, ph: 415.499.3309, fax: 415.499.3347.

## OTA READIES STRATEGY FOR FEDERAL REGISTER RESPONSE

Greenfield, MA - A careful strategy of response has been mapped out by the Organic Trade Association in anticipation of the publication of the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Organic Program proposed rule this spring.

"The Board feels it is critical that the association's strategy of response is in place," said Katharine DiMatteo, executive director of OTA. "We've worked with the National Organic Program staff for 3 years and have been assured that the rule will reach the Federal Register soon. We want to make sure that our members and the industry at large understand the procedure for public comment and are prepared to respond during the 60- to 90-day period that will follow the rule publication," she explained.

OTA will inform its members immediately when the rule has been posted and where they can obtain a copy. Members of the OTA Board of Directors and committee chairpersons will receive individual copies of the rule and will be asked to read the document promptly to identify specific areas that may need discussion. Individual committees then will send their comments to the Quality Assurance Council (QAC), chaired by William Knudsen, of Knudsen & Sons, Inc., Chico, CA, and OTA Director. The QAC recommends organic farming and food manufacturing standards, certification procedures and considers all research and technical matters.

Knudsen stressed promptness in response. "We want to have time to thoroughly review all of the committees' comments in order that our recommendations to the Board of Directors are complete. The Board then will draft the OTA position statements which will be submitted to the USDA. All OTA members will be encouraged to support the association position and to submit individual comments," he explained. Michael Ford, executive director of the National Nutritional Foods Association (NNFA) has agreed to co-sponsor meetings in different geographic areas of the United States to discuss the proposed rules.

"This is a really exciting year for the organic industry," exclaimed DiMatteo. "There really is light at the end of the tunnel. The work of our members and the National Organic Standards Board has been tireless. We're looking forward to this final comment period so that we can truly see implementation of the NOP in 1997."

The Organic Trade Association represents the organic production industry in Canada and the United States. Its members include growers, shippers, retailers, processors, certifiers, farmer associations, brokers, distributors, and consultants. The association serves to promote organic products in the marketplace and protect the integrity of organic standards.



## EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY - February 3, 1996

By Janine Gibson

Present were Rick, Chip, Jim, Gary and Janine.

Our main points of discussion were how to improve our Accreditation process, our financial position, the state of our committee structure (more work needed here on our organizational plan!), and upcoming trainings (See Calendar of Events). We're all looking forward to getting together in Santa Fe: the AGM, the advanced training, the hot springs...Join us! We are now looking for a lawyer to provide legal counsel to IOIA, perhaps via a board position. If you know of a lawyer interested in being an organic activist, send them our way! Consider increasing your own participation with us. Would you accept committee work or a board position? Call Chip at 970.587.2734. In addition to his nominations work, he's also drafting a letter to request an official IOIA seat on the OCC at John Burns timely suggestion.

We thank Pete Gonsalves for his efforts as Accreditation Committee chair, as he is now resigning that position. Margaret and Chip are considering stepping in. We discussed creating some distance between the Accreditation Review Panel (ARP) - which reviews and evaluates applications for accreditation, and the Accreditation Committee itself, which oversees the entire accreditation process. The committee will be discussing establishing a 45-day response time to applications and perhaps encouraging biannual applications dates (October and March?). The ARP will now consist of four IOIA members (rather than committee members) and one non-inspector member. We will also be approaching Tony Kleese of OCC to request a nomination of an OCC representative to sit on the Accreditation Committee. The new chair of this committee will be in touch with applicants about the ARP's decisions.

We thanked Jim for representing IOIA at the recent OCIA Annual Meeting in Guelph, Canada. He kept his costs very low, his profile (and ours) high, sold manuals and merchandise and encouraged training attendance. We reimbursed his expenses.

Announcements: The Virginia Association of Biological Farmers will no longer be offering certification services. Farewell and thanks to Michael Pratt, who is leaving OCIA as Certification Director, and to Clara Van Eaton, who has left FVO. The OCIA office is leaving Betty's Farm and her cookie-munching cows; and Roni Bruner has left OGBA. Know of a non-profit consumer advocate group that could endorse our mandate and be an IOIA

supporter? Call Chip: And Stay in touch!

## URBAN COMPOST AS FERTILITY INPUT

By Joyce Ford

One of the workshops I attended at Asilomar was on the use of urban compost on organic farms as a fertility input. This is of concern to inspectors as a growing number of organic farmers are turning to their local city or county composting operation as an inexpensive source of nutrients to add to their fields. I have been concerned about the questions we, as inspectors, should be asking when these products are being used. The producer using the compost should also be interested in the quality of the compost.

Most of the workshop dealt with what the California Integrated Waste Management Board is doing in this area and the compost demonstrations ongoing at this time.

Guidelines for compost product quality have been proposed and include the following:

1. Type of materials used or allowed in the composting process. This is extremely important and should include baseline information on all products accepted by the composting facility.
2. Average temperature during composting, peak temperature, and length of time at or above average temperature.
3. Composting method (static pile, windrow, in-vessel, other), frequency of turning or aeration, and length of curing phase.
4. Moisture content (% water)
5. Bulk density (pounds, per cubic yard, wet & dry basis)
6. Screen size or maximum particle size.
7. Organic matter content (% dry weight basis)
8. Salinity (dS/m or mmho/cm in 5:1 water extract and % soluble salts, dry weight basis)
9. pH
10. Total N, P, and K

These are only guidelines to produce quality compost. The organic inspector should pay close attention to the type and source of compost inputs in order to identify potential contaminants. Stuart Pettygrove, an extension agent, stated that solid wastes, biosolids, questionable compost ingredients such as industrial wastes, and sewage sludge, would be prohibited materials for compost. Contaminants could include bacterial pathogens, petroleum residues, sharp objects, trace metals, and plastics.

For more info about urban compost, contact the CA Integrated Waste Management Board, ph: 916.255.2296.



# ORGANIC COFFEE: THE BOTTOMLESS CUP

By Jim Riddle

A recent article in *E Magazine* by K. David entitled "The Truth About Organic Coffee" should have been titled "One Person's Mis-informed Opinions About Organic Coffee." While it contained some accurate information, the article was unfortunately tainted by a derogatory attitude concerning organic production practices.

I have been an organic inspector in the Midwest for 10 years. I know the differences in production practices and inputs between organic and conventional soybean farms, grain farms, vegetable operations and dairies, but I have not inspected organic coffee "farms." In order to get some first hand information on the subject, I interviewed Rick Martinez, president of IOIA. Rick has inspected over 1,000 organic coffee operations, and is quite knowledgeable about conventional practices.

Rick told me that there is a world of difference between organic and conventional practices. As the article correctly stated, "Coffee is the third most heavily sprayed crop in the world, and it is often sprayed with DDT and malathion." Indeed, conventional coffee production is chemically intensive, relying on heavy inputs of herbicides, fungicides and fertilizers, and to a lesser extent, insecticides and ripening agents. Most conventional plantations grow hybrid coffee in large, mono-cropped plots in full sun, on steep hillsides highly susceptible to erosion. Streams are contaminated by the runoff and the areas are devoid of wildlife habitat. Disempowered workers are paid as little as possible, with no benefits and no control over production practices.

Coffee is naturally an understory tropical plant. Organic growers follow the traditional practices of growing old, genetically-adapted varieties in the understory of leguminous trees, which replenish the fertility of the fragile soil. The canopy also includes crops such as bananas, nuts and hardwoods which provide food, fuel and lumber for the families. Careful management of the shade cover is essential in providing fertility, maximizing yield and avoiding fungal diseases. Organic coffee is typically grown in small diversified plots in harmony with the natural environment.

In contrast to the large conventional plantations, most of the organic coffee on the market is produced by community grower groups and cooperatives. Families pool the production from their own plots. Buyers source the beans directly from the cooperatives

and grower groups. Growers are able to maintain their traditional lifestyles while protecting the environment and receiving fair prices for their coffee. Despite these huge differences, the article made the outrageous assertion that "the working conditions for organic plantations are the same as the nonorganic ones."

The article also claimed that organic certification prohibits the use of "nitrogen inoculant on seeds" and that organic certification costs \$30,000 per farm. It may cost that much for the certification of a collective of 500 growers, which averages out to \$60 per farm. In addition, certification costs are generally paid by the exporting company, not individual coffee growers.

It is true that organic coffee requires more labor. This translates into jobs and support of ecologically sustainable agricultural systems

Next time you shop for coffee, or order a cup at a restaurant, ask for organic brew. If they don't have it, don't just throw a fit or threaten a boycott. Refer the managers to their local food co-op or the Organic Trade Association (ph: 413.774.7511) where they can learn about suppliers of organic coffee beans.



**And Now For Something Completely Different: Forms Committee meets to discuss proposals. Clockwise from left are Janning Kennedy (CCOF); John Burns (IOIA); Yvonne Frost (Oregon Tilth); Brian McElroy (CCOF); Tim Batiste (WA Dept. of Ag.); Tony Kleese (CFSA); and Howie Ross (QAI).**



## LEARNING LESSONS

*Contributed anonymously - for the edification of inspectors and the protection of those involved*

Getting to know others in the organic food industry is important. Recently, an acquaintance made at an IOIA training called me up. She had recognized my name on an inspection report and thought I might be able to give her needed background information to help with a difficult decision. She was serving on a certification committee considering reciprocal certification for a producer, in order that his product could be used by a processor also seeking certification. The processor had in the past been certified by her group. The producer was certified by another group.

I remembered the producer. Heavy with family and work responsibilities, he had been hostile and challenging during the previous inspection. It had taken hard work to establish rapport and get communication flowing. He seemed resentful of the inspection process and I interpreted his resentment as fear stemming from ignorance of the role inspection plays in the certification process. We talked at length. His fields, office and audit trail appeared in order. He was working with his family and health concerns about conventional production methods troubled him. His goal was to use organic management completely once the remainder of this fields moved through transition. It appears he couldn't wait...

My acquaintance had seen field histories from him that varied from application form to application form. Even acreage varied. The application I had read for '95 varied from the information he had given in '94 - and I had been the inspector both years! As many fields were in transition, I needed to check thru previous years to confirm which year of transition each field was in and which were eligible for organic certification. I wasn't thorough enough, taking only the '95 information into account, and not specifying which fields were in which year of transition. He had listed some fields as certifiable when, from the previous year's application, they clearly weren't ready.

My colleague also had his application to a third certifying body, where the field histories and acreage were different again! It appeared he was doing a lot of creative writing! He had also been extremely hostile to her, making communication difficult. The processor she was working with would be put on the spot due to the supply problems this would generate, but they did not want transitional product, they wanted certified organic. And this producers credibility appeared shot. With all these different stories, what could we believe?

I called the head office of the certifying body

and the executive director gave me the correct procedure. I contacted the specific certification committee with my new information and revised recommendations. I sent a copy of my letter to the colleague who had alerted me to the circumstances. I withdrew my recommendation for any certification as the credibility of this producer was jeopardized.

I was extremely grateful my colleague had called me, giving me the opportunity to ACT to change recommendations that probably would have enabled transitional product to be sold as organic. I'll work to continue to learn the many lessons involved in thoroughness during inspections. Additional research needed for clarity and accurate recommendations, where there is hostility from a producer, mustn't be overlooked. I have been too trusting. Getting to know people is more important AND more difficult than I thought.

## MORE FARMERS' STORIES

Jackie Judice's family has been raising sugarcane in southern Louisiana since 1800; Kenny and Wanda Haines have grown vegetables organically on the coast of North Carolina for less than ten years. Despite differences in their operations, Kenny and Jackie are both pioneers of sustainable agriculture in the South, developing processes that renew their land, their families and communities, while meeting the economic demands of food and fiber markets.

The stories of the Judice and Haines farms have been collected along with ten others in *Farming More Sustainably in the South, Vol II: More Farmers' Stories*. Published in January 1996, this 44-page booklet includes producers of cotton, soybeans, sugarcane, citrus, vegetables, fruit, dairy, livestock, and cut flowers. Rotations, cover crops, composting, soil balancing, diversification, holistic resource management, the use of beneficial insects, and unique business and marketing strategies are a few of the practices discussed.

Volume II of *Farming More Sustainably...* follows the same format as Vol I. Successful farmers from all over the South share what they have gone through to make their farms more profitable and enjoyable. Though their methods vary widely, each story is full of inspiration and ideas.

Vol II is available from the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group for \$12 postpaid, or for \$17.50 you can receive both volumes. Make check or money order payable to Southern SAWG, Box 324, Elkins, AR 72727, USA. For more info contact Keith Richards at 501.292.3714 or email to [HN3551@handsnet.org](mailto:HN3551@handsnet.org).



## PROGRESSIVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

International organization seeks individual who has a background in food technology and an interest in sustainable/organic agriculture production. This individual must possess the ability to read, write and speak Spanish and English fluently (French a plus)

Strong communication skills are required for working with innovative producers and corporate executives from many different countries

PC literate with data management experience a must

Salary commensurate with experience and expertise in required areas. Competitive benefit package



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*W* E E D - Any plant that will survive at least 1 week without being watered, fertilized, pruned, sprayed, staked, mulched, misted, dusted, or wrapped in burlap, paper or plastic.

*\*\*from A Gardener's Dictionary by Beard & McKie*

## INDEPENDENT ORGANIC INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

I AM INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING:

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

Please Specify Category - All Funds Payable in US\$

Individual - Annual Dues - \$50.00

Organization - Annual Dues - \$250.00

The Inspectors' Report - 1 Year Subscription \$10.00 (4 issues)

1994-1995 IOIA Membership Directory - \$15.00

IOIA Organic Inspector Manual:

\$25.00 members  \$35.00 non-members

IOIA Inspector Caps - \$15.00, in English and Spanish. All caps are made from organic cotton

English, color choices:  natural  navy blue  plum

Spanish, color choices:  natural  olive green  plum

(Spanish caps also available from Gabi Soto-Munoz in Costa Rica, +506-224-3712)

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 1-3, 1996. *Organic Farm Inspector Training*, The Farm, Summertown, TN, USA. Contact Donna Whitmarsh, Virginia Association of Biological Farmers, Rt. 1 Box 46, Check, VA, 24072, USA Ph: 540.651.4747.

March 7-10, 1996. *BIO FACH*, Frankfurt, Germany. This is the largest trade fair in the world for organic food and natural products. Contact Sunder & Rottner, Von-Vollmar-Str. 4, D-91154 Roth, Germany. Ph: +49.9171.4011, fax: +49.9171.4016/4012.

March 16-April 14, 1996. *Sustainable Agriculture Production Techniques* sponsored by the Committee for Sustainable Agriculture. These regional, one-day conferences bring together sustainable agriculture professionals in research, farming, landscaping, turf management, and marketing. Topics include Landscaping and Gardening (March 16), Cotton (March 7), Turf and Golf Course (March 28), Prunes (April 4), Almonds and Walnuts (April 4), Citrus and Olives (April 4), Grapes (April 11), and Wine Grapes (April 14). Contact CSA, Davis office, ph: 916.756.6967 or fax: 916.756.7363.

March 25, 1996. *IOIA Annual Meeting*, Glorieta Conference Center, outside Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Contact IOIA, Rt. 3 Box 162-C, Winona, MN, USA. 55987-9514, Ph/fax: 507.454.8310, email: jriddle@luminet, net.

March 26-28, 1996. *IOIA Advanced Organic Inspector Training* for experienced inspectors only. Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, NM, USA. This training is being held in conjunction with IOIA's Annual Meeting. Contact IOIA, Rt. 3 Box 162-C, Winona, MN, USA, 55987-9514, Ph/fax: 507.454.8310, email: jriddle@luminet, net.

March-May, 1996. *Organic Farm and Process Inspector Training through Distance Education*. Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. Contact Dinah Ceplis, Assiniboine Community College, 1430 Victoria Ave. East, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada, R7A 2A9, Ph: 204.726.6617, fax: 204.726.7021.

March 14-17, 1996 *Natural Products Expo West* at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, California. Contact New Hope Communications, ph: 303.939.8440.

March 16-17, 1996. "It's Simple... Farms = Food." *OEFFA's 17th Annual Conference*, Muskingum College, New Concord, Ohio, USA. This organic farming conference will host over 40 workshops, including tips

from the experts on organic and low input grain and vegetable production, marketing and handling, and agricultural policy. Contact Sean McGovern at the OEFFA office at PO Box 82234, Columbus, Ohio, 43202 or ph: 614.294.3663.

April 14-19, 1996. *IOIA Organic Farm and Process Inspector Training*, Crowne Plaza, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA. Contact IOIA office. This training will be 6 days, 3 days for farm and 3 days for process inspector training.

April 14-20, 1996. *IOIA Organic Farm and Process Inspector Training*, Fundacion de Vida Rural de la Universidad Catolica de Chile (FVR), Pirque, CHILE. This training will be given in Spanish only. Contact Virginia Astorga Zanzi, ph: +56.2.632.4955, fax: +56.2.632.6533.

May, 1996. *Advanced Organic Inspector Training* for experienced inspectors only, Brandon, Manitoba, CANADA. Contact Assiniboine Community College (see above).

August 11-15, 1996. *11th Scientific Conference*, International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM), Copenhagen, Denmark. Contact IFOAM, Blegdamsvej 4, DK-2200 Copenhagen, N Denmark, ph: (+45 35 37 20 96, fax: +45 35 37 40 96.



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