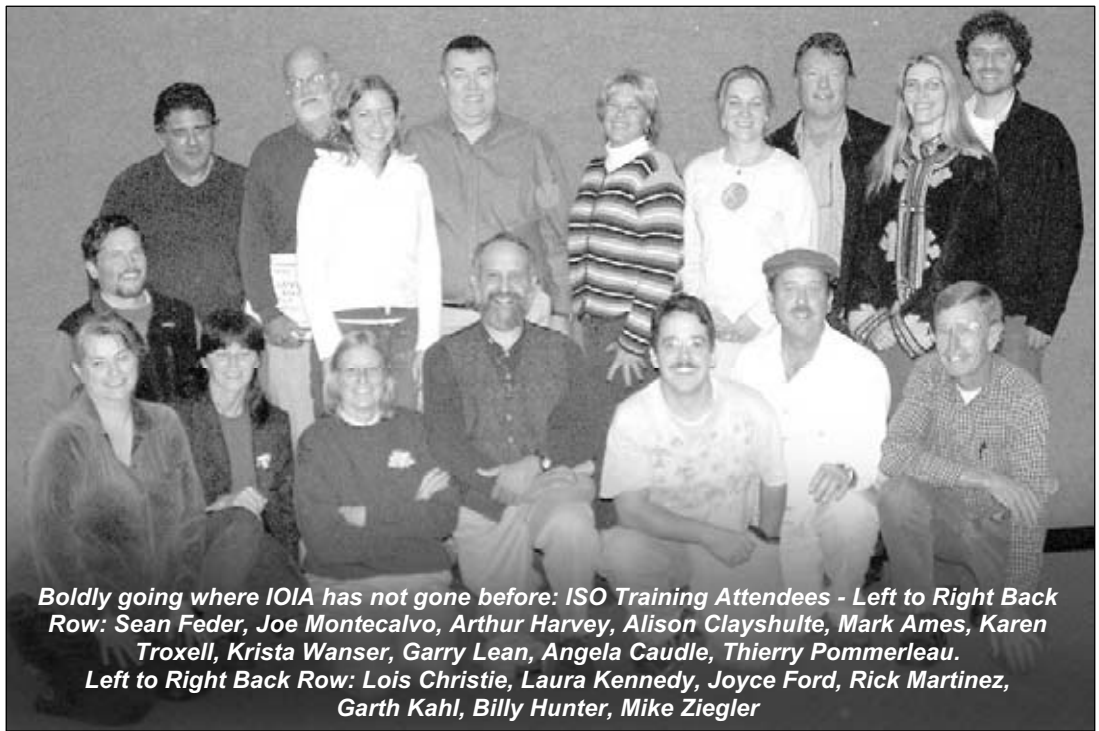


IOIA Sponsors ISO 9001:2000 Lead Auditor Training

By Margaret Scoles

Eighteen adventuresome people attended the first ever IOIA sponsored, RAB accredited, 36 hour, ISO 9001:2000 Lead Auditor Training. Mark Ames and Bob Sommerdorf of AQS Management Systems presented the course at Appel Farm in Elmer, New Jersey on October 18-22. That is news in itself. The group was an excellent cross-section of the organic community. The course was supported by about a dozen inspectors; several certification agencies including OTCO, CCOF, GOA, QCS, SCS; and one consultant. The fact that all of those who finished the course received Certificates of Completion attests to the caliber of the group and to IOIA, and is further good news.



Boldly going where IOIA has not gone before: ISO Training Attendees - Left to Right Back Row: Sean Feder, Joe Montecalvo, Arthur Harvey, Alison Clayshulte, Mark Ames, Karen Troxell, Krista Wanser, Garry Lean, Angela Caudle, Thierry Pommerleau. Left to Right Front Row: Lois Christie, Laura Kennedy, Joyce Ford, Rick Martinez, Garth Kahl, Billy Hunter, Mike Ziegler

To receive a Certificate, attendees must attend all sessions, participate fully, and score at least a minimum grade on the test. Sommerdorf and Ames said they had never had a group that asked such 'deep and penetrating questions'. It probably isn't news to IOIA members that breaks got shorter and shorter to cover the material and allow for a million questions. Most attendees knew little about ISO 9001 before they received their standards to study in advance. But the group bravely and voraciously tackled the new material and exercises that were better geared for manufacturing auto parts than organic food.

The concepts and techniques were all useful....Study the rules (referred to as clauses); prepare audit checklists based on the clauses, sample documents and examination of the quality manual as a team; conduct the opening meeting; conduct the audit and gather evidence; conduct the closing meeting; and finally report the findings and tie to the appropriate clauses...tips on dealing with noncooperative clients and how to deal with major non-conformances when they are found. Sound familiar? One huge benefit of the exercises noted that differed from most of our work as organic inspectors was the value of 'team auditing'.

The synergy within the group was incredible. Many attendees said that what they'd learned things would be useful in organic inspection work. Representatives of certification agencies said they learned lots about setting up a quality system, writing a quality system manual, and preparing to be audited. Others said they'd learned ideas to improve their teaching techniques. The quality of the instruction was great. Day after day of PowerPoint text was broken with humor and interactive, simulated real-life audit exercises to keep the group engaged. The group broke into smaller groups to practice auditing and being audited. A practice test provided a sobering checkpoint midway through the course. Most attendees described the final open-book test (timed to 2 hours) as difficult.

Mark Ames, president of AQS, serves on a committee that is developing AG9000 ISO Standards. He gave a preview of his work as a bonus after class one day. When asked how long the presentation would take, Ames replied, "With most groups, 30 minutes. With this group, all bets are off." It took an hour.

The course was intense and the attendees serious. Surprisingly, even though the course was twice as long as other Advanced courses, there were few OSA entries. Sommerdorf and Ames were co-winners of the Outrageous Statement group. When Mark was explaining how to compare observed with the standard and identify non-compliances, he said, "Look for the mirror test showing that it is the opposite", Bob quipped, "so I'm good looking?"

What's in the future for IOIA and ISO?

1. More future trainings? This was a great first effort and a valuable membership service to both Inspector and Supporting Members. Most attendees said they would prefer exercises geared toward food processing. AQS can provide such training. AQS and IOIA will likely collaborate to offer further classes. However, due to the high cost of the course, it is imperative that we meet minimum number of attendees. It likely won't be offered again in 2005. If you are interested in taking this course in the future, please contact IOIA. One possibility would be in conjunction with the 2006 Annual Meeting somewhere in the US. AQS has also developed a Blended Learning Course which combines web based, on-line instruction, with two days on-site. This course would cost less but much of the benefit of group activity would be lost. [See ISO, page 10]

Board of Directors Conference Call - August 19, 2004 – Highlights of Minutes

BOD members present: Ann Baier, Luis Brenes, Dag Falck, Garry Lean, Brian Magaro, Jack Reams.

Long-range Planning: Discussion continued on Action Point from 14 March 04 minutes: Summarize and recommend 3 or 4 organizational priorities and specific goals or products that we will have accomplished by next year's AGM. The Board will decide upon priority goals and first steps or milestones to be accomplished by the next AGM. **Action Points:** Brian will compile and send out a compilation of all BOD members' priority recommendations by email in preparation for the next meeting. Long range planning will be included on the agenda of each Board meeting with a specified time limit.

Ann, BOD liaison to the **Training Committee**, reported that she'd requested input from current TOC members with respect to the potential Conflict of Interest represented by the membership of Trainers on the Training Oversight Committee after the May BOD meeting. She received input from two members.

CAPS, the ad-hoc committee of the training committee, is currently without a chair effective as of Lisa's resignation. Committee members are Ann, Harriet, Janine, Stanley, John O'Malley Burns, Margaret, and possibly Lisa. This subcommittee and the training committee are not active at this time.

Discussion: The **Training Manager** submitted a written Implementation Plan for procedures Lisa and Margaret have developed. The Board recognizes that a) upgrading the quality and consistency of IOIA's training programs, b) improving efficiency of management procedures, and c) managing the appearance of conflict of interest are three critical elements for IOIA to maintain/improve the relevance of our organization in a changing environment. By approving the Implementation Plan, the BOD recognizes Lisa and Margaret's authority to manage trainings efficiently, including making arrangements with cosponsors and decisions about Trainer selection. The Training Implementation Plan significantly changes the methods of oversight of training. Most notably, the Plan proposes an alternative to the TOC system used to date, and recommends that the training approval and Trainer selection process be a staff function not overseen by Trainers. The Board acknowledges and appreciates the dedication and service that has been provided by members of the TOC who are also Trainers. Trainers currently on the TOC will be thanked for their service and informed of the Board's decision to approve the Implementation Plan. The Board will review plans for oversight of these tasks, to include monthly written reports by the TM and ITM and reporting of highlights to the Board by a Board liaison.

We discussed the need for an IOIA curriculum that includes not only an agenda and manual (as we have currently) but also lectures and presentations. The questions of ownership, copyright, rights to use curriculum, and compensation for its development and presentation need further clarification. The Board recognizes the importance of using appropriate adult education methods.

The BOD approved the **Training Implementation Plan** prepared and presented by the TM and ITM effective Oct. 1, 2004. **Action Point:** The Board Liaison to the Training Committee will send a letter to the TOC summarizing the above discussion and decision.

Committees:

Ethics Committee supported keeping the \$50 fee for Inspector Complaints in response to the BOD's request for a recommendation on the fee. The Board agreed to accept their recommendation and make no changes to the fee structure at this time.

Membership: Margaret and Garry will continue to work with Chris Kidwell to prepare a mailing to all NOP Accredited Certification Agencies to increase awareness of IOIA, its work and trainings, and invite their membership.

Margaret reported that the dates IOIA chose for the 2005 AGM conflict with Natural Foods Expo West in Anaheim. The Board expressed their support for sticking with the chosen dates. ♣

IOIA: What We Are and Want To Be By Doug Crabtree

Over a year ago, I created a minor furor on the forum by suggesting that the IOIA needed to undergo a paradigm shift. The shift that I suggested, and which I still feel is necessary, was from an organization focused primarily on training new inspectors to one primarily dedicated to professional development. I posed the following question on the forum:

- a) Is the IOIA an association of professionals committed to personal and organic industry improvement? Or,
- b) Is the IOIA primarily a training organization serving certifiers by providing a steady flow of new inspectors at low cost?

In response to my question, Margaret Scoles suggested a third option:

- c) Is the IOIA an association of organic inspectors committed to addressing issues and concerns relevant to organic inspectors, quality inspector training and promoting consistency and integrity in the organic certification process?

So, the basic question is: What do you want your IOIA to be? Certainly, the IOIA is, and has always been, a training organization. Training is what brought most of us to the IOIA to begin with. Training continues to be a strength of the organization. I am not suggesting that we abandon training. I am suggesting that we expand the audience for IOIA trainings. There are many more producers, handlers, retailers, extension agents, agricultural service providers, certification agency personnel and accreditation program staff that need organic training than there are persons wanting to become organic inspectors. The same basic curriculum can be used, with minor adjustments, to train any of these groups.

The advantages of expanding the audience for IOIA trainings are three-fold. First, bringing training to non-inspector groups avoids the conflict- inherit in basic inspector training- of training our replacements. While organic agriculture continues to expand, both in acres and number of producers, this has not translated into a great need for more inspectors. So, training new inspectors often has the unintended consequence of either putting existing inspectors out of work or reducing the pay offered to inspectors. Simple supply and demand dictates that increasing the supply of inspectors will reduce the prices offered to all inspectors.

Second, training non-inspectors allows the IOIA to support the organization through fees charged to outside groups. Part of the problem with the broader mission suggested by c) (above) is that there are not enough organic inspectors or enough income among inspectors to support an organization that provides the services we all want. Trainings for non-inspector groups can and should be →

Highlights of September 30, 2004 Board of Directors Minutes

Full BOD minutes are available on the IOIA website in the "Inspector Members Only" section when approved by the BOD.

November minutes have not been approved yet.

BOD members present: Brian Magaro, Garry Lean, Ann Baier, Jack Reams, John Foster, Dag Falck

John Foster was welcomed to return to the BOD.

Decision: Set inspector membership dues for 2005 at \$100, including the hard copy newsletter. Within one issue of the newsletter will be an IOIA membership contact list. Full hard copy directories will be available for \$15. The full hardcopy membership directory will continue to be a membership benefit for certifier members. IOIA will request a voluntary assessment of \$1/inspection from all inspector members.

Long Range Planning is an important part of the BOD's work and will be included on the agenda for all meetings.

Minutes of the Aug. 18 conference call were accepted.

Dag Falck gave an Informal Canadian Committee Report.

Training Committee: Ann reported that letters were mailed on behalf of the BOD to the TOC and the Trainers regarding changes in the composition of the TOC and the Training Implementation Plan, respectively. Two trainers who had served on the TOC responded to the letter. Ann will respond to them in writing. The BOD is still receiving input about training oversight. A subcommittee will meet and further work to clarify oversight.

Highlights of November 18, 2004 Board of Directors Minutes

BOD members present: Brian Magaro, Garry Lean, Ann Baier, Jack Reams, Luis Brenes, Dag Falck

Financial Reports: BOD acknowledged/celebrated success with the RMA proposal (nearly \$50,000—but none until 2005). Business Plan that links IOIA's Missions and Goals with adequate income and fundraising is needed. BOD agreed that it would benefit IOIA to solicit BOD candidates who are strong in fundraising. Treasurer's reports anticipated a potential negative balance for 2004. General governance costs, membership fee income and training income to be discussed.

Long Range Planning: Action Point: Luis volunteered to write a summary in a few pages that will link the LaVeta BOD retreat 2000 to Broadus BOD retreat 2003 to IOIA's developing Business Plan. Everyone will send material to Luis. Jack begins with Business Plan by Dec. 8. Luis, Dag, and Brian will develop a draft by Christmas with goal of a completed draft by the Jan. 20 meeting.

Bylaws Discussion re: implementation of the First/Second Alternate amendment adopted at the AGM 2004. Action Points: Garry, as Vice-Chair, will speak with Margaret and Arthur Harvey, Bylaws Committee Chair, as he assists Chris Kidwell, Membership Committee Chair in preparing the nominations slate. Brian will ask the 2 current Alternates for recommitment to serve. Minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Training Oversight Discussion. The BOD agreed that the TOC needs a new definition but did not reach a decision on how to best accomplish oversight. Action Point: Ann, as BOD Liaison for Training Committee, Luis, and Margaret will meet to better outline the alternatives for the decisions that need BOD attention.

Decision: The BOD approved the Training Manager's recommendations for changes in the Trainer and Cosponsor Fee schedule, except that paid travel time is not limited to 2 days per training. Changes will increase trainer fees for most enrollment levels and better define payments for trainings where two trainers are required. BOD directed Training Manager to build a surcharge into the training fees for cosponsors to be used for professional development and to simplify the manner that IOIA fees are quoted to cosponsors.

Latin American Committee is currently inactive (since Lidia's resignation). Action Point: Luis will contact all of the committee members and see what they need, and would like to do with the committee, and then make a recommendation.

Decision: New Membership Procedures, as proposed by Membership Committee, were approved.

Decision: The BOD approved the ACA Mailing. Margaret was directed to ensure complete overlap between NOP's ACA list and IOIA's Supporting Certification Agency list.

IOIA, from previous page

priced so as to bring sufficient income to the IOIA to support services to inspector members. Finally, providing training to a broader audience, including diverse groups of non-inspectors, is the best way to extend our influence within the organic industry. All of these groups need training, and the IOIA, with our extensive experience in providing basic organic training to inspectors, is ideally positioned to provide the training. By establishing IOIA as the training organization for the entire organic industry, we would greatly enhance the reputation of the IOIA and increase our ability to promote consistency and integrity in the organic certification process.

Once we expand the audiences for IOIA trainings, the logical next step is to expand the organization itself to provide membership for other organic professionals. My vision for the future of IOIA is for us to become a true professional association for all persons involved in organic agriculture. By doing so, we could sit down together at our meetings and make real progress toward improving the certification process. Rather than inspectors speaking among ourselves about ways to change certifiers or accreditation bodies, we could have those persons in the organization, at the same table and in the conversations. That is the way we will have real influence and bring about real improvement in the field that we all care so much about.

So, I urge all members to think about what IOIA is, what you want it to be and how best to grow, support and promote our organization. Please contact any member of the board or check in on the IOIA Forum with your thoughts and ideas. 🍀

The Republic of Georgia

By Bob Howe

I have recently returned from a 16-day volunteer assignment with the goal of helping to bring organic certification to the Republic of Georgia. I traveled to the Capital city of Tbilisi and through much of western Georgia. This article is a recap of what I saw and felt about my visit there.

Geographic

The Republic of Georgia is an enigma to most Americans. It is situated, geopolitically, in one of the most strategic locations in the world. The country is referred to as on the "Silk Route", an appellation that was historically derived because of this keystone position and the fact that trade between the East and West had to travel through Georgia. Georgia's western border, on the Black Sea, is some of the most spectacular coastland to be found anywhere. Much of the commerce in the western and central Eurasian continental area has come, at one time or another, through Georgia at the ports on this seacoast. The Russian Federation borders Georgia on the north and to the northeast. Most of the trade of goods at the present time takes place between Russia and Georgia. South over most of the western half of this border is Turkey, south central is Armenia and southeast is Azerbaijan.

The People

The history of Georgia is rich. This country and its people have withstood occupation and subjugation for much of their existence, yet the spirit of the people and their sense of country has survived. My experience there was a step back in time, but in the present. The people and the way they live, in the 21st century, causes an outsider, particularly an American, to ultimately gasp at their anachronistic yet estimable ways.

The understanding of this aspect is easier once we look at what they have been through in recent history. The main reason, I think, why we know so little about Georgia has to do with the fact that the country was absorbed into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics after the Communist revolution. This caused Georgia to become more

or less invisible as a country. During that period the states in the Soviet Union were made to become interdependent and independent of outside commerce and influence, as much as possible. Georgia is and has been largely an agrarian economy. Very little manufacturing existed prior to their becoming part of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union, in its efforts to take advantage of resources and provide a productive opportunity for each citizen, introduced a lot of industry into Georgia, much of it extremely polluting to the environment. In one example, Georgia became the center for assembling aircraft. The parts for the aircraft were made in other states and shipped in to Georgia. In exchange, Georgia, because of its agrarian capability, was set up to be somewhat of a breadbasket for the other states. Many other examples exist, but it suffices to say that when Communism failed and the Soviet Union collapsed, the interdependence of the states came to an end. Georgia was now a country with huge factories, but nothing to use those factories for. Further, they no longer had a market for many of the agricultural products they had been supplying throughout the Soviet Union. Sometime around 1989 Georgia declared independence from the Union. The first president served for about two years before being replaced by Eduard Shevardnadze. Shevardnadze served during a time when the Georgian economy suffered and lost 70% of its value. His government made huge internal and external policy blunders and graft and corruption spread throughout. The factories, being no longer useful, were stripped of their machinery and any part of the infrastructure of value. I saw many large shells of what were once vital factories. Some of them were as large as any factory I have ever seen in the United States, but sitting idle and suffering slow deterioration from the elements. The people, left without their jobs, and who had lost most if not all of their savings when the banks defaulted, (and this is the impressive part), fell back onto their strength of heritage, and survived. I saw many donkey carts in the areas outside of the Capital city of Tbilisi. The carts were pulled by horses, cows, water buffalo and donkeys, and by people. When I asked about the carts I was told that they did not exist 15 years ago. The rural communities relied on their knowledge of growing food and

banded together in an ever-tighter community to make sure they would survive. The communities I visited, many of them small villages, were more like extended families, where everyone worked and cooperated for their community. My meeting with these farm families in this tiny community was the real beginning of my growing insight into the Georgian spirit.

There is much more that can be said about these people, how they live, where they live, how they get about, and so forth. It suffices to say that they are open to receiving advice and help, and they will take advantage of the advice and help and not ignore it. They are intent on bringing Georgia into the world free market and they are positive about bringing it to that point, and as quickly as possible. The devastated infrastructure, poor roads and difficult transportation and generally poor existence of the people makes this a daunting task. Shevardnadze was ousted from office during a peaceful coup in November of 2003. Their new president, Mikheil Saakashvili, is respected and very well liked by the people. It is hard to say just how much of the spirit I observed among the Georgian people is resulting from their recent and first real freedom in nearly ¾ of a century, and how much is really because of who they are and where they come from, their heritage.

The Farms

During the Communist era arable land was divided rather equally among the farmers. The average farm is somewhere around 1 hectare, roughly 2 acres. Most, if not all farms have livestock of some sort, usually one or more cows and horses. Pigs, chickens and sheep are common. The farms are quite sustainable, saving their own seed, spreading manure on the fields; graze their animals all the time during good seasons and make some attempts at crop rotations with legumes planted periodically on many. I observed that every spare bit of land was cultivated, including up to and around homes and buildings. No chemicals have been used because they are not available and because the farmers could not afford them if they were. Some areas in the country appeared to have large farms and I was informed that some had had chemical fertilizers applied. Much of the country is mountainous or at least very rolling with fairly steep slopes. Cultivation is largely done by hand, with the aid of horses. Weed management is labor intensive. Harvesting is also by hand, except in some locations where a combine is available. The equipment, if any, looks very old. The combines are reminiscent of what we refer to as early self-powered thresh-

ing machines. Tractors used are of a different configuration than what has been in use in the US for many years, and they are very old, or appear to be. Obsolescence does not seem to be an accepted place for machinery. Everything is repaired, in some fashion, and made to keep running.

Much in the way of farming methods needs to be explained to many of the farmers in Georgia. For example, there is a tendency to produce corn on the same fields year after year. I saw cultivation on the slope in several locations, rather than contour and strip. When I asked about this practice I was reminded of how the farm land had been divided up, and that the fields given to each farm were very narrow and long. Cultivation on the contour in these fields would leave a large portion of the field in headlands. The scientists I interviewed at the Institute in Batumi are aware that many practices need to be changed. They are hoping that services similar to our agricultural extension can be initiated there when resources become more available.

Crops are mostly hard corn, which is used to feed both animals and the people. They also produce soybeans and a variety of vegetables. Citrus grows in much of the area in the west, which is subtropical, also figs. Grapes are grown by nearly every Georgian (ergo the homemade wine), and nuts including chestnuts, hazelnuts and walnuts. Several other fruits are grown. I saw cabbages that were huge, in harvest at the time I was there. Also, I noticed that there was no insect damage. Being suspicious I thought that there might be some sort of pest management, but I was assured there were no persistent pest problems.

Organic Certification

There is no organic certification in the Republic at this time. I was pleased to discover and have the opportunity to meet with two groups that are working to generate markets for Georgian farmers and to bring organic certification to the country. One of the groups, "Elkana Biological Farming Association", a non-profit, has a membership of about 200 farmers. They are working to aid farmers to improve growing methods and to provide them with market opportunities in the coun-



Four Generations Husking Corn, Republic of Georgia

try. Also, they are setting up a fund, through outside benefactors, to provide low interest loans to the farmers. The second group, "Caucacert", is a local group that hopes to become an organic certification agency. They have a small staff, including one inspector, and are using standards developed by Elkana and patterned after IFOAM standards. Training is somewhat vague and apparently was done by guidance from Naturland and through trips to organic sites in some European locations. By and large, these two groups are very motivated. I spent some part of my time there providing them with recommendations and information on how to go about establishing an internationally accredited certification entity, and how to get some farms certified in the interim. The understanding of organic certification, for the most part, is minimum and very misunderstood. The government is faced with huge priorities that obviate any assistance from them for the efforts, and the farmers are not fiscally able to afford certification on their own. The lack of a certifying body and only one inspector, who is not yet mentored, makes the task difficult. The two groups are beginning to dialogue with some of the accredited agencies to, hopefully, establish an affiliation in Georgia. They believe that the best way to promote Georgian agriculture in the free market is through organic certification. An official at USAID (United States Agency for International Development), in Tbilisi, told me that certification in Georgia was

not respected due to the fact that any form of certification there, in the past, was bought through graft and had no validity. This has to be overcome and, I believe, an accredited certification body from outside the country needs to be involved.

The small size of the farms, and the minimum income from sales that can be recognized, led me to the conclusion that Smallholder groups would be the most effective and cost minimizing way of introducing organic certification in Georgia. I worked with a group of 10 farmers with a crop of Stevia, and a potential processor in Tbilisi for extraction from the Stevia. When I left, I had provided them with a plan for organization of the group as a Community Grower Group in contract with the processor, a company called LTD Biotech (the use of the term "biotech" in this country is not intended to indicate GMO, as they have prohibited GMO production in the country, by law). They have all the information necessary to form the group and initiate an application for certification to NOP and EU1092/91, as well as JAS equivalency. The Institute in Batumi is acting in their behalf as technical advisors on the production at the farms, and the methods for extraction of the steviacides at the processor. They have, also, been seeking markets for the extract in US and Europe, and have established some potential markets.

Volunteer opportunities

There are other opportunities, similar to mine, to visit Georgia and provide assistance on a volunteer basis. All expenses are covered for the visits.

[See **Georgia**, page 22]

Resources

New COOL Resources Country of Original Labeling - enabling consumers to know where their food comes from, and to make informed choices about supporting U.S. grown -was one of the concrete legislative victories won during the 2002 US Farm Bill. Two new resources on this are:

Separating Fiction from Truth: How the Voluntary COOL Bill will Impact the U.S. Cattle Industry, is a fact sheet developed by R-CALF.

Eating Blind: Why Congress and the Meat Industry Don't Want You to Know Where Your Food Comes From. Together, these documents are rich in info and ideas for framing these important issues. You can see them at www.sustainableagriculture.net/CompandC.php

UK Organic Seed Site Organic farmers now have access to a website (www.organicXseeds.co.uk) which provides info on the availability of organic seeds within the UK. A complementary web site is that of the Centre for Organic Seed Information (www.cosi.org.uk).

Proceedings: European Organic Farming Stats A comprehensive book on the current challenges related to organic farming statistics has now been published as part of a European Commission funded project. The EISFOM-project (European Information System for Organic Markets) aims to build up a framework for reporting credible organic production and market statistics. The proceedings of the first EISFOM European conference held in Berlin in April 2004 include more than 50 papers. See it at: www.orgprints.org/00002935/.

CORE Organic Project A project called "Coordination of European Transnational Research in Organic Food and Farming", or CORE Organic, is a new European initiative to enhance quality, relevance and resource utilisation in organic food and farming research. The initiative comprises 11 European countries supported by the EU-commission. Since the

present organic research effort is characterised by small research communities, often scattered and fragmented both geographically and institutionally, CORE Organic aims to gather a critical mass and through coordination and collaboration enhance quality, relevance and utilisation of resources in European research. Further Info is available at <http://www.core-organic.org/>

Carcinogenic Compound Dbase A new table contains info about the potential carcinogenic compounds formed during food preservation and cooking, specifically nitrates, nitrites, nitrosamines, heterocyclic amines (HA), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). It is hoped this database will help food developers quantify dietary exposure to these compounds, and to analyze their relation to the risk of cancer. Standard food composition tables do not include these compounds.

Researchers from EPIC-Spain, the Spanish branch of the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC), conducted a literature search on the Medline and EMBASE databases for available published data on the food concentration of these compounds.

The table is based on 139 references from 23 different countries, and includes 207 food items for nitrites, nitrates and nitrosamines, 297 food items for HA, and 313 for PHA.

Food info in the table includes cooking methods, preservation methods, cooking doneness, temperature, and time, while compound information covers type, quantity, analytic methods, and sampling methods. The table may be downloaded free of charge at

<http://www.epic-spain.com/libro.html>

Final Report from the First World Conference on Organic Seed is now available online in MS Word and .pdf format at:

<http://www.ifoam.org/orgagri/OSC-Final-Report.doc> OR

<http://www.ifoam.org/orgagri/OSC-Final-Report.pdf>

Farmcentre Online This is a great publication out of Canada. They offer a free subscription service, check it out at www.farmcentre.com. They still offer free hardcopies within Canada.

New Organic Major at the University of Guelph The University of Guelph Senate has approved a new program in organic farming. Undergraduate students will now be able to take a major in organic farming. For more info, contact Prof. E. Ann Clark, eaclark@uoguelph.ca or Prof. Stewart Hilts, shilts@uoguelph. at the University of Guelph. Also, Alfred College (Alfred Ontario) will be converting its farm to become the center for organic dairy research for the University of Guelph.

Organic Eprints Archive The Organic Eprints archive is a tool to further develop research in organic agriculture. The main objectives are to facilitate the communication of research papers and proposals, to improve the dissemination and impact of research findings, and to document the research effort. In accordance with these objectives the archive is designed to facilitate international use and cooperation.

The archive will accept many kinds of papers: preprints (pre-review), postprints (post-review) and reprints (published) of scientific papers, conference papers and posters, theses, reports, books and book chapters, magazine articles, web products, project descriptions, and other published or unpublished documents.

The only criteria for acceptance are that the documents are relevant to research in organic agriculture, that they have a finished form that is ready to enter into a process of communication, and that the required metadata information is correct. <http://orgprints.org/>

New MIT Food Series MIT Press has a new book series entitled *Food, Health and Environment* and is eager to consider new manuscripts. See <http://departments.oxy.edu/uepi/MITPress/food.htm> for a brief description of the series.

They are now accepting manuscripts and hope to build a strong community food security focus that can link the different titles that get published. They are interested in academic as well as more activist or "practitioner" (to use the academic phrase) manuscripts for the series. Contact series director Bob Gottlieb at (gottlieb@oxy.edu) if you have a manuscript, a proposal, or a query about a possible book.

USDA Agbiotech Intellectual Property Dbase Check it out at:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/AgBiotechIP/>

Hedgerow Farmscaping Manual Now available online from Community Alliance With Family Farmers, www.caff.org

Proceedings: California Conference on Biological Control IV & Organic Production

The proceedings of "California Conference on Biological Control IV," available as a web download (22 MB) and on CD-ROM, is an excellent resource on biological control, with theme topics on:

→Bottom Up Effects in Biological Control: The Role of the Soil Environment in Pest Suppression

→Habitat Manipulation and Management for Biological Control

→Legally Compliant Organic Pesticides: Compatibility with Natural Enemies

→Economic Success in Biological Control: Barriers and Solutions

See the Post-Conference website:

[http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/biocon/C](http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/biocon/California%20Conference%20on%20Biological%20Control%20IV.htm)

•PDF Download (22 MB)

[http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/biocon/C](http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/biocon/CBC%20IV%20Proceedings%202004.pdf)

•Conference Program with titles and speakers

[http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/biocon/C](http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/biocon/CBC%20Program.pdf)

The second part, "*California Organic Production and Farming in the New Millennium*," containing additional key papers, is published separately as a 165-page proceedings.

New, Updated ATTRA Publications The ATTRA National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service is pleased to announce the availability of the following new and updated publications.

• Tree Fruit: Organic Production Overview

• Potting Mixes for Certified Organic Production

• Organic Crop Production Overview

• Field Bindweed Control Alternatives

• Oilseed Processing for Small-scale Producers

• Enterprise Budgets and Production Costs for Organic Production

These and nearly 250 other FREE publications are available to American farmers, ranchers, educators, and others involved in commercial agriculture in the U.S. Call 1-800-366-

9140 (toll-free) to request copies, or visit www.attra.ncat.org. For Spanish-language assistance and publications, call 1-800-411-3222.

10 Ways to Fix Agriculture Trade

Global trade in agriculture is a mess. The mix of national policies and multilateral rules has sent commodity prices plunging. Farmers around the world have been forced off their land because they can no longer make a living. While much of agricultural trade policy is focused on the World Trade Organization, the WTO has failed rural communities around the world by not incorporating binding commitments toward the human right to food and the establishment of a resilient rural sector as a basis for development.

A new fact sheet from the Institute for Ag Trade & Policy outlines 10 proposals for lifting prices for farmers to sustainable levels and fixing the agricultural trading system. The fact sheet is available in English and Spanish at www.iatp.org.

Canadian Subsidy Directory This publication contains more than 2600 listings of grants and loans offered by government departments, foundations and associations. The American Grants and Loans Directory is also available for the United States. The publication is sold for: \$69.95. More info at: 450-224-9275

2004 USFDA Produce Safety Plan

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has unveiled its 2004 produce safety action plan, entitled "Produce Safety from Production to Consumption: 2004 Action Plan to Minimize Foodborne Illness Associated with Fresh Produce Consumption." It is posted at www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/prodpla2.html.

Organic Farmers' Co-op Launches Web-Based Meat Tracking System

Farmer Direct Co-operative Ltd., an organic farmers' co-operative based out of Regina, Saskatchewan, has become the first company in North America to launch a web-based tracking system for meat products.

Through the fairDeal tracking system (www.fairDealfood.org/Tracking.htm) and fairDeal Best Management Practices (www.fairDealfood.org/BMP.htm), Farmer Direct addresses the rising consumer demand for safe, ethically produced, high quality food.

"Through the development of our web-based tracking system customers can now conveniently visit the farm online. They can see where their meat purchase came from, view pictures of the herd and learn how their meat was raised", states Kim Schulz, Sales Manager. "Clients can also view the farm's organic certificate plus the packer's organic and CFIA certificates."

In the wake of the BSE crisis, the Canadian beef industry determined that a tracking and traceability system was needed. Independently, this small farmers' co-operative went ahead and designed the innovative, web-based fairDeal tracking system.

Other Farmer Direct products that can be traced back to the farm through the fairDeal include flaxseed, lentils, peas, beans and durum. All food with the fairDeal seal is Certified Organic, from a farmers' co-operative and fairly traded. To learn more about the fairDeal please visit www.fairDealfood.org. To learn more about Farmer Direct Co-operative please go to www.farmerdirect.ca.

For a demonstration of the system please go to www.fairDealfood.org and enter the following lot numbers: 1202-04-FGL, 1173-04-GP, 1120-04-LGL, 1347-04-BF, 1116-04-DW, 1214-119+121-BUF and 1357-04-BEF.

For more info contact Jason Freeman, Sales and Marketing Manager, 306 352 2496. Email: jason@farmerdirect.ca

Redesigned Eat Well Guide The Global Resource Action Center for the Environment (GRACE)GRACE and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy have just redesigned and re-launched the Eat Well Guide - www.eatwellguide.org - an online directory of sustainable meat, poultry, dairy and eggs.

The Eat Well Guide allows consumers to enter a zip code and be directed to farms and stores that sell sustainable foods in their neighborhoods.

OACC E-zine The Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC) invites you to see the current issue of Organic Friends' E-zine at the following URL:

<http://www.organicagcentre.ca/FriendsE-zines/>

Organic Friends' E_Zine is a monthly email publication which highlights the most recent up-dates on the OACC website.

Certified Organic Food Directory 2005

available to pre-order for \$39.95 through www.naturalfoodnet.com

Anti GMO Provisions Defeated in 3 of 4 Calif. Counties

Initiatives banning biotechnology or GMO crops in some California counties failed in three of the four locales that had them on the Nov. 3 ballot.

Voters in Butte County rejected the biotech ban by a margin of 61% to 39%, while those in San Luis Obispo County defeated the measure by a margin of 59% to 41%. Voters also rejected a proposed biotech ban in Humboldt County, which had been declared unconstitutional even before the election.

In Humboldt County, supporters had dropped their efforts after there were complaints that the ballot language had inaccurate scientific descriptions and had called for the jailing of farmers growing GMO crops.

In Marin County, an anti-biotech measure won approval as expected via a 61% to 39% margin.

The Farm Bureau spin was typical. "We thank the voters for supporting the family farmers of Butte and San Luis Obispo counties," California Farm Bureau Federation President Bill Pauli said. "Flexibility in crop choices benefits both farmers and consumers. Family farmers take great pride in growing healthy and affordable food for consumers. We grow what consumers demand." [He obviously hasn't been to the UK lately.]

Although the Humboldt measure was disavowed by its original proponents and suffered defeat, the Arcata City Council subsequently passed an anti-GMO ordinance. By a unanimous 4-0 vote, Arcata, located in Humboldt County, passed Ordinance 1350, which adds a chapter to the Municipal Code to declare the sales, distribution, propagation, cultivation, raising or growing of genetically engineered organisms a public nuisance and subject to criminal enforcement. Check it out at:

<http://www.calgefree.org/documents/ARCATAORDINANCE.doc>

Gene Flow Conference Proceedings Posted by Pew

In late 2002, researchers reported traces of transgenic corn in Mexican maize. Because transgenic corn had been banned from Mexico, this

announcement triggered an international debate about the science and public policies related to unintended gene flow. To help address the many questions and concerns raised by this issue, the Pew Initiative on Food and Biotechnology (PIFB) and the U.S.-Mexico Foundation for Science (FUMEC) held a two-day public conference in September 2003 in Mexico City, titled *Gene Flow: What Does It Mean for Biodiversity and Centers of Origin?* Proceedings from the conference are now available on the Pew Initiative website in both English and Spanish translations.

To view the English proceedings, go to <http://pewagbiotech.org/events/0929/Proceedings-English.pdf>.

To view the Spanish proceedings, go to <http://pewagbiotech.org/events/0929/Proceedings-Spanish.pdf>.

US Farmers planted 1/3 of U.S. corn acres to GMOs in 2004

WASHINGTON — A new nationwide survey of U.S. corn farmers found that they planted only 34.4% of their total corn acres to biotech varieties in 2004. Five hundred farmers were polled in the sixteen top corn producing states that represent 92% of 2004 corn acreage for harvest, according to an Aug. 12 USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Crop Production Report. Farmers surveyed had at least one hundred acres of corn. The 500 farmers reported planting 208,414 total acres to corn, with 71,633 of those acres, or 34.4% planted to GMO varieties, compared to the 32.2% that those same farmers reported planting to GMO varieties in 2003. The states included in the survey were: Iowa, Ill., Neb., Minn., Ind., Ohio, S. D., Wisc., Kan., Mo., Mich., Ky., Texas, Colo., N. D. and Pa. A March USDA prospective planting survey of corn farmers, done before corn planting was underway, projected that 46% of corn acres would be planted to GMO varieties in 2004.

"This survey suggests that U.S. corn farmers may well be taking the concerns and demands of foreign consumers and importers into account in their planting decisions by holding their GMO corn acres to only about a third of the total acres they planted to corn this year," said Dan McGuire, CEO of the ACGF. "Given the corn supply and demand reports issued in Mid-August by the USDA showing only 1.925 billion bushels of corn exports this marketing

year and with new crop corn prices in the \$1.80 per bushel range in South Dakota, U.S. corn farmers are right to be concerned about the U.S. holding on to foreign markets. Low corn prices have not delivered increased corn exports as promoted by advocates of current farm and trade policy. Plus, attempts by the U.S. government and agribusiness to force foreign markets to accept biotech corn varieties has not been a customer-oriented strategy to say the least. It appears that the majority of U.S. corn farmers are putting the customer first and factoring that into their seed choices." Aug. 16, 2004 — CropChoice news

New Report from BioTech Infonet

"*Genetically Engineered Crops and Pesticide Use in the United States: The First Nine Years*" is now posted online. The abstract is at: <http://www.biotech-info.net/technicalpaper7.html> The PDF Link takes you to the 53-page report. http://www.biotech-info.net/Full_version_first_nine.pdf

Farmers' Guide to GMOs

Just released by the Farmers' Legal Action Group (FLAG) and Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA (RAFI-USA), this publication is required reading for all farmers, processors and anyone that is involved with organic and non-GMO crops. David Moeller and Michael Sligh, in this 53 page document, go over all the sources of information, describe the various kinds of legal proceedings, give farmers tips on avoiding contamination and provide one of the best resource lists available.

Copies of the *Farmers' Guide to GMOs*, the first comprehensive look at the subject, are available free at www.flaginc.org and www.rafiusa.org

"After almost a decade of commercial production, we have reached that point," Moeller said, "where every farmer has a stake and has to be fully aware of the legal ramifications. No farmer should buy seed for next season without having a grasp of the information contained in this Guide."

Labels Will Be Required on GMO seeds

Vermont's Secretary of Agriculture has decided to require companies that sell genetically engineered seeds in Vermont to include "a plain English disclosure" on labels that includes the phrase, "these seeds have been genetically engineered." In a clarification of an earlier decision on the closely-watched issue, Steve Kerr also will require companies to specify what traits have been conferred through biotechnology.

In a November interview, Kerr said that his agency will send a letter to biotech seed companies in the next few days with instructions for compliance. Kerr added, "I hope they are going to pay attention to the law because we are dead serious about it." Kerr said he found it necessary to specify language for the labels after seed company representatives cancelled a meeting with him on the subject, which was slated for Nov. 1. "They didn't want to come in on the schedule I suggested," he said. "I wanted to make sure labels are properly done this year. I don't want any excuses from (seed companies) that we didn't give them enough time." Kerr defended his decision not to specify labeling language earlier by saying that he wanted to see what seed companies would propose on their own. "I don't want these companies to decide that Vermont, or its Secretary of Agriculture, is so unreasonable that they're just going to walk away from a small market," he said. "We have a lot of farmers who rely on these (genetically engineered) traits. I have as much of an obligation to them as I do to organic farmers who don't want to use these things." "I take this as quite a responsibility," he said. "It's the first public disclosure law dealing with this technology. We better be careful and do it right, because I hope and suspect other states will copy what we've done."

New National Survey Shows Large Percent Require GMO Segregation

A new survey of 1,194 grain elevators across the United States, conducted by the American Corn Growers Foundation (ACGF) Farmer Choice – Customer First program found that nearly one-quarter (23.7%) reported that they are requiring segregation of biotech corn from conventional corn varieties. Over twelve percent reported offering premiums for non-GMO, conventional corn varieties over GMO biotech varieties. The premiums reported range from five to thirty cents per bushel. Nine elevators reported that they are discounting GMO corn. Grain elevators were surveyed in the eighteen states of Ark., Colo., Ill., Ind., Iowa, Kan., Ky., Mich., Minn., Mo., Miss.,

●Record Corn Crop Together With Lower Prices = Less Gross Corn Income Per Acre On Average
 ●2003/04 U.S. Average Corn Yield Per Acre 142.2 x \$2.42 Average Price Per Bushel = \$344.12 per acre
 ●2004/05 U.S. Average Corn Yield Per Acre 158.4 x \$1.95 Average Price Per Bushel = \$308.80 per acre
 ●Per Acre Income Drop...2003 to 2004 = \$35.32 less per acre
 *Source of yields and prices: U.S.D.A. WASDE-415-10 Report of Oct 12, 2004

Neb., N. D., Ohio, Pa., S. D., Texas, and Wisc. The telephone survey was conducted in August and September, after corn harvest had begun.

ACGF Chairman Gale Lush of Wilcox, Neb. said, "I have seen some reports that biotech corn varieties are responsible for the record yield this year. I disagree! I plant both conventional and biotech corn varieties. The growing season and management, not biotech genetics, are primarily responsible for 2004 yields. Let us not forget that corn is piled on the ground across the Midwest. Even with the higher average corn yield, gross income per acre is \$35.32 less than 2003 because of the lower average price of \$1.95/bu. forecast this month by USDA. GMO corn helped cause lower prices by sending lucrative European and Asian corn customers to U.S. export competitors."

New Report Highlights Huge Gaps in GM Crop Science

A new report on the impact of GM on the genetics of the modified crops by an independent group of scientists has highlighted huge gaps in scientific knowledge and the need to greatly improve scientific assessment procedures before GM crops are licensed.

The report, by the group EcoNexus¹, is based on the peer-reviewed scientific literature and USDA documents. It examines the consequences of genetic modification events for the integrity of transgenic plant genomes² and suggests that significant genetic damage can arise. The consequences can include:

- * large scale genetic rearrangements of host DNA at transgene insertion sites
- * many hundreds to thousands of individual mutations scattered throughout the genome of each new transgenic plant.

The authors³ suggest that these changes are caused through genetic engineering itself, i.e. by transgene insertion and the procedures plant cells are subjected to in order to insert the transgene.

Most crop plants are a complex mixture of biologically active chemicals with both positive and negative health effects, they may be bred from inedible ancestors and many have poisonous tissues or organs. Consequently, food safety of edible crops relies crucially on genetic stability and predictability rather than being an inbuilt property of crop plants. Therefore, the discovery of these genetic changes arising from GM, the authors suggest is highly significant and has major implications for the safety of transgenic crops. The report analyses crops that are already on the market around the world based on documents obtained from the USDA. It finds that regulators fail to require adequate analysis of transgene insertion sites and that there is no mechanism to detect random genetic damage induced by transformation.

These omissions appear to result from failure to appreciate the magnitude of genetic damage sustained by transgenic plants. They indicate that there are massive gaps in the regulatory systems which are supposed to ensure transgenic crops are safe and that regulators have been guilty of making dubious assumptions about the similarities between transgenic crops and plants developed by traditional plant breeding.

Commenting for EcoNexus, one of the report's authors, Dr Jonathan Latham said: "This genetic unpredictability should be treated very seriously indeed. Once inserted, the mutations highlighted in this report cannot easily be eliminated from transgenic crops and nor can their consequences for food safety and the environment easily or reliably be determined. Consequently, they present a major challenge to the plant biotechnology industry. Their elimination will require major changes to plant transformation methods".

This new report, *Genome Scrambling – Myth or Reality? Transformation-induced mutations in transgenic crop plants* is 36 pages long and is available as a pdf file at www.econexus.info

(1) EcoNexus is a not-for-profit public interest research organisation and science watchdog. It is based in the UK and collaborates with a diversity of networks nationally and internationally.

(2) *Genome, the sum total of the genetic material (DNA) of an organism.*

(3) *It is written by Dr. Allison Wilson, Dr. Jonathan Latham and Dr. Ricarda Steinbrecher*
 Contact: Jonathan Latham 01531 670 313 or Email: A.Wilson@econexus.info

ED, from page 5

tone of the meetings, following the fall-out over the April Directives. The NOP staff expressed willingness to solicit and consider input from the NOSB and to work toward developing rule changes as needed.

It was good to hear that Mark Bradley is back with the NOP, now as Accreditation Specialist. Attendees of the 2001 Guelph Advanced Training will remember him as one of our speakers.

Grant Proposal in the Works: IOIA and NCAT submitted a proposal to develop training materials for certification agencies, technical service providers, and producers last summer. It wasn't funded. However, the review panel gave positive feedback and Tom Bewick, Program Director of the Integrated Organic Program of the Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program, recently facilitated a conference call between the NOP, IOIA, and his office. The NOP and IOIA agreed to collaborate on a proposal to be submitted to CSREES for the next funding cycle.

Voice Mail: IOIA has Voice Mail! When we first set up the office in Broadus in 1999, it wasn't possible to have a phone, fax, automatic switch, and voice mail all at the same time. But I decided to try again, since so much of our equipment has been updated in the interim. I determinedly slogged through several people at Range Telephone Co-op until we learned we **could** have Voice Mail, provided only half of the service is activated. Fortunately, this is the part we needed...**so now, when you call the IOIA office and the line is busy, voice mail kicks on and you can leave a message.** Thanks, Maarten, for suggesting that I try one more time.

IOIA at IFOAM Summit in North America: On behalf of IOIA, Lisa Pierce participated in the Organic Networking Summit, "Evolution of Organic Organizations in a Changing World" on Skagit Bay, in north-western Washington state on September 17.

September NRCS Training in MT: IOIA is collaborating with AERO (Alternative Energy Resources Organization) and NCAT on Organic Training for the NRCS staff in Montana.

NRCS is funding the project. I traveled to Livingston on Sept. 14 to present a 2-hr classroom workshop on organic beef, assisted by Wes Henthorne of the B Bar Ranch as guest speaker, followed by a field tour at the nearby Ferry Creek Ranch (a certified organic beef operation producing grass-fed Galloway beef). This project will continue for another year.

Guelph Organic Conference January 20-23: IOIA stepped back this year from formal sponsorship of the Guelph Organic Conference, due to a substantial increase in fees, but we will once again staff a table. IOIA mailed out brochures to the membership in informal support of the event. This year's theme is "Local Organic....A Global Solution". If you are in Guelph, please check out our booth!

Scholarship: The Scholarship Committee remains an exemplary committee. This year, Nancy Ludwig took over as chair, and is assisted by Bob Howe, Carlos Escobar, Margaret Weigelt, and Jonah Popoff. They are scrutinizing this year's applications for the Andrew Rutherford Scholarship and the Organic Community Initiative Scholarship. Sandeep Bhargava, our first OCIS Award winner to use his scholarship, attended the Hong Kong training. Diane Alejo, the first OCIS winner, still hopes to attend a Livestock training but has yet to use her award, due to prohibitive travel cost from Argentina.

Accreditation: Accreditation is unfortunately not yet processing applications in a timely manner. IOIA staff and BOD is committed to processing all 2004 applications before the year closes. We will provide all support possible to the ARP.

Strange T-shirt Saga: IOIA was sitting on a hefty inventory of T-shirts. Sales are slow (by the way, this is a good time to plug T-shirts, if you don't have one or yours are getting faded...). Recently I received an inquiry from Nigeria requesting a price for 50 T-shirts. I was a bit suspicious/skeptical (why would Nigerians want IOIA T-shirts when I can't sell them to my own members?!) so I took extra precautions. I did give a discount of \$2 each for such a large order. I requested credit card payment in advance and we checked at the Post Office about insurance. I learned they would only insure up to \$200. So Judy processed the credit card, prudently waited 5 days, and then we shipped the

T-shirts in 5 separate boxes. We received a follow-up order (FedEx, now, please) along with a request for 50 cell phones. I responded that we were not a retail store and couldn't source cell phones. I called FedEx about the shipment and was told that due to rampant credit card fraud in Nigeria they would only accept cash to ship the order. FedEx suspected fraud, said IOIA was very fortunate if we actually received payment and urged me to check with VISA to see if the card was stolen. Based on the card number, they gave me the phone number of the issuing bank (which turned out to be in Israel). After a quick fax and return fax, I received a request from that bank not to accept the card. I received one more message from Nigeria and I answered back in summary what I'd done and learned and in a non-accusatory manner, simply said that I needed more info from the actual cardholder. Haven't heard a word since....but if you are ever in Nigeria and see a lot of IOIA T-shirts running around, now you know the rest of the story.

IOIA Caps and Patches: It is time to order new caps and, I think, time to bite the bullet and "buy organic". Our caps so far were not organic fabric. Choice of colors is limited, though, in organic cotton, so I've requested samples of everything. We have almost zero inventory at the moment, but hope to have new caps by January 1. We still have lots of patches.

Pain and injury: I think often of Mary Wilson, Monique Scholz, Margaret Weigelt, and Marina Buchan these days. I was involved in an auto accident on October 30 and discovered that 'whiplash' is truly not an imaginary term coined by lawyers. Physical therapy, muscle relaxants, massage, and anti-inflammatory meds for me....but nothing compared to the pain that Monique, Mary, Margaret, and Marina have to deal with, though.

Georgia, from page 17

Anyone who might be able to offer assistance can contact me at earthorganic@aol.com and I will provide information about the agency I worked through.

This article is a short excerpt from a much longer one written by Bob and available to read in its entirety in the Members Only section of the IOIA website. Some photos are on the site, many more will be available after the first of the year.

Of Interest

<http://worldometers.info/>
Running count of interesting world stats.
Some of it's scary! Be prepared.

Great New Newsletter

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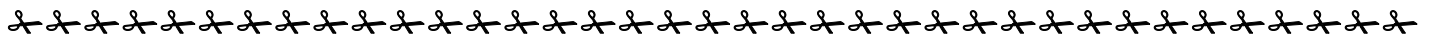
Keynote John Ikerd

And LOTS more!!

Full conference info at

www.guelphorganicconf.ca

This is a quarterly newsletter published by Emily Brown Rosen, started to follow primarily the regulatory issues happening at NOSB and NOP and provide a forum for more communication on organic issues. She plans to schedule issues before and after NOSB meetings, to provide an update on issues pending and reports after the meetings.



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 - COG Organic Field Crop Handbook, 2nd Edition, Expanded and Rewritten. Published by Canadian Organic Growers. An invaluable resource. While preserving the best of the now out-of-print and no longer available first edition, this edition is updated to include info on GMO's, E. coli issues in manure, and many additions to the crop section. 222 pages, spiral bound, \$30.00.
 - Food Plant Sanitation and Safety, by Dr. Joe Montecalvo, 184 pp, \$50.00
 - Introductory Food Science, Dr. Joe Montecalvo, 187 pp, \$50.00
 - Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 2nd Edition, published by Sust. Ag Network, \$18.00
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 - 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 - 2005 Calendar

December 12 – 14, Eradicating Poverty Through Profit - An International Conference on the Private Sector and the Public Good, San Francisco, CA
Info: www.wbcds.org

January 19 – 22, 2005, EcoFarm Conference, Pacific Grove, CA. Info: www.eco-farm.org or call (831) 763-2111.

January 22, Farm Bill Workshop, in cooperation with EcoFarm. This workshop is billed as a sort of 'Farm Bill 101' and will present perspectives on Farm Bill advocacy by many groups. Workshop scheduled for Saturday, January 22, from 8:30 -10:00am. Info: see EcoFarm listing.

Jan 20 – 23, The 24th Annual Guelph Organic Agriculture Conference, Ontario, Canada. www.guelphorganicconf.ca
See ad on page 23.

January 21 - 23, The Practical Tools and Solutions for Sustaining Family Farms Conference. Annual Southern SAWG Conference, New Orleans, LA. Info: www.ssawg.org

January 28 - 30, Organic Community - Diversity from Soil to Plate, Syracuse, NY. Northeast Organic Farming Association-NY. Over 50 workshops for beginning and experienced farmers & gardeners.
Info: www.nofany.org/index.html

February 18-20, IOIA/JOIA Basic Organic Inspector Farm training, Tokyo, Japan. See page 3 for details.

February 20-22, National Campaign Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
Info: www.sustainableagriculture.net

February 24- 26, 16th Annual Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference, La Crosse Center in Downtown La Crosse, WI. Info at: 715-772-3153; fax 715-772-3162; info@mosesorganic.org

February 24-27, BioFach, Nuremberg, Germany. Info: info@nuernbergmesse.de
www.biofach.de

March 5 – 6, 2005 Annual OEFFA Conference, Johnstown, OH. Info: www.oeffa.com

March 13-15, IOIA/JOIA Basic Organic Processing Inspector training, Tokyo, Japan. See page 3 for details.

March 17 – 18, Organic Inspector Training, Vancouver, British Columbia. IOIA will sponsor Advanced Organic Inspector Training at the Granville Island Hotel on March 17-18 immediately before the next IOIA Annual Meeting on March 19. IOIA and Fraser Valley Organic Producers Association will also cosponsor Organic Livestock Inspector Training in Vancouver in conjunction with these events. See page 3 for details or go to www.ioia.net

March 19, IOIA Annual General Membership Meeting, Granville Island, British Columbia. Info: www.ioia.net

April 6 – 9, IOIA Organic Farm Training, Las Cruces, New Mexico. See page 3 for details.

April 10 - 13, IOIA Process Inspector Training, Las Cruces, New Mexico. See page 3 for details.

April 29 – 30, Organic Beekeeping Workshop, Chestnut Ridge, NY
This is a workshop for active beekeepers as well as beginners and it includes a hands-on session.
Info: www.pfeiffercenter.org

May 1 – 3, All Things Organic – OTA Trade Show. McCormick Place, Chicago, IL.
Info: www.organicexpo.com,
organicexpo@divcom.com,
or call 207-842-5504

May 7 – 10, Int'l Organic and Agroecology Products Fair, São Paulo Brazil. Contact Maria Cristina Botelho, (55 11) 4689 3166,
cristina@francal.com.br

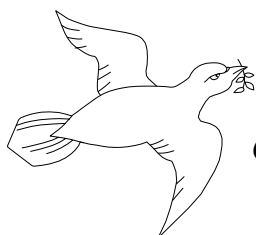
July 29 – Aug 20, Organic Agriculture Development Advanced International Training Programme, Sweden. Participants for shall come from developing countries in Asia. Info at www.grolink.se

September 19-23, 15th IFOAM World Congress, Adelaide, Australia. Info: Fax: +61 8 8339 7800, <http://www.nasaa.com.au/ifoam/>.
E-mail: ifoam2005@nasaa.com.au

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