

Celebrating
20 Years!

The Inspectors' Report

Published by the
International Organic
Inspectors Association
Vol 20 N3 Summer 2011

IOIA Joins Monsanto Suit As Amicus

IOIA has joined the Public Patent Foundation's lawsuit against Monsanto by signing on as *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) in a brief filed on August 10 in United States District Court, Southern District of New York.

Other *amici* named in the brief are Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance (FARFA), Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association, Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, Ecological Farmers of Ontario, Fair Food Matters, Michigan Land Trustees, Natural Environment Ecological Management, Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Association, Organic Council of Ontario, Slow Food USA, and Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers Association.

The lawsuit is not about farmers who have had land contaminated, but rather it is a robust effort to protect the public's interest in the patenting process. Plaintiffs include farmers who are afraid of being sued by Monsanto for patent infringement because Roundup Ready™ genetic material is unintentionally on their property. The brief asks the court to provide a clear declaration of Plaintiffs' rights.

At the March AGM in Tampa, Florida, the IOIA Board requested the input of the membership on whether to sign on as a plaintiff with the Public Patent Foundation's lawsuit against Monsanto. While many of the membership gave their support of IOIA signing on as plaintiffs, based on last minute discussions with our attorney and PubPat, there were some doubts about whether IOIA as a nonprofit membership association had standing as a plaintiff. IOIA was willing to take the step, but it was generally agreed that it might be better if IOIA would stand aside on being a plaintiff.

Statement of Interest of *Amici Curiae*

While the plaintiffs are at the most immediate risk of suit for patent infringement by Monsanto, the legal principles involved in the Court's decision will have even broader ramifications. For example, livestock and poultry farmers who feed grain to their animals face issues of GM-contaminated feed. Organic certifiers must make decisions about whether or not, and under what conditions, to require testing for GM contamination as part of the certification process. Food processors, whether they operate on a large-scale or simply bake a few loaves of bread for a local farmers market, use ingredients that may be contaminated with Monsanto's patented products.

All of these individuals have an interest in having the scope and enforceability of Monsanto's patents determined by the Court, both because of the direct issue of their own liability and because of the indirect impact the decision will have on the availability of these crops.

And, ultimately, almost every American consumer somehow uses products made from corn, soybeans, canola, sugar beets, or cotton, all of which may implicate the scope and enforceability of Monsanto's patents. The entire food chain is impacted by the spread of Monsanto's patented crops.

Summary of the Brief

The summary of the brief states that Monsanto has a track record of aggressive enforcement of its patent rights, and notes that "Monsanto has sued or settled with hundreds of farmers, and investigated unknown numbers more. [See *Amici*, page 17]

Message from the Board

The IOIA Board of Directors wants **you** -- your input, your ideas! The BOD will be meeting for three days in November. The BOD last met for a multi-day retreat in 2007 in Montana. At that meeting, they launched the concept of the **IOIA Training Institute**. Since then, most of the BOD's work has been accomplished at shorter meetings, conference calls, and retreats associated with the AGM. At the post-AGM BOD meeting in Arizona last year, the BOD breathed life into the concept of the Training Insti- [see **BOD**, p 4]

Inside:

Final on Sunsets
Residue Comments
All About Kelp
Training News
Sector News
GMO's

And More!!

Jobs at IOIA

Grant Writer: Do you have experience and expertise in writing grant applications? Are you interested in contract work in this area, or are you willing and able to contribute your services to IOIA? If the answer is 'yes', please contact the IOIA office.

IOIALat on Facebook

Member Homero Blas has started a Facebook page as outreach not only for IOIA members in Latinamerica but for others that are interested as well. You can see his page at:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/IOIALat/163546893711149>

Kevin Brussell Scholarship Fund

Kevin Brussell, 56, a long time organic activist, researcher and working organic farmer, was tragically killed on Saturday, June 11. Kevin's wife, Juli, has established a scholarship fund in memory of her husband. The scholarship fund will support beginning farmers. Mail donation to: MOSES, PO Box 339, Spring Valley, WI 54767

You can download the Kevin Brussell Scholarship Fund pdf at:
<<http://www.mosesorganic.org/pdf/BruesselScholarshipFundPoster.pdf>>

Or donate online now at:
<<http://www.nexternal.com/moses/Product49>>*

Corrections:

We regret the misspelling of the names of these following members – apologies!

Ib Hagsten
Silke Fuchshofen

Organic Framed in Magazine

Matthew Holmes, ED of Canadian OTA, has written a very good article on GMOs and organic, that hits hard on all the top issues. It takes a political approach, and it also frames organic in its proper perspective as a solution to modern challenges. The article was published in "Policy Options" magazine, read it at:
<http://www.irpp.org/po/archive/aug11/holmes.pdf>

Membership Updates

(Changes made by K. Bowers 8/9/11)
Please make the following changes to your 2011 Membership Directory. *Any changes are italicized.* Other parts of the addresses remain the same unless noted. Any additions or corrections to information categories other than addresses and contact numbers will be listed in the 2011 Hardcopy Membership Directory or can be viewed in the 2011 Online Directory.

ADDRESS CHANGES:

INSPECTORS:

Luis Brenes *brenes.agrivita@gmail.com*

WELCOME RETURNING FORMER MEMBERS (NOT PRINTED IN THE 2011 DIRECTORY)

INSPECTOR MEMBERS:

Janie Marr Werum *janiemarr@gmail.com*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

INSPECTORS:

Christopher Warren-Smith
cwarrensmith@earthlink.net
Lisa Hotchkiss *lhkiss@gmail.com*
Nicki Dallmann *nickael007@gmail.com*

WELCOME NEW SUPPORTING

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:

Jeff Leonard *jeff.leonard@whitewave.com*
Susan Monahan
susan.monahan@uvm.edu
JeremymConyac *jeremyconyac@hotmail.com*
Ronald Smith *santee53@hotmail.com*

Training Schedule, from page 3

American Canyon, California, Crop, Processing, Advanced, December 5-9

IOIA will cosponsor Basic Crop Inspection Training and Processing Inspection Training running concurrently December 5-9 at the DoubleTree by Hilton™ Hotel & Spa Gaia Napa Valley-American Canyon. Each course includes 4 days of instruction including a field trip to a certified organic operation, plus ½ day for testing. The Napa Valley area is widely known for wine production with a large number of certified organic and biodynamic operations nearby. Certified

operations will tentatively include wine crops for the Crop course and wine making for the Processing course. IOIA and California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) will cosponsor Advanced Organic Inspector Training on December 6-7. This training will focus on organic wine inspection and other topics. Advanced training agenda is under development. IOIA will collaborate with the Non-GMO Project and FoodChain Global Advisors to offer Non-GMO verification training on December 8. Non-GMO verifications are most often done in conjunction with the organic inspections of the same operation. For more information about the Non-GMO Project, see www.nongmoproject.org. FoodChain Global Advisors is the technical administrator for the project.

The Hotel was the first Leader in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified 'green hotel' in the Napa Valley. It is located about 8 miles south of Napa and 30 miles from the Oakland Airport (OAK). Sacramento (SMF) and San Francisco (SFO) are other options within 60 miles. The site features a koi pond with swans that is maintained with water produced on the site that is filtered and recycled. The restaurant regularly serves organic food, and all natural materials are used in landscaping. The building is made from Forest Stewardship Council certified woods and many recycled materials. It uses solar energy and conserves energy and water. App's & info at www.ioia.net.

IOIA Board of Directors

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The Inspectors' Report is the newsletter of the International Organic Inspectors Association. IOIA is a 501 (c)(3) educational organization, whose mission is to address issues and concerns relevant to organic inspectors, to provide quality inspector training and to promote integrity and consistency in the organic certification process. Editor: Diane Cooner, Box 1259, Guerneville, CA 95446 USA. 707-869-3017, fax 707-869-1478.

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Deadlines

are Feb 1, May 1,
Aug 1 & Nov 1.

Published quarterly
on recycled paper.



Webinar: IOIA/OMRI Crop Inputs, September 6 and October 26

This webinar will cover what farm inspectors should look for during inspections, and how OMRI reviews materials. Inspectors and certifiers who attend will gain skill in understanding input assessment, and in navigating the resources available on the OMRI website (www.omri.org). OMRI will provide the technical expertise of Lindsay Fernandez-Salvador, OMRI Program Director, as lead presenter. The course will include pre-course reading as well as in-class discussion and exercises, with opportunity for Q & A. Attendees will also receive an individual subscription to OMRI and a graded post-assessment. Joint IOIA and OMRI Certificates of Completion will be awarded to successful participants, and discounts are available for current OMRI subscribers and IOIA members. To register, see the IOIA registration page: <http://ioiaregistration.ganconference.com/>

Hong Kong, China August 29 – September 2

IOIA and Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre (HKORC) will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Crop Course using the HKORC-Cert Organic Standards as a reference. The course will be held at Sin Hang Campus, Hong Kong Baptist University, Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong. Application forms and more information about the course will be available at the website of HKORC at www.hkbu.edu.hk. For enquiries, please contact Sharon Chan mhkorc@hkbu.edu.hk

Akihabara, Tokyo, Japan - Farm & Processing Courses, September 14-17

IOIA and JOIA will cosponsor 4 day Basic Organic Farm and Processing Inspection Trainings using JAS Standards as a reference. The courses will run concurrently. The training language will be Japanese. Please contact Mutsumi Sakuyoshi at JOIA for more information about the courses. E-Mail: mmu-saku@cap.ocn.ne.jp website: www.ioia.jp

Yangpyeong City, Gyeonggi Province, Korea, October 2-5

IOIA will sponsor advanced inspector training in conjunction with the 17th IFOAM Organic World Congress.

The course will be delivered as three separate training segments. On October 2, Han Jung Yeol, will instruct a one-day soil assessment workshop for organic inspectors. Mr. Han is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Korea Organic Inspectors Association (KOIA). He has 15 years of experience in soil analysis and eight years of experience as an organic inspector. The language of the workshop will be Korean.

IOIA will host an inspector gathering on October 2 after the soils workshop ends. On October 3, Yutaka Maruyama and Mutsumi Sakuyoshi, IOIA trainers from Japan, will present a Standards Workshop to address updates and key differences for EU, NOP, and JAS standards with assistance from Isidor Yu, IOIA Trainer from Korea, on the Korean standards. Language of this training will be English. On October 4-5, Luis Brenes, IOIA Trainer from Costa Rica, will provide two days of Grower Group inspection training in English language. Mr. Brenes has been training globally and inspecting organic operations, including grower groups, for more than 15 years. Translation will be available. Trainings will be held at the KOBACO Training Center in Yangpyeong City. A room block has been reserved.

During the OWC and prior to the training, IOIA will deliver a workshop on October 1 entitled "Quality Organic Inspections: The New Organic Inspector". Workshop presenters include Sandeep Bhargava, IOIA Inspector Member from India, on the topic of Grower Group inspection; Margaret Scoles on the IOIA Training Institute; Yutaka Maruyama (JOIA) and Isidor Yu (KOIA) on the formation of regional organic inspector groups. India is the only country to include grower group certification in their organic regulation. IOIA events focus around small holder inspection, in keeping with the theme of the OWC. See [IOIA website](#) for info

Farmington, Minnesota, October 17-21

IOIA will sponsor Basic Organic Crop Inspection Training October 17 - 21 at the rural Mt. Olivet Conference & Retreat Center in Farmington, Minnesota, about 35 miles from the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport. The course includes 4 days of instruction including a field trip to a certified organic operation, plus ½ day for testing. See [IOIA website](#) for application and more info.

Lima, Peru, November 7-11

IOIA and Control Union Peru will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Farm Inspection training using USDA National Organic Standards as a reference with comparison to EU standards. The course will be held at the Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina (UNALM) in Lima, Peru November 7-11, 2011. Instruction will be conducted in Spanish. Please contact Aída Bustamante or Fiorela Bustamante at ph.: (511) 719-0416, fax: (511) 421-7573 or e-mail: abustamante@cuperu.com or <mailto:fbustamante@cuperu.com> for further information.

San José, Costa Rica, November 28 - December 2

IOIA and Eco-LOGICA will cosponsor a 4.5 day Basic Organic Farm Inspection training using USDA National Organic Standards as a reference. The course will be held at ICAES Coronado in San José, Costa Rica from November 28 to December 2nd, 2011. Instruction will be conducted in Spanish. Please contact Sue Wei at ph.: (506) 2297-6676, fax: (506) 2235-1638 or e-mail: mswei@eco-logica.com for further information.

Continued on page 2

BOD from page 1

tute. The BOD also hatched the idea that grew into the **Certifier-Inspector Dialogue** and wrestled with the thorny topic of **inspector liability insurance**. At every BOD retreat over the past many years, the BOD has identified the need for a more recognized and meaningful **inspector accreditation system** as a top priority. This year, IOIA was asked to **propose inspector qualifications and an inspector accreditation/licensing program to the USDA**. We expect this to be one of the most defining projects IOIA will undertake (more about that project in “Notes from the ED” on page 5).

We are now on the brink of selecting and adding a **second senior staff** position, another major step for IOIA. The boldness and vision of these BOD decisions might seem remarkable. What is even more remarkable is that these serious discussions and decisions are being made by a fluid and elastic body of directors which changes every year. In March 2011, IOIA expanded the size of the BOD and elected four new BOD members out of seven. That major change in membership on the BOD was one of the incentives for the BOD’s decision to meet in November. Working from remote locations works well if everyone is already well acquainted. **Getting together in person works best when we are building a team with new membership.**

One of the major topics for this retreat is business planning. How will IOIA continue to build and strengthen organizational capacity, remain financially sustainable without creating too many new inspectors, respond to the ever-increasing global demand for our trainings, maintain excellence in our training program, push to raise the bar for organic inspectors and others in the certification sector, energize our committees and empower the membership, and address issues and concerns of our inspector members even better?

We challenge and ask you to help us! Please send your ideas to Silke Fuchshofen, at silke@organicinsights.com. She will consolidate the input for the BOD.

-- Michelle, Jennie, Eric, H el ene, Deb, Silke, and Ib

Sad News Comes with Opportunity

Lynell Denson has worked part-time in the IOIA office for 5 years. As many of you know, she is our lead in the office on inspector accreditation, scholarships, food arrangements for IOIA events, and countless other tasks.

On June 28, she and her husband Mike lost their only son, Devin, age 18, in a tragic drowning accident. She is now back on a regular schedule of 4 mornings per week; she works half time high school teacher.

If you would like to send condolences to Lynell and Mike, her direct email address is Lynell@rangeweb.net. If you would like to send her a card, I suggest that you send it directly to the IOIA office, to her attention.

We put our heads together, searching for an appropriate way for us to express our collective sympathy and support. We proposed to Lynell the idea of naming a project here at the office after him. The project was already underway, but it has taken a new turn with this unexpected and sad news. We wanted to be sure this idea would be helpful and not add to her sadness. Lynell likes the project and the idea. So we are moving forward to invite you to participate.

Here’s the project: IOIA has suffered chronic, periodic small-scale flooding in our basement storage area due to too much water coming off of a neighboring roof, plus our own. The water problem is compounded by negative slope from the alley, so all water comes back to the office and too much of it ends up in the basement. This year, we had to have major repairs to the sewer line. All of the landscape disruption, removal of a tree, etc. coupled with double normal rainfall has created a bit of a war-zone effect in our back yard. We decided early this spring to create a water collection system, so that the water would become a resource, not a liability. Broadus water is very high in sodium and not very good for watering plants. We have created a sturdy gutter system to pull the water away from the buildings and are awaiting a backhoe operator to dig a hole for a concrete cistern for collecting the water. We are adding some tiers that will provide a

barrier to the water that heads back toward the office, and those will contribute to our landscaping plan. The landscaped area will include fruit-based plants and perhaps a pond or fountain. We will build a small, restful garden spot, adding fruit trees and bushes (Devin loved blueberries). In memory of my trip to Japan last year (and all of the cherry blossoms), my contribution will be a cherry tree. We hope this project will improve the sustainability for office staff as well. We will add some chairs and a table to encourage us to go outside for lunch, rather than sitting in front of our computers. We had anticipated that we would exceed our building budget for the year, and then realized we could invite you to participate in creating this memorial garden area. Contributions can both help us stay within our budget and complete a long-term project that will increase our property value.

We would like to thank Isidor Yu, IOIA trainer in Korea, for making the first contribution of \$100 towards this project, as well as Janning Kennedy, Gene Prochaska and supporting member Susan Colwell.

If you wish to contribute in honor of Lynell or in memory of Devin, you can make contributions by check, credit card, or PayPal, and IOIA will send you a receipt for your tax deductible donation.

Please send any contributions or questions to the attention of Kathy Bowers, IOIA Office Manager. She is the coordinator for this project. Her direct email is ioiassistant@rangeweb.net or ioia@ioia.net.

Thank you!

Donating Made Easy

PayPal makes it easy to donate to IOIA. We would like to thank Susan Colwell, friend of IOIA, who has pledged a subscription of \$20/month to help the organization. All Susan had to do was go to the donation page of our website, www.ioia.net/donate.html and click on the amount she wanted to donate – either a one-time donation or a monthly subscription. IOIA is a 501c3 non-profit, so all donations are tax-deductible in the US.



Raising the Bar

By Margaret Scoles

On May 24, IOIA got an exciting and unique opportunity. We received a notice from the USDA contracting unit, inviting us to submit a quote. The Statement of Work (SOW) asked for a contractor to propose “a list of criteria for Inspectors and Reviewers working for NOP Accredited Certifying Agents (ACAs), to develop a list of content areas to be covered in beginning, intermediate, and advanced training for Inspectors and Reviewers based on those criteria, and to develop a proposed approach for training and **possible licensing Inspectors and Reviewers of organic production and handling operations**”. The deadline was June 14. This announcement was not a complete surprise. We’ve been speaking with the NOP since last October about a meaningful inspector accreditation system. We had even proposed once that IOIA create a white paper on how inspector accreditation could be done. But we had to act fast. We quickly gathered commitments from a team that included the Accredited Certifiers Association (ACA) and the University of Illinois. We called a special BOD meeting. The SOW, if IOIA was awarded the contract, meant the NOP would ask IOIA how we thought inspector accreditation should be done. We were crestfallen to learn a week later that all of the quotes, including ours, exceeded the government estimate and were rejected. The project would now be opened to the public bid process. Back to square one, we modified the quote and re-submitted by the next deadline on June 29. Meanwhile, on June 23, NOP head **Miles McEvoy** asked the NOSB CACC committee to develop a proposal regarding the criteria for inspectors, including baseline qualifications for several categories of inspection. Clearly this topic was high on the list at NOP.

The Good News - IOIA was awarded the contract, and the project started July 28, just one month later. To say IOIA’s team is working hard is an understatement. A final deadline for all 3 deliverables of October 6 makes it the number #1 priority for the organization. Although this project is NOP-centric, the outcomes can be relevant for inspectors all over the world if we do it right. An excellent side benefit is improved communication lines direct to

the NOP. I speak on a weekly basis with NOP personnel **Judith Ragonesi**, who is in charge of NOP’s training program, and **Mark Bradley**, a more familiar face to most IOIA members. They are the designated NOP staff on the project. Conversations with the NOP staff and the ARC auditors who do the witness audits have been eye-opening and sometimes humbling. This project demands that we widen our focus to reviewers as well as inspectors. It addresses both. Once again, the **Certifier-Inspector Dialogue** has proven its value. We are stronger on inspector qualifications, and the certifiers are stronger on reviewer qualifications. **Pat Kane**, ACA Coordinator, has helped to gather input from certifiers. The 2010 IOIA survey of certifiers was another important resource. Working together as a team is clearly the best way to go.

To back up a bit, some history of where we have been on this topic of accreditation ... At the first meetings of IOIA, 20+ years ago, we inspectors discussed what was important to us and what we wanted to see in a professional association. Inspector Accreditation was always very high on that list. Ten years later, the 2001 IOIA Membership Directory displayed a list of 34 accredited members, a full 20% of the membership. Ten years later, in 2011, we have 13, which represents only 5% of inspector membership. What happened? Clearly, the perceived value of IOIA accreditation is less than the investment of time, energy, and money into the process. Does it cost too much? Doubtful. Accreditation fees have not increased since it began, and IOIA barely breaks even on the cost of accrediting members. Is it too hard to be accredited? Not really. As one of those 13 accredited members, I can vouch that it is a nuisance to fill out the renewal form every three years, collect certifier evaluation forms, and meet the deadline of October 1. But it isn’t difficult. Certainly one of the challenges for members has been meeting the requirement to have certifier evaluations from every certifier the inspector has

worked for, going back three years. To get every one of those is a nuisance. Some members have actually lost their accreditation due to failure of certifiers to follow up with the requested evaluations. But that is rare, not the norm. Does the IOIA accreditation process work? Some members have been discouraged with slow workings of the all-volunteer Accreditation Review Panel - also rare. Clearly the most serious reason is **failure to add value for the inspector**. IOIA accreditation is not too rigorous or too expensive. It simply isn’t demanded or valued in the organic sector, especially by certifiers. Let’s compare that to IOIA training. In 1995, when the IOIA accreditation program was adopted, IOIA delivered 12 trainings at 6 different locations. Now we offer 30 or more trainings at two dozen locations annually, plus lots of web-based trainings. IOIA Certificates of Completion for training are the recognized industry standard in most of the world. Accrediting bodies note and value them when the ACAs are under



Margaret won the grand champion award at the 2011 Powder River country fair, August 2011, for this photo, entitled *Cherry Blossoms and Kannon*, taken in April 2010 in Tokyo.

scrutiny to show competency of inspectors and reviewers. At the same time the IOIA training program flourished, recognition of IOIA accreditation withered. We lost ground, instead of gaining it.

Was it lack of vision and focus on the topic at IOIA that failed to grow the program? I don’t think so. At Board retreats in 2005 and 2007 and even farther back, the IOIA Board identified a meaningful and recognized inspector accreditation program as one of IOIA’s top 3 or 4 priorities. [See **ED**, page 16]

USDA Announces AC-21 Appointments

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack recently announced appointments to the reactivated Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture, or AC21.

"This advisory committee will come together to continue investigating the challenges of coexistence among different forms of agricultural production," said Vilsack. "I hope this committee will recommend workable solutions that will enhance the ability of all farmers to grow the crops they want in order to effectively meet the needs of their customers." The AC21 is composed of 22 members from 16 states. The members represent the biotechnology industry, the organic food industry, farming communities, the seed industry, food manufacturers, state government, consumer and community development groups, the medical profession, and academic researchers.

Appointments from the Organic Community Include:

- ◆ Isaura Andaluz, Executive Director, Cuatro Puertas, Albuquerque, NM;
- ◆ Laura L. Batcha, Organic Trade Association, Putney, VT;
- ◆ Charles M. Benbrook, The Organic Center, Enterprise, OR;
- ◆ Lynn E. Clarkson, Farmer and President, Clarkson Grain Company, Cerro Gordo, IL;
- ◆ Michael S. Funk, United Natural Foods, Inc., Nevada City, CA;
- ◆ Melissa L. Hughes, CROPP Cooperative/Organic Valley, Viroqua, WI;
- ◆ Mary-Howell Martens, Farmer & Manager, Lakeview Organic Grain LLC, Penn Yan, NY;

NOP seeks to clarify "sufficient expertise" for organic inspectors

Miles McEvoy, National Organic Program Deputy Administrator, has requested that the NOSB's Certification, Accreditation, and Compliance Committee develop a proposal outlining

the criteria inspectors should meet prior to conducting inspections of organic production and handling operations. NOP regulations require that certifiers ensure that employees and contractors have "sufficient expertise" in organic production and handling techniques to successfully perform their duties.

Jirah Milling Certification Suspended

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency announced that they have suspended Jirah Milling and Sales' organic certification due to regulatory non-compliance. Effective July 25, 2011, this operation may not sell, label or represent their products as organic. [View Notification of Suspension \(PDF\)](#).

Jirah Milling and Sales organic products purchased prior to July 25, 2011 may be labeled, sold and represented as organic. As of July 25, 2011, products purchased from Jirah Milling and Sales may not be labeled, sold or represented as organic.

NOSB Meeting Transcripts

Transcripts from the April 26-29, 2011, meeting of the National Organic Standards Board are now available on [USDA's website](#).

NOP releases report on Certifier activities in China

The National Organic Program (NOP) has released its report based on its review of certifying agents' activities in China last year. [The full report is available online](#).

Minnesota Court of Appeals says pesticide drift can be considered trespass

The Minnesota Court of Appeals has ruled that pesticide drift from a neighboring farm can be considered trespass, and thus sent back to district court a case brought by organic farmers concerning chemical spraying by an adjacent landowner that had contaminated their crops. A district court previously had dismissed the organic farmers' claims of trespass, nuisance and negligence.

In its ruling, the Minnesota Court of Appeals wrote, "We hold that a trespass action can arise from a chemical pesticide being deposited in discernable and consequential amounts onto one agricultural property as the result of errant overspray during application directed at another. This district court therefore erred

by concluding that the Johnsons' trespass claim fails as a matter of law."

NOP removes "Answers to questions on standards..." from its website

NOP has removed the Answers to Questions on Standards by NOP Staff (NOP-AQSS) resource from its website. The NOP-AQSS page was last updated in September 2008, and no longer accurately reflected current program policy and guidance. In September 2010, NOP replaced AQSS with the Program Handbook.

NOP releases four draft guidance documents

NOP released four draft guidance documents on June 13. These address the topics of help in organic livestock feed (see related story on page 18), allowed ingredients and sources of vitamins and minerals in organic livestock feed, pesticide residue testing, and seeds and planting stock in organic crop production. Guidance documents, once finalized, are intended to improve consistency in how certifying agents and certified operations implement national organic standards by clarifying NOP's current thinking on these topics. Comment period ended August 12.

Expo East Sept 21 – 24

Natural Products Expo East Conference and Trade Show is rapidly approaching. Held at the Baltimore Convention Center, there are educational events for 2 days prior to the trade show, including numerous workshops, speakers, entertainment, and the annual OTA Dinner and Awards. The trade show features over 1300 exhibitors, and IOIA will have a booth there as well. www.expoeast.com for more info.

Proposed Rule Could Plow Under Organic Leafy Greens Growers

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service has issued a proposed national food safety rule for spinach, lettuce, and cabbage, which could effectively shut small and mid-sized organic farmers out of the leafy greens market. For more info and to sign an action alert, go to [ORFR's site](#)

Food Safety Modernization Act

Do you have burning questions about the Food Safety Act?

The Food Safety Modernization Act of 2011 is widely hailed as the most sweeping update to U.S. food safety law since the Great Depression, and includes language that is relevant to small and mid-size organic producers. OFRF's comprehensive [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) page](#) responds to many of the questions they have received since the passage of the bill. (NOTE: This legislation is completely different from the proposed National Leafy Green Marketing Agreement addressed above).

USDA grants temporary variances due to drought in New Mexico and Colorado

USDA has granted a temporary variance from [NOP regulations](#) to organic ruminant livestock producers in eight drought-stricken New Mexico counties (Catron, Cibola, Curry, Grant, Mora, Roosevelt, San Miguel and Socorro), and nine Colorado counties (Bent, Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Huerfano, Kiowa, Las Animas, Prowers and Pueblo) who only have access to non-irrigated pasture. The variance for New Mexico, granted with restrictions, is in effect for 90 days, beginning June 15. The variance for Colorado is thru the end of the 2011 grazing season.

OTA Board updates position on GMOs

Organic Trade Association's Board of Directors has reviewed, revised and voted to adopt an updated policy position on GMOs.

- OTA shall continue to call for a moratorium on GMOs in agriculture. Until that goal is reached:
- OTA supports mandatory labeling of all agricultural GMOs and their products.
- OTA shall also adopt policies that address the problems the industry shall face as a result of continued GMO deregulation.
- OTA shall bolster organic as the gold standard by advocating for continuous improvement of the organic practice standard.
- OTA shall advocate for policies that assign the cost of contamination prevention and market loss to the developers of GMO technology.

- OTA recognizes the critical role of seed in the supply chain and shall advocate for policies that secure a seed supply to the organic sector that is free of GMOs.

- OTA shall educate the public and policy makers regarding the environment and health concerns emerging with GMOs.

The entire document approved by the Board is available on OTA's website, www.ota.com

Two Selected for OTA Organic Leadership Awards

OTA has selected **Michael Funk** of United Natural Foods Inc. (UNFI) and **Mark Lipson** of the USDA to receive its prestigious Organic Leadership Awards for 2011. Funk, UNFI's Chairman of the Board, will receive the OTA Organic Leadership Award in the "Growing Organic Industry" category, while Lipson, Organic and Sustainable Agriculture Policy Advisor in USDA's Office of the Secretary and Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, will receive the award in the "Growing Organic Agriculture" category. The 2011 Award recipients will be honored at the OTA Awards Gala Sept. 21 at Natural Products Expo East in Baltimore, MD.

TSP Training for NRCS Offered

Folks with organic background who would like to become Technical Service Providers (TSPs) for the National Resource Conservation Service to write either organic or grazing conservation plans have an opportunity to learn more.

The goal is to get new TSPs in WI, IA and MN, and the first training will be the **third week of September 2011**. This full day will be done in a computer lab and all attendees should be able to complete the 5 NRCS training modules in that time, allowed them to start writing plans right away. A template for writing the plan is in its final draft, making these plans easier to write. Typically, the TSP earns approximately \$1200 per plan.

These states in the Upper Midwest have hundreds of plans that need to be written, so there is a large demand for work that could be done mostly in the winter.

Contact Harriet Behar tollfree at 888-551-4769 or harriet@mosesorganic.org for more info on becoming a TSP, the actual

training date, location and the minimal fee.

Harlan Lundberg

Harlan Lundberg will be remembered for service to his community — near and far — and keeping his eyes open to new ideas. Lundberg, 77, died August 16 of cancer, at his home in Richvale, CA. Harlan is one of the four brothers who ran Lundberg Family Farms for 50 years, before passing the business along to the next generation, who now serve on the board of directors. The brothers' parents, Albert and Frances, began farming in California in the 1930s.

Among his service on many rice industry boards, Harlan was a director of the California Cooperative Rice Research Foundation from 1986-1994.

"Dad lived his life holistically," his son Bryce said, including the family business, his spiritual life, friends and community.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Aug. 27 at the Evangelical Free Church in Oroville.

Compliance Tools Available from NOP & NCAT

The NOP and the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) <https://attra.ncat.org/>, have developed tools and reference documents for operations seeking organic certification as well as for Accredited Certifying Agents. These include:

- * Sample organic system plan templates
- * Sample documentation forms
- * Overview of the NOP's Access to Pasture Rule

These publications have been incorporated into the NOP Program Handbook to serve as optional compliance tools for anyone exploring or undergoing organic certification.

Organic System Plan Templates and Documentation Forms for Crop and Livestock Production:

Incorporated into the appendix portion of the NOP Program Handbook, these publications provide templates to help organic crop and/or livestock producers record their on-farm practices and production activities. They are primarily intended to help producers understand how to show compliance with the NOP regulations [see **Compliance**, page 16]

2012 IOIA AGM in Vancouver Area

IOIA will be in Canada for the 2012 Annual General Membership Meeting in the Vancouver area of British Columbia. Tentative dates: Advanced training on March 1-2, followed by Annual meeting on Saturday, March 3. Tentative location: east of Vancouver in the beautiful Fraser Valley. Venues are being explored in Chilliwack, Abbotsford, as well as those closer to Vancouver proper. Early March promises lovely spring weather and a respite for winter-weary members from less moderate climates. Moving closer to the Vancouver International Airport would make travel more convenient for members who are flying in, but the cost of venues generally goes up closer to the city. The event will be scheduled close on the heels of the COABC Annual Conference and Meeting the last weekend in February.

The Board chose the location based on a poll of Canadian members. Of the 57 IOIA members in Canada (includes inspectors and supporting individuals), 26 members responded. More than 20 chose the Vancouver area. A following poll considering Vancouver city, rural BC, or Victoria was less conclusive. But the Vancouver area won out over Victoria. Canadian members suggested and supported tying the event together with the COABC conference. For more info about the COABC event, Feb 24-26, see www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca.

Why British Columbia? Of all states and provinces, BC is home to the second largest concentration of IOIA members of any state or province. Currently 22 IOIA inspector members reside in BC, second only to California's 29 members. BC has a thriving organic sector and a long established and respected certification system. Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia (COABC) is the only accrediting body where all accredited certifiers require IOIA membership.

IOIA typically hosts the AGM in Canada about every 3 years. Previous AGMs in Canada were held in Montreal (2009), Vancouver (2005), rural Ontario (2001) and Kelowna, BC (1999).

Stay tuned for more details on location, forthcoming on the IOIA website and newsletter.

IOIA signs on to COG RR Alfalfa letter

For those of you who have not seen this letter, the goal is to show that there is wide spread organic sector support for not granting variety registration approval for GE alfalfa. The small group of industry leaders who saw the first draft did debate whether to include non-organic groups on this letter and decided that at this time, it makes sense to make this an organic sector letter. The goal would be to get a small delegation of people together to meet with Minister Ritz to talk about options. Supporters hope that this will build on and support the great work that the OVCRT regulatory working group is doing on GM issues. If the group can get a meeting with M. Ritz, they can bring forward some of the solutions that this group is considering.

Honourable Gerry Ritz
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
1322-100th Street
North Battleford, SK
S9A 0V8

Dear Minister Ritz,
Under your watch, the profile and legitimacy of organic agriculture and organic food products has grown. Your government's passage of the Canadian Organic Products Regulations was a significant step in the development of our industry and we are pleased with the progress that the CFIA has made developing an organic regime that will both protect and promote the organic brand. With the end of the Stream of Commerce Policy this summer, we look forward to seeing the adoption of Canada Organic labelled food products on grocery shelves across the country.

You are no doubt aware that the organic sector is concerned about the pending approval of Monsanto's RoundUp Ready alfalfa. We view this as the most urgent threat facing organic farming and the timing could not be worse. The organic sector has spent years building the organic brand and we have good reason to believe that licensing RR alfalfa will irreversibly undermine our efforts and erode organic integrity.

Although organic agriculture has survived the licensing of other similar genetically engineered products, RR alfalfa stands in a class of its own. Alfalfa plays a unique role in organic farming. As you know,

organic standards restrict the use of synthetic nitrogen sources, making organic farmers reliant on legumes such as alfalfa to fix nitrogen in the soil. Alfalfa is also the basis for organic livestock feed; it is valued by organic farmers both as a forage crop and as hay because of its high mineral and vitamin content and because it produces more protein per hectare than any other crop. Without organic alfalfa, organic dairy farmers will be unable to sustainably feed their livestock.

Scientific studies done in western Canada have shown that it would be nearly impossible to prevent contamination of non-RR alfalfa with RR alfalfa because of its prevalence, both in cropland and in ditches and gullies across the country, and because it is insect pollinated.

Organic farming is a success story for the Canadian agricultural sector. Organic farmers are innovative and the sector is the fastest growing farming segment. Organic agriculture attracts young farmers, provides consumers with the alternative food choices they seek, and it has the potential to help the Canadian government achieve many of its policy objectives, including improved income for farmers, improved soil and water quality and habitat for species at risk, while reducing the contribution of agriculture to global warming.

Organic farmers have a right to make a living and RR alfalfa puts their business model at risk.

We understand that RoundUp Ready alfalfa needs only to clear the variety registration process before the seed can be planted in Canadian fields. Before this happens, we would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to explore options that will work for all farmers.

Daniel Brisebois
President, Canadian Organic Growers

on behalf of:
Mathew Holmes
Executive Director, Canada Organic Trade Association

Ted Zettel
President, Organic Federation of Canada

Margaret Scoles
Director, International Organic Inspector's Association

[see **Alfalfa**, page 9]

Canadian Update

By Kelly A. Monaghan

Canada Organic Office

As a result of an internal reorganization at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Canada Organic Office will soon move out of the Agency's AgriFood Division and into the Consumer Protection Branch. This will dovetail nicely with the timing of the end of commerce period (see next item).

End of Stream of Commerce Period

June 30, 2011 marked the end of the two year Stream of Commerce Enforcement Policy in which the Canada Organic Office used an educational enforcement approach for operators interested in becoming compliant to the Organic Products Regulations.

As of now, all operators certified to the Canada Organic Regime are required to be in full compliance with the Regime through certification by a CFIA-accredited certification body or through compliance to the US/Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement.

Operators not in compliance could face removal of products from store shelves, required correction of non-compliant labels and/or required return of non-compliant imported products to the country of origin.

The Canada Organic Office has recently announced the first suspension of organic certification under this new enforcement policy.

Canadian International Negotiations

European Union:

In late June, Canada and the European Union exchanged letters confirming that they had each reviewed the other's organic accreditation and certification system and deemed them equivalent. In contrast to the US/Canada Organic Equivalency Agreement, there are no "critical variances" identified between Canada and the EU regarding trade in organic products.

More detail is expected this summer from the two parties regarding the specifics of implementation of this new agreement.

United States:

As required by the US/Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement, annual peer reviews are held between the two parties. In June representatives from the USDA's National Organic Program visited the

COO's offices in Ottawa and also met with various bodies including an accreditor, a certifier, an operator and a provincial organic group.

Standards and PSL Update

The long awaited revisions to the Standard and PSL were published by the Canadian General Standards Board in late June.

Unfortunately, the industry immediately recognized that there were some errors therein and we have worked with the CGSB to have those corrected. The following links provide the corrections via a "corrigendum" at the beginning of each document.

The Standard:

<http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ongc-cgsb/internet/bio-org/documents/032-0310-2008-eng.pdf>

The PSL:

<http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ongc-cgsb/internet/bio-org/documents/032-0311-2008-eng.pdf>

Funding Update

Organic standards maintenance in Canada has not been funded since March 31, 2011. A task force is currently working to identify opportunities to correct this problem.

The task force includes representatives from the Canada Organic Office, the Organic Federation of Canada, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, Canada Organic Trade Association, the Canadian General Standards Board and the Organic Technical Committee.

IOIA's Canadian Committee

The Canadian Committee hopes to begin an outreach program to inspectors working in Canada who are not currently members of IOIA. If you know somebody in this situation, please contact Bill Barkley at barkhm5@magma.ca so



that we can send them information on the benefits of IOIA membership.

Kelly Monaghan is Chair of the Canadian General Standards Board's Organic Technical Committee. She also acts as IOIA's Membership Chairperson.
www.ashstreetorganics.com.

Alfalfa, from page 8

Martin Meinert
President, Saskatchewan Organic Directorate

Pricilla B. Reimer
President, Manitoba Organic Alliance

Becky Lipton
Interim Director, Organic Alberta

Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia

Jodi Koberinski
Executive Director, Organic Council of Ontario

Enrica Nadalini
Chair, Growers of Organic Food Yukon

Janine Gibson
Chair, Organic Food Council of Manitoba

Beth McMahon
Executive Director, Atlantic Canadian Regional Organic Network

France Gravel
Director, Ecocert Canada

Dag Falck
Organic Program Manager, Nature's Path Foods Inc., BC

NOP Publishes Final Rule on Continued Use of 12 Substances

The National Organic Program published a final rule on August 3 continuing the use of 12 substances in organic production and handling that were scheduled to sunset later this year.

The rule (see [Federal Register](#), keyword AMS_FRDOC_0001-0820) reflects the recommendations of the National Organic Standards Board to continue allowing the use of select substances in organic agriculture. Renewing these substances supports the continuation of current organic production and handling practices. Effective Sept. 12, 2011, the following synthetic substances will continue to be allowed for use in organic crop production:

- ◆ ferric phosphate (CAS # 10045-86-0)-as slug or snail bait
- ◆ hydrogen chloride (CAS # 7647-01-0)-for delinting cotton seed for planting
- ◆

Additionally, the following nonsynthetic, nonagricultural (nonorganic) substances will continue to be allowed as ingredients in or on processed products labeled as "organic" or "made with organic [specified ingredients or food groups(s)]":

- ◆ egg white lysozyme (CAS # 9001-63-2)
- ◆ L-Malic acid (CAS # 97-67-6)
- ◆ Microorganisms-any food grade bacteria, fungi, and other microorganisms

In the category of synthetic, nonagricultural (nonorganic) substances in or on processed products labeled as "organic" or "made with organic [specified ingredients or food groups(s)]," the following will continue to be allowed:

- ◆ activated charcoal (CAS #s 7440-44-0; 64365-11-3)-only from vegetative sources; for use only as a filtering aid
- ◆ cyclohexylamine (CAS # 108-91-8)-for use only as a boiler water additive for packaging sterilization
- ◆ diethylaminoethanol (CAS # 100-37-8)-for use only as a boiler water additive for packaging sterilization
- ◆ octadecylamine (CAS # 124-30-1)-for use only as a boiler water additive for packaging sterilization
- ◆ peracetic acid/peroxyacetic acid (CAS # 79-21-0)-for use in wash and/or rinse water according to FDA limitations. For use as a sanitizer on food contact surfaces
- ◆ sodium acid pyrophosphate (CAS # 7758-16-9)-for use only as a leavening agent
- ◆ tetrasodium pyrophosphate (CAS # 7722-88-5)-for use only in meat analog products

Nanotechnology is Here Sans Regulations

More than 1,300 products now on the market claim to incorporate Engineered Nanomaterials (ENMs), yet none of these products have undergone a pre-market safety assessment. There is a new report published by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), "[Racing Ahead: U.S. Agri-Nanotechnology in the Absence of Regulation](#)" that covers the issue in depth.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), like other U.S. regulatory agencies, currently has no regulations to ensure the health and safety of new nanotechnology products being introduced into the market. Meanwhile, nanotech developers are not required to submit any product data, let alone health and environmental safety data, to regulatory authorities. The EPA has taken the first step toward regulation by requesting comments on its draft voluntary guidance for gathering data on pesticides that incorporate ENMs. [See the request for comment](#) or [submit a comment](#).

What is Nanotechnology?

Nanotechnology is the manipulation of material at the atomic level to take advantage of the novel properties of ENMs. For pesticides, nanotech is being used to exponentially increase the plant surface area to which toxins are effectively applied. According to the EPA, nanoscale materials in pesticide products may allow for more effective targeting of pests, use of smaller quantities of a pesticide and minimizing the frequency of spray-applied surface disinfection.

What are the risks?

There are significant potential risks. As the draft guidance notes, experimental studies with laboratory rats indicate that inhaled ENMs, particularly certain configurations of carbon nanotubes, can have "adverse lung effects." Experiments with rainbow trout demonstrate that ENMs absorbed through the skin or consumed orally can move through different organs with toxic effects and can contribute to decreased reproduction.

Several companies have applied to EPA to allow into the marketplace pesticides with nano-silver compounds for commercial and agricultural use, and the EPA believes that there are already unapproved and unregulated pesticides "in the marketplace that contain nanosilver as an active ingredient." Nanosilver is a bio-cide. It is urgent, therefore, that pesticide developers and manufacturers submit to EPA all data requested on pesticides with ENMS, so that EPA can determine whether such pesticides pose "unreasonable adverse effects on the environment" and unreasonable adverse effects to human health.

IOIA Comments on Residue Testing

On June 28, IOIA submitted the following comments to the NOP regarding the proposed rule on Periodic Residue Testing:

“We support the intent of the proposed rule regarding residue testing. We believe that periodic residue testing strengthens consumer confidence and can deter fraudulent representation of non-organic product as organic. We agree with the need for numeric minimums to ensure that all certification agents are applying the NOP regulations with the same rigor. Clarification is needed as many certification agencies are currently doing little or no sampling for residue analyses.

“We offer the following suggestions and comments:

1. **Phase-in for implementation:** We suggest a phase-in over 2 years to reach the maximum % specified in the final rule. This would lessen the impact of a major change to the rule and allow more time for training. We believe there are currently too few inspectors trained to take samples to implement the change in less time. Training is not currently widely available. Phase-in would also allow laboratories to come up to speed on required accreditation and analysis requirements. Further guidance is needed from the NOP regarding appropriate training for inspectors who would be taking samples.
2. **Who must collect samples:** The proposed rule 205.670(d) specifies sample collection “must be performed by an inspector representing the Administrator, applicable State organic program’s governing State official, or certifying agent.” We urge the NOP to consider the value of expanding the USDA Pesticide Data Program to include a full range of organic commodities and to reflect the percentage of organic product sales in the marketplace. Expansion of this testing program will provide the random-based testing data regarding whether organic products were produced in compliance with the National Organic Program. Periodic residue testing by ACAs could then be reduced or directed to more substantive compliance-based or investigatory testing.
3. **205.670(b) Target for testing:** OFPA and this proposed rule only describe the sampling/testing of final products and inputs. There is no mention of testing of plant tissue, soil, water, feed, compost, agricultural inputs, antibiotics or genetic contamination. The proposed rule only states “A certifying agent must conduct periodic residue testing of agricultural products to be sold, labeled, or represented as 100 percent organic.....”. Testing only the final products limits the effectiveness of the procedure, meaning, for example, testing soil or vegetation from an orange tree wouldn’t count towards the 5%. Only testing of the orange itself would count. Prohibited materials applied before the formation of the final consumable product would likely not be found by testing the final product. We believe that if prohibited materials are applied they will most likely to be found in the soil and/or plant tissue rather than on the final product. We suggest that all materials; plant tissue, soil, water, feed, compost and other agricultural inputs as well as antibiotic and genetic contamination be included towards the periodic testing requirement.
4. **205.670(c) Percentage of testing required:** The proposed 5% periodic residue testing of the total certified client base is a concern because testing is so costly. We suggest a figure of 3% for periodic residue testing. If random testing is set at 5%, it makes it more difficult to do other types of testing (risk-based, compliance testing, etc.) in addition to that 5% because the budget could likely be used up with the periodic random tests. Requiring 3% rather than 5% would allow the certifier more latitude for doing risk based and compliance sampling.
5. **205.670(d) Availability of accredited labs:** The proposed rule requires that “residue testing must be performed in an accredited laboratory”. The proposed rule doesn’t address the lab selection or testing criteria. However, the current NOP Program Handbook does require use of an ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accredited lab and QuEChERS analysis method for a specified list of target analytes. There are a very small number of labs in the USA that are ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accredited, fewer still are accredited for the QuEChERS method, and even fewer are capable of testing the whole range on the NOP Target Pesticide List. We believe that the lack of available lab capacity means that labs other than those with ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation should be allowed or alternatively, a substantial phase-in time for full implementation is needed to allow labs to gain the proper accreditation.
6. **Summary--Cost of implementation was under-estimated:** We believe that the estimated cost of 1% of the budget of certifiers and \$500 per sample is too low for most certifiers, especially small programs. The explanation and text of the proposed rule also fails to address the potential cost and challenges for independent contractor organic inspectors. Inspectors employed by a certifier incur no additional liability risks as they are covered by the liability insurance of their employer. Independent inspectors, on the other hand, who may be asked by a certifier to collect samples, may find they need to maintain liability insurance, which is difficult and expensive to obtain. In addition, the possibility that an inspector may need to take samples will likely increase the cost of such insurance. The cost estimate for this proposed rule does not appear to include any added costs for these inspectors. We also question whether certifiers should bear the complete cost of the periodic residue testing. OFPA does not specify who must pay for random residue testing.”

There were a total of 34 comments submitted, and while most agreed that testing was necessary and that the costs needed to be spread out thru the sector and not just burden the operator or the certifiers, the comments otherwise were all over the map. To read the comments, go to www.regulations.gov and search for ‘NOP residue testing’.

IOIA Vermont Livestock Course, June 6-10

By Delia Hollbach

A diverse group of participants gathered to attend the 2011 IOIA Livestock training course (June 6-10), ranging from newbies, certification specialists, farmers to long time experienced inspectors. The location was beautiful; a restored cottage nestled in a valley in a small town in Vermont. It was hot, so many of the sessions were held outdoors which worked great, although wind from a passing thunderstorm tested the glue on many a flip chart. After the 3 days of classroom training, the class was split into two groups, each visiting small local dairy operations to perform a mock inspection. Before long, it was Friday noon, the exam was done and everyone was going their separate ways. Good times were had by all, and as always a huge amount was learned. Many thanks go out to Garry Lean and Margaret Scoles for delivering yet another excellent training course.



Twenty participants attended the Basic Livestock Training at the rustic Inn at Lareau Farm in Waitsfield. Garry Lean was Lead Trainer, assisted by Margaret Scoles. Most of the participants lodged on-site. Unseasonably high temperatures prompted the "Polar Bear Club Challenge", with most of the group jumping in the nearby Mad River at some point during the week, at least once, if not more. Nickname for this training will be "The Barefoot Training". Between the heat and the need to protect the inn's wood floors, participants usually went barefoot. Logistics for the training were supported by Vermont Organic Farmers. Vermont state grant programs subsidized training fees for several of the participants.



I first heard about the realm of organic inspection at the 2010 MOSES conference. It was there where I met Kathy Connell, a long time organic inspector, who told me about the IOIA training and encouraged me to consider inspecting. Previously I had worked as a industrial quality control engineer and more recently on food safety tools for small scale farmers. Little did I know then that our casual conversation would lead me on a journey to becoming an inspector. I soon completed both the crop and process training, and was quickly out in the field apprenticing

with amazing inspectors such Kathy herself, Margaret Scoles, Billy Hunter, Don Persons,



and Mark Geistlinger. I owe much to these inspectors who helped me early on this path, many thanks to all of you for giving me a chance. Now I am a staff inspector working for MOSA. It has been amazing to visit so many interesting operations – I learn something new every day.