



# Communicator

**The Organic Crop Improvement Association International Newsletter**

"We, producers, handlers and consumers of organic food and fiber, build environmental stewardship through ethical partnership with nature."

April

1999

## *Genetically Engineered Seeds:* **What's a Farmer to Do?**

The growing presence of genetically engineered (GE) seeds and foods has raised many concerns within the organic community and beyond. The problem of producing non-GE products is complicated and will be difficult to address. However, organic farmers have the ability to assure a safe and uncontaminated source of food for the future.

Organic farmers created and now maintain an alternative food production system based on its own principles and production practices. This organic food production system is now a \$4.2 billion industry in the United States!

Organic producers *can* have the same success with non-GE foods! The organic industry has the potential to provide customers with the only food that is certifiably free from genetically engineered material!

This article from the Organic Alliance can give you some background on these issues and help you take the first steps to ensure that you minimize GE contamination with your seeds and crops.

These are the only crops with permission for commercialization of GE varieties in the U.S. for the 1999 growing season.

<b>Corn</b>	<b>Soybean</b>	<b>Tomato</b>
<b>Potato</b>	<b>Squash</b>	<b>Cotton</b>
<b>Canola</b>	<b>Chicory</b>	<b>Papaya</b>

If you are growing any of these crops in 1999, there are precautions you can take to minimize GE contamination.

### **What is genetic engineering?**

Genetic engineering is an advanced molecular technology that allows scientists to remove specific genes from one plant, animal or microbe and transfer them to another. Genes are the material within each cell of any living thing that contain the instructions for controlling different traits for that organism. The animals or plants that result from this process are known as "genetically engineered (GE)", "genetically modified organisms (GMOs)" or "transgenic organisms".

### **Why have plant breeders developed GE seeds?**

Genetic engineering enables scientists to isolate and transfer desirable traits from one organism and place them in another. For example, potatoes can

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## *We need your help* **OCIA Technology**

OCIA has always been member-driven. The membership elects the International Board of Directors, which meets at least once a month to guide and direct the association. They appoint the standing committees from the membership — "ordinary" members from many countries. The board and committee members donate an extraordinary amount of time and energy to keeping the organization running — and run by the members. They meet at least once a month on tele-conference calls.

In making the decisions which affect each and every member, these committees and the board do an incredible amount of work. This includes reviewing, researching and refining the OCIA International Standards and Bylaws; reviewing all the members' files for cer-

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tification; establishing budgets and tracking finances; handling complaints; promoting the association; and planning the Annual General Membership Meeting and the board elections. The board and committee members are required to do lots of homework. All the documents and files they read in preparation for the teleconference calls are sent from the office by post or courier.

The International Office works closely with the board and committees to provide member services to members, and is included on the teleconference calls. It takes time to communicate well, and that means huge telephone bills.

Last year, OCIA spent at least \$45,000 on teleconference calls. The board and committee members' regular long-distance business calls came to more than \$5,000. The courier bills came to at least \$20,000. That gives us a very conservative estimate of \$70,000 spent in one year on board and committee communication — without even counting postage for the Communicator and regular mailings from the International Office to the board, committees, chapters, corporate members and members-at-large.

Understandably, we are researching new ways to improve communications throughout the organization, while lowering the costs of international long-distance calls, teleconferences and courier fees. We use e-mail and, more and more, we scan documents to send them by e-mail rather than by post, fax or courier. It is quicker and very inexpensive.

### **Dear OCIA Chapter Members,**

Your User Fee Declarations are supposed to be sent directly to your own chapter.

Please do not send them to the OCIA International Office.

The Chapter Services department is focusing all its attention on issuing certificates and Chapter licensing and cannot take on the additional responsibility of forwarding the Declarations on to your chapter for you.

Thank you,

OCIA Chapter Services

Krista Kennedy, Karen Anderson and Allison Pratt

We are now exploring various options for changing from expensive teleconference calls to internet conferencing. Internet conferencing will allow committee or board members to dial into their local internet service provider and hold their meetings in what is called "real-time" communication.

While there are many consumer-level software packages available, for example Net2Phone and Netscape Conference, we need a system powerful enough to support as many as 12 or 14 callers at one time. We are now in contact with several telephony consulting agencies, to see if they can help us set up a system which can handle an entire committee at once, scattered over the globe.

### **Can you help?**

If any of you have experience with meetings using internet technology, we hope you will share your knowledge with us. The Board of Directors asks that you contact Linda Mager at the International Office: [lmager@ocia.org](mailto:lmager@ocia.org)

Of course, moving to this technology for our meetings requires careful consideration on several fronts.

The software and the internet time cost money. Every board and committee member would need a fairly new and powerful computer and a reliable internet service provider.

They would have to know how to use the computer. We do not want to risk moving onto a technological platform that excludes any of the membership. We should also consider the advantages to encouraging members and helping them to get onto that platform to improve communications and make those improvements affordable.

OCIA might have to look into purchasing or subsidizing the purchase of new computers and software, but we might be able to find a substantial discount if we buy equipment in quantity as a non-profit organization.

The Board and Office would have to do some careful research and budget planning to decide if these expenses might be cost-effective and more efficient. We also have to consider the advantages of being able to communicate rapidly. It can only help the association if all members are able to contact each other quickly in any number of difficult situations, or to share problems and solutions.

Please give this some thought and if you are familiar with internet communications, please share your thoughts with the Board of Directors and the International Office.



### ***OCIA: The worldwide standard for certified organic excellence...***

The Communicator is published by the Organic Crop Improvement Association, a non-profit organization.

Send address changes to [OCIAInternational](mailto:OCIAInternational):

1001 Y Street, Suite B, Lincoln, NE 68508-1172 USA

Tel: 402-477-2323 • Fax: 402-477-4325 • E-mail: [info@ocia.org](mailto:info@ocia.org)

Send letters and articles for publication in the Communicator to:

Stephanie Wells, c/o OCIAInternational or by E-mail: [swells@abacom.com](mailto:swells@abacom.com)

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## From the President of the International Board:

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In this issue of the Communicator, I would like to take a less serious tone and just visit with you as one farmer to another farmer and processor. After the AGMM, going to California for Expo West, the Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference in Wisconsin, an in-person Board meeting, along with many local chapter meetings it is time to relax a little and enjoy life. I am writing this as of April 12.

Besides my duties as International Board President, I also serve as the Program Director of the Nebraska #1 chapter. I really enjoy this work (or should I say paperwork), especially visiting with new and prospective members as they move towards organic farming. Our chapter has just completed two days of reviewing about 80 files of members who will be inspected this June. I've also been recently elected to our local school board and enjoy participating in directing the education of our children and the district's children.

My wife Deb and I, along with our two children, Ben (16) and Rebecca (14), are just starting to get into our busy season here at West Blue Farm. We just started our first batch of 1200 broiler chickens and by the end of the year will have direct-marketed more than 6000 chickens. We enjoy the chicken operation as a way of working together as a family, as well as meeting face to face with the customers who consume our product. For all of you who direct-market your products, I am sure you understand the positive feeling of satisfaction you get from your customers.

We are also starting to have baby calves. We currently have 7 on the ground (one set of twins!) and are expecting about 35 total. Our small flock of 15 ewes are ready for me to shear, and they will start lambing by the first of May. Our family really enjoys this time of year with the beginning of new life, not only for the animals, but for the soils waking up to a new growing season as well.

We planted our oats a couple of weeks ago and interseeded sweet clover into the wheat. We also overseeded some red clover into our predominantly brome grass pastures to help diversify the forage. Management intensive grazing is the foundation of our pasture management. We are just about ready to turn the livestock out to the pastures. Within a few weeks, we will be planting corn and soybeans, as well as cutting the alfalfa.

On the personal side, we have been attending our kids' track meets, musical performances and other school activities. Baseball and softball are just around the corner. Our

family attends the United Methodist Church and we have just finished celebrating the Easter season. We are thankful for the celebration of the new and everlasting life in Christ which occurs at the same time that God's creation is also coming back to life in our part of the world.

As you can see we are not lacking for things to do. I look forward to completing my second year as Board President. Come next February, I will have completed my two-year term on the Board and will not be running for a second term. I plan to spend the next few years watching and participating as our kids complete their high school education. Hopefully, I will have the opportunity to serve OCIA International in the future.

When you have questions or concerns about OCIA please send letters, emails, faxes or phone calls to the Board or myself. If you do not hear back from me within a reasonable time please do not hesitate to contact me again as a friendly reminder. The Board and I want to hear from the membership and encourage you to do so.

Thank you for allowing me to share on a more personal side. Right after God, my family and my farm I am . . .

Here to serve you,

Dave Welsch, President

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**Communicator:** At the 1999 Annual General Membership Meeting, the members voted for an increase in user fees for OCIA International. How is that being implemented — and when?

**Moore:** The user fee increases voted in by the members will go into effect April 1st. The Transaction Certificate statements issued after April 1st will reflect that increase — of one quarter of one percent. Members will be paying user fees of one half of one percent, based on the projected sales figures on their assessment forms.

It is very important to remember that this increase is for one year only. In April 2000, it will roll back to the one quarter of one percent of their sales.

All chapters and all members outside of chapters are being sent assessment forms, on which they will provide their projected sales figures. All chapter members are to pay all their user fees, both the local chapter fees and the OCIA International fees, directly to their chapters.

**Communicator:** How will International collect its portion of the user fees?

**Moore:** The chapter will calculate the International portion of the fees they collect and they will forward that amount to OCIA International on a monthly, quarterly or bi-annual payment schedule — whichever payment schedule they select.

In the past, OCIA International has had to track thousands and thousands of accounts. Under this new plan, the accounting department will instead work with 64 chapters and about a thousand members in the other categories — Corporate, Members-at-Large and Community Growers Groups.

**Communicator:** Is each Community Grower Group counted as one entity, even though there may be several hundred members in a group?

**Moore:** As far as accounting is concerned, yes. A Community Grower Group is one entity. One chapter will now be one entity, which means many fewer accounts to track. The complexity and amount of work in the accounting department will be dramatically reduced.

**Communicator:** How will the International Office and the members switch over to this new system of assessment and payment?

**Moore:** This first year will be transitional, based on a transitional billing period. The members will make income projections for the period from June 1 to December 31. That figure will be divided by 7 to come up with a monthly average for those seven months. They will then multi-

ply that figure by 10, to come up with a projected income for the ten-month period from June 1, 1999 to April 1, 2000.

In the year 2000, the assessment will be made in January for the period from April 1, 2000 to April 1, 2001

There is a three-month lag time from the assessment to the actual beginning of the payment of user fees. So, for the first three months of 2000, their 1999 payments will overlap into the year 2000.

**Communicator:** The Transaction Certificate has been an integral part of OCIA's billing system. Now TCs are to be completely uncoupled from accounting?

**Moore:** Yes. After June 1st, user fees will be completely separated from the Transaction Certificate process. TCs will be used for the audit trail and to track inventory as they always have. The TCs will be an even more reliable part of the audit trail, as they will be issued in situations where there have not been sales, the product has not changed hands. Members can rely on zero-sales TCs, as when a crop is cleaned or moved into a storage facility. This type of TC is a required part of the audit trail European buyers, for instance, demand. Only sales-based TCs will be reflected in the inventory figures. In the past, inspectors have found that a producer's actual inventory did not always match our inventory records, because a zero-sales TC had been issued and inventory was wrongly changed. Producers were sometimes not reporting cleaning or storage in their audit trail, to avoid this inventory mix-up, and they ran into problems when European markets looked at their audit trails.

**Communicator:** A number of these mix-ups can be avoided or eliminated with improved computer management in the International Office.

**Moore:** Yes, we are very excited about the new software at OCIA. The consultant working on it has reviewed its construction, so that we can use it to do exactly what we need to do.

It is one package made up of two modules — accounting and the membership record database — which will replace the membership database and the accounting software we are using now. We looked into having the present accounting software upgraded and repaired and found it was less expensive to move to an altogether new system. The old system is extremely complicated and not user-friendly — it was full of old mistakes, which were being amplified over time. It was apparently never installed properly, or some of the modules were not installed correctly. The Accounts Receivable reports were reflecting a lot of

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accounting mistakes which the accounting software had not caught. One member, a fellow near Lincoln, was incorrectly billed \$175 for three months in a row. He has been very understanding — he would just call and say, “Guess what? It’s done it again!” — after each of our attempts to clear the problem. After three months of trying to sort this out, the incorrect charge mysteriously vanished, and no one knows why.

A major problem we were encountering with the old software was file duplication, which ended up being incomplete sets of data on any given member, and we were not able to merge those duplicates or correct old mistakes without the system crashing, losing files or just ignoring the changes we entered.

This new package is the latest version of a software program which has been around for ten years. It is modular, meaning we only pay for those modules or portions of the software that we need here at OCIA. It has filters which will not allow a duplication of records or mis-matching data. It will allow more than one staff person access to a file at the same time, and will compare the information entered into that file, using error-proofing and warning devices.

The accounting portion will be the primary database, which will be integrated with the membership records.

It is much simpler to use and will really simplify our accounting work. At the push of a button, we will be able to generate reports and specific lists for the office, the membership and the board of directors. It will give us a much better grasp of where we stand at any given time.

**Communicator:** Does this mean [*exasperated sigh*] the newsletter mailing list will finally be generated properly? No more duplicate labels and states entered like Florida, FL, FLA, Fla or Flda?

**Moore:** It should work. The software will compare other files and check for duplicates. All postal codes for all countries will be checked for correct format. All postal abbreviations will be standard and correct. Upper and lower case will be correct for postal system requirements. It will only work if the members can let us know if they aren’t receiving the newsletter — of course, if they aren’t getting it, they are not reading this now! So it’s important that members who do get the newsletter spread this message to other members.

**Communicator:** Will there be a period when member services will be interrupted?

**Moore:** There will be a transition period, as the data is entered into the new system. For a few weeks, we will be running parallel systems. There may be errors made, but

the members should let us know about them and bear with us. We hope that the new software will ensure that the first time we fix an error, it will really be fixed and will stay fixed. There is a strong possibility that the entire accounting department will attend a four-day training course. This will enable them to learn the program very well, and get up to speed on it, without the usual office interruptions.

**Communicator:** Let’s turn from in-house systems to international systems. Where does OCIA stand now in the efforts to secure accreditation with Raad voor Accreditatie (RvA) and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)?

**Moore:** Things are progressing well. All the documentation required from OCIA is now in the hands of RvA and IFOAM. We are corresponding with both organizations and we are answering their queries to their satisfaction. We have heard from IFOAM that they have all our papers and they expect to do an on-site evaluation in mid-May. We expect the same sort of RvA evaluation sometime soon after that.

Their response time may have been a bit slower than we anticipated because we sent them such extensive, thorough documentation — and because they are probably overwhelmed with work, as the European Union organic market regulations are undergoing such complex and confusing changes right now. IFOAM is doing a very good job of servicing its accredited members and those applying for accreditation, writing reports to the European markets.

The International Organic Accreditation Service (IOAS, the accreditation branch of IFOAM) should have the accreditation reports ready by June, when the new European regulations governing organic products are set to come into effect.

We have done our own internal audit or evaluation of our Quality Systems here in the office. These exercises went very well. This sort of evaluation is a way of looking at the real world — versus looking at management’s idea of what the real world is.

We identified some areas with significant problems we had overlooked. This sent us back to the drawing board to rewrite those procedures or systems.

**Communicator:** Do those re-writes have to be submitted to RvA and IFOAM?

**Moore:** Yes. Those revisions, as well as the 1999 Bylaws and 1999 Standards have been sent on to the accreditation agencies.

**Communicator:** Where the next Annual General Membership Meeting will be held?

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**Moore:** At the last in-person meeting in Lincoln, the International Board of Directors decided to accept the Guatemala chapter's invitation to host the Year 2000 AGMM.

It will be held in the lovely colonial town of Antigua, in a beautiful coffee-growing area of Guatemala.

To make getting there as affordable for as many people as possible, the International Office is looking into chartering a plane — or planes. There are no definite plans yet, but we are investigating flights from Canada, the US mid-west and east coast. We will keep you informed.

All the modern technology we've gotten used to are certainly available in Guatemala and the rest of Latin America — the fax machines and good sound systems and minutes projected on the large screens.. The AGMM steering committee will be able to arrange tours that the average tourist could never take. This will undoubtedly be a good opportunity for North American members to see a bit of how the rest of the world lives — and they may find themselves feeling envious.

**Communicator:** Are there any updates from the US Department of Agriculture?

**Moore:** Well, the USDA says the new Proposed Organic Rule will be ready in late summer or early fall. There will be a comment period. Also, the USDA and the Meat Graders and Certification Bureau are designing an accreditation plan, and this has met with tentative approval by the European Union.

All of us in the organic community will follow these developments, and we'll keep the membership up to date.

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**1-800-443-7333**  
**isgtodd@worldnet.att.net**



## OCIA Accreditation Status

April 5, 1999

Dear Friends:

I would like to report the following regarding OCIA's accreditation status and steps towards compliance with EN 45011/ISO Guide 65. OCIA applied for EN 45011/ISO Guide 65 accreditation with Raad voor Accreditatie (RvA), approved accreditation body located in the Netherlands, on February 24, 1998. OCIA then submitted their Quality System documentation for RvA review on January 3, 1999.

OCIA applied for accreditation with the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) and submitted their Quality System documentation for IFOAM's review in December 1998.

IFOAM and RvA are both presently in the process of reviewing OCIA's Quality System documentation, and it is hard to predict how long they will each take to complete their respective review processes. IFOAM, however, has placed the review of OCIA's application on a "fast-track". This means that OCIA should receive their site evaluation from IFOAM in early to mid-May with EN 45011/ISO Guide 65 and EEC 2092/91 compliance reports to follow.

In June of 1998, OCIA underwent accreditation review and achieved accreditation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

If you would like to receive copies of the letters from RvA and IFOAM confirming OCIA's applications and the letter from CDFA confirming their approval of the OCIA certification program, or if you need additional particular information regarding OCIA's steps towards accreditation, don't hesitate to contact the OCIA International Office.

Sincerely,  
Rachel E. Smith, Esq.  
OCIA General Counsel

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## Lawsuit Against EPA

On February 18, Greenpeace, the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM, with 650 member organizations in 100 countries) and the Center for Food Safety filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court, calling on the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to cancel their registration of all genetically engineered Bt plants, cease approval of any new Bt plants and undertake an environmental impact assessment.

The petition charges that EPA did not properly assess three major environmental risks: the development of insects resistant to Bt, the transfer of Bt genes to other plants, and effects of Bt crops on beneficial, nontarget insects.

Jim Gerritsen, a plaintiff and OCIA certified potato grower from Maine, said, "Genetically engineered Bt crops will lead to insect resistance in just a few years. My ability to provide consumers with quality organic produce should not be compromised for the short-term benefit of the biotech industry."

There are 73 plaintiffs, including 34 farmers from 18 states, organizations (such as OCIA International) that represent thousands more farmers, IFOAM, Greenpeace and businesses — including the nation's oldest supplier of beneficial insects.

Organic farmers are concerned that cross-pollination from GE plants will contaminate their crops.

Charles Walker of Terra Prima Inc. said his company was forced to pull organic corn chips out of stores in seven European countries when they determined that the product had been contaminated with genetically modified corn. Losses from the recall have cost his small company over \$100,000.

Bt is a soil bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, that produces toxins to kill insects, but is non-toxic to mammals.

Organic farmers have been permitted to use Bt in its natural state as an emergency pest-control option. Once it is introduced into the genetic make-up of plants and is more widely present in the environment, the worry is that insects will develop resistance to Bt, ending its usefulness as an organic tool.

Now, with advances in genetic engineering, plants have been developed that contain a gene for Bt toxin. The EPA approved the use of Bt in potatoes in 1995 and has since agreed to its use in corn and cotton.

"EPA has shown a blatant disregard for federal law and its own regulations by approving Bt crops without fully assessing their environmental safety," said Joseph Mendelson, legal director of the Center for Food Safety. "I think the bottom line is the EPA should have done its homework on these plants before they registered them. They didn't do that. They didn't look at the adverse environmental impacts that this stuff creates."

EPA spokesperson Dave Cohen disagreed, saying, "EPA carefully makes sure that the biotech products we review fully comply with all legal requirements designed to ensure that they are environmentally sound and environmentally beneficial. We believe the actions we've taken with regard to Bt will be sustained against this legal challenge."

The full text of the lawsuit is on the Greenpeace website at <http://www.greenpeace.org/~geneng>

Charles Margulis of Greenpeace says, "If you can't access it and would like a copy of the "Statement of Facts" (about 15 pages), please let me know and I will be glad to send a copy. The first 50+ pages of the lawsuit is the list and description of plaintiffs—I'll send that along if anyone really wants it!"

—Thanks to David Letourneau and Patricia Dines

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## Soya Allergies Soaring

Mark Townsend/Daily Express, London, UK, March 12 — Fresh fears over the safety of genetically modified foods surfaced yesterday, after new research revealed that food allergies relating to soya increased by 50 percent last year.

A study by Europe's leading specialists on food sensitivity found health complaints caused by soya — the ingredient most associated with GM foods — have increased from 10 in 100 patients to 15 in 100 over the past year.

Researchers at the York Nutritional Laboratory said their findings provide real evidence that GM food could have a tangible, harmful impact on the human body.

The findings were sent to Health Secretary Frank Dobson and scientists urged the government to act on the information and impose an instant ban on GM food, while further

safety tests are carried out. Dr. Michael Antoniou, senior lecturer in molecular pathology at Guy's Hospital, Central London, said: "This is a very interesting, if slightly worrying, development. It points to the fact that far more work is needed to assess their safety. At the moment, no allergy tests are carried out before GM foods are marketed and that also needs to be looked at."

John Graham, spokesman for the York laboratory, said: "We believe this raises serious new questions about the safety of GM foods because it is impossible to guarantee that the soya used in the tests was GM-free." It is the first time in 17 years of testing that soya has crept into the laboratory's top 10 foods to cause an allergic reaction in consumers. The vegetable has moved up four places to ninth — and now sits alongside foodstuffs with a long history of causing allergies, such as yeast, sunflower seeds and nuts.

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receive genes for disease resistance from silk moths, chickens, viruses or bacteria. When compared to conventional forms of breeding, genetic engineering is faster, more efficient, and more selective.

### **What are the potential dangers of GE seeds?**

There are potential dangers to humans and to the environment. For humans, genetic engineering can result in new toxins and allergens in foods, unanticipated gene mutations or gene transfer from one species to another resulting in new diseases, and continued or increased contamination of water and food by encouraging chemical use in agriculture.

Dangers to the environment from GE seeds include: transfer of genes to wild relatives of crop plants and to open-pollinated crops, increased resistance of pests to pesticides by excessive exposure through GE crops, creation of new viruses attacking plant or wildlife species, and GE weed invasions.

An even greater threat to farmer sovereignty and worldwide food security is Terminator Technology, a patented gene system which kills the seed just before harvest, thus preventing farmers from saving seed and making farmers dependence on seed companies.

### **Protect Your Crop, Protect Your Livelihood**

If you are growing any of the crops listed on page 1, be aware that there are three major sources of GE contamination of crops:

1. Using contaminated seed
2. Cross-fertilization with GE crops
3. Contamination during handling

Here are steps you can take to minimize GE contamination

#### **Finding uncontaminated seeds**

It is difficult to recommend specific sources of seed since contamination can occur at any stage in the process from production through transport and storage. We have all been reading recent stories in the press about organic producers who were surprised by GE contamination of their crop. This can happen to anybody Ñ including seed suppliers. Until affordable testing is available to provide us with non-GE certification, we must all be more scrupulous in seeking seed. For the time being, the best assurance is knowing and trusting the source or requesting the results of a reputable test for GE material. Here are some tips for sourcing seed:

- Buy from known and reputable sources. Request organic seeds.
- Ask how the supplier is ensuring that no contamination has occurred in seed. (Where was it planted? Were there GE crops grown on neighboring farms?) Remind the supplier that your certification and livelihood depend on continued

assurance of no GE contamination.

- If you have doubts, ask the supplier if they have tested their seeds for GE presence. Can they confirm test results with a letter?
- If you are not convinced of seed purity, get your seed from another source.

ATTRA has a list of suppliers of untreated, heirloom, and organic seeds on their website at:

<http://www.attra.org/attra-pub/altseed.html>

(Posted February 1998, These are not necessarily tested or approved seeds or seed sources for assurance against GE contamination.)

### **Avoiding cross-fertilization with GE crops**

Measures to avoid cross-fertilization will be different with each crop. Soybeans, for example, are rarely a problem since they are mostly self-pollinated. Avoiding contamination in corn is much more difficult. USDA, the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies and commodities groups will provide you with standard planting distances which are meant to assure isolation and purity of crop varieties. However, these distances may not be adequate to avoid cross-pollination. Cross-pollination and contamination can result from wind, insects, and storm downdrafts over greater distances than those recommended.

Therefore, it is advisable to use a series of measures such as:

- Know your neighbors and know their crops. Cooperatively develop a plan that protects your organic crops.
- Plan your rotations with neighbors to assure the best possible protection of your crop.
- When necessary, cooperate with your neighbors so that you are each planting varieties with different pollination schedules.
- Take wind direction into account in planting location and row direction.
- Consider leaving border rows unharvested where you need a buffer.
- Erect physical barriers to diminish possible contamination. Trees can provide multiple benefits: windbreaks, wildlife habitat, and a partial pollen barrier.
- Monitor your crops through the season. Do the varieties of crops you grow have any physical attributes that might be visibly changed with cross-pollination? Ask around. In some crop varieties, slight differences in physical traits have been clues to cross-pollination (and thus genetic contamination) for farmers for many thousands of years.

If you have doubts about the purity of your crop, have it tested before you invest more money in processing and transport.

## Communicator Notes

### Approaching your neighbors

The Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society has drafted a letter which you can personalize and send to your neighbors. The letter explains the significance for organic farmers of GMO contamination through cross-pollination and spray drift. To obtain a copy, contact:

NPSAS

9824 79th Street SE, Fullerton, ND 58441 USA

Tel/Fax: 701-883-4304

### Protecting crops and products from contamination through handling

The final source of possible contamination is through handling.

- Follow standard organic practices and protocols which are meant to ensure purity and isolation of organic products.
- Talk with those who handle your product. Remind them that harvesting equipment, storage bins and trucks must be cleaned before contact with your product to assure its purity and your organic market.
- In work spaces where conventional products share space with organic products, make sure everyone is careful about cleanliness and labeling.

### Testing for GMOs:

At this time, there are few laboratories that can check plant or animal material for GMO content. Testing is not standardized. Tests only check a sample, so cannot assure a 100% pure and uncontaminated harvest. Check with your certifying agent for recommendations and requirements regarding GMO testing.

### For more information, contact:

Cooperative Development Services

30 W. Mifflin Street, Suite 401

Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Tel: 608-258-4396

Fax: 608-258-4394

E-mail: darcylk@inxpress.net

Organic Alliance

Blair Arcade West, Suite T

400 Selby Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Tel: 651-265-3678

Fax: 651-265-3679

E-mail: info@organic.org

www.organic.org

Here's a telling little note from Debbie Miller, who has been sending in articles from Saskatchewan: "I got lots of positive comments ...everyone was quite impressed that that 'American magazine' would devote so much space to Saskatchewan!"

Well, this is not an American magazine — it's your international newsletter. Send in your news!

Regular postal mail to me should be sent to the International Office and it will be forwarded to me.

**Deadline for the May/June issue: May 31**

**Send your contributions to:**

**Stephanie Wells, c/o OCIA International**

**1001 Y Street, Suite B**

**Lincoln, NE 68508-1172 USA**

**E-mail: swells@abacom.com**



### ATTENTION Canadian members:

Your user fee payments should be sent to a ***new address:***

**OCIA Canada**

**c/o Dinah Duffield**

**94 Downs Street**

**Lennoxville, QC J1M 1Z1**

Remember, starting June 1<sup>st</sup>, chapter members will send their payments to their chapters.

## Notices

**FOR SALE:** Organic Land, 1126 acres, certified by OCIA and OPAM.

Buildings: Stone mansion, outbuildings for grain, livestock and garden production.

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Annual Production: Equal to approximately 15% of its asset value.

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General Delivery

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# Farms could become 'farmaceutical' delivery systems

Watertown, SD, Agweek via NewsEdge Corporation, April 12 — About 25 percent of the corn grown in the United States in 1998 was genetically engineered.

Now, chew on this thought: In the very near future, maybe three or four years down the road, that mouth-watering sweet corn you enjoy on a family picnic might provide a vaccine that can eliminate your risk of contracting rabies.

Or, potatoes may provide enough of the right kind of protein in the blood to fight off viral diseases such as infectious hepatitis or even AIDS.

This is the cutting-edge technology that is being tested today, says Arnold Foudin, assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. He spoke last month at a Farmers Forum, hosted by a group of South Dakota Extension Service offices.

"Plants as delivery systems for vaccines and pharmaceuticals is where we are," he says. "

Foudin's job is to review all applications for commercial development of genetically modified organisms.

The pace of expansion is staggering. About 25 percent of the 19,500 research plots approved in the United States since 1987 were planted in 1998. He anticipates another record this year.

"Herbicide resistance is still the number one characteristic," he says. "But ... We're seeing change in the things that are being field tested from on-the-farm characteristics to value-added crops.

Consumers in the United States probably already have difficulty avoiding biotech products. Here are a few examples, according to a report from Purdue University:

- GE corn is used in familiar foods, such as breakfast cereals and taco shells. It is used to produce corn syrup, which is used as a sweetener in many foods.
- Transgenic soybeans are used in hundreds of products, including cooking oil, margarine and candles.
- In 1997, about one third of all dairy cattle in the United States were given bovine somatotropin, a hormone created through biotechnology, to increase milk production.
- The GE enzyme chymosin now is used in about 75 percent

of the cheese produced in the United States.

Other breakthroughs are on the horizon.

"This is the kickoff of what I believe is the real change, the evolution that is coming down to the farm," Foudin says. "Plants as delivery systems for vaccines and pharmaceuticals are no longer theoretical. We are getting the applications in the mail."

Here are some examples of field test applications under review or already approved by APHIS:

- Rabies-vaccine corn, from a seed company. "In much of the world, rabies is a substantial problem with no mechanisms to economically and reliably deliver the vaccine, so raise a vaccine corn," Foudin says.
- Blood-protein potatoes. The applicant wants to produce blood protein in potatoes. Research is under way to produce potatoes that will include blood protein that can be used to fight off viral diseases and disorders, such as infectious hepatitis and AIDS.
- Diarrhea-vaccine bananas, from an applicant originally from Texas A&M University, now from Cornell University.

The researchers want to create a plant delivery system for an anti-diarrhea vaccine. Statistics show that 2 million to 3 million children overseas die every year of bacterial diarrhea annually. "We're hoping to test it in the next year," he says.

Foudin's speech was delivered, coincidentally, at about the same time that headlines throughout rural America and beyond trumpeted the planned merger of DuPont Co. and Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc.

"Why would DuPont Co., the world's largest chemical company, pay \$7.7 billion for a seed corn company like Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc.?"

Foudin asked the group of farmers and businesspeople.

He explained that, today, nutraceutical-functional foods are a \$25 billion industry. Within the next three to five years, it will grow to \$100 billion annually.

"What will the public pay for food commodities with scientific information ... that it would decrease the occurrence of heart attacks by a substantial amount or that it would decrease cancer by substantial amounts?"

Foudin offers some insights. One company is in the inter-

## **GMOs in the United States date back less than 20 years:**

- **1983 — First GE plant created.**
- **1987 — First GE plants grown in fields under USDA supervision.**
- **1990 — First GE plants were grown under USDA supervision for commercialization.**
- **1996 — Approximately 6 million acres of genetically engineered plants were grown in the US.**
- **1997 — Approximately 25 million acres were grown.**
- **1998 — GE plants grown in the US expanded to 58 million acres.**

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mediate stages of doing rice genome research. Now, it wants to move more than 100,000 lines of GE rice to the United States. Other applications involve corn, soybean and cotton genomes.

“People are finding out not only how to move those single genes, but they are learning how to read the book, write simple sentences, write paragraphs, chapters, and I think shortly in the next century, they will be writing full books,” he says.

Transgenic field tests now are being conducted with 52 different plants. Corn leads the way, with thousands of different tests. Currently, wheat represents only about 1 percent of what has been tested in fields. However, Foudin believes wheat and other grains soon will be a large part of the nutraceutical movement in farm fields.

“We have no doubt that within the next 36 to 48 months, we will see development of commercial lines of wheat with GE disease resistance made available to the public,” he says.

States that grow cotton top the list, since about 50 percent of the nation’s cotton production now is genetically modified. Meanwhile, in 1998, about 38 percent of the nation’s soybeans and 25 percent of the corn were GE.

The US is not alone in biotech research. In New Brunswick, Canada, scientists are experimenting with blueberries, in hopes that, one day they will contain enough antioxidants to prevent cancer. They also are testing genetically engineered cranberries designed to cure urinary tract infections.

While research into biotechnology and nutraceuticals explodes in the United States and Canada, the industry does not have an unobstructed road ahead.

The industry has its share of critics and others who warn to proceed with caution. A large-scale battle is brewing in Europe over the use of transgenic foods sold in supermarkets and restaurants.

Foudin is a firm believer in caution. More than a dozen applications for field tests were denied or withdrawn last year in the Dakotas, Minnesota and Montana.

Foudin sees further development early in the 21st century. He speaks of research into building machines at the levels of molecules and atoms. “Recently one was described as a hollow tube of molecules that have an opposite charge on both ends. They will stick charged atoms at the center and it will be kind of shot out of the tube,” he says.

“How would they use it? Instead of going down to your heart surgeon, you would go down to your green grocer and get a prescription for a certain kind of broccoli that will perform like a Roto-Rooter and go into your veins and get rid of that cholesterol plaque.

Foudin suggests that industry trend is part of the reason for the recent rash of mergers between agricultural and non-agricultural businesses, such as chemical and pharmaceutical companies.

“DuPont is understanding that in the future your field will be the synthetic chemical plant of the world. Corporations worldwide have seen the light. They are moving at warp speed. If only 5 percent of the 5,000 field tests are commercialized, that will be 250 million genetically engineered products.”

**Visit Agweek on the World Wide Web at  
<http://www.agweek.com>**

## Coming Events

**May 19-20: The 2nd Annual Summit on Organic Food Technology**, Gilroy, CA. S.O.F.T. focuses on technical areas for product developers in the organic industry and information on international markets, ingredient resources and the changing legal face of certification. Contact: Gay Franklin. Tel: 408-842-4893, Fax: 408-842-5036, Email: [gvnc@safemail.com](mailto:gvnc@safemail.com)

**July 13-17: Feeding & Balancing The Soil: The Albrecht System of Sustainable Soil Fertility**, Little Creek Acres Demonstration Farm, Valley Center, CA. Healthy soil and nutrient balancing taught by soils expert Neal Kinsey. Cost: \$895 (\$750 if registered 30 days in advance). Tel: 760-749-9634 Fax: 760-749-0720 Email: [info@livinginharmony.org](mailto:info@livinginharmony.org) [www.livinginharmony.org](http://www.livinginharmony.org)

**August 20-22, Herbfest 99**, Norway, IA. Treating and teaching children, herbal therapies, healing traditions, growing, conservation, and mixing it up. Herb walks and a full children's program. Contact: 800-669-3275 Email: [michelle.mckee@frontiercoop.com](mailto:michelle.mckee@frontiercoop.com)

**September 19-23: International Composting Symposium**, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada. Website: <http://www.vitapost.com/ics99.htm>

**October 1-3: 4th Annual Mid-Atlantic Farming and Gardening Conference**, Charles Town, WV. With gourmet grower Paul Stamets, biodynamic farmer and author Hugh Love, biodynamic prep maker Hugh Courtney, and many other presenters and workshops. Contact: Allan Balliett 304-876-2373, Email: [bdnow@igg.com](mailto:bdnow@igg.com) <http://www.igg.com/bdnow>

**July 17-21, 2000: International Herb Conference**, Saskatoon, SK, Canada. Hosted by the International Herb Association and the Canadian Herb Association. Contact: Connie 306-694-4622, Fax: 306-694-2182, Email: [g.musings@dlcwest.com](mailto:g.musings@dlcwest.com)

**July 22-23, 2000: Herbfest 2000**, Outlook, SK. Western Canadian celebration of value-added herb and spice products from the prairies. Vendors will display, demonstrate and sell their wares. Musical entertainment, lots of great food. Contact: Connie at 306-694-4622, Fax 306-694-2182 Email: [g.musings@dlcwest.com](mailto:g.musings@dlcwest.com)

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## *Laws against libeling broccoli keep the public uninformed*

# **Take the Gag Off Food Safety Issues**

**By J. Robert Hatherhill**

Los Angeles Times, April 12 — Times are tough when you have to talk in hushed tones about hamburger safety. These days, merely implying that a food is unsafe can land you in court, as Oprah Winfrey learned with her now-famous comments against ground beef.

The lesson swiftly became a personal one when my publisher stripped lengthy passages from my new book. Simply put, I was not allowed to disclose dangers inherent in some common foods like dairy and meat products, as well as over-the-counter medicines like calcium supplements and non-prescription pain remedies. The problem had nothing to do with whether there was sufficient evidence to support the claims—there is—it came down to fear of litigation. I was told, “We could win the lawsuit, but it would cost us millions, and it’s just not worth it.”

My disturbing experience is part of a trend that is sweeping the country. We are losing one of the basic tenets [the United States] was founded upon: free speech.

The safety of food is mired in a deep, politically charged battle being waged on many fronts: in Congress, convincing legislators of the safety of many types of food and drugs; in the courts, silencing consumers from voicing opinions; and in the media, via huge advertising budgets.

Behind all of this is the fact that America’s food has undergone a startling change since World War II. The pastoral days of American food production have been replaced by a gigantic, mechanized industrial complex. In the last half-century, the modern food purveyors have centered their

efforts on the use of chemicals—many of which are harmful—to produce larger crops, plumper livestock and better textured and flavorful food with long shelf lives.

To achieve these goals, the food industry has assailed Congress with more than 200 food-lobby groups. The deviously concealed agenda of the food industry is not to nourish or even feed but to force consumers into an ever-increasing dependence on processed foods. Rather than valuing food for its ability to sustain health, it has now become the object of catchy commercials with celebrity endorsements.

Modern food processing not only strips away natural anti-cancer agents, but searing heat forms potent cancer-producing chemicals in the process. In the end, it is consumers who suffer from the alien food. These profound changes in our diet are leading to enormous health consequences. Unfortunately, it is no coincidence that since 1950 cancer rates have steadily increased and are now at the highest point in history.

In the past few years, the food junta unveiled its new business strategy. While parceling out a new wave of junk foods, fresh from its chemistry laboratories, it conspired and began its ominous push for food-libel laws. The fight began with a report about Alar, the popular growth-regulator for apples that lessens bruising and imparts a richer color. The Alar controversy erupted in 1989, after a CBS-TV “60 Minutes” episode depicted it as a cancer-causing agent. Promptly, apple sales plummeted. Many schools banned fruit treated with Alar. The angry apple growers sued CBS and lost. The manufacturer eventually stopped making it.

The food industry, embittered by the high-profile defeat, put intensified efforts toward the new food libel laws. During the last decade, at least a dozen states enacted these laws. Traditional libel laws have stated that only a corporation or a living person can be disparaged. But with the current food-libel statutes, former President George Bush could be hauled into court for disparaging broccoli.

The mere presence of these libel laws is forbidding. They can entangle one in costly litigation, regardless of who wins the lawsuit. The Texas cattlemen’s case against Winfrey cost nearly \$1 million to defend at the trial level alone. That does not include the costs of the federal case that is on appeal and another proceeding in state court. Winfrey’s victory is largely a symbolic gesture, a last gasp of free speech, since big industry can still drag anyone into court for merely discussing food safety. The end result is the silence of the majority of people who do not have the deep pockets or the time necessary to stage costly legal battles.

Food is shipped to market from all corners of the world, and consumers now have more reason to be watchful than ever before. Free speech is vital to those who speak on food safety issues. Food libel laws have made a mockery of our 1st Amendment rights to free speech and need to be quickly repealed. The public has every right to know about the safety and nutritional value of the food it purchases and eats.

*J. Robert Hatherhill, research scientist and faculty member of the Environmental Studies Program at UC Santa Barbara, is the author of “Eat to Beat Cancer” (Renaissance Books 1998)*

## Fond Farewells

Lisa Spicka joined OCIA in September 1997, but it seems like she's been with us longer. As the Central and South America Certification Coordinator, she has become the office's major link to OCIA's Spanish-speaking members.

When hired, Lisa had recently graduated as a Spanish major at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. While in school, she studied for six weeks in Querétaro, Mexico and traveled around south-central Mexico.

A couple of months into the job, she attended an in-person meeting of the International Board of Directors. It was held in Costa Rica to allow the board and some staff members to exhibit at BioFair, Latin America's organic trade show, which was held at the same time.

Lisa arrived with some trepidation. She had used her Spanish in telephone calls to members, but was embarrassed when, initially, she did not always understand what people were saying. She remembers calling an inspector, who was not in. The inspector's wife took a message and used an expression that loosely means "I'm at your service." Lisa did not understand. They went back and forth until the woman just thanked Lisa and ended the call. She said, "It was a big deal just to get through that. Now I realize it's a common expression and I use it myself."

She arrived at the Costa Rica meeting with no luggage. The OCIA booth and half the staff's luggage never arrived. She quickly picked up vocabulary for clothes shopping and daily trips to the airport to look for her luggage and the OCIA booth.

After Costa Rica, Lisa and John Moore went to Nicaragua. "It was good for me to meet Central American farmers and processors — and a very smart move on OCIA's part." The Nicaraguan members had been frustrated by poor communications with OCIA International during the previous year and they need-

ed to be heard. "We came home with a list of problems and worked through them. That personal contact made all the difference.

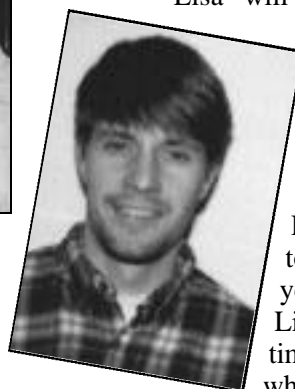
Lisa also went south to work on an inspector orientation workshop in Guatemala. She says, "Many thanks to the Guatemala chapter for their help!"

She helped set up the OCIA Nicaragua Regional Office. "Through the efforts of Mabell and Guillermo in the Nicaragua office, and great initiative



**Above: Lisa Spicka with Eduardo Mattheu, Hector Vasquez, John Moore and Luis Maldonado.**

**Right: Rob Holbrook.**



from key members there, the Nicaraguan membership is stronger than ever. The regional office is on its way to self-sufficiency." Lisa is proud to have played a small part in developing this chapter, and says Nicaragua will always be close to her heart.

On one of those trips, members nicknamed her La Tigresa — the tigress — and it has stuck. She speaks her mind and gets things done.

Now Lisa is leaving us to travel and broaden her horizons. She's made arrangements to live in London, England for several months. She plans to travel in Europe, and especially wants to visit Spain. Then she hopes to move on to Central America to work in aid and development projects.

Lisa says, "I am now a lot more familiar with customs and social structure in Central America. This familiarity brings an understanding of problems specific to the region, and responsibility towards rectifying them. I am lucky to have had certain opportunities in education and training.

"I'd like to use this experience to give back to the Latino community which

has taught me so much and been so generous with friendship and knowledge. This goal is especially fitting in light of the hardships that region has faced in the last few months."

We are sad to see her go. Peruvian organic inspector Gerardo Medina says her presence "has been a good support for Latinos. Many members have come to know OCIA through Lisa Spicka, because for two years she has been an aide to their organic certification work."

Lisa will be replaced by Rob Holbrook on an interim basis until July 15. It's interim only, as he is moving to Japan to take up a teaching position.

Rob has been a translator at OCIA for about a year and has worked with Lisa quite a bit, sometimes covering for her when she was out of the office. Rob is strong in five languages, having grown up in Peru, Ecuador and Brazil, and studying in France. He graduated from Union College in Lincoln with a major in French and a minor in Communications and has taught at both primary and high school levels.

In 1995, Rob went to work in Haiti for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency. It was right after the US lifted its embargo on Haiti and Hurricane Gordon hit the island, a very difficult time when relief agencies moved in to help. Rob worked on the Haitian President's Sub-committee for Disaster Preparedness, which was composed of Haitian government officials, non-government organizations and US military personnel.

"In translation, I work mainly with files and papers. I look forward to dealing with people again," Rob says. "I plan to give this job 150% and help train someone to fill the job permanently."

We want to thank Lisa and Rob for their terrific interpretation work at the AGMM — and wish them all the best in their travels and new adventures.

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## Prepare for the second round on US Organic Standards

The Organic Consumers Association (OCA) is a new national grassroots consumers campaign which grew out of the massive organic consumer response to the USDA's first round of Organic Standards (over 270,000 comments were submitted). Many of us were part of the SOS/Save Organic Standards Campaign. We are gearing up for the second round of USDA's Organic Standards and we need your help in developing a network of consumers, stores, growers, etc. The USDA will issue another proposed set of federal rules on Organic Standards and we want organic consumers to be prepared to respond to this second round. In fact, the USDA published an "issue/position paper" the end of October with comments due on December 14th (7,000 comments were sent in). This was a precursor to the Second Round. We have heard from Washington that the USDA will release the second round in late spring/early summer, 1999, with a comment period that could be only 45 days.

We have free display packets available to send to you that include: display posters, counter-top displays and flyers to inform your members/consumers about the second round of USDA's Organic Standards. Please let me know how many display packets you would like me to send to you for your coop/store/buying club/organizations or CSA. For buying clubs and CSA's, please let me know how many members you have so I can include enough handouts to send you.

What else you can do to support Save Organic Standards:

- If you don't already subscribe to Organic View (devoted to organic food issues and OCA's work), our free online bi-weekly newsletter, please subscribe. You can help recruit new subscribers to Organic View. See subscription instructions at the end of this article.
- To learn more about genetic engineering and food politics, subscribe to Food Bytes, our free online monthly alert. You can help recruit new subscribers to Food Bytes. See subscription instructions at the end of this article.
- We need individuals to help identify coops/health stores in your area that do not have our Save Organic Standards-SOS flyers. Send us their name, address and telephone number and we will contact them.
- We need city and regional coordinators who can help distribute action alerts to stores, organizations and groups that are not on email and are not in our data base. You can help

us develop a local database of activists and those interested in the issues (for email, fax, and telephone "trees"). Make sure you visit our web site regularly for new articles and information.

- We need donations to help pay for flyers and posters. Donations can be sent to: OCA, 860 Highway 61, Little Marais, MN 55614
- We need people to contact their elected Congressional senators and representatives about the importance of strong organic standards.

President Bill Clinton: [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)

VPAI Gore: [vice.president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:vice.president@whitehouse.gov)

USDA Secretary Dan Glickman: [sec@usda.gov](mailto:sec@usda.gov)

Also, please pass this message on to your email lists. We are trying to build an email network that can quickly submit comments to the USDA and elected officials about the organic standards.

Thanks,

Debbie Dunbar Ortman, National Field Organizer

Organic Consumers Association

3547 Haines Rd., Duluth, MN 55811 USA

Tel: 218-726-1443 • Fax: 218-726-1446

[safefood@cp.duluth.mn.us](mailto:safefood@cp.duluth.mn.us)

<http://www.organicconsumers.org>

Join the Organic Consumers Association in your local area.

If you want to become a member or a volunteer—or make a donation—call 218-726-1443.

Affiliated with the Center for Food Safety in Washington, D.C.: <http://www.icta.org>

To subscribe to the free electronic newsletter, Organic View, send an email to:

[organicview@organicconsumers.org](mailto:organicview@organicconsumers.org) with the message: subscribe

To subscribe to the free electronic newsletter, Food Bytes, send an email to: [majordomo@mr.net](mailto:majordomo@mr.net)

with the simple message: subscribe pure-food-action safety/politics issues. <http://www.purefood.org>

### Attention:Organic Soybean & Flax Growers

SK Food International is contracting new crop organic soybeans (early and late maturity groups) and organic brown flax at premium prices. Please contact Richard or Jennifer at:

**SK Food International**

**PO Box 1236, Wahpeton, ND 58074**

**TEL: 701-642-3929**

**FAX: 701-642-4102**

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## Saskatchewan Organic Directorate 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting

Forty-two people crowded into the Unitarian Hall in Saskatoon for the Saskatchewan Organic Directorate (SOD) first annual meeting March 27. President Will Oddie reported on a very active year.

- SOD met with representatives from the Sask Wheat Pool and with the Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food to discuss issues affecting organic producers.
- A two-day strategic planning meeting was held with 35 people representing every aspect of the organic industry.
- SOD has also been involved with several grant projects, including co-operating with the Herb & Spice Association on an Aster Yellow project, with Gary Smith to produce an Organic Production Manual and with Hart Haidn to plan another organic conference.
- SOD met with the OPIS Advisory Committee and intends to be involved in guiding the re-development of OPIS. SOD has communicated with organic producers through the OPIS Market Bulletin as well as sending press releases on various topics to media across the province.

Marion Leniczek reported that the Research Committee has met with researchers and will identify what research information is available and what areas need more attention. They developed a questionnaire for organic producers, soliciting suggestions for research projects. They also met with representatives from Saskatchewan Agriculture to discuss organic alternatives for grasshopper control.

Communications is a top priority for SOD. Joan Harrison, chair of the Communications/Promotion Committee, reported that in addition to communicating through the OPIS Market Bulletin, SOD has agreed to co-publish Synergy magazine. They are starting work on an organizational brochure and will apply for funding to produce a trade show booth.

Hart Haidn, in co-operation with SOD, is organizing a Scientific Conference to give government and research personnel an opportunity to discuss organic agriculture. Speakers will address the economics of organic agriculture and production issues. The proposed Centre For Sustainable Agriculture will also be discussed. The conference is scheduled for November 14-15 in Saskatoon.

SOD Vice-President Bill Rees attended the Western Sustainable Agriculture Working Group meeting in Naramata, B.C. He was impressed by the networks that have been established to inform the consumer public — as demonstrated by the effective campaign to stop the proposed organic legislation in the United States.

Scott Hartley, Crop Insect Specialist for Sask Ag & Food, has had a number of requests from rural administrators wanting to know how to handle grasshopper problems under organic situations. Wherever possible, Scott recommends non-chemical means of control; however, in an emergency, he will recommend that rural municipalities use a bran bait to control grasshoppers in ditches adjacent to organic farms. Although the bran bait contains substances prohibited on organic farms, it is considered more environmentally friendly than chemical alternatives. Organic producers are reminded to register their land as organic with their rural municipalities. If the municipality uses bran bait or other prohibited substances on a ditch adjacent to an organic field, the producer must ensure that the 25 feet of crop next to the ditch is not harvested, stored or sold as organic. Detailed records must always be kept.

Bylaws developed by Bill Rees, with help from Debbie Miller, Will Oddie and Curtis Kuchinka were adopted. At present SOD is made up of nine certification bodies (COCC and 8 OCIA chapters) representing 323 certified organic producers. The bylaws provide for the addition of producers-at-large, corporate members (processors/traders), associate members (like-minded organizations) and supporting members (like-minded individuals). For more information, or a copy of the bylaws, call Debbie at 306-476-2089.

The Canadian Organic Advisory Board (COAB) President Gordon Hamblin and CEO Robert MacDonald were in attendance. Gordon gave a history of the COAB process, beginning with the Canadian Organic Unity Project in 1990. The priority has always been for the process to be industry driven. After several years of consultation with the organic industry, we have a national standard. The next step is to develop an accreditation model. COAB has been working with the Canadian General Standards Board and the Canadian Standards Council and will follow criteria identified by ISO Guide 65 to facilitate entry of Canada organic products into the European Union. The Standards Council of Canada will accredit COAB as a certifier. COAB is proposing the formation of a third-party certification secretariat to work closely with local certification bodies and with the authority to approve certifications. The accreditation process is still in the formative stages, with a lot of details still to be worked out. Gordon and Robert emphasized the importance of having producers, processors, consumers and government involved in the process. To date the COAB process has been largely government-funded. The intention is for the process to be funded by the organic industry in the future.

The minutes of the February 12 and 13 International Board of Directors meetings have been approved. Those of the meetings of March 2 and March 18 have been refereed, but not approved.

Members may have the final, approved minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors by requesting them from the International Office —*Editor*

### **OCIA International, Inc. In-person Board Meeting Election of Officers Friday, February 12, 1999**

Meeting was called to order at 6:54 PM CST at the Holiday Inn in Lincoln, Nebraska. Rachel Smith, (RS) OCIA's legal counsel, chaired meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors that were present: Clark Phillips (CP); Dave Welsch (DWe); Dale Maass (DM); Keith Carter (KC); Marva Holt (MH); Mikel Lund (ML); Dave Walton (DWa); Luis Maldonado (LM). Those Board members absent were: Heinrich Morf (HM) and Melodi Nelson (MN).

Also present were Jeremy Thaler; John Moore (JM), COO; Lisa Spicka, translator.

Minutes were recorded by JM.

RS started the meeting by handing out confidentiality forms, conflict of interest forms and job resumés for each Board member to fill out and return to her by Saturday morning. RS explained each of the forms.

CP read the Board of Directors obligations and duties and then read the Executive officers duties before each of the nominations were held.

KC nominated DWe as president, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM. DWa moved to close nominations, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DM. Motion carried. DWe is the president by acclamation.

ML nominated, LM as the 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president. 2<sup>nd</sup> by CP. Motion carried.

DWa moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by KC to close nominations. Motion carried. LM is 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president by acclamation.

CP nominated ML as 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president. 2<sup>nd</sup> by MH. Motion carried. DWe moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM to close

nominations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president. Motion carried. ML is the 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president by acclamation.

LM nominated MH as secretary. 2<sup>nd</sup> by DWa.

ML moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DWe to close nominations. MH was elected as secretary by acclamation.

MH nominated KC as treasurer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by CP. DWe moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DWa to close nominations. Motion carried. KC is treasurer by acclamation.

KC nominated CP as chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DWe. KC moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DWa to close nominations. CP is chair by acclamation vote.

JM turned over the minutes to MH at this point.

RS turned the chair over to CP.

CP read a letter from Iowa #1 on their concerns of the user fee motion that was passed on the floor of the AGMM.

JM stated that he had been asked to attend their annual meeting before the AGMM. He is still planning to attend this meeting of the Iowa #1 chapter.

Discussion was held on the increase in user fees passed on the floor of the AGMM and the implementation of the user fee assessment that was passed. It was the consensus of the Board that a top priority must be made to get the chapters paid back this year that OCIA International owes.

Several different options were discussed as how to get the money paid back to the chapters. Final determination was tabled until the next meeting.

DWe moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by ML to implement the \_% increase in user fees on April 1<sup>st</sup>, of 1999. Motion carried.

LM moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM CST. Motion carried.

### **OCIA International, Inc. In-person Board Meeting Saturday, February 13, 1999 Lincoln, Nebraska, Holiday Inn**

#### **1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM CST.

#### **2. Roll Call**

Members attending were: Clark Phillips (CP); Dave Welsch (DWe); Dale Maass (DM); Marva Holt (MH); Keith Carter (KC); Mikel Lund (ML); Dave Walton (DWa); Merling Preza Ramos (MR); John Moore (JM), (COO) and Lisa Spicka, translator.

Absent were Luis Maldonado (LM); Melodi Nelson (MN) and Heinrich Morf (HM).

Members present were Mario Guilbault and Alain Droulers.

#### **3 Establishment of Quorum**

A quorum was established with 8 members present and LM joining.

#### **4. Tape recording of the meeting.**

Meeting was not recorded because the referees of the AGMM were using the tape recorder.

#### **5. Agenda**

Partnership

Bernie Fox letter

Iowa #1

In-person meeting

It was the Consensus of the Board to adopt the agenda as read and to leave the agenda flexible if anything else arrived that needed to be dealt with.

#### **6. Appoint minute referees**

DM and ML will referee the minutes of today's meeting.

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## 7. Quebec Partnership

Reports from the Quebec partnership were represented by Mario Guibault and Alain Droulers with their concerns on accreditation with partnership and the user fees.

International owes a sum of money to the Quebec partnership but basically the same amount is owed by the Quebec Partnership to International.

Stated that we (Quebec Partnership) function with two people doing the administrative work, who are the same people performing the majority of the inspections. We (Quebec Partnership) have never hidden this fact; it was the precedence from a previous Board of Directors that this was ok. We were told that for 2 years that this was ok with IFOAM. MCLC has now asked us to change the situation to avoid the perception of conflict of interest. On 9/15/98 we responded to their letter that this was not a conflict of interest, it only appeared that way. It is impossible to find sufficient inspectors in our area.

MCLC hand-delivered a letter this week to us when we arrived at the AGMM. Our other members do not know of this letter or its contents. MCLC gave us to the 22nd of February to conform to their recommendations or to revert to the previous situation where we acted as a chapters or chapters. I have talked about this situation with MCLC asking for a delay until the end of March. Since the beginning of the Partnership, services in Quebec have improved. There are no delays, large effort on crop improvement, we are also a leader for implementing the organic laws in Canada, we are in very good financial health, user fees are paid approximately 90%. It will be very hard for member to modify this good situation. Our intent is to go back and try to straighten this out and go forward, but with the situation with the user fee increase it is going to be very hard to sell or make accepted both things at the same time. In theory, if we examine the increase alone we would have problems but we could get through it.

I have asked to be at the Board meeting now to share with you my concerns and worries of approaching all of this at once. And to examine which points we could possibly have comprised right now. With the Quebec Partnership, it is important to stay with OCIA.

LM joined the meeting at 2:52 PM CST.

Right now we are paying .125%, that will increase by .125%.

Mario Guibault and Alain Droulers left the meeting for a brief period for the Board to discuss this situation.

JM feels there may be a misconception of how they are collecting user fees.

.250 is the % that they will send to International. Currently .5% is to fund the partnership in Quebec, of that they need to send .125% of gross organic sales to International.

With the increase in user fees they now need to send .250% to International.

Mario Guibault and Alain Droulers returned to the meeting and the collection service was explained to them.

JM explained that if the partnership were to start to function as a chapter again, as an alternative by MCLC, then they would have to pay the .50% user fees on gross organic sales to OCIA International.

As of today they will send .125 % of sales on gross organic sales to International and then on April 1<sup>st</sup> they will send .25% of gross organic sales as user fees to International. Mario Guibault and Alain Droulers will take this information back to the partnership and recommend adjusting to this fee schedule.

### 7.1. Training for staff in the Quebec Partnership

JM will prepare the training for this person to be on staff in the Quebec partnership if this is the option that they take as given by MCLC.

JM commented that he has ideas of how to issue the TC's with the Quebec

Partnership but would like input from the Board before any system is implemented.

The partnership is still under formation stages with different areas being worked on.

JM feels that the partnership with OCIA and IFOAM will have to be looked at very carefully.

DWe feels that oversight and full supervision will still be at the International office. Based somewhat like the chapter.

JM stated that Policies and Procedure would need to be developed this year for the office in Quebec.

Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

## 8. Financial

DWa moved, 2nd by LM to enter confidential session on the basis of OCIA International Board Policy on Confidential Session and minutes section #2 which states Issues dealing with a member's or employee's right to confidentiality and protection of reputation unless said member or employee requests an open session.

DWa moved, 2nd by LM to exit confidential session. No motions were taken during confidential session.

Chair recessed the meeting at 5:05 PM CST.

Chair reconvened the meeting at 5:28 PM CST.

## 9. In-person meeting

JM, Ruth Cheek (office staff) and DWe have indicated that they will attend Expo West on behalf of the Board and provide a written report.

It was the consensus of the Board to schedule March 17<sup>th</sup> -21st for the in-person meeting.

## 10. COO travel schedule

The 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> of March JM has been invited to attend the annual meeting of Kansas #2.

He has also been invited to attend Iowa #1's annual meeting. February

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27. They have concerns about the .25% user fee and the new user fee assessment passed at the AGMM.

DWe moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM to implement the motion made on the floor of the 1999 AGMM, in regards to the increase in user fees. As brought forth by the members.

The Board greatly appreciates the support of the membership and that is the reason for the implementation of this motion. Motion carried.

### **11. Bernie Fox letter**

CP will reply to Bernie's letter with the Board's concerns in regards to his letter in regards to the increase in user fees, as brought to the Board.

### **12. Implementation of the .25% user fee and the user fee assessment.**

JM stated that we need to set up procedures for implementing the assessment fees. He commented that the office staff is working on this already and that when the forms are all compiled he would like to send it out with a few chapters on a trial basis.

### **13. Nicaragua Office**

Further discussion of the Nicaragua office was tabled until the in-person meeting in March. The contract for the one-year trial basis does not come due until May.

### **14. Next meeting**

No date was set but, a pending board meeting will be held between now and the in-person meeting.

### **15. Adjournment**

MH moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DWe to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:44 PM CST.

## **OCIA International, Inc. Tele-Conference Board Meeting Tuesday, March, 2, 1999**

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Clark Phillips called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM CST.

### **2. Roll Call**

Members attending were: Dave Welsch (DWe); Luis Maldonado (LM); Marva Holt (MH); Clark Phillips (CP); Keith Carter (KC); Dave Walton (DWa); Mikel Lund (ML); Merling Preza Ramos (MR); Dale Maass (DM); Heinrich Morf (HM); Melodi Nelson (MN); John Moore (JM), COO; Rob Holbrook, translator; Kathy Fleming (KF), board liaison.

### **3. Establishment of Quorum**

A quorum was established with 11 members being on line.

### **4. Tape recording of meeting**

KC moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by MH to record the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was recorded from this point on.

### **5. Appoint minute referees**

DWa and HM will referee the minutes of today's meeting.

### **6. Approve Agenda**

Luis Maldonado joined at 8:08 AM CST.

Several items were tabled until the next meeting in Lincoln. Items added were:

Advertisement policy for the communicator.

Ontario

DM moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM to accept agenda as amended.

### **7. Next meeting**

#### **7.1 In-person meeting in Lincoln, March 18-20, 1999**

Kathy is working with the people who need airline tickets. Packets will be mailed from the office after the 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **8. COO report**

#### **8.1. Request for OCIA representative at organic congress (Vegetables)**

JM reported on the vegetable conference that was rescheduled and is now scheduled for May 18-21, 1999 in Guatemala. JM will be out of the office at the time so will be unable to attend. They are willing to work with us and help to pay for \_ of the air fare and some of the accommodations. This is a conference for vegetable growers or anyone who wants to attend. The emphasis is to get people involved. The University of MN is putting this on. They would like someone to attend with somewhat of knowledge of vegetables as to how to grow them organically.

ML moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM to table further discussion until the Lincoln meeting.

### **8.2. Staff complaint**

JM reported on the Staff complaint and the respect given to a member. ML asked about the policy that was passed by the Board on accessing a fee for incomplete TC's. JM replied that this policy has never been implemented due to the fact that TC's have been coming in much more accurately. JM feels that he has covered the situation but wanted the Board to know what was happening.

### **8.3. Petition**

JM reported on the petition submitted by Dave Engle. So far we have had one signature on the petition. DWe replied that there should be another one coming in, as he received one at home in the last couple days. It is in the office and will be sent out to the rest of the Board.

DWe has been calling the chapters and visiting with them about the user fee increase.

### **9. User Fees**

#### **9.1. Office progress on implementing new User Fee system.**

##### **9.1.1. Assessment at chapter level**

##### **9.1.2. Assessment at International level**

JM reported that the packets went out on Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup> to the Chapter Contacts with a cover letter and expla-

nation and the forms that will be used. So far, only two Corporate members have been renewed under the new system.

## 10. Committees

### 10.1 Appointments

ICC-A and B need to be set up as soon as possible. Peter Murray has served for 4 years, as has Don Jarrett. It was the consensus of the Board to ask Peter to stay on for 90 days as a training mode for the committee. There were 4 names suggested to fill the vacancies on the ICC committees. DWe will contact these people.

ICC-C: JM is holding a meeting this weekend with people willing to sit on the ICC-C committee. JM explained the format that he will follow to train this new committee once the Board has approved it. He is still compiling a list of people willing to serve and will submit this list to the Board.

MCLC: Sam West would like to be removed from the committee as soon as chapter licensing is finished. As soon as the Board appoints a person for the vacancy, they will sit on the committee until after Chapter licensing.

Keith is willing to sit as Ex-officio until after the chapter licensing files are through. At that time ML will consider taking over. Final determination was tabled until the Lincoln meeting.

ISC: Keith and DWe will devise a policy to keep inspectors as independent third party people for discussion at the Lincoln meeting.

LM left the meeting at 9:06 AM CST.

The ex-officio of each committee will contact the people who have signed up for that committee and the names presented by the Board to see if they will serve.

IRC: DWe and Kathy will do research as to the length of time and the number of terms that several members have served and report back to the Board in Lincoln.

Finance: Jeremy Thaler has said he will serve on the committee. David

Cozac would like to step down for a year due to personal conflict.

Ad-hoc committee: MH will get the exact wording of the motion made at the AGMM for the purpose of this committee and report at the in person meeting. ML moved 2<sup>nd</sup> by DWa to table further discussion until the in person meeting in Lincoln. Motion carried.

Promotion Committee: MN will call Jim Gerritson and Gene Mealhow and see if they will both agree to sit on the committee.

By-laws: Need to try to find one or two more people to make a committee of 4 people. KC will contact the people that were recommended.

JM left the meeting at 9:26 AM CST.

Crop Improvement: JM returned at 9:29 AM CST. ML will call the names mentioned to complete the committee.

Nominations Committee: DWe will be ex-officio and call the names that were submitted.

IAC: The setup of this committee is made up of the M/CLC chair, and the chairs of ICC committees. Further discussion was tabled until the in person meeting in Lincoln.

### 11. Ad hoc committee on Bushman Organic Farms tribunal process.

DWe moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by MH to enter confidential session on the basis of #2 of the OCIA International Board Policy On confidential Session and Minutes which states issues dealing with a member's or employee's right to confidentiality and protection of reputation unless said member or employee requests an open session. Motion carried.

KC moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by MH to exit confidential session. Motion carried.

One motion and one directive were made during confidential session.

KC moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DWa to accept the draft response to Iowa #2. Motion carried.

JM will check and make sure the information did go to the Iowa State

Board and report back at the in person meeting. **(Directive)**

### 12. Rescind 94AGMM001

Was tabled until the in person meeting with further research to do be done by JM to be distributed to the Board.

### 13. Advertising Policy for the Communicator

Stephanie Wells has asked for the Board to look into the aspect of advertising for a different agency in the Communicator.

MN stated to send this to the Promotions Committee to devise a policy to be submitted back to the Board, with mandates to deal with advertising charges and advertising policies for different agencies.

It was the consensus of the Board to direct SW to decline to run the ad at the present time and that a policy will be devised to handle situations like this in the future.

### 14. Ontario Chapter Update

ML moved, MN 2<sup>nd</sup> to enter confidential session on #2 of the OCIA International Board Policy On Confidential Session and Minutes which states issues dealing with a member's or employee's right to confidentiality and protection of reputation unless said member or employee requests an open session. Motion carried.

KC moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DWe to exit. Motion carried. One motion was made during confidential.

KC moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by ML to obligate the funds for Clark to attend the Ontario #1 AGMM with the contingent upon an invitation from that chapter. Motion carried. DWa abstained from the vote.

### 15. Computer Analysis

JM reported on the current computer analysis being done. As of now none of the programs will put us farther ahead of where we are now. Richard Fleming feels that the system will be done by the end of March and be ready to bring the system on line and

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begin the debugging of the system.

### 16. Financial Report

Bob Fleming joined the meeting at 10:37 AM CST and went over the financial reports.

ML would like to see further discussion of the AGMM on the agenda for the in-person meeting.

Questions were asked from the Board about the cash needed monthly and the budget to actual income reports.

DWe suggested letting the finance committee make their analysis and give their report at the in-person meeting in Lincoln.

### 17. USDA, NOSB, and IASC update

JM reported on any updates that he has received on the acceptance of RvA, IFOAM and an independent control authority. It is still confusing at the best with several different options to be considered in the future.

We should have an IFOAM report by June 30<sup>th</sup> per conversation with Ken Commins.

IFOAM has listed OCIA as an applicant member.

### 18. Adjournment

DWa moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by MH to adjourn at 11:15 AM CST. Motion carried.

## OCIA International, Inc.

### In-Person Board Meeting

### Hampton Inn Conference Room

### Lincoln, Nebraska

Thursday, March 18, 1999

### 5. Call to Order

Chair Clark Phillips called the meeting to order at 8:50 AM CST.

### 6. Roll Call

Members attending were: Dave Welsch (DWe); Luis Maldonado (LM); Mikel Lund (ML); Marva Holt (MH); Keith Carter (KC); Clark Phillips (CP); Dave Walton (DWa); Merling Preza Ramos (MPR); Dale Maass (DM); Heinrich Morf (HM); Melodi Nelson (MN); John Moore

(JM), COO; Lisa Spicka, translator.

### 7. Introduction of Board members

Members introduced themselves and gave a brief introduction about them.

### 8. Establishment of Quorum

A quorum was established with 11 members being present.

### 9. Tape recording of meeting

KC moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM to record this meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was recorded from this point on.

### 10. Appoint minute referees

Procedure for refereeing this meeting was discussed. It was decided to try and referee each day's minutes.

MN and will ML referee the minutes of today's meeting.

#### 6.1. Procedure of documents

MH moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DM to have all original documents be sent to the office and archived with the Board Liaison. Motion carried.

#### 6.2. Policy for procedure of keeping the tapes

MH discussed the policy that addressed the keeping of the tapes.

KC moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by MH to rescind policy 97BD80 and moved that all taped meetings of the BoD shall be kept in a secure location for a period determined by the Quality system.

Friendly amendment by DWe to insert "seven years" instead of "determined by the Quality system". Amendment accepted.

Motion now reads: KC moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by MH to rescind policy 97BD80 and moved that all meetings of the BoD which are taped shall be kept in a secure location for a period of seven years.

Motion carried.

### 7. Approve Agenda

It was the consensus of the Board to cover the items listed on today's agenda. Other items to be discussed over the course of the three days:

1V GMO's

2V Lawsuit against EPA on Bt.

2.1. Policy from Jim G.

3V Accreditation

IFOAM

RvA

USDA

Canada

Report from Bio Fach

Report from RS on RvA

4. Chapter relations

payment and certification and other items

Iowa #2

Ontario #1

Wisconsin

Illinois

Missouri

Quebec partnership

New Brunswick

Communication to chapter that we owe monies to.

Support to the chapters so that they won't have to wait 6 months to receive certificates

Dating system on certificates

5. Appointment of committees and mandates to committees

6. Communication mandate

7. Minutes distributed

8. AGMM directed changes

9. Implementation of staff procurement and changes

10. AGMM 1999

11. AGMM 2000

12. Private label membership

13. Discussion of the initiation in the implementation of the user fee by the office

14. ICC-C

Names and resumes

Report form Ruth

15. COO reports

Written

Verbal

16. Field offices

- 
- 16.1 Field office in Nicaragua  
16.1.1. Short term and long term  
17. Stephanie Wells contract  
18. 2 candidate interviews

Friday

Saturday

19. Noon tomorrow, meeting with Gerard on RVA

20. Update on insurance

DWa moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM to accept the draft agenda for today and to discuss the listed items during the rest of the meeting with the notion that we can add or rearrange them. Motion carried.

### 8. Minutes

Were tabled until after the finance report.

### 9. Financial report

Bob Fleming joined the meeting at 9:38 AM CST.

Bob thanked the treasurer for coming into the office and trying to get a feel on the accounting practices. He then went over the financial reports that had been prepared.

It was the consensus of the Board to mandate to the Finance committee to investigate and research the Inspector Fees account and report back to the Board within the next month or two. **(Directive)**

Finance committee needs to look seriously at the accounts receivable account.

BF then went over the AGMM finances for the profit and loss.

KC addressed the Board with his concerns with the hotel bill. As of this time a contract has not been found in the offices that was signed between OCIA and the Hotel so Keith could not go back and compare the bills to the contract.

Questions were asked as to the bills submitted by the committee chairs. It may be possible that there has been a misunderstanding or miscommunication between the BoD and the Chair.

The bill will have to be gone over in detail to work out all of the problems

that have been addressed in the discussion of the board.

Chair recessed the meeting for a 15-minute break at 10:22 AM CST.

Chair called the meeting back to order at 10:40 AM CST.

JM addressed the Board with concerns and announcements that he had pertaining to the office.

Lisa Spicka has announced her resignation from OCIA. JM feels that if the Board does not consider pay increases for the staff there may be more resignations.

### 10. Future of the AGMM

JM addressed some of the concerns that he had about future AGMM's. It was the consensus of the Board to continue with further discussion after the ad-hoc committee has met and went over the finances of the AGMM. Ad-hoc committee of KC, DWe, MH, and JM will meet this evening to go over these concerns.

Another ad-hoc committee on long term objectives of the cash flow, factors of the collection base on user fees, cash income for the first three months was devised with to look over these issues and possible come up with mandates to go to the Financial committee. Ad-hoc committee of CP, BF, LM, MR, DWa, will be held this evening.

### 11. Corporate implementation of user fees

JM reported that so far 5 applications have gone out to the Corporate members since the AGMM. BF feels that corporate members should be put on the new user fee payment structure; with all corporate members having one anniversary date, that now is the time to implement this.

DWe moved that members certified through International be put on the same time line as the chapter time lines for the assessment and collection of user fee based upon projection, with the first payment being June 1, 99 and that this motion replaces the consensus arrived at during the meeting of Jan 13, 99 of the BoD. 2<sup>nd</sup> by

LM Motion carried.

### 12. Computer system update

JM reported on the update of the computer system update. At this time JM is hoping that part of the new system will be implemented into the office next Friday. JM stated that we are still not sure of where we are going to go with the computer updates. Y2K tests will have to be run on each individual's computer and each file. There may be certain updates of computer purchases that will be needed.

Task Force, (which was recommended by the auditors) and Peach Tree are the accounting systems that JM and BF have been looking into for upgrading.

BF stated that Task Force is in dos and is not a multi user friendly system. The company is in the process of updating to Windows. Peachtree is a multi user but has been know to have trouble with having the capability of keeping the data available for use that is over two years past.

BF did check on the system that we are currently using which is Great Plains. We are originally on a partnership basis with the company, that International would give or sell the program to the chapters. There was agreements made that were not met, ie classes. These agreements were made prior to this Board. We need to redo the agreement. We are still getting 800 number support from the company. The current system is capable for 25 users; we only need 5 users with four modules for the accounting system.

BF recommended that we find a less complicated, less expensive type of accounting system.

BF stated that he is going to look at Quick Books Pro and other accounting systems that are simpler systems.

JM continued discussion with the information that was relayed to him from JeM on the systems that were being considered.

JM and BF are going to continue with further investigation of different pro-

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grams and report back to the Board.

### 13. Approval of the Minutes

#### 13.1. February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1999

KC moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM to approve the February 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes as circulated. Motion carried.

#### 13.2. February 7<sup>th</sup>, 1999

MH moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM to approve the minutes of the February 7, 1999 meeting. Motion carried.

#### 13.3. February 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 1999

DWe moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by MH to approve the minutes of February 8<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 1999. Motion carried to approve the minutes as amended.

#### 13.4. February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1999

DWe moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DWa to approve the minutes of February 12, 1999. Motion carried to approve the minutes as amended.

#### 13.5. February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1999

Tabled the approval of the Minutes of February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1999 until after the referees and the Secretary have had a chance to go over the tapes to make sure that all motions on the user fees are recorded accurately.

Chair recessed the meeting at 12:32 PM CST for lunch.

Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM CST.

All previous members were present with Rob Holbrook (RH), joining the meeting to do the translating for MPR in place of Lisa.

### 14. Committees

DWe reported on update of the committee appointments

MCLC : John Simmons will remain as chair. Tim Cada will fill the vacancy on this committee to bring it up to 5 participants. KC will be ex-official.

ISC: Co-chairs will remain the same. DM will be the ex-officio. Walter Walchuk from Alberta and Bryce Lundberg from California will serve on the committee. Tim Kapsner will be asked to see if he will fill the last position on this board. Prakash

Purohit is hopeful that by mid summer he will be able to participate fully in the committee.

Chair recessed for 5 minutes at 2:10PM CST for a Birthday wish for MR.

Chair called the meeting back to order at 2:29 PM CST.

Luz Riley has taken the place of RH for translations.

IRC: Tim Cada will move to Standards. DWe will continue the follow up of calling the other members.

Finance Committee: Will Oddie, Russ Mears will remain on the committee, Jeremy Thaler will serve on the committee as will KC as the Treasurer of OCIA. David Cozac has voiced his decision to CP to step down from the committee.

Ad-hoc committee: Caps and sliding scale: Steve Elliott, Charles Romo, Steve Zoller, John Spang, and Louise Blanchard from Quebec were the names mentioned to fill this committee. KC will contact the members that did not volunteer at the AGMM to see if they will serve.

Promotions: MN is the ex-officio and is still trying to contact the members. This committee will remain the same as last year with the exception of adding Jim Gerritsen. Cristin Colling will be asked to see if she will be the chair. This Committee needs a mandate from the Board.

Bylaws committee: Tanya Russ has asked to step down from the committee as chair, but would like to remain on the committee. MH will be ex-officio.

Bernie Culek and Bob Link will need to be called.

IRC: John Link and John Gwinn will be asked to see if they would be willing to serve for either IRC, By-laws or nominations committee.

Crop Improvement: Joe Beaner, Thad Willis, and Darrell DeVine will be asked to serve on this committee. HM will be ex-officio for this committee. This committee needs a mandate from

the Board.

Nominations: Erwin Krueger, DWe will be ex-official.

Inspector Accreditation Committee: This committee needs mandates from the Board.

### ICC

ICC-A: Peter Murray is not able to serve for 90 additional days. Don Jarrett will continue until after the next meetings to get the new committee functioning and then will step down. Carlos Midence will remain on the committee. DWa is the ex-official of the committee and will continue to call names of different people who were suggested to serve on this committee.

ICC-B: Jim Rowh will continue as chair, Catherine Richard is an external member.

ICC-C: Four applications were submitted for this committee. MPR was suggested as the ex-official of the committee. Cesar Fajardo is a member of OCIA; Francisco Bayardo Betarco Mernes is applying for membership. Dr. Dennis Salazar is a professor at the community college. Martha Matus, is a member from Nicaragua. These four come as recommendations of OCIA Nicaragua members. Dr. Godoy is from Guatemala, a member from the chapter in Guatemala, who does coffee roasting. At this time we have enough people willing to serve it is now up to the Board to decide as to who the external are and that different countries are represented.

Dr. Godoy,(bi-lingual), (chair); Cesar Fajardo and Dr. Salazar, as external will fill this committee. They have all agreed to sit on the committee.

JM explained the process that he has outlined as to the way that the process will proceed with the ICC-C committee was outlined.

a) Members will be sent all the guidelines that they need, minute taking, decisions making process and etc.

b) They will then be brought to the Lincoln office for in-person training.

1. They will sit in on as many ICC meetings as can be scheduled in a week's time.

2. At the end of this week, they will conduct an ICC-C meeting in the office with the chairs of the other ICC committees present.

3. If everything runs smoothly, they will be sent home with the files and proceed as a functioning committee.

ICC-A :Wayne Martin has been suggested to chair this committee. It is the wish of the Board to see if these new members suggested can sit in on the meeting scheduled for the 26<sup>th</sup> of March.

KC proposed that we consider the possibility of letting members sit in on committees to learn procedure. After they sit on the committee they will then have an idea of what takes place. It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with this aspect with the understanding that confidential forms will be signed. The Board will bring names forward for consideration of this project.

Chair recessed the meeting at 3:23 PM CST.

Chair reconvened the meeting at 3:40 PM CST.

## 15. Mandates of the committees from the Board

### 15.1 Promotions Committee

Following is the discussion with ideas that were proposed for the committee.

JM would like to see the promotions committee help with the expo booths. This would eliminate taking office staff away from their jobs.

JM stated that Gene Mealhow is preparing promotions presentation that may be of great benefit for this committee. He may have the presentation ready for his chapter to view later this summer. After that it may be available for the International committees use.

Education to the consumers (public awareness) is a key element that needs to be addressed.

Organic Alliance is a program for consumers for educational purposes.

Working on a forum for GMO's.

The committee needs to look at whom are we targeting with the education purposes of this committee: within our organization, retailers or consumers. Need to focus on all three.

The Board directed JM to write a letter to Johnny's Seed expressing OCIA's concerns of their stand on GMO's in reference to the letter in their magazine. **(Directive)** [See page 6, this issue.]

Consumer education material that is available to the members for their use needs to be made know to the members, either through mailings, tables at the AGMM or other means.

Currently, we are out of promotion material with the logos. This is something that the promotions committee could research. When we become accredited by IFOAM they could possibly devise some sort of a pamphlet with all the IFOAM certifies for the consumers.

The four major areas the Board would like the committee to look at are:

- Committee involvement as to staff involvement at the expos.
- Consumer education.
- Corporate education of materials available for promotion.
- GMO's

The Board would like to see within 90 days the short- and long-term goals with the mandates listed. **(Directive)**

### 15.2.Crop Improvement Committee

This is a hard committee to mandate due to the regionalism of the organizations.

Workshops by known agronomists such as Neil Kinsey were suggested.

JM would like to see the development of crop improvement for the chapters.

Soil building techniques, ie, books available, soil testing labs, etc.

Main emphasis would be how to have a quality crop improvement program in the chapters and how get the farmers to attend and participate in the crop improvement programs.

The Board would like to see within 60 days the short- and long-term goals with these mandates to put the emphasis on how to have a quality crop improvement program in the chapter and how to get the farmers to attend crop improvement programs.

**(Directive)**

### By-laws Committee

CP raised the issue of whether the organization needed an executive board as stated in the By-laws. This last year the BoD operated with full Board participation the Executive Board never held a meeting. He would like to see the By-laws look into this situation.

Chair recessed the meeting at 5:20 PM CST for 5 minutes.

Chair reconvened the meeting at 5:40 PM CST.

### 16. RvA update

KC moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by MN to move into confidential on the basis of the OCIA International Board Policy on Confidential Session and Minutes 6.a. which states Issues involving decision by the BoD in regard to matters that may be subject to litigation or are subject to litigation. Motion carried.

KC moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DWa to exit confidential session.

No motions were made during confidential session.

### 17. Continuation of mandates to the Committees

JM feels that the 1997 mandate at the AGMM to the Board for seeing if the bylaws were adequate for the organization was never met. The Board was under the assumption that this mandate was covered with the report by Mr.Chad M. Meisgeier of McGuire and Norby, Attorneys at Law in Lincoln, Nebraska who looked over the By-laws last year.

It was the consensus of the Board to direct the office to bring any By-law concerns to the Board and the Board will develop a mandate to the committee from these concerns. **(Directive)**

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It was the consensus of the Board to ask the chairs of all standing committees to outline their objectives and goals for the next year and report back to the Board within 60 days.

**(Directive)**

The Board would like to receive a report on a quarterly basis after the end of the quarter as to how each Committee is accomplishing their goals and accomplishments.

**(Directive)**

Quality Manual changes will only take place after this program has been implemented as procedure.

### **17.1. Ad hoc committee on sliding scales.**

This committee will probably start looking at the sliding scale after June 1<sup>st</sup> when they will have data to look after the implementation of the user fees on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

They need to start now, at looking at the different certifying agencies and their fee structure to report back to the Board.

Moved by DWa to recess the meeting at 6:28 PM CST.

## **OCIA International, Inc. In-Person Board Meeting Hampton Inn Conference Room Lincoln, Nebraska Friday, March 19, 1999**

Meeting was reconvened at 8:16 AM CST. LM and MR had not joined yet.

Referees for today's minutes will be DWa and HM.

MR joined at 8:18 AM CST.

### **1. Session with only the Board**

ML moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by MN to enter confidential session on the basis of the OCIA International Board Policy on confidential session and minutes section 2 which states issues dealing with a member's or employee's right to confidentiality and protection of reputation unless said member or employee requests an open session.

LM joined at 8:19 AM CST and translated for MR.

KC moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by ML to exit confidential session. Motion carried.

One consensus was made during confidential session.

It was the consensus of the Board to proceed with the implementation of the communications program as outlined in SW letter to the Board dated 10/27/98 and enter into a contract with a consultant to evaluate the structure and facilitate improvements within OCIA with regards to communications. A committee of MH, MN, ML, CP and DWe was appointed to develop and oversee the implementation of the contract.

Chair recessed at 9:34 AM CST.

Chair reconvened the meeting at 9:55 AM CST.

JM, RS and Rob Holbrook, translator, have joined the meeting.

## **2. Accreditation**

### **2.1. Bio Fach Report**

#### **2.2. RvA**

MH moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM to enter confidential session on the basis of OCIA International Board Policy on Confidential session and minutes section 6a which states: Issues involving decisions by the BoD in regard to matters that may be subject to litigation. Motion carried..

KC moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DM to exit confidential session. Motion carried.

No motions were made during confidential session but one directive was made.

It was noted that the Board has addressed the area of concerns raised by the Corporate members when they ask for a farmers inspection report by including a new paragraph in the Farm/Ranch Affidavit that the farmers signs that will release his report to inquiring parties for moving their products. The Board feels that this change in wording to address the problem needs to be put in the Communicator and relayed to the

members. **(Directive)**

Chair recessed the meeting at 11:55 AM CST for lunch at the office with the staff.

Chair reconvened the meeting at 2:11 AM CST.

DM moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by MN to enter confidential session on the basis OCIA International Board Policy on confidential session and minutes which states issues involving decisions by the BoD in regard to matters that may be subject to litigation. Motion carried.

DWa moved 2<sup>nd</sup> DM to exit confidential session. Motion carried.

No motions were made during confidential session.

## **2.3. IFOAM**

RS went over the meeting with IFOAM accredited certifiers meeting at Bio Fach in Germany.

She feels that the desk audit should be done in the next week or so after that the office audit will be completed.

They are trying to get all the reports ready for Europe by the deadline of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1999.

## **2.4. USDA**

JM reported that the next ruling of the NOP might be out by the end of the year. This release could be a very workable document this time.

JM reported that a plan was developed to have control authorities based on ISO Guide 65 in the US. Europe has not agreed to this as yet.

DWe reported that while he was at Expo West, he met with several certifying agencies and extended an invitation to them that if OCIA could ever be of assistance or help to contact us.

## **2.5. COAB**

CP gave an update and brief history on the process in Canada of COAB.

The intent is to have reciprocity between the certifying agencies throughout the world.

The people in Canada are hoping that by 2000 everything will be in place.

## 2.6. Other

JM reported that in Central America and South America countries there are 4 different and conflicting laws we are going to have to start working with. Europe has helped to devise these laws.

## 2.7. IFOAM Seal

RS reported that the IFOAM Seal is not officially done but is close. IFOAM will be registering the seal all over the world. There is still debate on the seal use.

Chair recessed the meeting at 3:50 PM CST

Chair reconvened the meeting at 4:19 PM CST.

## 3. GMO

### 3.1. Lawsuit/EPA

CP reported that they are trying to ban the use of corn, cotton and potatoes that have been genetically engineered with BT genes. MN reported that we are in the discovery stages. JM added that the lawsuit is moving ahead at full speed and will not become bogged down.

### 3.2. Testing

DWa moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM to enter confidential session on the basis of the OCIA International Board Policy on confidential session and minutes section 2 which states issues dealing with a member's or employee's right to confidentiality and protection of reputation unless said member or employee requests an open session. Motion carried.

DWe moved 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM to exit confidential session. Motion carried.

One motion and one consensus were made during confidential session.

MN moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DWa to direct the staff to review our genetic testing options. Motion carried.

It was the consensus of the Board that if testing is required for certification by OCIA, testing will be conducted under a protocol to be established. If the results of such a required test are already available from an accredited

lab these test results will be acceptable.

### 3.3 Policy request Jim Gerritsen

CP read the policy that was submitted to the Board from Jim Gerritsen.

Bobbie Zerr (an applicant for the accounting position) joined the meeting at 5:20 PM CST

She discussed her qualifications and general information about herself with the Board.

Discussion was returned to the GMO policy submitted by Jim Gerritsen at 5:30 PM CST.

DWe moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by HM to send Jim's policy on GMO's to the Standards committee to be prepared as a standard amendment at the next AGMM, and to incorporate and resubmit the ideas of the amendment that was submitted on the floor of the 99 AGMM.

KC moved to offer a friendly amendment to add: "to notify Jim and let him know that the policy has been sent on to the Standards committee." Friendly amendment accepted. Motion now reads: DWe moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by HM to send Jim's policy on GMO's to the Standards committee to be prepared as a standard amendment at the next AGMM, and to incorporate and resubmit the ideas of the amendment that was submitted on the floor of the 99 AGMM and to notify Jim and let him know that the policy has been sent on to the Standards committee.

Motion carried.

### 4. Announcements from JM on upcoming meetings.

JM relayed to the Board that he has been asked to sit on a sub-committee on GMO's with the OTA in June. And he has been asked to attend the vegetable conference in Guatemala. JM feels he would be able to attend the meeting in Guatemala if another representative of OCIA would attend the meeting with the OTA.

MH moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM to enter confidential session on the basis of the OCIA International Board Policy on

confidential session and minutes section 2 which states issues dealing with a member's or employee's right to confidentiality and protection of reputation unless said member or employee requests an open session. Motion carried.

KC moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM to exit confidential session. Motion carried.

No motions were made during confidential session.

JM is going to see if Jodi Snyder can attend the SOFT Convention in June, so that he can go to Nicaragua.

Chair recessed the meeting at 6:21 PM CST.

Chair reconvened the meeting at 8:46 PM CST

No staff were present, all members were present except for DWe who was on a phone conference call.

## 5. AGMM minutes procedures

KC stated that he would like to see the chair announce some simple parliamentary procedures that could be used during the meetings to help keep the process moving.

Board discussion led to the decision that after this year only the changes in standards and bylaws will be run in the Communicator, but the whole AGMM minutes will be available from the office upon request within the time frame that is mandated in the By-laws.

### 5.1. Referees of the AGMM

MH will devise guidelines as to the responsibilities and duties of the referees. And report back to the Board. (Directive)

## 6. SW contract

Tabled until JM could be with the Board to discuss the contract.

KC moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by MN to enter Confidential session based on the OCIA International Board Policy on confidential session and minutes section 2 which states issues dealing with a member's or employee's right to confidentiality and protection of repu-

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tation unless said member or employee requests an open session. Motion carried.

LM moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by MN to exit confidential session. Motion carried. No motions were made during confidential session.

## 7. Communication project

DWa moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by HM that ML as second vice president, be the ombudsman to enhance staff /Board communication as outlined in 9.2.3.d of the By laws. Motion carried. ML abstained from voting.

## 8. Chapter relations

### 8.1 New Brunswick

Chair was turned over to ML so that CP could participate in the discussion but he stated that he would not vote on any decisions.

CP explained the decisions that were made at the time of the incident and the repercussions suffered by the members of his chapter.

Concerns were raised as to acting on this would open the door for other chapters involved to come forward.

CP explained the situations with the other chapters are all different and doesn't feel that it would apply to any of them.

LM moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by KC to enter confidential session on the basis of the OCIA International Board Policy on confidential session and minutes section 2 which states issues dealing with a member's or employee's right to confidentiality and protection of reputation unless said member or employee requests an open session. Motion carried.

DWa moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DM to exit confidential session. Motion carried. DWe joined the meeting during the confidential session.

One motion was made during confidential session.

DWa moved to reimburse the New Brunswick Chapter the expenses that they had incurred as a result of unfounded allegations and decertifica-

tion's by OCIA International in 1997 as outlined in their presentation to the Board, in the amount of Cdn\$2369.36. Repayment schedule will be negotiated with the Chapter. Motion carried. CP abstained from voting.

### 8.2. Iowa #2

DWe reported to the Board on the communications between DWe and the chapter.

MH moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DM to enter confidential session on the basis of the OCIA International Board Policy on confidential session and minutes section 2 which states issues dealing with a member's or employee's right to confidentiality and protection of reputation unless said member or employee requests an open session. Motion carried.

DM moved 2<sup>nd</sup> by HM to exit confidential session. Motion carried.

No motions were made during confidential session.

Chair recessed the meeting at 10:28 PM CST.

## **OCIA International, Inc. In-Person Board Meeting Hampton Inn Conference Room Lincoln, Nebraska Saturday, March 20, 1999**

### 1. Call to Order

Chair reconvened the meeting at 8:11 AM CST.

### 2. Roll Call

All members were present as the previous day with Rob Holbrook translating for MPR.

### 3. Agenda

The day's agenda was gone over.

### 4. Minute Referees

Referees for today's meeting are KC and DM.

### 5. Chapter relations

#### 5.1. Payment of user fees

##### 5.1.1. Ontario #1 & Wisconsin

Wisconsin #1 is thinking of creating

another certification agency so as to keep dairy farmers certified within Wisconsin and to keep their Chapter viable. This alternative certification will be entirely apart from OCIA.

Bernie Fox, Ontario #1, has addressed the Board through a letter asking to use our standards to start another certifying agency.

It was the Board's decision to have RS and JM draft a letter to Ontario #1 explaining the benefits of staying with OCIA and that we do not willingly allow anyone to use our standards in their entirety for starting another agency. **(Directive)**

RS and JM will also draft a letter to Wisconsin #1 explaining the same reasons to them for staying with OCIA and also explain that the increased user fees approved at the AGMM are only for one-year (April 1, 1999 to May 31, 2000). **(Directive)** JM will distribute the letter to DWe, DWa and CP for feedback.

Secondary certification is taking place in several different chapters currently. The Board requests MCLC to provide information as to which chapter within OCIA have secondary certifications and with as to how they are set up, how they are run, etc..., the Board also requests the MCLC to give us a draft policy on guidelines as to when they think the chapters secondary certifications exceeded Standards and By-laws of OCIA. **(Directive)**

JM would like the Board to have MCLC address the action of Chapters offering dual certification and doing document reviews within that structure.

DWa moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> LM to enter confidential session on the basis of OCIA International Board Policy on Confidential Session section #2: issues dealing with a member's or employee's right to confidentiality and protection of reputation unless said member or employee requests an open session. Motion carried.

DWe moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DM to exit confidential session. Motion carried.

Two Directives were made during

confidential session.

OCIA will draft a letter to the Ontario chapter encouraging them to not give up their elected seat on the COAB Board of rotational elected people to help maintain the OCIA integrity. **(Directive)**

It was the consensus of the Board for JM to respond to the verbal requests from the Ontario chapter on user fees and inform them that fees must be paid according to the PUFA. **(Directive)**

### **5.2. Petitions from 5 Chapters on the membership voted increase in user fees**

DWe feels that a letter to these five chapters needs to be sent explaining the original motion, where it came from, the reason for it and the implementation of the user fee as voted on by the Board. He will devise the letters and send them out.

### **5.3. User fee payment for chapters International owes money to**

KC moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by MN to enter confidential session on the basis of OCIA International Board Policy on Confidential Session and minutes section #2 which states issues dealing with a member's or employee's right to confidentiality and protection of reputation unless said member or employee requests an open session. Motion carried.

LM moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by KC to exit confidential session. No motions were made during confidential session.

KC moved to table user fee payment for chapters that International owes money to, 2<sup>nd</sup> by ML. Motion carried.

### **6. Office space**

JM reported that he has visited with a couple of real estate agents and has gotten their advice to possibly wait a year before starting to look seriously at buying anything.

JM stated that our current landlord is still willing to consider expansion, but that may require a 3-year lease and a higher rent.

JM feels at this time we will live with what we have and look into utilizing all of the space, using partitions for sound barriers.

Current rent is \$3000 a month, including utilities and maintenance. JM will report to the Board after he has received information on possible remodeling possibilities and keep the Board informed. **(Directive)**

### **7. Stephanie Wells contract**

SW contract expired in November; this is a matter that needs to be taken care of for legalities only.

The Board directed JM to supply them with the old contract and list any new proposals that need to be addressed. **(Directive)**

### **8. Field offices**

#### **8.1. Nicaragua office**

JM reported on the office and the way that it has been run this last year. It has accomplished more than it was set out to do. Partnership emphasis needs to be dealt with this next year and would like to see the Board continue with the original plan and fund an additional year for the Nicaragua field office.

MR reported that the office has been a big help for the members.

She is hoping that with in the year a Chapter will be up and functioning. She feels that work accomplished by the office has been beneficial. She feels that the help between the International office and Nicaragua office works in a two-way factor and is significantly needed.

The goal would be to have all the CGGs and members at large to be under this new chapter that will be formed. The Corporate members will stay the same.

This office will help to facilitate the ICC-C committee with phone calls and meetings and distribution of the material.

It was the consensus of the Board to continue with the office and the way that it is being devised for the remainder of the two-year agreement.

### **8.2. Japan office**

JM reported that the person that he had hoped to facilitate this office is now not available. He has found another person for the office. He feels that getting things up and running are not going to be accomplished this year probably. We are still moving forward and working on it. JM will provide a fully detailed office plan and guidelines for the office before the office is opened. Financial responsibilities of managing this office are still a major concern.

Chair recessed the meeting at 10:17 AM CST

Chair reconvened the meeting at 10:38 AM CST.

JM introduced Janet Kotwitz (applicant for the accounting position). Questions were asked of Janet and the Board thanked her for taking the time to visit with them.

KC moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM to enter confidential session on the basis of OCIA International Board Policy on Confidential Session and minutes section #2 which states issues dealing with a member's or employee's right to confidentiality and protection of reputation unless said member or employee requests an open session. Motion carried.

ML moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by MN to exit confidential session. Motion carried.

One motion was made during confidential session.

MH moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DM to direct JM to finish up the November '98 Board directive on researching accounting programs and present to the Board his recommendations on a new accounting program within a month so that the Board can proceed with a decision regarding the possible purchase of a new accounting program and to have the goal that the new program will be implemented by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1999. Motion carried. **(Directive)**

Chair recessed the meeting at 12:10 PM CST for lunch.

Chair reconvened the meeting at 1:08

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PM CST

### 8.3. Chapter relations

MH moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM to enter confidential session on the basis of OCIA International Board Policy on Confidential Session and minutes section #2 which states issues dealing with a member's or employee's right to confidentiality and protection of reputation unless said member or employee requests an open session. Motion carried.

MN moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DWe to exit confidential session. Motion carried.

One motion was made during confidential session.

DWa moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by HM to send a letter from the Board to all the members of WI#1 and explain the benefits of being a member of OCIA and clarify statements made by WI #1 in a letter to their members. Motion carried.

### 8.4. Chapter repayment monies due to them

DWe reported he had spoken to most of the chapters to whom International owes money.

DWe moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DWa that the chapters that are owed money from International due to retained user fees shall be refunded proportionally when the new user fee collection scheduled is implemented on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 99. Those chapters will be required to send .005% in user fees to International. International will in turn send a check back to the chapter in an amount equal to half of the amount sent in. Motion carried.

The Board's reasoning for waiting until June 1<sup>st</sup> is this is when the new user fee collection procedure passed at the AGMM will go into effect.

### 8.5. Quebec Partnership

HM reported to the Board that Monique Scholtz has entered into a contract with the Quebec partnership. This is in relation to one of the requirements from MCLC.

DWe and JM will negotiate with the Quebec partnership on a fee to be paid

Monique for her International services.

### 9. Update on Private Label Membership class

There is one member in Japan currently under the private label membership. JM visited with them and explained the reason they would need to change to corporate membership, is that the Board was implementing the By-laws and there was no such class of membership of private label membership.

JM reported that so far there has only been one new application to the private label membership, and that application has been referred back to join as a Corporate member.

### 10. Communication report

KC moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM to enter confidential session on the basis of OCIA International Board Policy on Confidential Session and minutes section #2 which states issues dealing with a member's or employee's right to confidentiality and protection of reputation unless said member or employee requests an open session. Motion carried.

DWa moved 2<sup>nd</sup> by ML to exit confidential session. No motions were made during confidential session.

### 11. Implementation of AGMM directed changes

#### 11.1. System of collection of user fees

JM reported that the forms have been mailed to the chapter contacts.

A letter will be drafted and sent to WI #1 explaining the motion that was made at the AGMM and that they have to follow the procedure that was passed in the user fee collection system. MN will draft a letter and consultant with DWe before he signs it.

#### 11.2. Form for certification decision

The form presented by JM will be the form that the chapters will use as a master cover sheet when the files are sent to International seeking certification. This form will replace all other previous forms used by the Chapters and will be the only form from the chapters to accompany each applicants

file to International.

Chair recessed the meeting at 2:50 PM CST.

Chair reconvened the meeting at 3:08 PM CST

### 12. Email calling

JM reported that SW had investigated different means of using the Internet capabilities for conference meetings.

MH reported on the program she had received from JM to check out. This program was only designed for up to six people with one master initiator.

MN recommended that the Board wait approximately a year before pursuing anything, technology is moving forward and changing so fast.

JM will continue looking into software and different ideas.

It was the consensus of the Board to have JM talk to SW and put an article in the Communicator seeking information from any member who may be up on the technology of Internet and see if they have any ideas. **(Directive)**

### 13. AGMM

Discussion will continue at the next Board meeting on developing ways to help members from different countries in attending AGMMs through sponsorships or other means. Determining who qualifies for help in attending AGMMs will need to be defined.

### 14. AGMM 2000

There is an invitation for the Guatemala chapter to hold the AGMM 2000 in Guatemala.

JM expressed his reasons for holding the AGMM in Lincoln every year with support from the staff and the logistics of being close to the office.

MN responded to JM that holding meetings elsewhere in the world is a chance for the members to get to know the other areas of the world with their culture and practices.

JM is looking into charter planes and flights if the AGMM is held out of the States. **(Directive)**

DWe moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM that the AGMM 2000 be held in Guatemala,

the year 2001 be held in Lincoln and the office is requesting and soliciting bids from a chapter for the year 2002. Motion carried.

It was the consensus of the Board that when the AGMM is held in Lincoln it will be the responsibility of the office to coordinate the meeting and will ask the local chapters and corporate members for their help and assistance.

Public relations are needed now to help to make the AGMM 2000 a success. The committee will determine dates of the AGMM 2000. The Board discussed the possibility of the Y2K and feels comfortable that no problems will be encountered.

### **15. Insurance update**

JM has requested information from OCIA's insurance broker and is currently waiting for a response. More information will hopefully be available by the next Board meeting.

### **16. Board meetings**

#### **16.1. Availability of Secretary for meetings**

MH addressed the Board as to the recent employment that she has taken and the schedule it implies. The rest of the Board could see no problem with her schedule.

#### **16.2. 1999 Board meetings**

The Board has a goal to hold meetings only once a month and will try to limit them to two hours. Most Board members would like to see a structured schedule, with meetings held the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. This proposal will be implemented in April and will proceed from there.

The Board is looking at the 18, 19 and 20<sup>th</sup> of November for the next in-person meeting to be held in Lincoln. Travel will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **17. Procedure for in-person Board meeting.**

The form for the in-person Board meeting procedure was reviewed. DWa moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by MN to approve the form as amended. Motion carried.

Chair recessed the meeting at 5:07 PM CST.

Chair reconvened the meeting at 5:15 PM CST

### **18. Procedure for the Conference Call Board meetings**

DWa moved 2<sup>nd</sup> by DWe to approve the form for the procedure of Conference call Board meetings as amended. Motion carried.

### **19. Approval of the minutes**

#### **19.1. February 13, 99**

ML and DM 2<sup>nd</sup>, to bring back to the floor the minutes of the meeting of February 13<sup>th</sup> 99 and approve them as amended. Motion carried.

#### **19.2. March 18, 99**

LM moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DM to approve the minutes of March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1999 as amended. Motion carried.

### **20. Draft policy on inspectors serving on committees**

KC submitted a Draft Policy: In order to provide impartial third-party certification and to guarantee the neutrality and integrity of the mark, it shall be policy that no inspectors accredited by OCIA shall be considered for appointment to committees (MCLC, ICC's, Standards, IRC, IAC) tied to certification within the structure of OCIA.

Moved by MN, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DM to approve the policy as presented. Motion carried. **(POLICY) See Attachment A**

### **21. Reimbursement to Staff members for use of personal car.**

We need to look into OCIA's Insurance policy and see if employees using personal vehicles for official business are covered now. A decision on the request from BF for repayment to damages on his car and further discussion was tabled until JM can get the information and report back to the Board as soon as he has information. **(Directive)**

### **22. Other**

ML moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM to enter Confidential session on the basis of OCIA International Board Policy on Confidential Session and minutes section #2 which states issues dealing with a member's or employee's right

to confidentiality and protection of reputation unless said member or employee requests an open session.

Motion carried.

DWa moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM to exit confidential session.

No motions were made during confidential session, but one directive was made.

DWe directed that OCIA needs to implement the plan that when a chapter decertifies a member this information needs to be sent to International. **(Directive)**

### **23. Committee appointments**

DWa gave a brief update on the ICC committees. He has contacted some of the people who were mentioned for him to call, to see if they would be willing to serve on the committee. He presented DWe with two names of people willing to serve. Setting up the final ICC committee was tabled.

### **24. Policy**

KC moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM to rescind policy 94AGM001 on private label membership. Motion carried.

JM will submit a proposal for miscellaneous documents at the office.

### **25. Staff wages increase**

LM moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by MN to enter confidential session on the basis of OCIA International Board Policy on Confidential Session and minutes section #2 which states issues dealing with a member's or employee's right to confidentiality and protection of reputation unless said member or employee requests an open session. Motion carried.

MH moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DM to exit confidential session. Motion carried.

No motions were made during confidential session.

Chair tabled discussion on Jodi Snyder's job description and directions of her job until the next meeting.

### **26. Adjournment**

MN moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by LM to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM CST.

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## 1999 Board of Directors & Committees

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Marva Holt, Secretary  
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Deb Miller  
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AL - Jodi Snyder

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AL - Rachel Smith

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EO - Heinrich Morf  
AL - Jodi Snyder

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## ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY

### OCIA International Office

1001 Y Street, Suite B  
Lincoln, NE 68508-1172 USA

Ph: 402-477-2323

Fax: 402-477-4325

E-mail: [info@ocia.org](mailto:info@ocia.org)

Website: [www.ocia.org](http://www.ocia.org)

Joseph Beaner  
RR 2 - P O Box 35  
Parker, SD 57053 USA  
(605) 363-3340

Wolfgang Boehmer  
Melcher's Flavors of America  
160 Donald Dr  
Fairfield, OH 45014 USA  
Ph: 513-858-6300, Fax: 513-858-3110  
[melchers@ix.netcom.com](mailto:melchers@ix.netcom.com)

Teresa Brey  
Box 152  
McLean, SK S0G 3E0 CANADA  
Ph/Fax: 306-699-2581

Brad Brummond  
Extension Educator Walsh County  
Box 592  
Park River, ND 58270 USA  
Ph: 701-284-6624, Fax: 701-284-7383

Tim Cada  
1752 Road 10  
Clarkson, NE 68629 USA  
Ph: 402-892-3138, Fax: 402-352-8741  
[tgcada@megavision.com](mailto:tgcada@megavision.com)

Keith Carter  
24883 Rd 25, P O Box 6  
Granada, CO 81041 USA  
Ph/Fax: 719-734-5410

John Clough  
Garden Spot Distributors  
438 White Oak Rd.  
New Holland, PA 17557 USA  
Ph: 717-354-4936, Fax: 717-354-4934  
[jclough@ptd.net](mailto:jclough@ptd.net)

Cristin Colling  
Eden Foods  
701 Tecumseh Rd.  
Clinton, MI 49236 USA  
Ph: 313-973-9400, Fax: 517-456-6075  
[marketing@eden-foods.com](mailto:marketing@eden-foods.com)

Bernie Culek  
HC 54 Box 8A  
Kimball, NE 69145 USA  
Ph: 308-235-2840, Fax: 308-235-2840

Darrel DeVine  
RR1, Box 2, Marienthal, KS 67863 USA  
Ph: 316-379-4472, Fax: 316-379-4459

Cesar Fajardo  
DeLaEstatio, 3c.alsur 1-1/2 airiba  
Managua, NICARAGUA  
Ph/Fax: +505-266-3381  
[jjhc@sdnnic.org.ni](mailto:jjhc@sdnnic.org.ni)

Jim Gerritsen  
Wood Prairie Farm, 49 Kinney Rd.  
Bridgewater, ME 04735 USA  
Ph: 207-425-7741, Fax: 207-429-8201  
[jim@woodprairie.com](mailto:jim@woodprairie.com)

Dr. Godoy  
Finca Cabana 29 AO 5-15, 2-15  
SanLazaro, GUATEMALA  
Ph: +502-2-693462

Marva Holt  
5268 Road 99  
Dalton, NE 69131-8213 USA  
Ph: 308-377-2272, Fax: 308-377-2274  
E-mail: [organics@daltontel.net](mailto:organics@daltontel.net)

Tim Kaspner  
Aveda Corp - 4000 Pheasant Ridge Dr.  
Minneapolis, MN USA  
Ph: 612-783-4088, Fax: 612-783-4119  
tkaspner@aveda.com

Ron Kirk  
1168 Travis Road  
Penn Yan, NY 14527 USA  
Ph/Fax: 315-536-0091  
kirkjrj@eznet.net

Kevin Koester  
K & N Organic Farm  
34288 165 Street  
Faulkton, SD 57438-6601 USA  
Ph: 605-598-6743

Rob Koskan  
HCR 1 Box 117A  
Wood, SD 57585 USA  
Ph: 605-452-3422, Fax: 605-452-3412  
babe72@gwtc.net

Erwin Krueger  
1438 Second St.  
Estevan, SK S4A 0M6 CANADA  
Ph: 306-634-3088, Fax: 306-634-7023

Curtis Kuchinka  
2445 13th Ave, Suite 101  
Regina, SK S4P 0W1 CANADA  
Ph: 306-751-2442

Mikel Lund  
Lund Farms, Inc., P O Box 806  
Scobey, MT 59263 USA  
Ph: 406-487-2828, Fax: 406-487-2830  
lundfrm@nemontel.net

Bryce Lundberg  
P O Box 369, Richvale, CA 95974 USA  
Ph: 530-882-4551 x325, Fax: 530-882-4500  
bryce@lundberg.com

Dale Maass  
N7076 Hwy C, Seymour, WI 54165 USA  
Ph: 920-833-6953, Fax: 920-833-2751  
E-mail: gmaass1057@aol.com

Anne Macey  
106 Old Scott Rd  
Salt Spring Is., BC V8K2L6 CANADA  
Ph: 250-537-5511, Fax: 250-537-2681  
macey@saltspring.com

Luis Maldonado  
P.O. Box 661447  
Miami Springs, FL 33166 USA  
Ph/Fax: +502-594-4707  
nlentz@tradepoint.org.gt

Wayne Martin  
P O Box 98, Olsburg, KS 66520 USA  
Ph: 785-468-3541

Russ Mears  
787 Muddy Fork Rd.  
Cynthys, OH USA 45624  
Ph: 614-634-2054  
iwfarm@bright.net

Carlos Midence  
13 calle 1-51 Zona 10  
Edificio Torre de Santa Clara II, Apto.303  
Capitulo, GUATEMALA  
Ph/Fax: +-502-331-4305

Debbie Miller  
Box 1  
Lisieux, SK S0H 2R0 CANADA  
Ph: 306-476-2739, Fax: 306-476-2146  
sunrise.organics@sk.sympatico.ca

Heinrich Morf  
375 Rt 221 North  
LaColle, QC J0J 1J0 Canada  
Ph: 450-246-3797, Fax: 450-246-4222

Melodi Nelson  
106 Buckeye Street, Ste. 301  
Hudson, WI 54016 USA  
Ph: 715-381-1336, Fax: 715-381-1339  
E-mail: organic@spacestar.net

Will Oddie  
Site 101, Box 2, RR1  
Regina SK S4P 2Z1 CANADA  
Ph/Fax: 306-779-1012  
will\_oddie@hotmail.com

Ernest Otter III  
11083 Milburn  
Livonia, MI 48150-2945 USA  
Ph: 313-261-7727, Fax: 313-261-7919  
BugGuy@concentric.net

Clark Phillips  
Whaelghinbran Farm  
2002 Cedar Camp Rd.  
Pemobsquis, NB E4E 5E7 CANADA  
Ph/Fax: 506-433-3935  
E-mail: wgbf@nbnet.nb.ca

Prakash Purohit  
9660 Bilworphy Rd  
Dallas, TX 75243 USA  
Ph: 214-343-5700, Fax: 214-343-8322  
purohit99@hotmail.com

Merling Prezo Ramos  
PRODECOOP S.A.  
Apartado 38  
Esteli, NICARAGUA  
Ph: +505-713-3268 & 3236  
Fax: +505-713-3840  
prodecop@nicarao.apc.org

Catherine Richards  
31 Dover Crescent  
Fredericton, NB E3B 4T8 CANADA  
Ph: 506-454-2348  
boyd@unb.ca

Jim Rowh  
108 E. Washington  
Norton, KS 67654 USA  
Ph: 785-877-3610, Fax: 785-877-3610

Tanya Russ  
Box 16, Punta Gorda, BELIZE  
Fax: + 501-172-2104

John Simmons  
5321 N Branch Rd.  
North Branch, MI USA 48461  
Ph/Fax: 810-688-3416

Jodi Snyder, c/o OCIA International  
tackbox1@worldnet.att.net

Bryce Stephens  
HCI Box 19  
Jennings, KS 67643 USA  
Ph: 785-678-2474  
sfarms@ruraltel.net

Jeremy Thaler  
Once Again Nut Butter, Inc.  
PO Box 429  
Nunda, NY 14517-0429 USA  
Ph: 716-468-2535, Fax: 716-468-5995  
oanb@servtech.com

Susan Tyler  
Whaelghinbran Farm  
2002 Cedar Camp Rd.  
Pemobsquis, NB E4E 5E7 CANADA  
Ph: 506-433-3935, Fax: 506-432-9435  
E-mail: wgbf@nbnet.nb.ca

Hector Vasquez  
13 Calle "D" 30-18, z.7  
Col. "Ciudad De Plata I"  
Guatemala City, GUATEMALA  
Ph/Fax: 502-473-9934

Allister Veinot  
RR1, Vernon, PEI C0A2E0 CANADA  
Ph: 902-651-2092, Fax: 902-651-2543

Walter Walchuk  
4203 121st St.  
Edmonton, AB T6J 1Y7 CANADA  
Ph: 780-434-4123  
wwalchuk@compusmart.ab.ca

David Walton  
7 Traylor Park Rd.  
Palmerston, ON N0G 2P0 CANADA  
Ph: 519-343-4808, Fax: 519-638-5645

Gary Weinhold  
14328 Conc. 11-12 Rd.  
RR #4  
Crysler, ON K0A1R0 CANADA  
Ph: 613-987-1607, Fax: 613-987-1607  
lucewein@entrenet.com

Stephanie Wells, c/o OCIA International  
swells@abacom.com

Dave Welsch  
RR 2 Box 63  
Milford, NE 68405 USA  
Ph/Fax: 402-826-5880

Thad Willis  
HC 77, Box 811A  
Big Sandy, MT USA 59520  
Ph: 406-378-2515

Dwayne Woolhouse  
Box 1506  
Assiniboia, SK S0H 0B0 CANADA  
Ph: 306-642-4096

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## *Burger King franchisee bans GMOs*

# Have it Your Way... in Portugal

Lisbon, Portugal, April 7 (David Brough/Reuters) — Burger King's franchisee in Portugal has banned genetically modified (GM) ingredients at its fast-food outlets because it was concerned over possible health risks, a spokesman said on Wednesday.

"We do not accept any genetically modified ingredients in any of the foods or components that we sell, including ketchups, oils and mayonnaise," Jorge Morgado told Reuters. We have sent letters to our suppliers, demanding written guarantees that they do not use GMOs," he added.

"It is a cat and mouse game. It is not easy. You have to pester suppliers to make sure they are complying." The Burger King franchisee, which has 12 fast-food outlets across Portugal, took the decision to ban GM ingredients late last year.

Britain's Diageo Plc (DGE.L) owns the Burger King brand.

Morgado said the franchisee, a group of privately owned Portuguese companies, rejected the use of GM ingredients because it believed that food safety controls on GM prod-

ucts needed to be more stringent.

"The testing period for GM products is too short." The exact risks, if any, posed by high-yield GM crops are not known.

Morgado criticised what he called inconsistencies in EU regulations governing labelling of GM products.

"If a soyburger contains soybean protein, you have to label it," he said. "But if you are selling a product that contains soybean oil, you do not have to label it. So you could be eating a mayonnaise with soybean oil in it that has been genetically modified, but with no reference to that on the packet."

Morgado said the Burger King franchisee was not planning to tell consumers in Portugal that it was selling food free of genetically modified ingredients.

"There is no point in raising the point to the consumer and raising the panic level," he said.

No other fast-food chain or food retailer in Portugal is known to have banned GM ingredients.

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## ... and in the United Kingdom

*Environmental activists recently ripped up a field of genetically modified canola in the British countryside, saying that even growing such plants for research could lead to contamination of other farmers fields.*

The refrain of worry is being picked up by retailers across the United Kingdom. A growing number of fast food outlets and major supermarkets say they don't want genetically modified ingredients in their products.

**Burger King and Domino's Pizza are the latest to join the movement. And Iceland Frozen Foods is producing its own line of products using unmodified Canadian soya flour.**

Iceland Foods' Bill Wadsworth says genetic modification provides a scientific shortcut to food production, but

the alteration may be toxic -- now or in the future.

"What we're concerned about is the fact that ... nobody can tell us what the risk is," Wadsworth says.

But some scientists say public fear over genetically modified foods is getting way out of hand. "People seem to be ignoring the real scientific basis of what is being done in respect of genetic modification. And I think there's very little understanding of the true issues," says plant physiologist Mike Black.

Ultimately, the battle over genetically modified ingredients will be won or lost in supermarkets, with the consumer's choices on the store shelves.

**The British government is about to bring in new regulations for labelling, requiring anyone who sells food, whether in a restaurant or in a supermarket, to warn customers if it contains genetically modified ingredients.** That way, it would be consumers who cast the final vote on the future of GM food.

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— Thanks to Richard Wolfson, PhD, of the

**Consumer Right to Know Campaign for Mandatory Labeling and Long-term Testing of all Genetically Engineered Foods**  
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