

"It's just food!"

Brighton Food Coöp Newsletter

October 2012

Key Upcoming Dates:

This month we have two distribution dates: the 2nd and the 30th.

- **First Distribution: Tuesday, October 2nd** (Terra Bulloch will announce shift times.)
- Initial Orders Due: **Wednesday, September 19th** (by 9:00PM)
 - **UNFI** – Login to the Online System at <https://www.unfi.com> . (Choose **UNFI East Region**.)
 - **Frontier**: Send order to Megan Putnam.
 - **Outside Vendors (OV)**: Send order to Christie Winch at tcwinch@yahoo.com.
 - **Sami's Bakery**: Include your Sami's order with your OV order to Christie Winch.
- **Produce**: Include your Produce Share order with your OV order to Christie Winch. To suggest items for inclusion in the Produce Share or to inquire about availability of items for whole case orders, contact Nicole Brown at colerie@charter.net.
- Unfilled Case Orders Due: **Sunday, September 23rd** (by Noon)
- **Creswick Meats**: Orders due to Dolores Johnson (doloresjohnson68@gmail.com) by Sunday September 23rd for pickup at her house on Saturday October 13th.
- **Vendor 7**: Nuts, Candy, and Maple Syrup can be ordered this time; Honey & Maple Syrup next time.

- **Second Distribution: Tuesday, October 30th** (Terra Bulloch will announce shift times.)
- Initial Orders Due: **Wednesday, October 17th** (by 9:00PM)
- Unfilled Case Orders Due: **Sunday, October 21st** (by Noon)
- **Creswick Meats**: Orders due Sunday October 21st for pickup on Saturday November 17th.
Note: Those who have ordered Thanksgiving Turkeys will get them at the Nov. 17th pickup.
- **Vendor 7**: Honey & Maple Syrup can be ordered this time; Nuts, Candy, and Maple Syrup next time.
- **Vendor 3 (Almar)**: The warm March / cold April / summer drought destroyed the apple crop, so Almar will have to import from outside Michigan. At this point, BFC plans to order apples (and also cider and doughnuts) only for the October 30th distribution. After that, we will assess whether to try ordering again in November or even December.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 10th at 1:30PM at Tyme Well Spent in Hartland.

Any BFC member is welcome to attend, but if you plan to attend, please notify Gina Barnowsky (ginabarnowsky@gmail.com) so she can contact you in case of any change in time or location.

Distribution Recap and Pointers

Our September 4th distribution went pretty well, despite the challenges many members faced with getting their kids to and from the first day of school. First shift workers began checking out at around 1:30, but some workers were not able to leave until 3:30.

Now, some pointers about **checking** (in / out / orders):

- While checking in the UNFI delivery, please keep three things in mind: the **box**, the UNFI sticky **label** on the box, and the actual **contents** of the box. UNFI allows us to return an item if the contents do not match the box. (For example, the box says Tomato Sauce, but actually contains Tomato Paste.) However, UNFI does not allow us to return opened boxes that are merely mislabeled (i.e. the UNFI sticky label does not match the box); so **before you open a box, make sure the UNFI label matches the box!** If they don't match, take the unopened box to the Work Coordinator immediately.
- Previously, we opened each box to make sure the contents matched the box and label. From now on, **if the entire box is going to only one member, there's no need to open the box during check-in.** If the contents later turn out to be incorrect and unwanted, the member who receives the box will have to notify the Work Coordinator within 5 days after distribution in order to get a refund. That's because UNFI requires the Coöp to request refunds within 5 days after the order was delivered. Bottom line: **Every member should check the contents of his/her own unopened boxes** – if not before leaving distribution, then at least soon after arriving home.
- In order to avoid errors and confusion, the process of checking member orders must be completed for all members before any member checks out. Generally, the more you help with order-checking, the sooner you'll be able to check out.
- While checking a member's frozen/refrigerated items, don't just rummage around in the cooler. Instead, remove all the items from the cooler, then count them as you put them back into the cooler. Yes, this approach can be more work in the short run, but in the long run the rummaging approach often results in a huge amount of work and confusion. For example, we've had some cases where items were not only miscounted, but also accidentally left in another member's order. As a result, half a dozen people became involved in recounting, searching for missing items, and generally trying to figure out what went wrong.
- If you happen to be buying for friends, neighbors, extended family, etc., please keep in mind both the positive and negative impacts of that practice. On the upside, you raise the Coöp's volumes, making it easier to fill cases and preserve our 17% discount with UNFI. But on the downside, you increase the workload without providing any additional workers. If you are buying for others, but don't like having to wait for late checkouts, bring along an extra helper now and then to speed up distribution. Even if the extra helper comes only for checking orders, we'll get through that process faster, and you'll be able to check out sooner. Better yet, convince them to join the Coöp!

Freezer Found: Update

We now have a freezer in our storage room at the church, so we can store frozen and freezable extras there without anyone having to cart them back and forth from home. We still won't be able to store items that must be kept cold-but-not-frozen. (For example, when thawed after being frozen, many cheeses become crumbly, and Almond Milk turns into a nasty, brown-flecked soup.) So the batchers will continue to order such items only if the ordered quantities meet the minimum case sizes. Bottom line: If you really want a refrigerated-but-not-frozen item, order enough of it to make sure the order goes through. Thanks again to Terri MacKenzie for donating the freezer!

Coöperating Coöps: Update

Our "neighbor" Livingston Foods (see <http://www.livingstonfoods.com>) has proposed a coöperative venture that may enable both coöps to acquire products directly from Beeler. In the past, neither BFC nor LF could meet Beeler's order minimums, but combining orders and working together should enable us to overcome that issue. The process would work something like this: Beeler would ship the combined order to LF on Monday, the day before our distribution. BFC would then pick up our order from LF (and of course pay them) on Monday, deliver the order to the church, and store it overnight in our newly donated freezer. The BFC Board is still trying to work out the details, especially pertaining to pickup, delivery, payment, and treating Beeler and/or LF as an Outside Vendor.

Nuttin' Matters: Update

We've been searching for an alternative nut/candy supplier, especially after Albanese raised their minimum order quantities. The most likely candidate now is Nuts.Com (<http://nuts.com/organic>). At our Oct. 2nd distribution, we'll have samples from Nuts.Com on the Hospitality Table, but we don't anticipate adding Nuts.Com as a new Outside Vendor (or replacement for Albanese) until January. Again, if you know of a supplier of nuts, candy, and dried fruits who has organic products, good prices, and low minimums, please contact our "Nut Lady" Tina Pospeshil (tina.pospeshil@yahoo.com). Meanwhile, please keep in mind that if you want to continue ordering from Albanese, you'll have to order much larger quantities than you have in the past!

Hospitality Table Relocating

You'll find those Nuts.Com samples –along with Zingerman's pastry-of-the-day and other snacks – in a different location at the Oct. 2nd distribution. The Hospitality Table will now be up front, near the Checkout Table. The idea is to make the goodies more accessible to floor workers so they can snack without interrupting their work. Coffee will also be there in an insulated carafe, but for other warm beverages, sorry, you'll still have to go back to the kitchen.

See you on the 2nd!

Jim Brown

BFC Communications Coordinator



*Live long and prosper;
keep life in perspective;
and don't ever forget--
it's just food!*

