

“It's just food!”

Brighton Food Coöp Newsletter

June 2010

Welcome, New Member Charlotte Davis of Howell!

Key Upcoming Dates:

- Next Distribution: **Tuesday, July 13th** (Shift times will be announced by Michelle Kaloustian.)
- Initial Orders Due: **Wednesday, June 30th** (by 9:00PM)
 - **UNFI** – Login to the Online System at <https://www.unfi.com> (Warehouse=Greenwood, IN).
 - **Frontier**: Send order to Dana Janssen at dana.leahy.janssen@gmail.com.
 - **Sami**: Send order to Gina Barnowsky at ginabarnowsky@yahoo.com.
 - **Outside Vendor (OV)**: Send order to Nancy Clark at rnspealding@comcast.net.
 - **Produce**: To order a Produce Share, include with your OV order sent to Nancy Clark.
To suggest/request items for the Produce Share, contact Nicole Brown at colerie@charter.net.
- Unfilled Case Orders Due: **Friday, July 2nd** (by 6:00PM) **** Note: 2 days early for the holiday! ****
- Creswick Orders Due: **Tuesday, July 13th** (by 9:00PM)
 - Send order to Kathy McKay at pkblmi@aol.com. (Remember, the coöp gets a 10% volume discount on Creswick orders if we meet a total order minimum of \$500.)
 - Pick up order **Saturday, July 24th** at Dolores Johnson's house (5816 Oak Creek Lane in Brighton) at a time to be announced.
- Nuts, Candy and Syrup can be ordered this month; Honey next month.
Note: Because Albanese orders are shipped by mail (unlike UNFI orders, which are delivered in a refrigerated truck), **no meltable items** – like Chocolate Candy or Chocolate-Covered Nuts -- will be ordered from Albanese until September.

Another Distribution Well Done!

Our June 15th distribution went quickly because the orders were relatively small and Crosset arrived early. Once again, most members were done by noon, and we were able to close down by around 1:00. Thanks to everyone for helping make the distribution run smoothly!

Coöp Financial Information

In the past, we've used the Newsletter to publish financial information for the previous two coöp orders: number of orders placed, total sales, Extras Table sales, etc. From now on, we will instead make this information available in the monthly **Treasurer's Report**, which will be posted at each distribution.

Albanese

As you know, our website lists several dozen Albanese products (Nuts, Candies, Dried Fruits, etc.) that can be ordered through the coöp. (See <http://www.brightonfoodcoop.com/honeynut.htm>.) But what we list are merely the items most frequently ordered by members in the past. Albanese actually sells a vast array of products – many more than we could list at our website. You can get an idea what else is available by exploring the Albanese website at <http://www.albaneseconfectionery.com>. If you see an item there that especially interests you, you can copy the url (web address) of the item and paste it into an email to Diane Brady asking her to look up the product code in her Albanese Catalog. When she sends you the product code, you can use it in your OV order when you send that to Nancy Clark.

Superior Landscape and Supply

In the Circle Meeting at our last distribution, several members expressed concern that the vegetable flats from Superior are not organic. Superior does, in fact, use nonorganic seeds, soils, sprays, and fertilizers to start their plants and protect them from pests. We have looked into other local bedding plant suppliers to see if any can provide completely organic vegetable flats, but so far we've been unable to find anyone. Please keep in mind, though, that flats merely contain "starter" plants; they're obviously not intended for immediate consumption. If you plant these vegetables in organic soil and raise them without using any chemical sprays or fertilizers, they will grow many times their initial size, and by the time they're ready for harvest, any initial "contaminants" will have been flushed out of them or will have become so diluted as to be negligible. Technically your veggies won't be organic, but they'll still be vastly superior to the certified organic produce that grocery stores and even Crosset get from California, Mexico, or other such distant locations. But if you're still concerned, there's always Motave Meadows!

Motave Meadows

At our last distribution, we were able to offer first-of-the-season fresh produce from Motave Meadows, a small certified organic farm located between Howell and Pinckney. That early in the season, the only items available were Spinach, Pea Shoots, Chives, and the delicious Gourmet Greens Mix. For the July distribution a much broader selection will be available, including a wide variety of Basils and other herbs. As we get closer to distribution, Nancy Clark will send an email listing the items Motave expects

to harvest for the distribution, but to get an idea now what may be offered then, you can go to <http://www.brightonfoodcoop.com/MotaveMeadows.htm>. Note, however, that the items listed on our website are not what Motave expects to harvest for our next distribution, but rather what Motave is growing for the entire season. Some items may not actually be ready for harvest until September!

In the weeks between coöp distributions, you can get Motave Meadows produce two ways:

1. at the Motave Meadows booth at the Howell Farmers Market (for information, see <http://www.howell.org/19.html>);
2. by calling the farm at 734-786-1492 and making arrangements with Tom and Eva Michals (the owners) to prepare your order for individual pickup.

And while we're on the subject, an important reminder: **When checking orders at distribution, please be careful not to mash the bags of Motave Meadows produce or put them next to ice packs!** Doing either can easily turn delicate, delectable greens into a slimy, mushy mess!

Website Calendar

Another concern raised in the Circle Meeting was that our website's Order and Distribution Calendar displays only 3 months (last month, the current month, and next month), so it's not very useful for planning ahead. Strictly speaking, though, that calendar is not intended for planning ahead, but rather for giving visitors to the website an idea about our order cycle: how often we hold distributions, when orders are due, etc. For planning purposes, we recommend that you use a calendar application like Google Calendar instead. (See <http://www.google.com/calendar>.) When you use this app to schedule the next distribution, just make it a repeating event with an interval of 4 weeks and a "never" end date. Distribution dates will then be displayed on your calendar for **years** into the future if you really want to go out that far! You can do the same for the order due dates, and you can set the app to do popup and/or email alerts as important dates approach. You can also manually override the date for a single instance of any repeating event – e.g., reset the Unfilled Cases Date from July 4th (the usual 4-week deadline) to July 2nd (the deadline this time around because batchers are likely to be out of town on the holiday itself). Google Calendar is only one of dozens of good calendar applications, both web-based and PC-based. Just pick one, and use it for **all** your planning needs, not just for coöp!

So be sure to put July 13th on your calendar app, and we'll see you then!

Jim Brown
BFC Communications Coordinator



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