

Northwind Natural Foods Co-op

News

Fall 2006

General Membership Meeting: Sunday October 8, 2006

Please join other Co-op members for the annual General Membership Meeting. This year the meeting will be at 11:00 AM at Norrie Park, October 8. Food will be provided and you are welcome to bring a dish to share if you choose. We'll discuss the past year's happenings, current status, the results of the customer survey, and the future of the co-op, as well as get to know one another!

To get to Norrie Park from downtown Ironwood, go south on Lowell, and cross the Sunken Area. The street will become Alfred Wright Blvd (labeled as Balsam on some maps). Continue south out of town, to where the road turns east and you will find Norrie Park.

New awning

The Northwind Natural Foods Co-op would like to thank the Chequamegon Food Co-op of Ashland for the donation of a brand new red awning for our store. Their gift has greatly improved the store façade, thereby contributing to the enhancement of the downtown area. The Chequamegon Food Co-op has always been a valuable contact and source of information for us, and we greatly appreciate their help and generosity.

Update on staff

Clerk Casey Franck, has gone back to school in Duluth, and the Board would like to thank him for his service to the Co-op. The Board would also like to welcome new clerk Ryan McGrath.

Also, in case you don't know the other faces at the Co-op: Eva Smith-Ferguson is the enthusiastic and knowledgeable Store Manager. Lori DeCarlo is the patient and persistent bookkeeper, and Jody DeCarlo adds a wealth of knowledge during her clerking shift each Friday.

The National Uniformity for Food Act

In March of 2006 the U.S. House of Representatives passed the National Uniformity for Food Act (HR 4167), 283 to 139. Essentially, this bill restricts states and local government from requiring stricter food safety labels than the FDA would require. In addition, it would overturn food safety labels that aren't identical to the federal label. The bill is now in the Senate, where it was the subject of a hearing on July 27, 2006. If the bill (S. 3128) passes the Senate, the FDA would be the sole arbiter of permissible toxin levels in foods, overriding hundreds of existing state and local food safety laws.

Some small health food producers are in favor of the bill, because it would mean that they only have to conform to one National Law on food safety and labeling, as opposed to more numerous State laws in effect now. Other producers and organizations are opposed, believing that States should retain the right to regulate food safety in addition to federal rules.

The first article below is from the Organic Consumer's Organization and shows the negative sides of this bill. The second article is from the Grocery Manufacturers of America and is for this bill passing.

http://www.democracyinaction.org/dia/organizationsORG/oca/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=2752

<http://www.gmabrands.com/publicpolicy/docs/whitepaper.cfm?DocID=606&>

The link below is to an article about the viruses that the FDA recently approved to spray on our food, no labeling required...

http://www.organicconsumers.org/2006/article_1801.cfm

Bananas

Did you know the Co-op sells organic bananas? Copps used to sell organic bananas, but no longer does, leaving us as the only local source for bananas grown without the use of pesticides. Bananas are one of the most important items to buy organic, because they tend to come from countries with less environmental and worker protections.

The Organic Consumers Association reported that chimpanzees at the Copenhagen Zoo in Denmark consistently chose to eat organic bananas when zookeepers put both organic and conventionally grown bananas in the primates' cages last year as part of the zoo's program to earn a "green label" as an environmental zoo. What's more, the chimps ate the organic banana skin and all but peeled the

inorganic fruits before chomping them down. Zookeepers assume the apes have some innate ability to distinguish between the two types of fruit.

See below for more information on organic bananas:

<http://www.organicconsumers.org/Organic/bananas022403.cfm>

Northwind Natural Foods Co-op Mission Statement

1. To provide a marketing and purchasing outlet for primarily natural, organic, unprocessed foods and related items at a minimum price, on a nonprofit basis.
2. To educate and promote to the community healthy lifestyles, wellness and a whole foods diet emphasizing natural, organic, and unprocessed foods.
3. To educate the community to the benefits and potentials of our cooperative and cooperatives in general and to cooperate with other cooperatives.

Northwind News is published by Northwind Natural Foods Cooperative for its members. Please notify us if your address has changed.

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