

## **Co-op Update**

September 2007 -  
January 2007

The Idaho's Bounty Co-op (IBC) Inc. was officially incorporated in August, 2007. IBC is a new web based food Co-op based in Ketchum, ID whose goal is to provide communities in South Central Idaho ready access to local food of the highest quality. Our mission is to create a thriving local food network working with small

farmers and producers to provide food grown, raised and distributed in an ethically and ecologically sustainable manner to a local market. We are a Cooperative form of business working to benefit and educate our members who are equal owners in the business, each responsible for helping to uphold our standards and set a direction for a sustainable future.

IBC is a Cooperative form of business incorporated under a non-profit statute operating solely for the benefit of its members. Each member purchases an equal stock share in the business and is entitled to an equal vote. Annual meetings are held to determine the board members up for re-election. This meeting will be held sometime in June, 2008. Those interested in running for board seats should contact an IBC staff member.

Our business plan and forecasts are almost complete showing a break even point in our third year. Until then, IBC will be applying for grants and donations to help us cover expenses. Volunteers receive credit for hours worked toward food purchases. We are always looking for consistent help on delivery days. Currently our expenses are covered by a USDA grant & generous local donors.

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### **Community building and education**

The Co-op is owned by its members. Speakers and further education on the benefits of buying locally and supporting local agriculture are paramount to our business. This Fall, IBC invited Professor Emeritus John Ikerd. He spoke to the community on the subject, Healthy Farms, Healthy Communities: Our Link to a Sustainable Future. Potlucks every month at local members' homes are a great way to get to know our community and to taste the flavors of our foodshed. Each order cycle, our customers receive an educational flyer in delivery bags.

### **Producer relations**

Part of IBC's commitment is to help grow our supply of products both in depth and breadth. IBC also works to network producers in our food shed and help facilitate acquisitions of locally needed processing plants, grain storage, seed oil production, and greenhouse development. Producer meetings are held quarterly providing a venue for open and clear communication among them and between us. Computer education and farm education workshops all contribute to this broad producer base.

### **Partnership with The Hunger Coalition**

IBC works with the Hunger Coalition to provide local, healthy food to those in need in our communities. An opportunity to donate to this cause is available as a product on our website. A generous local donor has also made a significant contribution for the continuation of a sizeable purchase each delivery cycle.

We thank you for your support. Please don't hesitate to contact us with feedback or questions.



### *Imagine ...*

- + Knowing where your food comes from, who is producing it, and their ethics and farming practices
- + Working in support of the health of your local community food shed where energy stays local and supports our rural economy

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