



bi-monthly eBlast for followers and supporters of the Food Shed Co-op - July 16, 2021

## 1132 Total Owners!

408

0

400

800

■ # New Owners Since Location Announcement 12/11/2020



**We're now at 1132 owners!** Join today to help us reach our goal of 1200 owners and open our community-owned grocery store by the fall of 2022! Click [HERE](#) or on any *Become an Owner* button!

### Independence Day

We had a great time marching and getting the word out about our co-op in Crystal Lake's Independence Day parade!

We're celebrating our independence from corporate retail grocery stores, and every day we're a step closer to that reality. Our Capital Investment Campaign is about to launch, during which we plan to raise \$1.75 million through community investments to help us build our store. In this way, we're also hoping to be independently financed, relying less on outside loans with higher interest rates.

If you're looking forward to parading down our store's aisles, wave your flag of support by [joining as an owner](#) today!



## History of Food Co-ops (Part 3 of 3)

by Caron Wenzel, Board Director

Cooperatives increased with the turn of the 20th century and following the Great Depression.

Unfair, repressive business practices and monopolies exposed unbridled capitalism. President Theodore Roosevelt (a Republican) became known as the great "trust buster", making "constraint of trade through contract or conspiracy" illegal in an attempt to reign in monopolies and their negative effect on the economy.

Cooperatives, on the other hand, were gaining popularity nationwide based on their inclusivity in a fairer, more socially functional economy.

The first credit union laws allowing consumer banks passed in Massachusetts in 1909, and the number of credit unions rapidly expanded in the 1920's under the strong national leadership. It wasn't until after the 1929 stock market crash and subsequent economic depression, that the federal government passed the Federal Credit Union Act in 1934, which permitted credit unions in states that did not have credit union statutes.



The federal government was also supportive of cooperative development in the agricultural sector in several ways during this time. Early on, the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 passed into law the iconic Cooperative Extension System, with monies from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and land-grant universities. After heated debates about farmers price setting, the Capper-Volstead Act of 1922 was passed, allowing farmers the right to "market or process their agricultural products cooperatively." Then, after the Great Depression, the Farm Credit Act passed in 1933, thereby establishing Production Credit Associations in order to make production loans to farms and create a system of banks for agricultural cooperatives.

Also emerging in the early part of the 20th century were the American Farm Bureau and the National Farmers Union. These two organizations became important for farmer cooperative development, providing technical support for new farm co-ops, and petitioning for state and federal laws supportive of cooperatives.

### THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Interest in cooperatives increased, largely due to many of the New Deal government programs. There was also increased coordination of cooperative activity nationwide. Especially in the Midwest, farm purchasing co-ops continued to grow. As the scale of operations increased, agricultural co-ops expanded into a wider diversity of value-added processing ventures. Not only did they purchase supplies as a group, but they also expanded into production and distribution of petroleum products, as well as insurance and credit for farm expansion.

Until the 1930's, most agricultural pursuits were still operating without electric power. As timely as today's news, investor-owned utilities were unwilling to capitalize the infrastructure

required to serve rural areas. The Rural Electrification Act of 1937 established a lending agency to finance power grid infrastructure. Farmers, familiar with the cooperative model, quickly established rural electric cooperatives to take advantage of the program. These still exist today and are, in many cases, actively funding the conversion to alternative power generation. Electrification allowed for great changes in rural life.

## **POST WORLD WAR II**

A new world emerged post WWII. While the federal government continued to support co-ops minimally, the agricultural sector co-ops prospered during this era of peace-time production. Increasing sales volume and an increased utilization of cooperatives, along with cooperative consolidation, led to fewer larger cooperatives. We saw, then, the rise of a business managerial leadership that could effectively manage increasingly complex cooperative enterprises and work cultures.

The civil rights movement also saw the usefulness of cooperatives to support black farmers in the south. Southern Cooperatives “recognized the wide range of services needed to promote operating independence and land retention among black farmers, given the legacy of segregation and discrimination.”

As many people are aware, consumer food cooperatives enjoyed a resurgence during the mid-1960's and early 1970's, driven by a lack of access to natural and organic foods, and interest in alternative food systems. A pioneering era, many coops and buying clubs went out of business, however, those that survived have become a major influence on the exponential growth of the organic and natural foods market demands.

## **COOPERATIVES TODAY**

Co-ops of one sort or another can be found throughout all sectors of the U.S. economy. Mergers and acquisitions, such as United Natural Foods or UNFI, made agricultural cooperatives among the largest corporations in the country. They have become an integral part of the global food marketplace, with structures that are dominated by economic considerations. Still, holding to cooperative principles, they can address fairness and equity. The cooperative economic structure continues to be the one method that can be effectively and positively used by groups and communities to meet the needs for goods and services.

Source:

Retrieved from <https://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/theodore-roosevelt>

Retrieved from [https://resources.uwcc.wisc.edu/History\\_of\\_Cooperatives.pdf](https://resources.uwcc.wisc.edu/History_of_Cooperatives.pdf)

If you want to be part of this history and future of a cooperative movement, [become a member of the Food Shed Co-op today!](#)

## New Owners



**WELCOME!**  
KYLE & KAT OWNERS #1105

"I am proud to be a new founding owner of the co-op so that we can locally have a path towards a more sustainable relationship with the community. This is an important step towards eating food grown closer to home. We decided to become owners after we heard about the exciting news of a location being secured. We are excited for the project and all of the things possible through this co-op!"



## Upcoming Events

### WPPC July Garden Event

Saturday, July 24, 2021 at 10:00 AM



The WPPC (Wildflower Propagation & Preservation Committee) is hosting a series of free garden walks to promote the use of native plants, shrubs, and trees. The fourth (of seven) walks takes place on [Saturday, July 24, 2021](#) at the [Sally and Jim Sheahan](#) property. Garden walks will be held at 10:00am and 11:15am on Saturday.

Get inspired and participate in the WPPC's **Walks on the Wild Side** program. Seeing is believing. Enjoy natural gardens up close with WPPC members as tour

guides. Ask questions and learn first-hand about the benefits, challenges, and successes of various property owners. Come away with ideas and a better understanding of things you can do in your own garden.

Three additional walks are scheduled in 2021. Click [HERE](#) to view other Garden Walk dates.

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## [Community Investment Campaign Launch Party](#)



**Sunday, August 15, 2021 at 02:00 PM**  
[McHenry County College](#) in Crystal Lake, IL

Join us for the **LAUNCH** of our Community Investment Campaign (CIC) at McHenry County College. Whether you are an owner, a supporter, or just want to learn more about the Food Shed Co-op - this is the place. The official "kickoff" to our CIC campaign is Sunday, August 15 from 2:00pm to 5:00pm. There will be information tables explaining how to invest, how to become an owner, testimonials by current

investors, and more!

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## [Annual Owner's Meeting 2021](#)

**Thursday, September 09, 2021 at 06:00 PM**

Location: TBD

The date for the **2021 Food Shed Co-op Annual Owner's Meeting** has been set for **Thursday, September 9, 2021**. Currently we are planning on a face-to-face meeting. There is a possibility that the meeting will be moved to a virtual format if CDC or local health department mandates are put in place. Please watch the [EVENTS](#) page for updates to and announcements pertaining to the annual meeting.

### *Board Elections*

There are six (6) seats up for election at this year's annual owner meeting. Voting for the board positions will be electronic and online.

### *By-Law Changes*

Several by-law changes will be up for member/owner approval. These by-law changes will be listed on the same ballot as the board of director elections.

**NOTE: YOU MUST BE AN OWNER IN GOOD STANDING TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.** You may sign up to be an owner [HERE](#) if you are not currently an owner.

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*Help us spread the word about our community owned grocery store by sharing our posts with your followers on social media. And why not [BECOME AN OWNER](#) now?*

## **Mission**

*Our mission is to build a LOCAL food COOPERATIVE promoting a HEALTHY, ETHICAL and RESILIENT COMMUNITY.*

## **Core Values**

- Promote and foster better food choices
- Cultivate and strengthen our local economy
- Inspire and empower community
- Champion environmentally responsible practices

## Food Shed Outreach

<http://www.foodshed.coop/>



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