



Community Food & Agriculture Coalition

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Missoula, MT 59802

(406)880-0543 www.MissoulaCFAC.org

CFAC is a multi-stakeholder coalition of community partners from various interests within the food system of Missoula County.

Our partners include:

Shannon Behan
Jim Berkey
Blakely Brown
Sara Bruya
Martha Buser
Bill Carey
Jon Clarenbach
Lou Ann Crowley
Jim Cusker
Brenda Erdelyi
Niraja Golightly
Neva Hassanein
Nancy Heil
Kristen Lee-Charlson
Crissie McMullan
Molly Moody
Kathy Sherba
Jason Wiener

Staff:

Bonnie Buckingham
Paul Hubbard
Lauren Amato
Lauren Butz

CFAC facilitates dialogue, education, and collaboration within the community, encouraging creative problem-solving and proactive policy advocacy.

December 15, 2008

Dear Friends,

With the growing season closing and farmers getting their fields ready for next year's crop, the Community Food & Agriculture Coalition (CFAC) is preparing for growth as well. Reflecting on another year of expanding markets for local food, conserving farmland, and assisting beginning farmers, we are gearing up for our first annual membership drive. We hope you will join us in these efforts by becoming a Member of CFAC.

Today, we've got great news for our kids, our families, and everyone who likes to eat in our community: An anonymous donor has offered to match, dollar-for-dollar, every membership and donation we receive before the new year. Your support will make a tremendous difference in our work.

Emily, a third-grade scholar at Lowell Elementary, is a great example of CFAC's impact in Missoula County. In learning about the Flathead cherries and Bernice's granola in her Cherry Parfait, Emily threw her head back and exclaimed, "It's fantastic."

So is CFAC's nationally acclaimed Farm to School Program, which is responsible for both procuring local foods for Missoula County's Public Schools as well as teaching Emily and her classmates about where their food is coming from, why fresh food matters, and how to turn seasonal ingredients into delicious dishes—like pumpkin cookies.

Nevertheless, our community faces many challenges in its ability to feed itself. Too often, the valley's most fertile lands sprout their last crop: houses. Beginning farmers and ranchers struggle to buy the agricultural land that remains open and intact. Our markets for local foods are growing, but can all families afford fresh and healthy products, compared to the nutrient-deficient foods that crowd grocery store shelves?

The Community Food and Agriculture Coalition brings community members together to find deep-rooted solutions to the food-related challenges facing our region. We strive for a Missoula County where family farms and ranches can make a decent living and folks across the economic spectrum can access and enjoy local food.

Specifically, CFAC works towards food solutions in the following areas:

- ★ **Farmland Conservation Advocacy** has brought CFAC a lot of media attention this year, as we work on multiple levels of county and city policy to protect our best agricultural lands from hasty development.
- ★ **Land Link Montana** is a program to help beginning farmers and ranchers find and access agricultural land for their operations.
- ★ **Buy Fresh Buy Local** brings local food to the area's restaurants by facilitating connections and conversations between chefs and growers.
- ★ **EBT / Credit Cards @ Farmers Markets** enables folks to use their food stamps, credit and debit cards at Missoula's farmers markets. The program is growing, operating in 5 markets across Montana this season.
- ★ **Farm to School** brings nutritious Montana-grown foods into our K-12 public schools, because our kids need a healthy diet to learn and farmers need larger markets for high-volume products.

These are hard economic times for all of us, but we cannot afford to delay in working toward a food system that is viable and just. Never has there been a more important time for CFAC's work, and for your participation and support.

Our campaign goal is to add 100 new members to the Community Food and Agriculture Coalition. Members drive our work, and all members have the opportunity to engage in the areas most interesting to them. Please consider joining CFAC today. Together, we can build a local food system that truly nourishes the community.

As you might guess, membership fees only cover a fraction of our costs, and we rely on donations and grants to meet our budget. This year's campaign goal is to raise \$10,000. With the generous matching grant from our anonymous donor, you can double the impact of your donation between now and the end of the year. Membership begins at \$35 per year. Donate an additional \$100 to join us as a Sustaining Member.

We look forward to welcoming you as a Member of CFAC. May your Holiday season be a wonderful celebration of community and local foods!

In gratitude,

Bonnie Buckingham
Facilitator

Paul Hubbard
Land Use Program Coordinator

Yes! I want to be a Member of CFAC!

Name(s): _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I am interested in the following issues/activities (check all that apply):

- Farmland Conservation Food Security Land Use Strategies Farm Transitions
- Farm to School Education & Outreach Food Access Projects Food & Ag Policies
- Other _____

I'm setting my dues at:

- \$35 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 Other \$25 (Living Lightly)
- Please count me in as a Sustaining Member. Enclosed is an additional \$100.
- I pledge to give \$_____ per month.

Membership dues and donations to CFAC are tax deductible. Tax ID#: 81-0362732

Print this page and return with your donation to: CFAC, P.O. Box 7025, Missoula, MT 59806