



THE COOP Spoonful

A bimonthly publication for members of the Olympia Food Co-op and its surrounding communities

Apr 17 - 30, 2019

Co-op Closure May 1st For International Workers' Day

Capital vs Labor. Which is more valuable? One person owns the land, but for that land to be productive, 100 people must work it. Co-ops seek to spread wealth equally by sharing the land amongst the workers. Unions seek to build strength and negotiation power through uniting in large numbers. The Olympia Food Co-op recognizes May 1st International Worker's Day as our only holiday closure of the year. May Day is an official holiday in 66 countries, but most folks in the US know little about its origins.

In the early 19th Century, men, women and children toiled for a 10 to 16-hour workday. Working conditions were often dangerous, and injuries and death were common. In some industries, the average life expectancy was as low as the early twenties. Workers began agitating for an 8-hour workday with no cut in pay as early as the 1860's. Organizing finally gave workers the strength in

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for International Workers Day
in solidarity with striking workers around the world

numbers necessary to turn the tide in the late 1880's. In 1884, the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions (later: American Federation of Labor), proclaimed, "Eight hours shall constitute a legal day's labor from and after May 1, 1886." They did so without the consent of employers. An estimated quarter of a million Chicago area workers fought directly to implement the eight-hour workday. By May 1st, 100,000 workers peacefully walked off the job. But two days later, the police clashed with the striking workers. While police and armed Pinkerton agents beat and harassed picketing steelworkers,

two hundred demonstrators joined the picketers. Police beat strikers with clubs and strikers threw rocks. The police responded with gunfire. In protest, three thousand people took to Haymarket Square, including families with children, and even the Chicago mayor. An unknown agitator threw a bomb toward the police. The police again fired bullets into the crowd. Although the person who threw the bomb was never determined, eight anarchists were arrested and convicted of murder. Only three of them were present at the massacre, and they were all within plain sight during the bombing. These eight organizers were convicted for their political beliefs alone.

Following the Haymarket Massacre, Big Business and government conducted what may have been the first "Red Scare" in the country - the mainstream media labeling anarchists as masked bomb throwers, and socialists as un-American. Historically, in the United states, worker cooperatives and unions alike have been blacklisted for their labor-centered values.

CO-OP LOCAL COUPON **50¢ OFF**



\$0.50 off Spring Creek Farm Strawberry Starts

one coupon per visit
valid thru 4-30-19



We are now experiencing the greatest income inequality in the history of the nation. The working class in the United States still struggles to earn a livable wage, while CEOs make thousands of dollars per second. But there are tens of thousands of workers standing up for the values of the Haymarket Martyrs, and this is why the Olympia Food Co-op closes our doors on May Day, in solidarity with workers around the world. ■

Local Savings

Spring Creek Farm

Strawberry Starts



Since 1996, Chris Robinson and Melissa Southwick have been working Spring Creek Farm, a small family farm in Rochester, WA. Chris and Melissa reduce their environmental impact by utilizing solar power in their home, farm, and irrigation. Spring Creek Farm produces their own organic soil mixes, and use biological controls for the rare pest occurrence. For more than a decade, Co-op shoppers have enjoyed beautiful vegetable starts provided by Spring Creek Farm. In this issue of the Co-op Spoonful, you'll find a Local Savings Coupon good for fifty cents off of robust and flavorful organic Spring Creek Farm strawberry plants. Spring Creek also produces blueberry bushes, fig trees, and hops, lavender, mints, thyme, motherwort, skullcap, arnica, and much much more! ■

Raw Milk Cheese Appreciation Day April 20th, 2019

Saturday, April 20th, 2019

International Raw Milk Cheese Appreciation Day (aka #rawcheeseday) is a day to celebrate the incredible flavors and textures of raw milk cheese. Live events will be taking place around the world to recognize the special qualities of raw milk cheeses. This is the 5th annual Raw Cheese Day celebration which was founded by the Oldways



Cheese Coalition, an international membership organization formed by Artisan cheesemakers, retailers, and enthusiasts advocating for raw milk and other traditional cheeses.

<https://oldwayspt.org/programs/oldways-cheese-coalition>

Join us at Olympia Food Co-op on Saturday, April 20th and Sunday, April 21st for 10% off selected raw milk cheeses all weekend! ■

Upcoming Events:

CO-OPatopia

Saturday, April 27th, 2019

12:00 PM–4:00 PM

5th and Adams Streets Downtown



CO-OPatopia is a free event uniquely created to showcase all that cooperatives contribute to our communities and the local economy, held in conjunction with the 2018 Spring Olympia Arts Walk & Procession of the Species. Come visit the Olympia Food Co-op booth!

The 31st Annual Intercity Transit Bicycle Commuter Contest

Registration is now open! Ride your bike to the Co-op in May, and pick up a free treat from Customer Service. We'll punch your Ride Card, and after five rides, you're entered into a raffle for more fabulous Co-op prizes! Register today at bcc.intercitytransit.com

Summer Faux-B-Que:

Sunday, June 9th, 2019

12:00 -- 3:00 PM

Westside Olympia Food Co-op & Garden Center

Taste test the best in compassionate grillable fare and help our Chill Department choose the vegan and veggie meat options we will carry for the summer grilling season! Enjoy a vegan fashion show with our friends at Dumpster Values; music from Guidon Bear and DJ Koolhandz Luke; local vendors, prizes and more! ■