

Brownsville mentioned in the Registerguard

Don Lyon noticed that we were mentioned in an article in the register guard titled "People find ways to live more lightly on Earth". You can find it at <http://www.registerguard.com/news/2006/08/24/ed.col.janspencer.0824.p1.php> . I'll be attending the Permaculture Gathering (mentioned in the article) this weekend and hope to gain some useful info for us.

Mother Jones Article

On the front page of the Oct '06 issue of Mother Jones you will see the the tagline "The Revolution will not be shrink wrapped - Breaking the Industrial Food Chain". The actual article by Michael Pollan is titled "No Bar Code - The next revolution in food is just around the corner". It's an interesting article on local food production and it makes me feel that we're actually part of a growing worldwide grass roots movement!

Buyers Club is ready to roll!

With the Farmers Market flush with local produce, we thought it might be good to start up the Buyers Club with the non-produce items. We found a distributor that will make this process fairly painless. They are Azure Standard and they operate out of Dufur, Oregon (where Homer Simpson lives :-)) with deliveries in our area generally the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. Orders need to be made online by 4:00pm of the Wednesday before. We are targeting September 13th as the deadline for our first order, with the delivery being made Monday the 18th late morning or early afternoon at the front porch of Penny Bridgman (next to the Bramble House) at 205 Templeton. Penny will be ordering for her new restaurant and will be helping us to meet our \$465 minimum order.

As a participating buyer (and we request that buyers be Brownsville Co-op supporting members) you will order and pay for your food online and your order will be delivered to Penny as a separate box. You will need a minimum order of \$40. If for some reason, we do not generate enough buyers to meet the \$465 total minimum, your order will be carried over to the next cycle. You will not be charged on your credit card until the order is finalized. You will be able to modify orders that have not been finalized.

Here is what you need to know for an order:

Website: <http://www.azurestandard.com/>

Your Account: Setup at the time of your first order (remember your id no.)

Ship to Address: Brownsville Co-op, 205 Templeton, Brownsville, OR 97327

Shipping Method: Truck Route

Our Routes: D1 & D2 (D1 for our first order)

Delivery Dates: Generally the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month

Order Deadline: Generally 4:00 pm Wednesday prior to the delivery date

When you first go to the Azure Standard website it appears to offer the same retail prices for single items that you would find in your typical health food store (and probably cheaper than 1st Alternative). So right there, you would be saving the cost of gas and of your time. But their actual lower prices don't show up till you have logged in. For example, I like the Lisanatti almond cheese. It retails at stores for \$2.89/8 oz package. Occasionally I'll find it on sale for \$2.20. Azure Standard's regular price is \$2.35 and they have it on sale for September for \$2.00. Buying by the carton or box quantities allow for additional discounts in the 9-10% range (that same cheese in a carton of 12 sells for \$1.86). So the best case scenario (with a sale item) one could be saving 35% off of retail. In reality, good deals will vary from item to item, but it is clear that if you shop carefully you can save money going through the Buyers Club. Once we get going, we may consider methods to coordinate bulk orders and obtain those quantity discounts.

Because we are just getting started with the Buyers Club, it will be helpful to inform me if you intend to make an order by our first Sept. 13 deadline. Just send an email to sbrenner@archetype.org. That will help some in our planning.

Next Meeting September 11

Our next meeting will be at the Bramble House at 209 Templeton (behind Norm's Electric) at 7:30pm.