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Dear Co-op members,

A very happy holiday season to you all! As we enter the darkest days of 2011 and wait for the return of the sun, many of us curl up with our favorite seed catalog to plan for the coming growing season. Your co-op is planning for that time as well. This year we are pleased to roll out our third cooperative seed order with Fedco Seeds and Moose Tubers (two divisions of Fedco Co-op Garden Supplies). Here is a description of Fedco from their web site:

We are a cooperative, one of the few seed companies so organized in the United States. Because we do not have an individual owner or beneficiary, profit is not our primary goal. Consumers own 60% of the cooperative and worker members 40%. Consumer and worker members share proportionately in the cooperative's profits through our annual patronage dividends.

Our cooperative structure gives workers a real voice in running the company and a real stake in its success, enabling us to attract and retain talented workers. Year after year our staff turnover has been very low.

Our company culture derives from our history as a cooperative. Our first customers were other cooperatives and we developed many of our procedures specifically to serve them. Although we have diversified, a significant proportion of our business still comes from cooperative or group orders. Our dedicated group order coordinators are partners in our business. We encourage you to make cooperation work for you by forming ordering groups to take advantage of our generous volume discounts.

Because Fedco's philosophy is aligned with ours and because they provide seed specifically adapted to our climate, we heeded their encouragement again! Though our group order is open to both members of our co-op and also to non-members, only members will receive discounts (see the Seed Order Instruction Sheet for discount details). In addition, farmer and/or producer members of our co-op will receive larger discounts than consumer members. It's our collective way of saying "thank you" to those of us that are committed to providing the rest of us with healthy, local food.

Attached you will find the Fedco Group Seed Order Instructions as well as the Fedco Group Seed Order Summary Form. The Fedco Seeds and Moose Tubers catalogs are attached and are available online at <http://fedcoseeds.com>.

Please note that this year's deadline to order is January 27, 2012. I must have your order form(s), summary form and payment by the end of that business day.

Cooperatively yours,

Laurie Freeman

(Seed Order Coordinator)

Our Mission: As consumer, producer and farmer members of a cooperative, we are committed to the creation of a healthy, sustainable community by providing wholesome foods, empowering artisans and fostering lifelong learning.