



1600 E. Madison
Seattle, WA 98122
www.centralcoop.coop

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Contact: Susanna Schultz
Phone: 206.329.1545 x226
Email: susannaschultz@centralcoop.coop

IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Central Co-op Raises Funds for Local Creamery After Fire Damages Barn, Destroys Feed

Seattle, WA: Central Co-op is holding a special fundraising effort for local cheesemaker Tieton Farm & Creamery after fire damages the farm. The community-owned grocery store will be sending 100% of all proceeds from the sale of Tieton Creamery cheeses straight back to the farm. On Monday, February 24 (right in the middle of birthing season) a fire broke out in one of the barns. It caused extensive damage to the structure and the farm's pickup truck, and destroyed much of their hay and other animal feed. The people of Tieton Farm & Creamery were unhurt, though one lamb, all the baby ducks and 16 baby chicks perished.

The fire struck Tieton Farm & Creamery during peak production time. It is the middle of birthing season with almost 100 baby animals expected to arrive. This is when the first milking and cheesemaking of the year begins, and it is a critical time of year in the cheesemaking business. Also, with nighttime temperatures in Tieton still dipping to freezing and below, the farm must rebuild their animal shelter quickly and replace the feed that was lost in the fire.

Tieton fans can support the farm's rebuilding efforts by enjoying their first artisan cheeses of the season, freshly arrived in-house this week. Roger Bass, Central's in-house cheesemonger says, "We were already planning to bring in a lot of the spring cheese from Tieton, but as soon as we put together this fundraiser, I tripled our first order. This cheese is delicious, and since people can help out just by buying and eating more of it, we expect it to go fast!"

Central Co-op will continue to contribute all of our Tieton Creamery sales back to the farm through the month of April.

About Central Co-op: Central Co-op is a member-owned natural foods cooperative located at the top of Seattle's Capitol Hill, and dedicated to sustainable practices and the local food economy. A complete grocery store, we feature an organic produce department, sustainably raised and harvested meat and seafood, an in-house deli and juice bar, a large selection of bulk goods and herbs, an extensive health and wellness section, and unique gifts. Open to everyone, seven days a week. More info online at www.centralcoop.coop

About Tieton Farm and Creamery: Tieton Farm & Creamery is a small, diverse family farm and dairy that offers farmstead, artisan, handmade cheese using milk from our own grass-fed herd of goats, sheep and cows. Located in the upper Yakima Valley, we also raise grass-fed beef, lamb and goat, whey-fed pork and free-range chickens, ducks, turkeys and geese. Our farming methods are sustainable and animal welfare is a priority. We, Ruth and Lori Babcock, owner-farmers, are improving the farm soil each year without chemicals. Our land is healthy, our animals are healthy, and our products are delicious! Find them online at <http://www.tietonfarmandcreamery.com>

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