

# Superior Foods Cooperative Inc. Records MS-143

Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Russell, revised by Rachael Bussert.



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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections  
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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
<b>Creator</b>	Superior Foods Cooperative Inc..
<b>Title</b>	Superior Foods Cooperative Inc. Records
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	Bulk, 1976-1982
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1976-1982; 1986
<b>Extent</b>	2.96 cubic feet 8 manuscript boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Language of Material</b>	English
<b>Mixed materials [Box]</b>	1-8
<b>Abstract</b>	Records, 1976-1982, of the Superior Foods Cooperative Inc. in Ahmeek, Michigan. Includes organizational records, financial records and newsletters from Superior Foods as well as records from other cooperatives in the area. Includes bylaws, stock certificates, membership information, order forms and newsletters from Common Health Warehouse Cooperative Association in Duluth, Minnesota, their food supplier, and newsletters from the Keweenaw Cooperative Inc. in Hancock, Michigan.

### Preferred Citation

MS-143, Superior Foods Cooperative Inc. Records, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

## Administrative History

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The Superior Foods Cooperative Inc. was formed in 1976 in Ahmeek, Michigan with the objective to make good food available to people at the lowest possible prices. The first Board of Director meeting was held April 29, 1976 when the Storefront, Legal, Communications, and Financial Committees were formed. The first members of the Board of Directors, Rita Snabb, Wendy Hill, Pete Hahn, Patti Dommer, Drago Tesanovich, Bill Schutte, and Maggie Dupuis, were named at the May 13, 1976 General Membership meeting and the name Superior Foods Co-op was approved. Officers were nominated and approved at the Board of Directors meeting held June 1, 1976. Patti Dommer was chosen as president, Wendy Hill as secretary, and Drago Tesanovich as treasurer. The Articles of Incorporation were officially filed with the Michigan Department of Commerce on July 15, 1976 under the name Superior Foods Cooperative, Inc. Members paid a one-time membership fee, but then were expected to volunteer to work in various positions, from staffing the cash registers to stocking shelves. Initially Superior Foods operated as a pre-order group and food was ordered on a monthly basis from Common Health Warehouse Cooperative Association in Duluth, Minnesota. Although the cooperative began in Ahmeek, the organization was able to obtain a storefront in Calumet, Michigan, staffed by members with limited hours of operation. Superior Foods Cooperative, Inc. was officially disbanded on June 30, 1982.

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## Collection Scope and Content Summary

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Organizational records, financial records and newsletters from Superior Foods as well as records from other cooperatives in the area. Includes bylaws, stock certificates, membership information, order forms and newsletters from Common Health Warehouse Cooperative Association in Duluth, Minnesota, their food supplier, and newsletters from the Keweenaw Cooperative Inc. in Hancock, Michigan.

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## Arrangement

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MS-143 is arranged into six series: 1. Board of Directors and General Membership Minutes, 2. Financial Records, 3. Storefront Records, 4. Membership Records, 5. Publications, and 6. Common Health Warehouse Cooperative Association.

## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

### **Revision Description**

This collection was processed during the NHPRC funded Detailed Processing project. 9/24/2012

### **Conditions Governing Access**

Available for use in the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections.

### **Conditions Governing Use**

Various copying restrictions apply. Guidelines are available from Michigan Technological University Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections.

### **Acquisition**

A donation of business records was made to the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections by Katie Pike on September 7, 1982. A second donation consisting of membership and purchase cards was donated to the archives by Sandra Uusitalo on October 26, 1983.

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Archival Materials**

Documentation relating to the relationship between Keweenaw Cooperative, Inc. and Superior Foods Cooperative Inc. may be found in this repository in MS-596: Keweenaw Cooperative, Inc. Records.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- Common Health Warehouse Cooperative Association.
- Superior Foods Cooperative Inc..

### **Genre(s)**

- Bankbooks
- Financial records
- Journals (Accounts)
- Minutes
- Newsletters
- Notebooks
- Printed ephemera

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Ahmeek (Mich.)
- Calumet (Mich.)
- Duluth (Minn.)

### **Subject(s)**

- Cooperative societies--Michigan

Series I, Board of Directors and General Membership Minutes

## Collection Inventory

### Series I, Board of Directors and General Membership Minutes 1976-1981

#### Scope and Contents

Minutes from Superior Foods Cooperative's Board of Directors meetings and General Membership meetings.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Board of Directors Minutes 1976, May 20	1	1
Board of Directors Meeting 1976, Jun 1	1	2
General Membership Minutes 1976, 1977, 1981	1	3
Committees 1976-1977	1	4
Co-op Minutes 1977	1	5

### Series II, Financial Records 1976-1982

#### Scope and Contents

This series contains financial records primarily consisting of bank statements and stubs, invoices, inventories, tax documents, and incorporation information.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
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## Series II, Financial Records

Bank Statements 1978	1	6
Bank Statements 1981	1	7
Bank Statements 1982	1	8
Bank Deposit Receipts/ Credits & Charges 1982	1	9
Daily Sales Jan 2, 1979-Apr 23, 1979	1	10
Co-op Bank 1979-1981	1	11
Bank Stubs 1976-1977	1	12
Bank Stubs 1980-1981	1	13
Invoices, Common Health 1980	2	1
Invoices, Common Health 1982	2	2
Merchants and Miners Bank Statements 1980	2	3
Merchants & Miners Bank Letters 1977-1978	2	4
Ledger Accounts 1976-1977	2	5
Inventory 1981-1982	2	6

## Series II, Financial Records

Merchants & Miners Bank Letters 1979	2	7
Item Pricing 1982	2	8
Markups 1976-1979	2	9
Miscellaneous Financial Records 1980-1981	2	10
Daily Sales Transactions 1977	3	1
Daily Sales 1980-1981	3	2
Exhibits-Financial Records (Examples & Actual) 1976-1978	3	3
Financial Records (From Binder) 1981	3	4
Financial Records (From ledger) Approximately 1976-1982	3	5
Fundraisers 1981-1982	3	6
General Accounts 1981	3	7
Income Tax Documents 1978	3	8
Sales Tax Records 1976-1977	3	9
Food Bonds 1981	3	10

## Series II, Financial Records

Inventory & Sales Logs 1977-1978	3	11
Invoices, Common Health 1976	3	12
invoices, Common Health 1977	3	13
Invoices, Common Health 1978	3	14
Invoices, Common Health 1979	3	15
Invoices, Common Health 1981	3	16
Food Stamps, Licenses, & Government Forms 1974-1981	4	1
Miscellaneous Receipts 1976-1977	4	2
Receipts, Other 1978-1979	4	3
Money, Credit, and Banking 1976-1979	4	4
Product Prices Approximately 1976-1982	4	5
Saturday Sales May 1, 1979- Dec. 8, 1979	4	6
Receipts for Donated Supplies 1982	4	7
Receipts 1977; 1981-1982	4	8

**Series III, Storefront Records**

Order Forms (Extra) 1982	4	9
Orders 1976-1977	4	10
Notes-Assets 1982	4	11
Notes, Financial 1977, 1979	4	12
Work Sheets 1981-1982	4	13
Incorporation Information 1976, 1978	4	14

**Series III, Storefront Records 1976-1982****Collection Scope and Content Summary**

This series contains records relating to the everyday functions in the store including employee procedures, master forms, advertising, calendars, and shipping schedules.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Advertising 1982	5	1
Community 1976-1977; 1981	5	2
Buying Club and Corporation Formation Circa 1979	5	3
Michigan Department of Agriculture, License 1980-1982	5	4

## Series IV, Membership Records

Calendar 1981	5	5
Calendar 1981-1982	5	6
Employee Procedures (1 of 2) 1980-1981	5	7
Employee Procedures (2 of 2) Circa 1979	5	8
Master Forms Approximately 1976-1982	5	9
Product Lines for Consideration 1980-1982	5	10
Shipping, "Run Schedules" 1976-1977	5	11
<b>Series IV, Membership Records 1976-1982</b>		
<b>Collection Scope and Contents</b>		
Records in this series contain information about members of the Cooperative including membership lists, household work hours cards, and general membership cards.		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Member Lists Approximately 1976-1982	5	12
New Membership Lists 1981-1982	5	13
Membership Fee Receipts 1976	5	14

**Series V, Publications**

Household Work Hours 1977	7	1
Alphabetical File 1976-1978	7	2
Membership Cards 1976-1981	7	3
Spare Cards 1976-1977	7	4
Inactive Members Approximately 1976-1981	7	5
Active Members A-J 1978-1980	7	6
Active Members K-Z 1978-1980	7	7
Membership Cards A-Z Mar 1981-May 1981	7	8
Membership Cards Alvarez-Franti 1981-1982	8	2
Membership Frisk-Kutinaitis 1981-1982	8	2
Membership Cards La Bonte-Richards 1981-1982	8	3
Membership Cards Rogan-Uusitalo 1981-1982	8	4

**Series V, Publications 1976-1982; 1986 (Bulk, 1976-1982)****Scope and Contents**

## Series V, Publications

This series includes publications by Superior Foods Cooperative and other regional cooperatives. Items found in this series include, but are not limited to Superior Foods Cooperative flyers, food guides, newsletters by other regional cooperatives including the Keewenaw Cooperative and the Marquette Organic Foods Cooperative as well as a copy of Diet for a Small Planet by Frances Moore Lappe and an article by Infact News about the Nestle Boycott.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Superior Foods Co-op Flyers 1981	5	15
Newsletters 1976-1982; 1987	5	16
Diet for a Small Planet, Frances Moore Lappe Circa 1976	5	17
Politics, Related Circa 1980	5	18
Infact News, Nestle Boycott Apr 1982	5	19
Food Guides Undated	6	1
Life & Health Magazine Aug 1981, Sep 1981	6	2
Co-op Food Facts 1981	6	3
Co-op Directory Aug 1977	6	4
Northern Sun News 1982	6	5

**Series VI, Common Health Warehouse Cooperative Association**

Outpost Natural Foods Cooperative Membership Policy and Bylaws Undated	6	6
Newsletters (Other) Approximately 1976, 1981	6	7
Product Guides Undated	6	8
Recipes Circa 1976	6	9
Midwest Natural Foods, October 1980, Catalog 16 Oct 1980	6	10
Midwest Natural Foods, Fall 1981, Catalog 18 Fall 1981	6	11

**Series VI, Common Health Warehouse Cooperative Association 1976-1982****Scope and Contents**

Records in this series pertain to the Common Health Warehouse Cooperative Association that was based out of Duluth, Minnesota. Documents in this series include stock quotas, Warehouse stock transactions, a stockholder letter, a CHWCA Conference Packet, copies of the CHWCA newsletter, and the CHWCA Price List.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Stock Quotas 1981, Dec 31	6	12
Stock Holder Letter 1977, 1981	6	13
Warehouse-Stock Transactions 1976	6	14



**Series VI, Common Health Warehouse Cooperative Association**

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Common Health Warehouse (Stock Information & Miscellaneous) 1978	6	15
CHWCA Eastern Region 1981	6	16
CHWCA Conference Packet 1976	6	17
CHWCA Newsletter 1979, 1981	6	18
CHWCA Price List 1979, 1981, 1982	6	19