

**CCMA Conference**  
June 16 to 18, 2011  
San Diego, California

**“From Food Desert to Food Oasis: How Co-ops Can have an Impact”**

**Keynote: Mari Gallagher**

Here are some of the comments from the written conference evaluations:

- 1) I am excited to see Mari's research grow and cover different towns in the US and throughout the world some day.
- 2) Excellent topic! Very compelling and challenging to me as a board member, and for most co-ops, I'd imagine. I'd like to see more on this (activism, cooperation/systems building) at future CCMA's and elsewhere in the co-op movement.
- 3) Wow, what a great lady! Fantastic content from a pioneer in food politics, seriously inspiring.
- 4) One of the best in years!
- 5) Stimulating, well-prepared speaker.
- 6) Very worthwhile.
- 7) Valuable – interesting stuff about USDA food stamps.
- 8) Incredible information connecting retail food suppliers and health outcomes.
- 9) Very good data and Mari was a grand speaker.
- 10) I was very impressed by her and her knowledge. I had never heard of a food desert before.
- 11) Engaging, made me rethink our expansion motives and criteria for locations.
- 12) Very inspiring and super rich in data as well. The perfect balance.
- 13) Thought provoking, data-based, an important social concern we need to be active in.

- 14) This is so very interesting and important. I wish our co-op were focused on this need. The presentation was good.
- 15) Really relevant to our co-op! Gave me food for thought regarding some of our members' requests that we consider expanding into an area that is a food desert.
- 16) Gallagher was better than the usual speakers – lots of info and enthusiasm for co-ops. Glad she was available later in the conference.
- 17) I learned a lot and wrote down several “calls to action” that we can consider as a board.
- 18) Full of useful ideas that I will try to implement at our co-op.
- 19) Excellent and thought-provoking presentation!!!
- 20) She was a great presenter – opened up a whole new issue to challenge us as we develop.
- 21) Interesting. Would be good to have access to research and how we can influence future projects. Units, baseline, graphic meaning issues.
- 22) Mari gave us a lot to think about and she challenged our co-op mission. Thanks for encouraging us to stretch!
- 23) Good for expanded horizons, hood humor, responsive.
- 24) Great content and inspiration.
- 25) Great keynote speaker.
- 26) Great visuals. I appreciated her emphasis on data and defining the universe as it applies to co-ops.
- 27) Very interesting – something I've been looking into.
- 28) Very valuable, timely topic!
- 29) I found the subject matter fascinating (something I had some familiarity with). Excellent research always buttresses our work in healthy food.
- 30) Very timely as my community has a food desert according to USDA.
- 31) She was great and engaging. Nice set-up for the weekend.

- 32) Her content was good and unlike previous keynote speakers. She didn't misunderstand co-ops. Informational and a good kick-off.
- 33) Great info. Very insightful speaker.
- 34) Relevant, clear.
- 35) Very appropriate topic from a well-organized presenter.
- 36) The presentation allowed me to look at my community from a different point of view. I'm going to meet with my community leaders and try to get Mari to Alaska.
- 37) Q and A was great.
- 38) Very engaging. Q and A part was awkward. Glad you learned from it and changed it for Saturday. Keep that "line up for questions" model.