United Natural Foods and Select Nutrition Distribution Combine to Offer More Complete Product Lines to Their Customers

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DAYVILLE, Conn., Dec. 12 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- United Natural Foods, Inc. (Nasdaq: UNFI) (the "Company") and Select Nutrition Distributors, Inc. ("Select") have entered into an agreement to form a distribution partnership. Under the terms of this distribution partnership, Select will distribute certain health and beauty aids ("HBA") and vitamins, minerals and supplements ("VMS") to the Company's customers. Products subject to this agreement will be carried in Select's inventory and shipped to the Company's customers via UPS or other similar parcel delivery service.

For the Company's customers, this distribution partnership substantially broadens the selection of VMS and HBA products that they can purchase from the Company. In addition, the process for purchasing, ordering and billing these products will be handled in the same manner as the Company's current products: products will appear in the Company's catalog and all products, including those distributed by Select, can be ordered together and billed on the same invoice. The Company's customers will not see any change in the ordering process, other than in the enhanced selection of products.

For the vendors of VMS and HBA products covered under this distribution partnership, the products currently sold to the Company will be sold solely to Select. For the vendors of VMS and HBA products that currently sell to Select but not to the Company, the products will be made available to the Company's customers, subject to the Company's review and approval. Vendors affected by this distribution partnership will be contacted individually.

Implementation of this distribution partnership will be effected in stages. It is expected that the first stage will begin by March 31, 2004 with full implementation targeted for May, 2004.

About Select

Select distributes branded vitamins, herbs, dietary supplements, health and beauty aids to over 5,000 customers nationwide. Privately held since its founding in 1975, Select purchases products from 450 manufacturers and carries 16,000 items in its warehouses. Select sells to health food stores, pharmacies, sports clubs, spas and medical offices and delivers products to customers via UPS or similar package delivery service. For more information please call 866-804-8844.

About the Company

The Company carries and distributes over 32,000 products to more than 14,000 customers nationwide. The Company serves a wide variety of retail formats including conventional supermarket chains, natural product superstores, independent retail operators and the food service channel. For more information on the Company, visit its website at www.unfi.com .

"Safe Harbor" Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995: Statements in this press release regarding the Company's business that are not historical facts are "forward-looking statements" that involve risks and uncertainties. For a discussion of such risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements, including but not limited to general business conditions, the impact of competition and our dependence on principal customers, see "Risk Factors" in the Company's annual report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Commission on October 22, 2003, and its other filings under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Any forward- looking statements are made pursuant to the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and, as such, speak only as of the date made. The Company is not undertaking to update any information in the foregoing reports until the effective date of its future reports required by applicable laws.

SOURCE United Natural Foods, Inc. -0- 12/12/2003 /CONTACT: Rick Puckett, Chief Financial Officer of United Natural Foods, Inc., +1-860-779-2800, General Information, Joseph Calabrese, +1-212-445-8434, or Analyst Information, Susan Garland, +1-212-445-8458, both of Financial Relations Board/ /Web site: http://www.unfi.com / (UNFI) CO: United Natural Foods, Inc.; Select Nutrition Distributors, Inc. ST: Connecticut