

Blue Hill Co-op Buying Policy

Revised 2012.

Purpose:

To provide buyers with guidelines for purchasing stock and services for the store, which accord with our Mission Statement, and to inform members and vendors about our co-op's values and purchasing goals.

Our values:

We believe wholesome food is necessary for our individual well-being and also the well-being of our community.

We believe that supporting local farmers and industries also strengthens our communities.

We believe what we purchase and carry in our co-op should reflect the values of our membership.

Our guidelines:

We strive to satisfy a range of needs and tastes by purchasing the freshest, purest and highest quality foods available at reasonable prices. We prefer to buy organically grown and produced products at prices fair to the producer, the store and our members and customers. We are committed to buying from local growers and producers whenever practical. We provide our members and customers with information on products and changes in the whole food industry.

We support farmers who practice sustainable agriculture, the goals of organic agriculture, and humane treatment of livestock and poultry. We also strive to support socially responsible producers, co-operative and worker-owned businesses, the use of renewable resources, limiting packaging and using recyclable materials.

We strive *not* to buy foods which contain artificial sweeteners, colors, flavors, preservatives or additives; antibiotics or growth hormones; cottonseed or hydrogenated oils. Nor do we knowingly buy foods utilizing methods of genetic engineering or irradiation. We strive to limit our shelf space for foods containing chemically refined oils and highly refined sweeteners such as sucrose, fructose, corn syrup and high fructose corn syrup.

A copy of the Buying Policy will be given to each vendor with the understanding that this policy applies to their products and that we strive to do business with vendors who are in accordance with our policy.