

Product Policy

Approved by Product Policy Cmte on November 12, 2003

Approved Unanimously by Board of Directors on February 11, 2004

Preamble: To more fully express the mission of the Abundance Cooperative Market to provide safe, healthful, nutritious food and other products at a reasonable price to the Rochester community, while, at the same time providing the coops product buyers a set of guidelines to better inform their buying decisions, the Board of Directors establishes the following policy.

When choosing its products, Abundance Coop gives priority to those that are:

- Raised or produced using organic practices.
- Locally produced, when available. Local means in the Rochester area, then moving out in concentric circles from there.
- Produced and packaged to have a minimal impact on the environment.
- Not genetically modified or containing genetically modified organisms or hormones. However, because formal labeling of such ingredients is not in place, Abundance may unknowingly sell goods with such ingredients.
- Produced by companies that adhere to socially responsible practices, including using fair trade practices and/or paying fair wages.
- Produced without animal testing.
- Supportive of cooperatives or family-owned or independent companies.
- Free of artificial ingredients, additives and/or preservatives.

Since we strive to meet the needs of as many members as possible, we also carry products that do not meet a substantial portion of the above priorities. When a product does not fit a substantial portion of the above priorities, these additional criteria should be met:

- The product is the only product in that category provided by our main suppliers with no acceptable substitutes; or
- If there are other products in that category that better fit the above criteria, the product in question meets at least one of the above criteria, and is either more affordable to the Rochester community or is in great demand by shoppers.

Abundance provides information about products or ingredients whenever possible, so that shoppers can make informed choices.

Abundance works with local producers, whenever practical, to improve the quality of ingredients so their products