

Quincy Natural Foods Cooperative Board Policies

<i>Policy Name</i>	Product and Purchasing Policy		
<i>Date Approved</i>	9.24.08	<i>Date Reviewed</i>	02.21.17

Overview and Purpose:

The purpose of the Quincy Natural Foods Cooperative (QNFC) Product and Purchasing Policy is to provide guidelines for purchasing product, and to inform owners, vendors, staff and the public about our cooperative's values and purchasing goals.

QNFC is committed to continually improving consumer selections of organic, local, regional and natural products. While it is our policy to prioritize purchasing from socially responsible companies, our buying practices will focus on the integrity of the individual products.

Definitions:

Organic products are defined as those that meet or exceed rigid standards of the USDA certified organic program.

Natural products are defined as being free from synthetic additives.

Local is defined as grown, produced and distributed within 100 miles of our stores.

Regional is defined as grown, produced and distributed within 250 miles of our stores.

Policy:

QNFC strives to provide high quality products and merchandise for our owners and customers. We use the following guidelines for choosing products.

PART 1 • Preferred Products

- Produced using sustainable practices including organic agriculture
- Produced from ecologically responsible processes
- Produced and/or grown locally
- Produced by small independent companies
- Packaged with minimal, recycled or recyclable materials
- Produced by collectively or cooperatively-owned businesses
- Fairly traded
- Sold in bulk
- Minimally processed and whole
- Produced with few or no artificial additives
- Ethically produced

PART 2 • Products that may be sold until better alternatives are found or made available

- Products in non-recyclable packaging
- Non-organic foods
- Products in transition to non GMO status *

PART 3 • Products to be avoided

- Products from companies that use animals for testing
- Products containing high fructose corn syrup
- Products containing artificial flavors, colors, sweeteners, or other artificial ingredients
- Products containing nitrates
- Irradiated products
- Dairy products containing rBGH
- Meat products treated with hormones or antibiotics

*** QNFC has a goal to eventually be 100% GMO free and supports mandatory labeling of all GMO ingredients.**

QNFC will no longer accept new non-organic products that include GMO high-risk items in their ingredient list unless they are enrolled in The Non-GMO Project or can provide us a detailed description of measures taken to avoid GMO contamination.

High-Risk Crops (in commercial production; ingredients derived from these must be tested every time prior to use in Non-GMO Project Verified products)

- **Alfalfa**
- **Canola**
- **Corn**
- **Cotton**
- **Papaya**
- **Soy**
- **Sugar Beets**
- **Zucchini and Yellow Summer Squash**