

Kootenay & Boundary Food Producers' Co-op

MEMBER DEFINITIONS, ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND PRODUCTION GUIDELINES

Full Membership, with accompanying privileges and responsibilities, will be held by producers according to the following definitions and eligibility requirements.

Associate Membership may be held by other groups and individuals, according to the Rules of the Co-operative.

DEFINITIONS

PRODUCERS: Growers and Processors

GROWERS: Residents of the Kootenay and Boundary regions of Southeastern British Columbia who cultivate land or raise animals to produce food or feed to sell.

PROCESSORS: Residents of the Kootenay and Boundary regions of Southeastern British Columbia who transform raw ingredients into food, or food into other forms.

LOCAL: Within the Kootenay or Boundary region.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP, GROWERS AND PROCESSORS MUST:

1. Sell products that align with co-op's vision, mission, purpose and objectives
2. Commit to proposed growing practices and processing guidelines outlined by the co-operative
3. Be proficient in their own business.
4. Value honesty, integrity, clarity, collaboration, accountability and diligence.
5. Be willing to grow their business and committed to continuous improvement.
6. Be willing and able to:
 - a. be a member of the co-op, and fulfill responsibilities of membership
 - b. devote time and energy to professional development
 - c. participate in co-marketing initiatives , such as the use of a co-operative brand
 - d. share information and resources, such as annual volumes, group purchasing, distribution, business development support, marketing and brokerage

PROPOSED GROWING PRACTICES- GROWER MEMBERS

1. Members are expected to follow ecologically sustainable growing practices,
2. Members who raise livestock for milk, eggs or meat are encouraged to follow sustainable and humane livestock practices.
3. Members who do not have certification (e.g.organic, KMG, SPCA, etc) will be expected:
 - a. to not use chemical pesticides, herbicides or poisonous sprays.
 - b. to be able to demonstrate that steps are being taken to maintain soil tilth and microbial health (ie through the use of composts, green manures, etc.)
 - c. to submit in writing details of their growing practices, and be willing to be visited by a designated party to verify them.

PROPOSED PROCESSING GUIDELINES - PROCESSOR MEMBERS

1. Members are encouraged to source their raw products from local growers and co-op members, when possible.
2. Members are encouraged to use natural additives & preservatives
3. Members are encouraged to use ecologically responsible packaging whenever cost-effective and possible
4. Members are encouraged to use raw materials that are free from GMO contamination
5. Members are encouraged to be aware of the environmental and social impacts of their product creation
6. Members must have appropriate food safety systems in place
7. Members must comply with all regional, provincial and federal regulations