

## Product Purchase Policy

At the Bethlehem Co-op Market, we are committed to providing our community with access to local, affordable, and quality food choices. As a cooperatively owned grocery store, our members and customers play a crucial role in shaping our product selection. This policy outlines our principles and guidelines for product purchasing, ensuring alignment with our values and informing how we meet the diverse needs of our community.

### **Local Sourcing:**

- *Priority on Local Products:* We prioritize sourcing products from local farmers, producers, and artisans within our community and region.
- *Supporting Sustainable Practices:* Products with environmentally sustainable and ethical production practices will be given preference.
- *Tiered local designation:* Bethlehem Local, PA Local, Regional. The co-op will create and maintain a map that designates these tiers for reference.
- *Transparent Sourcing:* We strive to provide transparent information about the origin and production methods of each product, enabling informed choices by our members and customers.

### **Affordability:**

- *Competitive Pricing:* We are committed to offering fair and competitive prices to make quality, locally sourced products accessible to all members of our community.
- *Cooperative Member Discounts:* Cooperative members may be eligible for additional discounts or special promotions, fostering a sense of community and shared benefits.

### **Quality Products:**

- *Quality Standards:* We uphold quality standards that ensure the products on our shelves meet or exceed the expectations of our community in terms of quality, freshness, taste, and seasonality.
- *Diverse and Intentional Selection:* Our product range includes a diverse and intentional selection that prioritizes quality ingredients, flavor, and craftsmanship.

### **Member Input and Feedback:**

- *Member Input:* We encourage active participation from our members in supporting our product selection process. Members can propose new products or provide feedback on existing ones through our designated channels.
- *Customer Surveys:* We will periodically conduct surveys to gauge the preferences and needs of our community, ensuring that our product offerings evolve to meet changing demands.

### **Supplier Relationships:**

- *Collaboration with Local Suppliers:* We prioritize building strong and collaborative relationships with local suppliers, fostering a sense of community and supporting the local economy.
- *Fair Trade and Ethical Standards:* We strive to work with suppliers who adhere to fair trade practices and ethical standards in their production processes. The Operations Team of the cooperative will create the list of these practices and standards and update it as necessary. These will be posted publicly both in the store and on the website.

By adhering to this product purchase policy, the Bethlehem Co-op Market aims to create a sustainable and community-driven grocery shopping experience. We are dedicated to offering a diverse and high-quality selection of products that prioritize local, affordable, and healthy food choices. Our policy is a living document that will grow and adjust to meet the changing needs of our customers. Thank you for being part of our cooperative and supporting our mission.