



**FEATHER
RIVER FOOD**

CO-OP
SINCE 1978

Product Purchasing Guidelines

Overview and Purpose:

The purpose of the Feather River Food Co-op (FRFC) product purchasing guidelines is to provide parameters for purchasing products in alignment with the needs of our co-op shoppers.

While it is our priority to purchase from socially responsible companies, our buying practices will focus on the overall attributes of the individual products and meeting the needs of our customers and community.

Definitions:

Hyper-Local: Product grown or produced within 30 miles from each co-op location.

Local: Product grown or produced within the Plumas and Yuba Watershed region.

Supplemental Nutrition Programs: EBT - Electronic Benefits Transfer and WIC - Women, Infant and Children.

Organic: Produced without the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, or other artificial agents and must meet or exceed the USDA standard for organic labeling.

Natural: Produced free from synthetic additives.

Guidelines:

FRFC will use the following guidelines for choosing products:

Preferred Products:

- Produced and/or grown locally, with or without organic certification
- Produced using organic practices
- Is considered natural according to the definition
- Produced from small independent companies
- Packaged with minimal, recycled or recyclable materials

- Produced using sustainable practices and ecologically responsible processes
- Produced by collectively or cooperatively owned businesses
- Fair trade products
- Produced with few or no artificial additives

Products that are acceptable if preferred products aren't available:

- Products in mixed recyclable containers
- Non-organic foods
- Products in transition to non-GMO status

Products that should be avoided unless it is the only option or is mandatory to participate in supplemental nutrition programs:

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