

## **MCFC Product Selection Values (Draft 3-31-11)**

MCFC makes it a priority to stock healthy, fresh, bulk, natural and, as much as possible, local products. The Co-op strives to increase the affordability of basic healthful foods to as broad an array of people as possible. The membership welcomes cooperative suppliers, local producers and farmers and other suppliers that reflect goals similar to the Co-op's purpose statement.\*

As a member-driven and supported cooperative, the MCFC wishes to honor member product requests. As current store space limits the amount of processed and prepared foods that can be regularly shelved, members are encouraged to special order the food that is not currently available for purchase in the store space. Staff will gladly special order processed and prepared foods by the case and notify members when orders are available for pick up.

MCFC members recognize that food choices are highly personal and that some products or additives that are acceptable to some are not acceptable to others. MCFC urges members to read ingredient labels on all products to see how well they correspond to individual preferences. To alert members to products with potentially controversial ingredients, the Product Committee will develop a system for flagging items that contain these ingredients and will look to offer alternative products whenever possible.

Product selection policies at the Co-op are not set in stone and reflect member preferences as interpreted by the Product Committee. The following section titled "Product Selection Values" is a working document and member feedback is always welcomed. The guidelines are not ranked in any order of priority.

### **Product Selection Values**

#### **Localism**

The Co-op values products locally grown and/or produced (promoting community and local/small business, farms and ranches, etc.) and products from independently owned businesses.

#### **Environmentalism and Consumer Health Impacts**

The Co-op values products that have the lowest negative impact on the environment (including product packaging). The Co-op values products that have the lowest negative impact on consumer health. It values organic and sustainably grown GMO-free products. The Co-op will maintain a method of recycling waste and will support alternative modes of transportation.

#### **Social Responsibility**

MCFC values companies that uphold human rights (pay employees a living wage in a safe working environment, etc.), do not use animal testing for their products and do not practice the inhumane treatment of animals when raising them for meat and/or dairy products.

## **Price**

The Missoula Community Co-op will strive to provide a selection of products sold at prices that will enable customers of all income levels to shop for high quality healthful, fresh and whole foods.

## **Member Accountability, Education & Community Outreach**

As a member-owned and democratically-run consumer cooperative, MCFC values product requests from its membership and strives to be responsive to them. That includes valuing special dietary concerns and desires/cultural considerations in product selection.

MCFC values transparency in product and vendor selection in open communication with both members and the companies with which it considers doing business.

The Co-op will provide workshops for the community on product nutrition and cooking and general health and well-being.

\*From draft MCFC by-laws:

*As a community of cooperating consumers, the MCFC wishes to promote equitable nutritional access, food security, community sustainability and ecological responsibility. The MCFC is a member-owned cooperative enterprise committed to advancing its own financial prosperity within a context of mutual participation and aid. Rather than be motivated solely by profit maximization, MCFC strives to provide its members products at the lowest commercially feasible price. This is largely accomplished through membership working-requirements.*

*The MCFC seeks to democratize access to healthy and locally produced foods and non-food products for its membership. Beyond that, the MCFC strives to create and nurture relationships with farmers, local producers, small businesses and other cooperative organizations. MCFC hopes, thereby, to strengthen production and distribution networks that provide regional alternatives to larger, more exploitative, global systems. MCFC values participatory democracy and human equality. In the tradition of the international cooperative movement, MCFC members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility, and caring for others.*

## **\*\*Whole Foods Market (Unacceptable Ingredient List)**

acesulfame-K (acesulfame potassium)	hydrogenated fats
acetylated esters of mono- and diglycerides	IMP (disodium inosinate)
ammonium chloride	irradiated foods
artificial colors	lactylated esters of mono- and diglycerides
artificial flavors	lead soldered cans
aspartame	methyl silicon
azodicarbonamide	methylparaben
benzoates in food	microparticulated whey protein derived fat substitute
benzoyl peroxide	monosodium glutamate (MSG)
BHA (butylated hydroxyanisole)	natamycin
BHT (butylated hydroxytoluene)	nitrites/nitrites
bleached flour	partially hydrogenated oil
bromated flour	polydextrose
brominated vegetable oil (BVO)	potassium benzoate
calcium bromate	potassium bisulfite
calcium disodium EDTA	potassium bromate
calcium peroxide	potassium metabisulfite
calcium propionate	potassium sorbate
calcium saccharin	propionates
calcium sorbate	propyl gallate
calcium stearoyl-2-lactylate	propylparaben
caprocaprylobehenin.	saccharin
certified colors	sodium aluminum phosphate
cyclamates	sodium aluminum sulfate
cysteine (l-cysteine), as an additive for bread products	sodium benzoate
DATEM (Diacetyl tartaric and fatty acid esters of mono and diglycerides)	sodium bisulfite
dimethylpolysiloxane	sodium diacetate
dioctyl sodium sulfosuccinate (DSS)	sodium glutamate
disodium calcium EDTA	sodium nitrate/nitrite
disodium dihydrogen EDTA	sodium propionate
disodium guanylate	sodium stearoyl-2-lactylate
disodium inosinate	sodium sulfite
EDTA	solvent extracted oils, as standalone single-ingredient oils (except grapeseed oil)
ethyl vanillin	sorbic acid
ethylene oxide	sucralose
ethoxyquin	sucroglycerides
FD & C colors	sucrose polyester
foie gras	sulfites (sulfur dioxide)
GMP (disodium guanylate)	TBHQ (tertiary butylhydroquinone)
hexa-, hepta- and octa-esters of sucrose	tetrasodium EDTA
high fructose corn syrup	vanillin