

CHICO NATURAL FOODS CO-OP

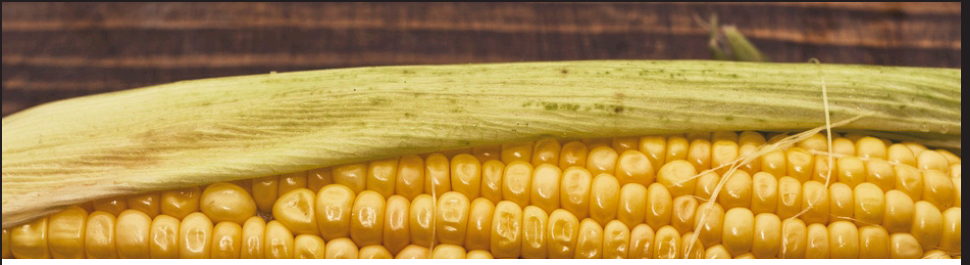


GMO POLICY

WE SUPPORT YOUR ABILITY TO MAKE INFORMED
DECISIONS WHEN PURCHASING FOOD.



2014 REVISION



Owners, Customers, and Concerned Citizens,

Since the introduction of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) into the food system, numerous human health and environmental degradation concerns have been raised and confidence in the safety of GMO crops has been limited. Your ability to make informed decisions when purchasing food products has also been restricted due to the difficulty of determining whether foods contain GMOs.

The Co-op recognizes that many consumers expect our store to be free of GMOs. The Co-op is not 100% GMO free, despite our overwhelming emphasis on organic products. Until mandatory labeling is implemented it would be irresponsible for our store to claim any percentage of GMO free products. Also, due to our commitment to carry specialty products (gluten free, vegan, ethnic, fair trade, etc.), we carry products that do not currently have a non-GMO verified or certified organic equivalent. Our owners and customers with special dietary restrictions are important to us and despite our small size we pride ourselves in our wide and varied special needs selection.

No simple solutions exist of how to best deal with GMOs, but working together we can help each other and our community navigate to a healthy future. The Co-op has aligned with the NCGA, the Non-GMO Project, and the SFTA to further open a forthright dialogue with the food industry regarding the importance of organic agriculture and federally mandated labeling of GMOs. Listed in this guide are steps the Co-op is presently taking to address the presence of GMOs in our food systems and additional strategies shoppers can employ to make healthy decisions.

We will continue to support local agriculture and small businesses who share our vision of sustainable practices and growing methods, even if they are not certified organic. We will also continue to offer our customers a wide selection of products at affordable prices.

STEPS THE CO-OP IS TAKING:

The Co-op supports the labeling of GMOs in all food products and packaging.

We are committed to only introducing new products which are Certified Organic, Non-GMO verified, or contain no high risk GMO ingredients.

Only products which are Certified Organic, non-GMO verified, or contain no high risk GMO ingredients will be included in promotional displays.

The Co-op does not carry any products which contain genetically engineered animals.

All items made in our kitchen are made from products which are Certified Organic, Non-GMO verified, or contain no high risk GMO ingredients

The Co-op, to the best of its ability, avoids purchasing GMO packaging, cleaning supplies, and other supplementary products for store use.

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE:

If you want to completely eliminate GMOs from your diet the best option is to only buy Certified Organic or Non-GMO Project verified products. Outside of these certifications an effective strategy is to avoid products which contain high risk ingredients.

Use your consumer power by investing your food dollars in non-GMO products. If sufficient numbers of U.S. shoppers avoid GM ingredients, then food companies won't use them.
(visit ResponsibleTechnology.org to learn more)

Download a Non-GMO Shopping Guide from NonGMOShoppingGuide.com to see the growing list of Non-GMO products available. A smart phone application is also available.

NON-ORGANIC CROPS AT HIGH-RISK FOR BEING GMO INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

Alfalfa
Canola (rapeseed)
Corn
Cotton
Soy

Sugar Beets
Papaya (from Hawaii)
Yellow Summer Squash
Zucchini
Apples*

NON-ORGANIC INGREDIENTS DERIVED FROM CROPS AT HIGH-RISK FOR BEING GMO INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

Amino Acids
Artificial Flavoring
Ascorbic Acid
Aspartame
Citric Acid
Corn Starch
Ethanol
High-Fructose Corn Syrup
Hydrolyzed Vegetable Protein
Lactic Acid
Maltodextrin
Molasses

Monosodium Glutamate
Natural Flavoring
Natural Spices
Sodium Ascorbate
Sodium Citrate
Soy Lecithin
Spices
Textured Vegetable Protein (TVP)
Vitamin Capsules
Xanthan Gum
Yeast

* Transgenic varieties of these organisms are in development and not yet available to consumers.

This Policy applies to animals that are genetically modified, but not to the feed the animals consume, for which there is little or no documentation. Beer and Wine are also exempt from our policy, as required ingredient labeling does not currently exist.

CNFC recognizes that this policy will need to be a living document due to the reality that the food industry, industry standards, and technology consistently change over time. CNFC intends to conduct business with its owners' and community members' best interest in mind and will consult its ownership in the case of any controversial or difficult decisions.

