



Help write the  
Orono Farmers' Market

# Item Eligibility Criteria

A draft edition . . . for comment and editing.

## What is this? An explanation:

At the January 2006 Annual Meeting of the Orono Farmers' Market the subject arose of exactly when an item is eligible for sale at the market. Some members felt that a **definitive list of criteria** for eligibility would be helpful. This list is a draft, a beginning of what such a definitive list might look like. The purpose of this document is to have such a list become adopted as an official part of market decision-making.

This list attempts to record what have been, in the observations of [the authors](#), the market's practices to date in deciding these matters. Please help with this process by making corrections, deletions or any modifications to what is written here. [Email your ideas](#). When a topic does not appear to have been resolved, the word {Question?} or {Suggestion:} appears at that topic.

The market's "[No-Buy Rule](#)" says that members at the market should have produced what they are offering for sale. This has been interpreted to include the member's immediate family or the member's employees, but not distant relatives, friends, neighbors or other producers. Since this applies universally to all items, I thought it best not to repeat it at every item.

"Member" vs. "Vendor": Throughout I have used the term "member" rather than "vendor" to specify the person selling. Technically, a member is the person(s) or business that has joined the market, whereas the vendor is the person(s) who actually attend market and sells product. In most instances these are the same, but when an employee or relative staffs a member's stand for a day or a season, they are clearly different.

These criteria are in addition to any applicable local, state or federal regulations regarding the sale of these items. These are internal market "No Buy Rule" clarifications.

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{Caitlin:} I think for this document, we should restate the market's rules regarding processed foods and buy-ins. Over all should be the statement that whenever possible, ingredients in processed items should be local-- "one degree of separation". And intermediate items should fit traditional farm crafts, such as soap, yarn, skins, baskets.

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{Claire:}

### **Preamble:**

The Purpose of the Orono Farmers' Market is "To improve the production and marketing of local farm and garden products in the Orono and surrounding areas, and to stimulate public interest in the consumption of local farm and garden products thereby supporting, preserving, and improving the quality of rural life in this area." -- From the By-Laws, Article II.

It is the responsibility of all members to keep these goals in mind when bringing products to market. Our customers expect that food brought to market is home-grown and home-made, and

this confidence must be respected as our greatest asset.

To this end, products brought to market must always come as close to being home-grown and home-made as possible. Ingredients in processed foods should be locally grown where possible. In making value-added products, as much of the process as possible should be performed by the vendor.

We encourage our customers to become informed. Members are encouraged to provide informative labels for their products.

Claire also suggested this decision sieve for HOW to think about what should be allowed.

1. Can I grow the product (hereinafter referred to as 'it') myself? If no (e.g. Wheat flour);
2. Can I get it from a market member? (this would be blueberries) If no;
3. Can I get it from a Maine farmer (this becomes a possible 'yes' for flour. It is a definite 'yes' for seedling compost and fertilizer). If no;
4. Can I buy it direct from a small producer? (This could apply for cherries and apricots and raisins etc).

You have to use the thing that gets the first 'yes'.

For processed products using ingredients that are never available from small producers, like pineapple, the question becomes:

5. Can I make the product from scratch from fresh ingredients? If no;  
The answer is probably you shouldn't be bringing the product to market!

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## **VEGETABLES**

General: VEGETABLES must be grown by the member, and can be grown from purchased seedlings, home-grown seedlings, purchased or home-grown seed or plants. Seed for growing vegetables may have been produced out-of state, may be treated or untreated, organic or not, hybrid or open-pollinated. Vegetables that are picked, but not grown, by the member are not eligible.

{Caitlin:} How about wild-gathered foods, such as fiddleheads, mushrooms, wild berries, some herbs? Should it be from the member's land? As in honey or maple syrup, may not always be possible, but again, there is a time and skill factor involved. I'm sure it takes time and skill to gather wild items.

**Asian Greens**

**Kale**

**Asparagus**

**Kohlrabi**

**Beans, Green**

**Beans, Yellow**

**Beans, Dry**

**Beans, Shell**

**Beans, Soy**

**Beet Greens**

**Beets**

**Burdock Root**

**Cabbage**

**Carrots**

**Corn**

**Cut Flowers**

**Eggplant**

**Fennel**

**Fiddleheads** - wild gathered

**Garlic**

**Lettuce**

**Melons**

**Mushrooms** - cultivated

**Mushrooms** - wild gathered

**Onions**

**Peas**

**Peppers**

**Potatoes**

**Pumpkins**

**Radishes**

**Spinach**

**Summer Squash**

**Tomatoes**

**Winter Squash**

**Zucchini**

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## **HERBS**

General: Fresh herbs must be grown by the member and may be sold loose, bunched or bagged.

**Basil**

**Cilantro**

**Dill**

**Oregano**

**Parsley**

**Sage**

## **Thyme**

**Other Herbs** - Rosemary, savory, tarragon, ...

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## **FRUIT**

General: FRUIT must be grown by the member, and can be grown organically or not. Fruit that is picked, but not grown, by the member is not eligible. Plants that grew the fruit may have been purchased. Fruit may be picked with labor that was purchased or bartered.

{Claire:} TREE FRUIT - trees do not have to be owned by the vendor, but all production operations must be performed by the vendor or his/her employee.  
{Question:} Why just tree fruit?

**Apples** -

**Blackberries** -

**Blueberries** -

**Cherries** -

**Cranberries** -

**Peaches** -

**Pears** -

**Plums** -

**Raspberries** -

**Rhubarb** -

**Strawberries** -

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## **ANIMAL PRODUCTS**

General:

{Claire:} FRESH MILK AND MEAT - must be from animals owned and managed by the vendor.

**Beef**

**Chicken**

**Eggs** - Chicken, duck, quail, duck

1. {Suggestion:} The birds that laid the eggs must be owned by the member.

**Lamb**

## **Goat**

## **Turkey**

### **Fish** - Shell and Fin

1. {Suggestion:} Fish may be purchased directly from the person who caught or dug it.
2. {Suggestion:} Member may catch/dig the fish themselves.
3. {Suggestion:} Farmed fish are not allowed.

### **Milk** - Cow, Goat, Sheep.

1. The animals that produced the milk must be managed by the member.

### **Pelts, sheepskins**

- 1.

### **Rabbit** -

### **Yarns**

- 1.
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## **PROCESSED ITEMS**

General: Processed items seem to fall into two categories: those whose main ingredient(s) must be produced by the member [paradigm: cider], and those whose main ingredients(s) do not have to be produced by the member [paradigm: bread]. We might then ask ourselves whether an item in question is more like bread, or more like cider.

The question becomes "Is processing by the member alone enough to qualify the item?" For breads and soaps the answer seems to be yes, processing alone is enough. However, cider and teas seem to be examples where we do want the members to be using ingredients they produced themselves.

{Claire:} Processed meat and dairy products should be from Maine-grown animals.

{Caitlin:} For processed foods, in the equation of [raw ingredients] plus [time and skill] = [finished product], time and skill should be equal or greater than the raw ingredients.... if you follow me. Dried herbs doesn't take much time or skill, but baking a loaf of bread does.

### **Baked Goods** - Pies, breads, cakes, cookies, scones, muffins, etc.

1. No ingredients need be produced by the member.
2. No ingredients need be Maine produced.
3. All items offered for sale must have been baked by the member.
4. {Question:} "from scratch" vs. "packaged mixes"?
5. {Caitlin:} Baked goods: definitely "from scratch", no mixes. Fruit pies really ought to be

Maine fruit whenever possible. Perhaps priority given to goods made from Maine grains???  
(on future applications)

### **Cider -**

1. Cider must be produced from apples produced by the member.
2. {Question:} Non-apple additions (pears, raspberries, cranberries) may/may not be purchased.
3. Cider squeezing and bottling may be purchased.

### **Cheese -** hard or soft, from any animal source.

1. {Suggestion:} Ingredients need not be produced by the member.
2. Processing of the cheese must have been done by the member.

### **Chicken Salad -**

1. Chicken must have been produced by the member.
2. All other ingredients may be purchased.

### **Dried Flowers -** singly or in bouquets

1. All dried flowers sold singly must be grown by the member.
2. {Suggestion:} All agricultural ingredients in bouquets must be grown or harvested by the member.

### **Dried Foods -** Dried vegetables, fruits, meats and herbs

1. {Suggestion:} Ingredients need not be produce by member.
2. {Suggestion:} Items may be dried outdoors, indoors or in a dehydrator.
3. {Suggestion:} Items must be dried by the member.
4. {Caitlin:} I think dried vegetables ought to be grown by the member. Herbs as well, if it's a mix or a blend that is offered for sale. (As an ingredient in a further processed item, such as herb bread, cheese, or sausage, then purchased is OK.)

### **Honey**

1. The bees that produced the honey must be owned by the member.

### **Jams, jellies, preserves**

1. {Suggestion:} Ingredients need not be produced by member.

### **Maple products**

1. {Suggestion:} The syrup/sugar must have been boiled down by the member.
2. {Suggestion:} The sap may have been purchased.
3. {Suggestion:} The maple trees need not be owned by the member.

### **Pickles, relishes, chutneys, beets, dilly beans**

1. {Suggestion:} Ingredients need not be produce by member.

## **Salves**

1. {Suggestion:} No ingredients need be produced by the member.
2. {Suggestion:} No ingredients need be Maine produced.
3. {Suggestion:} Item must have been processed by member by combining raw ingredients.

## **Smoked Items** (meats, fish, cheeses)

1. {Suggestion:} Items must be Maine grown, Maine produced or Maine caught.
2. {Suggestion:} Items need not be produced by member.

## **Soaps**

1. No ingredients need be produced by the member.
2. No ingredients need be Maine produced.
3. All items offered for sale must have been produced by the member.

## **Teas**

1. {Suggestion:} Ingredients must have been produced by the member.
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## **PLANTS & SEEDS**

General: Like Processed Foods, the eligibility of an item in this category has something to do with the amount of labor the member put into it.

### **Hanging Baskets**

1. Plants may have been purchased at some point - need not have been propagated from seed or cuttings.
2. Re-potting must have been done between purchase and sale.

### **Houseplants**

1. Plants may have been purchased at some point - need not have been propagated from seed or cuttings.
2. Re-potting must have been done between purchase and sale.

### **Perennials**

1. Plants may have been purchased at some point - need not have been raised from seed.
2. Re-potting must have been done between purchase and sale.
3. Discussion: Pruning?

### **Seedlings** - annuals: flowers, herbs and vegetables

1. Seedling must have been raised by the member.

2. Seeds for them may have been purchased.

**Seeds -**

1. Seeds must have been produced from plants grown by the member.
2. The extraction of seeds from the plant must have been done by the member.

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