



Welcome to Fair Ground Gardiner Food Co-op

POLICY:

This is a food co-op store operated by all the members. Membership can be acquired by working, not by paying fees. Only registered working members can shop at the co-op, have a voice in the decision-making process and participate in the planning of the organization's future.

The co-op will provide an outlet for healthy, local and organic foods as well as miscellaneous supplies as cleaning supplies, vitamins, soaps and other items just like a local general store with a good selection at reasonable prices. It will be a not-for-profit organization.

LOCATION:

The co-op store will be located on 39 Steve's Lane, Gardiner NY. It is a quiet industrial area by the rail trail. Neighboring businesses include Wood Classics, Kimlin Propane, DKI Inc. and Mark Stolfe Auction. Dusenberre Rd from Rt.44-55 and Phillis Bridge Road provide easy access to Steve's Lane.

OPERATION:

We are planning to have a work shift system where all the members take one shift per every four weeks. You will choose a shift and come back to the same shift every time and work with the same team members. The working time will be about three hours (subject to change). Many shifts will be staffing the store but there will also be slots for other important work (e.g. purchasing, fundraising, accounting, etc).

Right now we are planning to open three days a week. In order to achieve it, we must have a minimum of 200 members.

IMMEDIATE GOALS:

- 200 registered members
- Raise \$18,000 for the initial equipments and the first inventory
- Moving into the location by Nov. 1 (subject to change) and starting to set up for a retail store

SIGN UP and FEES:

We'll have individual membership which comes with one membership card, and family membership which comes with two membership cards. Each member should be 18 years of age or up. The fee is \$75 for individual membership and \$90 for family membership. The investment fee of \$60 will be refunded from both membership when leaving the co-op. If you are interested in joining us, fill out the application form, write checks and mail it to: Fair Ground Gardiner Food Co-op P.O.Box 110, Gardiner NY 12525
We'll put you in our mailing list as soon as your application is turned in, and you'll start to receive emails from us for all updates.

CONTACT INFO:

website: work in progress, will be up soon
mail address: Fair Ground Gardiner Food Co-op
P.O. Box 110, Gardiner NY 12525
For more information, contact Lagusta @
[email: lagusta@lagustasluscious.com](mailto:lagusta@lagustasluscious.com)
[phone: 845-255-8VEG \(8834\)](tel:845-255-8VEG)



Fair Ground Gardiner Food Co-op New Member Application

Please print clearly.

Mail application form and checks to:
Fair Ground Gardiner Food Co-op
P.O. Box 110 Gardiner NY 12525

date _____

name _____
first last

phone # _____
home _____

work _____ X

email address _____

address _____

Check any and all that apply

Availability

Which days and hours are you available?

Available weekdays

- AM ()
- PM ()
- Evening ()

Available weekend

- Saturday AM ()
- Saturday PM ()
- Saturday Evening ()
- Sunday AM ()
- Sunday PM ()
- Sunday Evening ()

Please list names and ages in your household

name	age	member

Special interest and skills

- Cashier experience ()
- Office work ()
- Fast and accurate at data entry ()
- Legal work ()
- Fundraising ()
- PR /Graphic work ()
- Website construction ()
- Writing ()
- Can lift 30 pounds ()
- Computer tech support ()
- Bookkeeping ()
- Grant writing ()
- Carpentry work ()

Applicable Membership Fee

	individual	family*
Annual fee	\$15	\$30
Investment*	\$60	\$60
Donation	\$ _____	
Total	\$ _____	

*family membership:
co-op will issue tow membership cards
to household members
aged 18 and up

* investment fee will be
refunded when leaving
the co-op

Languages: American Sign ()

Other _____

Own a truck or van ()

Other _____

questions, comments, or concerns **CO-OP USE ONLY**

*Please make checks payable to
Gardiner Food Co-op*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (with answers!) ABOUT
FAIR GROUND GARDINER FOOD CO-OP

1) Q: Why a members-only co-op?

A: We decided to create a member-owned and operated food co-op for two reasons. First, we truly believe that working together in an egalitarian way fosters a strong and healthy community. We are a group of people passionate about good food that has been created with an awareness of the many issues related to food production in our country. We believe that the best way to know that what we are eating was created in a way that respects our values is to work as closely as possible with the people that grew, packaged, or made it. None of us wants to own a corporate grocery store – we want a community space where **everyone** has a stake and a say in what food we make available. Second, a member-operated co-op brings food costs down because we're not in business to make a profit. We believe good food should be affordable for everyone.

2) Q: How much time will I have to give to be a member?

A: Not that much, considering what you'll get back – a stake in a truly community-run grocery store. All memberships include a minimum number of work time every four weeks. Work hours aren't just lifting boxes – all the work of running the co-op will be done by members, so jobs will be as varied as weighing out and packaging bulk goods, checking out others, keeping the shift schedule, bookkeeping, construction, fund-raising – and lots more!

3) Q: I don't have that kind of time – can I still be a member?

A: Yes! As long as you pay your membership dues and fulfill your work hours. I know, I know, you just said you don't have several hours every four weeks – but remember that the co-op is only as good as its members, so it's vital that all members contribute. What do you love to do, or what do you do for a living? I'm sure we can find a way to put your skills to work in a low-stress way for you, possibly even from your home.

4) Q: Will I save money?

A: Yes! Well, most likely! We can't guarantee that you will save money, but in many cases will be buying directly from suppliers and will only minimally mark up products (to make enough money so to meet expenses), so we hope to be cheaper than for-profit stores. The fact that we are member-operated and have lower overhead will hopefully mean lower prices for members. The more members we have, the more we can order and the more we will save, so recruit your friends!

5) Q: How will I know you'll have the brand of toothpaste/diapers/olive oil that I like?

A: One of the great advantages of the co-op is that we have a bigger voice and more influence over what we carry, so it will be easy to order your favorite products. We are also committed to working with local suppliers and

farms, so you will have access to a large selection of local seasonal produce and Hudson Valley products.

- 6) Q: OK, this sounds great. What are the membership costs?
A: Membership fees are divided into annual membership fees (nonrefundable) and investment costs, which are refundable if a member leaves the co-op. The individual membership fee is \$75: \$15 for the annual fee and \$60 for the investment cost. The family membership fee is \$90: \$30 for the annual fee and \$60 for the investment cost. We will have scholarships and increased work hours in exchange for smaller membership fees available.
- 7) Q: How do the work shift work?
A: Each work shift will have 3-4 members, including a team leader. Ideally members will stay with their same jobs for every work cycle (four weeks). Each household can register up to two members (over eighteen years of age) who can shop at the co-op and who can fulfill the work requirements. Children are welcome at the co-op while their family members are fulfilling work requirements.
- 8) Q: Where can I get more information?
A: If you would like to get more information, please give us your name and email address. We will add you to our mailing list and keep you informed. Send information to: email: lagusta@lagustasluscious.com
phone: 845-255-8VEG (8834). We will soon have a website up as well.
- 9) Q: Do you have a mission statement?
A: Of course! Here it is: Fair Ground will be a member-owned and operated food co-op in Gardiner New York. The store will provide our community with the opportunity to purchase wholesome, high-quality products that are, whenever possible, organic and locally-produced.

By working together, sourcing locally, supporting small businesses and relying on environmentally-friendly consumer practices--such as bulk purchasing and minimal packaging--Fair Ground will help to foster a community that is actively involved in a sustainable and healthy food system.

- 10) Q: This is so exciting, and it's going to be so great!
A: Thanks, we think so too! We're happy you're going to be involved.