

## What Is a Consumer Cooperative?

In co-ops, members pool resources to bring about economic results that are unobtainable by one person alone. Most simply put, a cooperative is a business 1) voluntarily owned by the people who use it, and 2) operated for the benefit of its members.

Members exercise their ownership by patronizing the store and voting in elections. The co-op is governed by a board of directors (who must themselves be co-op owners), who are elected by the active membership to serve and govern on their behalf. Co-ops are democratically governed (one member, one vote).


### VALUES

Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity. In the tradition of the founders of the first modern cooperative in Rochdale, England, cooperative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility, and caring for others.

### PRINCIPLES

The cooperative principles are guidelines by which cooperatives put their values into practice:

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Member Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training, and Information
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- Concern for Community



## Did you know...?

The Blue Hill Co-op Community Market & Café...

...buys more than a third of its products from local and Maine farmers, producers, and distributors!

...got its start in 1974, when a clammer's truck began delivering fresh vegetables to twelve families in Blue Hill.

...has approximately 1,000 active owners, 100 working members, and 25 employees.

...supports over 30 community organizations, programs, and events each year.

...keeps more of your food dollar on the Blue Hill Peninsula.

...is a regular meeting place for friends, families, and neighbors!

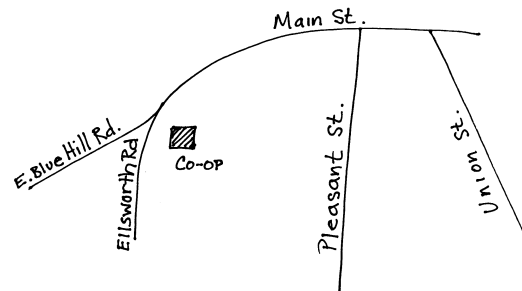


(207) 374-2165 • [www.bluehill.coop](http://www.bluehill.coop)  
[membership@bluehill.coop](mailto:membership@bluehill.coop)

### Store Hours

Summer: 7 am–8 pm daily

Fall/Winter/Spring: 7 am–7 pm daily




# Become an Owner!



...and invest  
in your community.






## Co-op = Community

All are welcome to shop at the Co-op, whether you are an owner or not. About 50% of Blue Hill Co-op customers are owners.



## Co-op Membership Benefits

- A vote in elections and other membership votes.
- The opportunity to attend Co-op board meetings and run as a candidate in board elections.
- Eligibility for patronage dividends, proportionate to the amount you spend at the Co-op.
- Discounts for working members.
- Discounts on case lot pre-orders.
- Members-only in-store specials and discount coupons.
- A subscription to the Co-op newsletter.
- Check cashing privileges.
- Discounts at over 25 area businesses through the Co-op Connection.
- The pleasure of cooperatively owning a business that benefits our community every day!



## How do I become an owner?

It's easy! Fill out the attached owner application form and make an initial equity payment of \$20. In order to become a fully vested owner of the Co-op, you will need to invest \$200 in equity. Your equity is refundable if you choose to leave the Co-op.

Financial assistance is available—contact the Membership & Marketing Coordinator for details.



## Co-op Offerings

- Fresh organic and local produce, year round
- Over 500 bulk items, including herbs and spices
- Raw milk and handcrafted cheeses from Maine and New England
- Artisan and specialty cheeses from around the world
- Locally raised, organic and/or pasture-raised beef, poultry, and pork
- Fish and seafood from our local distributors and our fishing community
- Organic milk, butter, yogurt, and free-range eggs
- Extensive health and beauty section featuring:
  - \* vitamins and supplements
  - \* natural body care products
  - \* homeopathic remedies
  - \* essential oils
  - \* Maine-made and wild-crafted products
- Natural pet food and supplies
- Wide variety of beverages
- Food for special diets

Our Café offers delicious, freshly prepared vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, and non-vegetarian fare daily for eat-in or take-out: soups, salads, sandwiches and wraps, organic and fair trade coffees and teas, tasty pastries and home-baked sweets.

*Special orders and catering are also available.*

Blue Hill Co-op Mission Statement  
Through a thriving cooperative enterprise, we encourage a vibrant healthy community and a sustainable local economy.



## Blue Hill Co-op Owner Application

Welcome to the Blue Hill Co-op! Soon after you submit this form along with your initial equity payment, you will get a letter in the mail with your owner number, membership card, the most recent newsletter, new member coupons and sales flyers, and more concrete details about renewal dates, equity refunds, membership termination, and by-laws.

To become a fully vested owner of the Co-op each owner must invest \$200 in equity. This amount is payable in increments of \$20 over a maximum of 10 years; the minimum annual payment is \$20 per owner.

We do not have family memberships. Other adults who live in your household may choose to become Co-op owners, or they may be affiliated with your membership account and use your owner number when shopping at the Co-op. However, affiliated adults will not themselves receive individual membership benefits such as voting rights and patronage dividends.

Please print clearly, and write all names out in full.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Owner #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Initial Investment (\$20 minimum): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Owner #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Initial Investment (\$20 minimum): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliated non-owner \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about becoming a Co-op owner?

Friend or Family  Co-op Staff  Newspaper or Radio

Co-op Website  Other \_\_\_\_\_

If you are 65 or older, please check here.