

MEMBER-OWNER APPLICATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Please fill in all information

Please select a member-owner equity share option:

- Equity payment in full, \$100
- Quarterly installments, \$25 each for 1 year

**Reduced equity share option available for low-income individuals. For more details, please contact us in the store or by email at: info@gardinerfood.coop*

Payment by:

- Cash or Credit Card (in store only)
- Check, payable to Gardiner Food Co-op

A copy of the bylaws of Gardiner Food Co-op may be found at www.gardinerfood.coop

It is the member-owner's responsibility to provide the Gardiner Food Co-op with a current mailing address should the above information change.

As with any investment, your ownership share is subject to risk. If the Co-op is unsuccessful, the Board of Directors will determine distribution of remaining assets. Every effort will be made to refund the paid portion of your member-owner equity share.

- I have read and agree to the Share Purchase Agreement available on the Co-op's website: gardinerfood.coop

To remain in good standing as a member owner, a \$15 equity payment is due each year after joining.

Signature _____

Date _____

- I am interested in joining a committee of the Board of Directors
- Please do not include my name on the Gardiner Food Co-op website or any promotional materials

Please send this application along with payment to Gardiner Food Co-op, 269 Water St., Gardiner, ME 04345

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: WHAT DOES MEMBERSHIP COST?

A: A member-owner share is an initial investment of \$100, and an annual equity payment of \$15 afterwards. There is no annual fee. Quarterly payment plans and a low-income option is also available.



Q: DO I HAVE TO JOIN TO SHOP?

A: No! Whether you are a member-owner or not, you can expect the same exceptional customer service, quality products and enjoyable shopping experience. But membership provides benefits for you and strengthens the Gardiner Food Co-op.

Q: DO I HAVE TO WORK IN THE STORE IF I JOIN?

A: No, the Gardiner Food Co-op does not have a working member requirement.

Q: WHAT WILL MY INVESTMENT BE USED FOR?

A: Member-owner equity investments fulfill the capital needs of the business.

Q: WILL I LOSE MY INVESTMENT IF I MOVE?

A: Your membership is fully refundable, within guidelines set by the Board.



GARDINER FOOD

CO-OP & CAFE

EVERYONE CAN SHOP. ANYONE CAN JOIN!

269 Water St. | Gardiner, ME 04345

207-629-FOOD(3663)
info@gardinerfood.coop

 [@gardinerfoodcoop](https://www.instagram.com/gardinerfoodcoop)

 [facebook.com/gardinerfoodcoop](https://www.facebook.com/gardinerfoodcoop)

www.gardinerfood.coop

BECOME A CO-OP

MEMBER-OWNER

TODAY!

CO-OPS ARE SPECIAL

The Gardiner Food Co-op is a consumer-owned cooperative—that means if you join, you own it!

When you make an investment in the Gardiner Food Co-op, you receive financial benefits. You also become part of something bigger: a group of consumers joining together to grow a business that meets the needs of their community.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTS:

- Family farms
- Nutrition education
- Organic farming
- Fair trade
- Sustainable agriculture
- Local employment
- Small-scale producers
- Community connections
- Local economy
- Healthy food access



JOINING IS EASY

Becoming a member of the Gardiner Food Co-op is quick and easy, and it's rewarding to know you are supporting the co-op you value.

- Fill out this member owner application form
- Pay your first installment or payment in full
- Your co-op benefits begin immediately

BENEFITS ARE GREAT!

- Member Monday 5% discount
- 15 % discount on special-order case purchases
- Patronage dividends in surplus years, as determined by the Board of Directors
- The right to vote for our Board of Directors as well as to run for a seat on the board
- Member exclusive sale prices
- Supporting a local community-owned business dedicated to improving access to good, local and fairly priced food and enhancing our community's quality of life

COOPERATIVE

PRINCIPLES

- 1 VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP
- 2 DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL
- 3 MEMBER ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION
- 4 AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE
- 5 EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND INFORMATION
- 6 COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES
- 7 CONCERN FOR THE COMMUNITY

