**SLO Farmers Coo-op
Application for Associate Membership**

Thank you for your interest in joining SLO Farmers Co-op as an associate member. Your willingness to support our efforts to move the local food system toward healthy food sustainably grown on small family farms in appreciated.

Below is the section from our by-laws which pertains to Community Support Members, which we designate as Associate.

***2.1.2 Community supporter members* -** An individual, business, or organization located within the region that believes in the Co-op’s mission and wants to support the Co-op’s sustainable, local, and organic food efforts. Examples of community supporter members may include (but are not limited to) groups of producers, buyers, processors, distributors, workers, and local food advocates. An individual or entity is eligible for membership as a “community supporter member” upon:

1. Purchase of one membership share.
2. Payment of any community supporter fees, as determined by the board of directors.
3. Compliance with all equity requirements of the Co-op.
4. Maintenance of active status, as defined by the board of directors.
5. Executing a community supporter agreement with the SLO Farmers Co-op.

**2.2 Membership Rights**

1. Be eligible for patronage refunds (*see Finances section*).
2. Participate in annual and special membership meetings.
3. Vote in elections for the board or on ballots.
4. Serve on the board of directors or on committees.

The purchase of a membership share for Associate members is a $75.00 one-time fee. There is no supporter fee. To maintain active membership, we ask that you volunteer for a committee or task that will help keep you connected to our organization and the farms we serve.

We ask that you understand the purpose and operation of a cooperative organization as outlined here (for details, see International Cooperative Alliance www.ica,coop.)

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 Community

**As an associate member, you must agree to the Confidentiality and Non-Compete Agreement below.**

**Confidentiality:**

1. The Co-op prohibits members from conserving, transmitting or using any confidential information, in whole or in part, other than for business of the Co-op.
2. Any information on the administration, management, financial, and internal operations of the Co-op is considered confidential.
3. Any customer and contact lists belonging to the Co-op are property of the Co-op and considered confidential.
4. Any information acquired regarding a mandate (invoices, payments, sales, and customers lists developed by the Co-op as well as decisions by the board as presented in the minutes of meetings) is considered confidential.

**Non-competition:**

Compliance to non-competition is in effect on the date listed on this Agreement and during the two (2) years following either the resignation or expulsion of the Member. The Member agrees to comply with SLO Farmers Co-op’s Confidentiality and Non-Compete definitions, as follows:

1. The Member or former Member will not offer services or sales in competition with the Co-op's service or sales offerings, to any customer of the Co-op. The Co-op respects that some new members have had previous relationships with customers. The Co-op respects those sales and asks all new members to share a list with the Co-op of their previous sales relationships that they want to maintain.
2. The Member or former Member will decline all requests for direct service from a customer of the Co-op and to refer the customer to the Co-op. In the case of a former Member, this applies during the two-year non-compete period.
3. If a Co-op-originated customer approaches the Member of the Co-op, requesting to buy directly from said Member, the said Member will run the sale through the Co-op. This does not apply to sales at farmers markets to non-commercial customers.
4. The Co-op respects the established relationship of members customers who are listed on the Pre-existing Customer List.  The Co-op may market and sell to customers currently serviced by an individual member and will strive to fill those customers’ orders with that members product first.

***Breach of Agreement:***

In the event of a breach of this Agreement by the Member, the Member shall be liable to the Co-op and other Members for all damages incurred as a result of said breach.  If actual damages to the Co-op and other Members cannot be determined and agreed upon, or for any other reason determined by the Board, the Member understands they shall be subject to any or all of the following: forfeiture of membership, forfeiture of membership fees, forfeiture of membership equity and dividends, and payment of damages.

The Co-op shall further be entitled to equitable relief by injunction or otherwise to prevent any breach or threatened breach of this Agreement.  The Member who has breached the Agreement also shall be liable for payment of all costs of litigation in connection with the exercise of any or all of the remedies available to the Co-op.

**Please note that becoming an Associate does not guarantee that you will be accepted as a Producer member. That would involve a separate application where you would commit to production standards, we would assess your operation, and we would determine if your product is needed within the cooperative’s sales model.**

**APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Primary phone number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Alternate phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please briefly tell us why you are interesting in joining SLO Farmers Co-op?

Below are some activities that you can become involved in. Please check those that may interest you.

Assist at Farm Tours \_\_\_\_\_ Promote the organization \_\_\_\_\_\_ Make sales calls \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Represent SLO at food related events, markets, and with organizations \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Help on the farms \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Help aggregate/sort product/deliver \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Research funding and grant opportunities \_\_\_\_\_\_ Write grants \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Serve on the Board of Directors \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

By submitting this signed application and being accepted as a member, I agree to abide by the Confidentiality and Non-compete Agreements as listed above.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you again for applying. Please send your application to Membership Committee, SLO Farmers Co-op, W2407 Hofa Park Rd., Seymour, WI 54165 or email to admin@slofarmersco-op.com We will be in touch with you within a month of application.