



9 CO-OP MADE PRODUCTS

By: Melissa Reiss, Purchasing Assistant

Emerging from the legacy of mutual aid and the shifts of the Industrial Revolution, cooperatives remain a resilient, community-centered model that fosters economic independence and addresses systemic inequalities through shared ownership.

More than 30,000 cooperative businesses operate in the U.S. today. Food co-ops continue to offer local control over food access, keeping local money in the community, and empowering workers with decent wages.

Discover these cooperatively made products carried at the Willy Street Co-op, ranging from regional staples to globally renowned favorites!

Just Coffee Organic Fair Trade Coffee

Madison's own Just Coffee Cooperative operates as a worker-owned cooperative roaster. They have remained committed to ethical trade, prioritizing environmental sustainability, worker dignity, and complete transparency since the co-op's inception in 2001. This ensures that earnings are shared equitably across the supply chain, supporting sustainable, community-focused coffee production. Grab a bag of their best selling Revolution Roast, or our very own Willy Street Co-op blend!

Learn more at www.justcoffee.coop.

Organic Valley Organic Grassmilk

In the 1980s, before organic certification as we know it existed, a group of Wisconsin farmers started a movement by committing to growing and raising real, wholesome food as nature intended.

Now, Organic Valley is a cooperative of about 1,500 small family farms, producing certified organic dairy, eggs, and more nationwide. By combining nature's resources, generations of farming wisdom, and strict USDA Organic standards (which they helped shape), their products are still made without antibiotics, synthetic hormones, toxic pesticides, or GMOs. Grassmilk® comes from cows fed a natural diet of organic grass and dried forage.

Learn more at www.organicvalley.coop.

Aura Cacia Essential Oils and Body Care

Under Frontier Co-op's umbrella, Aura Cacia provides a comprehensive range of aromatherapy essentials, pure essential oils, and natural skin care solutions. Their 100% pure lavender essential oil, *Lavandula angustifolia*, remains a favorite, celebrated for its calming scent. The lavender harvest occurs each year near the summer solstice, during a brief two-week flowering window. To ensure the highest quality, these blossoms are promptly gathered and steam-distilled at their peak.

Learn more at www.auracacia.com.

Frontier Co-op Organic Herbs, Spices & Extracts

Operating as a member-owned wholesale organization from its base in Norway, Iowa, Frontier Co-op provides a vast selection of organic herbs, spices, and natural wellness essentials. Since its humble beginnings in 1976—when two founders hand-bagged bulk herbs in an Eastern Iowa river cabin—the cooperative has grown into a global leader. Since establishing its permanent headquarters in 1982, the co-op remains dedicated to its mission, now owned by a network of over 50,000 retail partners and cooperatives and distributes its products worldwide.

Learn more at www.frontiercoop.com.

Kerrygold Butter & Dubliner Cheese

Headquartered in Dublin, Ornuá—derived from the Irish "Ór Nua," meaning "new gold"—is Ireland's leading dairy exporter. Owned collectively by the country's dairy farmers and processors, this international cooperative distributes products to more than 110 countries. At the heart of the co-op's success is Kerrygold Butter, renowned for its rich golden color and delicious taste derived from the milk of grass-fed cows. In addition to its iconic butter, Ornuá produces exceptional specialty cheeses, including Dubliner.

Learn more at www.ornua.com.



La Rioja Organic Fair Trade Wine

Nestled within the scenic Famatina Valley of Argentina's La Rioja province, La Rioja operates as a robust collective of 500 family growers. As the nation's largest wine cooperative, they produce a variety of acclaimed Fair Trade and organic wines enjoyed by enthusiasts across the globe.

Their Cabernet Sauvignon offers a concentration of succulent fruit notes complemented by subtle spicy undertones and smooth, firm tannins. It serves as a perfect accompaniment to pasta dishes, grilled steak, pork chops, meat stews, or a cheese board.

Bursting with aromatic tropical fruit flavors, their delicate yet vibrant Chardonnay is a versatile aperitif for any season or occasion. It pairs wonderfully with roast chicken, creamy pasta dishes, and Asian cuisine.

Learn more at www.lariojanawines.com.

Maple Valley Cooperative Maple Syrup

The Maple Valley Cooperative includes more than 30 multi-generational family farms across Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Vermont. Farmer members practice sustainable stewardship by preserving woodland habitats, preventing soil erosion, and minimally tapping trees so they remain healthy for up to 200 years. The sustainability doesn't end there. Maple Valley's Cashton, Wisconsin facility offsets energy use through a community wind project, packages products in glass and BPA-free recyclable plastic, and sources locally.

Maple syrup is available in a variety of sizes—including bulk! Have you tried maple candy? Crafted exclusively from pure, certified organic maple syrup, this fun product offers a unique and sweet natural indulgence.

Learn more at www.maplevalleysyrup.coop.

Equal Exchange Organic Fair Trade Tea

By sourcing directly from small-scale agricultural organizations, Equal Exchange honors the belief that these producers represent the essential spirit of Fair Trade. (Learn more about Fair Trade from one of the farmers in this month's feature article.) Products are harvested from diverse regions across the globe. With nineteen current varieties, you'll be sure to find your perfect cup of tea!

Indulge in the bold, malty taste of their English Breakfast tea, made from a carefully selected blend of black tea leaves harvested in Sri Lanka and India. Enjoy it the traditional English way by adding a dash of milk and your favorite sweetener. Or refresh your senses with Peppermint tea—a cool, vibrant blend featuring a revitalizing aroma and crisp minty flavor.

Learn more at www.equalexchange.coop.

Alvarado Street Bakery Sprouted Wheat Bagels

Tracing its roots back to the San Francisco Bay Area, this cooperative emerged from the activist-driven "Food for People, Not for Profit" movement. Originally established as the Red Clover Worker's Brigade, a dedicated collective sought to provide nutritious, whole-grain staples to their immediate neighbors. Now, nearly five decades later, and operating as a worker-owned organization with more than fifty members, the cooperative remains steadfast in its commitment to the original organic and sprouted-grain techniques that defined its inception. Grab a pack of their sprouted wheat bagels and start your day off with a hearty dose of whole, organic, sprouted grains.

Learn more at www.alvaradostreetbakery.com.