



Certified and Non-certified Organic Farmer's Pledge

Raytown Farmers' Market has adopted a Farmer's Pledge, separate and distinct from USDA Certified Organic. Farmers and market gardeners who adhere to the following pledge have signed this affidavit. This pledge is based on the integrity of the grower/producer.

WE PLEDGE THAT IN OUR FARMING, PROCESSING, AND MARKETING, WE WILL:

- Reject the use of synthetic insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, and fertilizers;
- Reject the use of GMOs, chemically treated seeds, synthetic toxic materials, irradiation, and sewage sludge;
- Treat livestock humanely by providing pasture for ruminants, access to outdoors and fresh air for all livestock; banning cruel alterations, and using no hormones or antibiotics in feed;
- Support agricultural markets and infrastructures that enable small farms to thrive;
- Maintain and build healthy soils by farming practices that include rotating crops annually, using compost cover crops, green manures, and reducing tillage;
- Conserve natural resources by reducing erosion and pollution of air, soil and water through responsible farming practices;
- Maximize the nutritional value of food and feed by practicing careful post harvest handling;
- Practice minimal processing for all food products to preserve the natural nutritional value of food: NO use of irradiation, ultra-pasteurization, excessive heat, synthetic preservatives, or GMO processing agents or additives;
- Reduce the ecological footprint of farms and homes by limiting energy use and converting to renewable sources of energy;
- Reduce food miles by selling produce locally and regionally;
- Create beneficial habitat for wildlife and encourage biodiversity;
- Help preserve farmland and farming know-how;
- Ensure food safety by using potable water for washing crops;
- Handle raw manure and soil amendments with care;
- Use ethical business practices;
- Pay a living wage to all farm workers and acknowledge their freedom of association and their right to collective bargaining;
- Treat family members and farm workers with respect, and ensure their safety on the farm;

- Work in cooperation with other farmers and with the neighboring community to create a more sustainable way of life;
- Sustain the land in healthy condition for future generations.

I pledge to follow the principles and practices described in the Farmers' Pledge, and to follow the Rules and Regulations of Raytown Farmers' Market:

Signature _____ Date _____