

IFM Co-op Profile: Fifth Season Cooperative



Company Overview

The Fifth Season Cooperative is a multi-stakeholder cooperative made up of producers, producer groups, food processors, distributors, and buyers from the 7 Rivers Region. Our members represent all of the key players in the food system at the local level. Our goal is to build a robust regional food system that supports a healthy environment, a strong economy, and thriving communities. We focus on transparency, fair prices for our growers, and sustainable practices. The Fifth Season is a vendor for Reinhart FoodService; our products are available through Reinhart's La Crosse hub.

Contact Information

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Product

Fifth Season offers a full line of regional foods including meats, dairy, milled products, honey, syrup, coffee, pantry assist (value-added) frozen and dry products, and fresh produce.

What Buyers Need to Know

- Delivery: Through the Reinhart La Crosse hub
- Minimum purchasing requirement: None
- Wisconsin local foods program: Yes, WI products are produced/processed in Wisconsin
- Traceability: Full traceability with farm-of-origin identity
- Will find local products for customers that are not currently carried
- Definition of local: South and Western Wisconsin, Southeast Minnesota, Northeast Iowa
- Point-of-purchase materials: Yes
- Standard packaging: Yes
- Produce grading standards: USDA Grade 1 or 2
- Billing: Billing through Reinhart FoodService.
- Liability insurance: Yes
- Food safety: QA requirements satisfied for Reinhart FoodService, growers follow co-op GAP requirements
- Contracts: Optional Class A (voting) cooperative memberships are available. Please contact co-op office.

What Sellers Need to Know

- Minimum requirement to sell: None
- Certifications required: Must meet sustainability requirements and GAP requirements.
- On-farm storage requirements: Cooler required if product stored on location
- Liability insurance requirements: None
- Payment for growers: Net-15
- Delivery requirements: Must deliver to regional hubs.
- Standard packaging: Yes, boxes available through Reinhart FoodService.
- Produce grading standards: USDA Grade 1 or 2
- Advance notice given: Winter growing plans in place with all members.
- Contracts: Producer/Producer Group memberships available. Please contact the co-op office for details.