

**News Release**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Agripreneur Class Offers Help for Food and Farm Businesses**

PETOSKEY, MI –Food or farm business entrepreneurs ready to take their concept to the next level can learn how at a series of classes in Petoskey. “Agripreneur Focus: Developing Your Food or Farm Business” will be offered in six, four-hour long classes beginning February 18. The class is being offered by the Michigan Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in partnership with the Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) Product Center.

Agripreneur Focus is designed for the serious food or farm business entrepreneur who needs guidance and structure to take their well-defined concept to the next level. This six-week, intensive training will mix formal instruction by certified business consultants with the experiences of area practitioners and business owners, who will share their own business journeys, triumphs and struggles, and best practices. Students will complete the class with curriculum materials, a new network of peers and mentors, and a preliminary business plan that can be refined with individual counseling sessions as needed. The training is not suited for individuals still looking for their start-up idea.

The classes will be held at North Central Michigan College on Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. beginning February 18 and running through March 31. There will not be class on March 3. The cost of the class is \$250 per person, with a discounted rate of \$100 for a second person from the same farm or business. Class size is limited and pre-registration is required. For more information contact the SBDC Northwest Regional office at sbdc@networksnorthwest.org or 231-922-3780.

The Michigan Small Business Development Center (MI-SBDC) enhances Michigan's economic well-being by providing counseling, training, research, and advocacy for new ventures, existing small businesses, and innovative technology companies. The Northwest Michigan Regional office is hosted by Networks Northwest and serves the ten county region including: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford counties. The Northwest Michigan SBDC's contributing partners are Baker College and Northwestern Michigan College. For more information, go to: sbdcnorthwest.org.

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Board Chair: **Gary W. Fedus**  
Chief Executive Officer: **Elaine Wood**



NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Dan Boss at [danboss@networksnorthwest.org](mailto:danboss@networksnorthwest.org) and stating preferences for resolution (300 dpi?), file format (.tif? .jpg?) and file size (1MB or less?). Or, phone (231) 929-5047. Check our online Media Room at: [networksnorthwest.org/media](http://networksnorthwest.org/media)

Founded in 1974, Networks Northwest facilitates and manages various programs and services for the 10 county region. These programs include Northwest Michigan Works, Small Business Development Center, Procurement Technical Assistance Center, various business services, and many different regional planning initiatives in response to our communities' requests and needs. You will see the broad spectrum of workforce, business and community services Networks Northwest offers if you visit our web site, [networksnorthwest.org](http://networksnorthwest.org)

Networks Northwest's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.