

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Laurie Messing

Extension Educator

MSU Extension-Huron County

1142 South Van Dyke, Suite 200

Bad Axe, MI 48413

989-269-9949

April 3, 2013

MSU Extension offers Online Cottage Food Law Food Safety Training

A new Michigan Cottage Food Law: Food Safety Training is now available on-line at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/programs/cottage_food_law. This on-line training, or webinar, was developed by the Michigan State University Extension Health and Nutrition Institute's Food Safety team. The interactive webinar provides food safety training to Michigan residents who want to operate their own cottage food business. It was designed to educate Michigan residents about the Cottage Food Law and also provide food safety training so that safe food products are sold to customers.

Cottage foods are specific types of foods that are made in home kitchens. Not all foods can be made at home and sold to the public. The law is quite specific as to the kinds of foods that can be sold under the Cottage Food Law. Homemade foods made and sold under the cottage food law are low risk for causing food-borne illness.

According to the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) this law is a great opportunity for many who have been thinking about starting a food business, but have been hesitant to spend the money needed to establish, or rent, a commercial kitchen. However, even without the state licensing and inspection requirements those preparing cottage foods are still responsible for providing safe products. If you are one of those individuals with an entrepreneurial spirit and are considering selling some cottage foods this webinar is for you.

The cost of the interactive online training and certificate is \$10. After viewing the webinar you will take a short quiz and then receive a certificate that you can display when selling your cottage foods at farmers markets, festivals, and other sales locations. The certificate is not required to sell cottage foods but it is evidence that you have participated in food safety training related to cottage foods.

Support for developing, marketing, and implementing this Michigan State University Extension Webinar statewide was made possible through a grant from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Questions on food safety programs including Cottage Food Law training, Cooking for Crowds, ServSafe and Food Preservation can be directed to 989-269-9949, ext. 611.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

###