



# NW Ohio Ag-Business Breakfast Forum



## NW Ohio Cooperative Kitchen - June 18, 2009, 7:30-9:00 a.m. ..... *Value-Added Food Production and Starting a Food-Related Business*

The Northwest Ohio Cooperative Kitchen (NOCK) focuses on the development and production of specialty, value added foods. NOCK is a nonprofit commercial kitchen facility designed to assist entrepreneurial efforts and expand current food-related businesses. The kitchen facility assists new and growing businesses by providing access to a commercially licensed kitchen, networking opportunities with other like entities and technical assistance. Paula Ray, Small Business Coordinator and kitchen manager for NOCK will discuss the incubator kitchen's services and facilities and give a guided tour of the facility.

The presentation will also feature two local producers who have used the kitchen to start and grow their food business. Willy's Famous Salsa is the outcome of years of making salsa for family and friends by its producer and owner, Dennis Dickey. After years of people urging Mr. Dickey to make his salsa available to the public, he decided to give his salsa a name and produce it for every ones enjoyment. The goodness is produced at the NOCK and the product has now successfully reached placement in over 200 stores.

Sweet Louise Sauces, LLC story begins many years ago when founder, Randa Sweet, headed to the kitchen for some comfort where she found vanilla ice cream, and created a chocolate-peanut butter sauce topping to suit her mood. She called it her Panda Potion and shared it with only a few lucky friends for the next 20 years. In 2005 Randa attended a networking event where she learned about the NOCK. She incorporated and sold her first jar in 2006 with the help of the NOCK facilities.

### What is the NW Ohio ABBF? .....

The Northwest Ohio Ag-Business Breakfast Forum is an educational networking opportunity to provide information on current issues, trends, and programs available to agricultural businesses to help build business capacity. The topics and programs are designed to help farmers and agribusinesses do what they do better.

Join us on the **third Thursday each month** from 7:30-9:00 a.m. for breakfast and informal networking opportunities. Cost is \$10 per person which can be mailed or paid at the door. Each month will feature a different speaker and topic.

Input from the audience for topics of interest is welcome.

#### Upcoming Topics:

**Ohio MarketMaker** - What is OMM & how can I use it in my agri- or food-business?

**Biobased Products** and the Northwest Ohio Green Products Center

**New and Innovative Agriculture Technologies**

### Forum Location .....

#### **Agricultural Incubator Foundation**

13737 Middleton Pike  
Bowling Green, OH 43402  
I-75 to State Route 582 exit 187, Luckey/  
Haskins. Turn West onto State Route 582  
(Middleton Pike) and continue approximately  
2.2 miles.

**For more information and to register  
please contact:**

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**Make checks payable to the**

**Agricultural Incubator Foundation**