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For Immediate Release

GOT LOCAL FOOD?

VALUE ADDED PRODUCT WORKSHOP SET FOR JUNE 5

MANISTEE AND BENZIE COUNTIES, MICHIGAN – If you produce or are thinking about producing your own sauces, dressings, jams, jellies, cider or other specialty products, you should consider attending the **Food Producer Workshop** on Friday, June 5, 2015. The workshop will be held from 12:30pm – 2:30pm at Grow Benzie, located at 5885 Frankfort Hwy (M115) in Benzonia, Michigan.

Bobbie Morrison from the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development, will talk about the \$30 million that is available to help agricultural producers create value-added food products from what they grow. One of the few grants in the nation directed at supporting private businesses, the grant offers dollar-for-dollar matching funds for planning or capital needs.

Wendy Wieland from the Michigan State University Product Center will share how the Product Center can assist food processors in developing and commercializing high value, consumer-responsive products. The Product Center unlocks the doors of the University's vast technical, research, outreach and educational resources.

"This **Food Producer Workshop** is for people who are interested in or currently making food products from locally grown agricultural foods," said Betsy Evans, Business Development Director for the Alliance for Economic Success. "In addition to the presentations, we will dedicate all the time that is needed to talk about the specific interests and opportunities of those who attend. These programs offer tremendous opportunities to develop and expand the horizon of our businesses involved with food production." The Alliance for Economic Success is the organizer of the workshop working with Grow Benzie as a partner.

Questions about the workshop should be directed to Betsy Evans at 231-723-4325 or 1betsyevans@gmail.com. The Workshop is free and open to the general public.