

Region 2



Businesses Served

204

Total Counseling Hours

1,398

Northwest Michigan Council of Governments

The Northwest Michigan Council of Governments continued its involvement in agri-tourism and value added agriculture within their region this past year. They facilitated the first session in a series of farm business forums with the Michigan Land Use Institute, geared towards connecting small farms with school cafeterias, restaurants, and retail establishments. The result was a well received guide book entitled *Taste the Local Difference*. They were involved on the planning committee, and served as a speaker and facilitator of the Northern Michigan Small Farms Conference, an educational and business development event.

In 2006, the region placed a full time counselor at its satellite office at the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce. The region also made presentations to various organizations such as the Honor State Bank Huntington Bank, Traverse City State Bank, Irwin Union Bank, the Village of Elk Rapids, the City of Manistee, and Charlevoix Township. The Region strengthened its collaboration with the local chapter of SCORE and continued its entrepreneurial training program with Northwestern Michigan College and Kalkaska's Kal-Tec program.