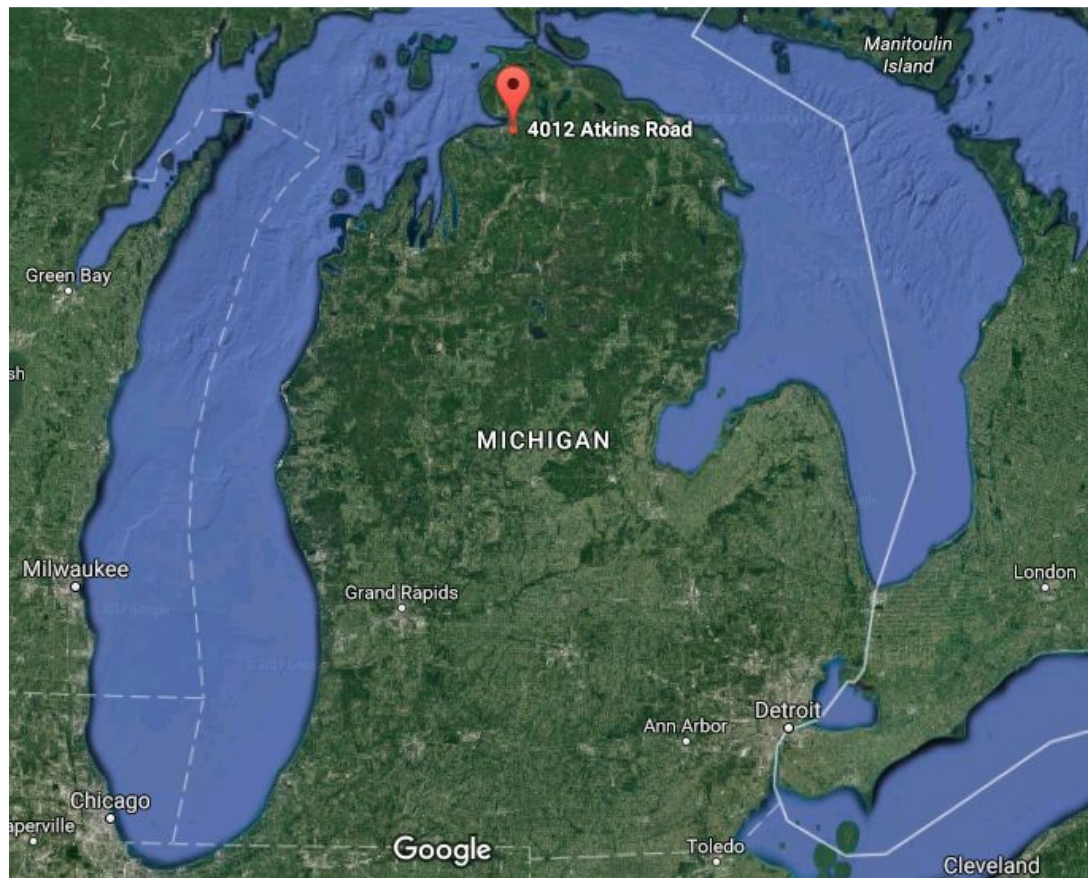




GVSU Farm Club

Farmer of the Week: 9 February 2017



Anne Morningstar and Brian Bates- Petoskey, MI



Bear Creek
organic farm

Petoskey News-Review - Bear Creek Organic Farm Named 2015 Local Food Heroes



<http://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2011/12/12/143459793/who-a-re-the-young-farmers-of-generation-organic>



Two years ago, Brian and Anne Bates had just purchased 75 acres of land near Petoskey, Michigan, with a loan from their parents. They had no house, no barns, no structures of any kind other than a few beehives. Both were working full time jobs — Brian at the locally owned cooperative grocery store, and Anne as a teacher.

Today, they have a heated greenhouse and two unheated hoophouses, a building that does double duty as living quarters and packing house, a pole barn for meetings and workshops, a tractor and other equipment. They both stopped working off the farm. Their sales by early July were \$50,000, and they were on track to break \$100,000 this year.

To most people, that would seem to be an incredibly fast start to a small farm, but Brian sees it a bit differently. "Everyone says we've had such a fast start, but it depends on when you say we started," said Brian, who is 25 years old and a 2012 graduate of Penn State University. "I was very specifically trying to design the kind of farm I would like to have from the time I took my first Sustainable Ag class in college."

“We are not content with the status quo. We push the envelope in every way on our farm, from sustainability to resiliency, we are dead set on shifting the paradigm through our actions as producers, beekeepers, responsible stewards of the land, and business owners”

Anne and Brian dream of a sustainable future, where the arts, education, and organically grown food enrich their community



Bear Creek Organic Farm - Petoskey, Michigan's first-ever 100% USDA Certified Organic Farm

75 acre farm, 0-100K in 2 years!



“I’m not afraid of debt. I don’t want too much, but I’m a firm believer that debt keeps you honest. We’re paying everything back out of farm income, so it’s on me to grow the business to justify that debt.”

-Brian Bates

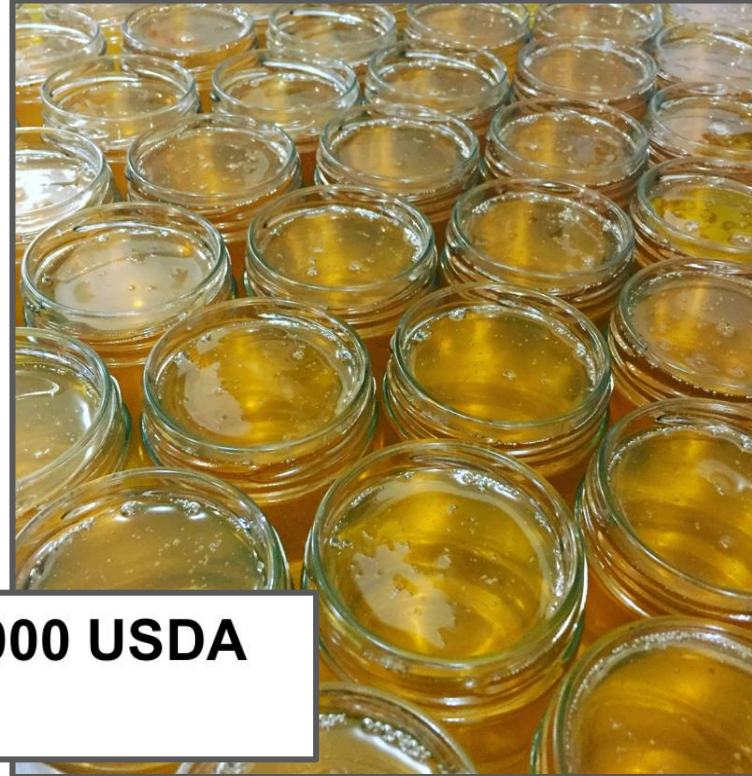
MICRO GREENS!

“Some people would say that’s too cheap, but this is a case where fast nickels beat slow dimes. I want stuff I can have available every week that is affordable so people come back and buy it again.”

-Brian Bates



BEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEES N' Honey



Bear Creek Organic Farm Awarded \$10,000 USDA Grant







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