



**OUTSTANDING SMALL BUSINESS AWARD
NOMINATION FORM**

All nomination suggestions will be forwarded to the Small Business Advisory Council for consideration.

Due on or before April 30

Award Nominee:

Name: Jaye Leaman Reisinger and John Leaman
Company: Leaman's Green Applebarn
Address: 7475 N. River Rd.
City: Freeland State: MI ZIP: 48623
Phone: (989) 695-2465 Email: jayealan@tm.net
Year Established: 1889 Number of Full-Time Employees: 7 year round, up to 50 in season

Award Nominator:

Name: Samantha McKenzie
Company: Hidden Harvest
Address: 940 E. Genesee Ave.
City: Saginaw State: MI ZIP: 48607
Phone: (989) 753-4749 Email: smckenzie@hiddenharvestshares.org

About the Nominee:

On a separate sheet, describe the nominee and list how they meet the award criteria above.

Supporting Documents:

Please contact 1-2 individuals to supply supporting documentation to accompany your nomination form. Support documents can take the form of letters, emails, news articles, etc.

[https://www.michfb.com/MI/News/County_News/Saginaw/
Apples_Never_Fall_Very_Far_from_Leaman_Family_Tree_Saginaw_October_2015/](https://www.michfb.com/MI/News/County_News/Saginaw/Apples_Never_Fall_Very_Far_from_Leaman_Family_Tree_Saginaw_October_2015/)

Return completed form by April 30th

By email: nancy@saginawchamber.org

By mail: 515 N. Washington Ave., 3rd Fl., Saginaw, MI 48607

HIDDEN HARVEST



Putting good food to good use

Board of Trustees 4/26/2019

Bay

Rozanne M. Giunta
Vice-Chair

Robert Gohm

Lori L. Martin

Judy Miller

Midland

Ryan P. Conley
Treasurer

Lesley-Ann O'Hare
Secretary

Emily Yeager

Saginaw

Susan A. Furman

Samantha McKenzie
President and CEO

Dereon Pruitt

Terry L. Rock
Chair

Dan Strasz

Susan Whaley-Brady

To whom it may concern:

HIDDEN HARVEST'S mission is to alleviate hunger and end food waste in the Great Lakes Bay Region. HIDDEN HARVEST is so thankful for each of our food donors that make that possible, including Leaman's Green Applebarn.

Since 1998, we have been honored to receive food donations from Leaman's Green Applebarn. Through the years, they have shown their commitment to preventing food waste by donating apples, bakery items and cider to our program. Not only do they supply us with food donations from their own business, but they also have found a way to rally the support of the community for HIDDEN HARVEST. Each year they invite the community to make a canned good item donation as admission for special events at the orchard that include a visit with Santa, hay rides, free hot chocolate, s'mores around the bonfire, kid-friendly craft projects and much more fun on their playground and visiting with Bob the Christmas Donkey! This event also truly makes it possible for people of all income levels to enjoy a high quality event by way of engaging in philanthropy.

In total, we have received 33,704 pounds of food donations through Leaman's Green Applebarn. They are truly a friend to our organization. We support their efforts to reduce food waste in their business practice through further production of apple chips - as we want them to prosper and continue their good works in the community! They recently asked us for a letter of support to pursue grant support to expand their dried apple chip production. I had known about their obvious commitment to the community through their generosity to Hidden Harvest.. But this recent request truly displayed their commitment to good business practices, their vision for growth, and their worthiness to be recognized as an "Outstanding Small Business" in Saginaw County!

Most sincerely,

Samantha McKenzie, President & CEO
HIDDEN HARVEST



940 E. Genesee Avenue ■ P.O. Box 1982 ■ Saginaw, MI 48605-1982 ■ Phone: (989) 753-4749 ■ Toll Free: (877) 529-8488

Fax: (989) 753-5707 ■ www.hiddenharvestshares.org



MICHIGAN'S VOICE OF AGRICULTURE

Apples Never Fall Very Far from Leaman Family Tree

November 6, 2015



Family affair: Jack Leaman, right, is a fourth-generation member of Leaman's Green Applebarn in Freeland. He helps Silas Jones, who represents the seventh generation at the farm, pick up apples.

Jaye Reisinger and John Leaman are the sister-brother duo which co-owns Leaman's Green Applebarn, 7474 N. River Rd., in Freeland.

Its hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

For more information, call 989-695-2465 or 989-239-1820, or visit www.greenapplebarn.com.

Jaye Reisinger explains a little about the family business in our Farm in Focus profile in this newsletter.

Q: Tell us a bit about Leaman's operation. What do visitors find when they stop here?

A: "Leaman's Green Applebarn is a seven-generation, family-owned apple farm. Along with the apples, we offer other fall produce and décor items.

"Since we have an educational background—both John and I are former teachers—offering farm-educational opportunities is also important to us. Our school and group tours are hands-on learning experiences for children and adults to learn the life cycle of an apple, nutritious information and earth care and sustainability. We have a play area with farm animals, turtle pond, giant sandbox, pedal tractors, ABC Maze, tube slide, swings, playhouse and corn maze. There are hayrides, an apple-barrel express and a corn-maze shuttle. Photo opportunities also abound.

"We have a country store with items from our bakery. Cider slushes and apple cider donuts are our big items, along with homemade apple pies. We also have a cider mill on the property.

"Each weekend, we have special themes, from a fire safety weekend with the township fire department to honoring vets to celebrating holidays like National Caramel Apple Day with free caramel apples. In October, we hold Pink Pig Month in which we raise funds for local breast cancer patients experiencing financial difficulty due to time off their jobs because of treatments."

Q: What types of apples do you grow?

A: "We grow about 25 varieties of apples, including Honeycrisp, McIntosh, Northern Spy, Ida Red, Cortland, Empire, Red Delicious, Yellow Delicious, Gala, Braeburn, Paula Red, Wolf River, Mutsu and Molly Delicious."

Q: Can you share a favorite story about your experience as an orchard owner?

A: "I enjoy the children who come on school tours. When I teach them how to pick an apple and let them pick their own, I love to see their faces light up. They get so excited and treasure the apple. Many children have never picked their own and have a new understanding of how their food is raised and then taken to a store to buy. Helping them see the farm-to-table connection is important. They get excited, too, about pressing cider on the old-fashioned press.

"I also let them see the eggs our chickens lay. I have offered the eggs to families to take home. They have told me they don't get their eggs from chickens; they get their eggs from the store."

Q: What are the rewards of operating an orchard?

A: "Eating lots of apples. Hearing someone say, 'Oh, you're from Leaman's, we love your' And meeting new people."

Q: What are the biggest challenges?

A: "It's lots of work. We put in very long days. We're at the whim of the weather. Sometimes it seems like the work never ends—even in the winter—although some seasons are not as intense as others."

Q: What's an average day like during peak season?

A: "We're up early, set up for the tours of the day. This involves making sure the playground is clean, the educational area is ready and a craft project is out. We make sure the store is clean and restocked, check on donut makers, bakers, cider makers, apple pickers, etc. We greet the morning tour and lead the tour.

"During the day, we return calls and check on everyone again. We restock and prepare for afternoon tours, sometimes even an after-school tour or early evening group. When I'm not leading a tour, I find it important to engage the customers and train my employees to do the same. I do public speaking, so I am booked in the evening with groups.

"We sell at farmers markets and festivals, too, so there are days of loading the trucks in the morning to get the produce to markets.

"I really rely on my two daughters to help manage employees, public relations and inventory. My brother and I are co-owners of the business. He is responsible for maintenance of the orchard, apple picking and production, cider making and bookkeeping. I am responsible for employees, the store, bakery, tours, play area and weekend events.

"We put in 18-hour days, running from one end of the day to the other. September through December is a very intense time for us."

Note: To nominate a local farm to be profiled, contact the Saginaw County Farm Bureau office or email Carol Zedaker at czedake@fbinsmi.com.

Samantha McKenzie

From: Jan Janze <jfjanze@hiddenharvestshares.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 9:29 AM
To: Samantha McKenzie
Subject: FW: Letter of support for Leaman's

From: Jaye Reisinger [mailto:jayealan@tm.net]
Sent: Sunday, April 28, 2019 11:14 PM
To: jfjanze@hiddenharvestshares.org
Subject: Letter of support for Leaman's

Thank you for agreeing to write a letter of support for Leaman's Green Applebarn. We are applying for a grant to expand our dried apple chip production. Your letter can be based on our relationship in the past, of recycling and reducing food waste. Although I have not completely finished the application, I hope to be done by Tuesday. I can forward it on to you so you can see what it includes. I have included two of the paragraphs that may help in understanding our project. I hope to receive your letter of support by Friday, May 3. Again, Thank you very much.
Jaye Leaman Reisinger.

Please describe the desired outcomes of the project.

Our desired outcome is to eliminate apple loss and waste by producing a dried chip that is a healthy snack food and has an extended shelf life. The production of the apple chips will become more efficient, increasing our production in order to keep up with the market demand. Added efficiency will keep costs of the healthy food product reasonable for low income families.

How will this project benefit the food and agriculture sector?

The food and agriculture sector will benefit as apples from small Michigan fruit growers will be kept from waste. Many have limited cold storage and refrigeration. The growers will receive fair market value for their produce, which may otherwise be discarded, keeping profits in the local agricultural community and assisting small growers with product sustainability.

Leaman's Green Applebarn has been producing and test marketing dried apple chips for over 5 years. Our goal is to reduce apple loss and waste from fruit not sold during the fall market season. With updated equipment there will be greater efficiency to produce a healthy product that will be more available to low income families, along with meeting the market demand. Additional outcomes include upgrading a food safe room to make the product gluten free and implementing new marketing strategies to raise awareness of our product. The general tasks to be completed during the project is the purchasing of equipment along with updating of the production area to comply with food safe guidelines. Marketing tasks include providing a proper nutrition label, packing and labeling improvements and display materials.

Samantha McKenzie

From: Lynne Jacques <jacquesorchard@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2019 12:26 PM
To: Samantha McKenzie
Subject: Re: Feedback on Leaman's

Hi Samantha,

I'd be glad to, we have had a great relationship with them for quite a few years. We sell them apples for cider and occasionally for their store. They do not vend at Hemlock anymore, but we work with them at our orchard in Hemlock. Thank you for being a Hemlock market customer, we appreciate it.

Lynne and Gary Jacques

On Fri, May 10, 2019 at 10:34 AM Samantha McKenzie <smckenzie@hiddenharvestshares.org> wrote:

Hi Lynne,

Hidden Harvest receives generous food donations from Leaman's each year and I would like to nominate them for an award through the Saginaw Chamber of Commerce as an Outstanding Small Business. Beyond food donations from their own baked goods, cider and apples, they also host the Night in the Lighted Orchard events with Santa and admission is a canned good donation to my organization. As I live in Hemlock, I know that they are one of the Farmer's Market vendors that I can always count on seeing. Do you have any feedback from your relationship with them that you are willing to share as a part of my nomination? If you are willing to share, I don't need an official letter, just a quick response by email will suffice.

Thank you for being the market master for Hemlock! I love bringing my three kiddos to the market each week, grabbing a treat for the kids, picking up some veggies, visiting with Mrs. Earley and enjoying the park!
Sincerely,

Sam

--

Samantha McKenzie, President & CEO
HIDDEN HARVEST

940 E. Genesee Ave.

P.O. Box 1982

Saginaw, MI 48605-1982

Phone (989)753-4749

Fax (989)753-5707

Toll Free (877)529-8488

From: Sarah Zastrow <sarahz@mibayareawellness.com>

Date: May 14, 2019 at 8:26:10 AM EDT

To: Samantha McKenzie <smckenzie@hiddenharvestshares.org>

Subject: Re: Feedback on Leaman's

Hi Sam,

Yes absolutely, they really are incredible. Okay so below is my statement. Feel free to cut it short or change anything if needed.

"Leaman's Green Applebarn is one of the most generous small business, they are always willing to sponsor events, donate to local charities and businesses and give to those in need. Leamans makes generosity a priority and it is so appreciated. I have been able to work with Leamans for several years now and they work diligently to provide the best family farm entertainment around. They provide an incredible and unique learning experience for children and families and it's remarkable that they always find room to give back to the community. Leamans is a lot of young people's "first job" and they work to teach the skills needed to get students off on the right path. They have been very patient with me over the years and I cannot thank them enough. It's awesome to see such an exemplary business in a small town, they make a big imprint and continue to grow that impact every year. Leamans strives to be generous and we are so thankful to have their support in the community, they really do impact hundreds of thousands of people every year, and the entire community is so thankful.

I hope this is okay, let me know if you want me to change it. I appreciate you reaching out to me.

Sarah Zastrow