



NEWS RELEASE

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Danu Hof Farm: A Destination for Fresh, Healthful Food with a Big Dose of Fun

MANCELONA, MICHIGAN -- "Everyone should have access to healthy food," said Caitlin McSweeney-Steffes. "That's what drives us, our businesses and our vision for the future."

Caitlin and husband Larry are owners of [Danu Hof Farm & Market](#), located at 3775 Doerr Road, two miles north of Mancelona, Michigan on US 131.

After working as chefs in the Traverse City area, they packed up the family in 2017 to get out of the city. They purchased Danu Hof on October 1, moved on October 2 and were married on October 5.

They seem to be comfortable with a frenetic albeit productive pace.

They've treated their farm home, buildings and 160 acres with tender loving care, including a barn which is well over 100 years old. If you fast-forward to now, they've developed their business and property to accommodate farrow to finish hogs, selling half and whole, as bacon and pork chops at their market and other area farm markets. They're part of an informal group of 16 farms that share products to round out their offerings through markets they own.

But wait, there's so much more. They also have:

- 300 egg laying chickens
- 500 free-range birds sold as protein
- A Farm Store, open year-round and six days weekly during early spring, summer and fall
- A "Harvest Host" program where people with recreational vehicles can spend a night on the farm, including great farm activities for kids
- A private chef program where they cater meals for groups of up to 20 people.

And we should have said from the outset: three children with a fourth on the way.

"Old fashioned hard work coupled with imagination and a sense of more to come make them classic entrepreneurs," said Laura Galbraith, president of [Venture North Funding and Development](#) that has provided a

small grant and help with business planning and financial projections to leverage capital. “We can’t wait to see what the next chapter brings, and we’ll be ready to help when the need it.”

With the support of philanthropic giving and grants, Venture North offers a mixed bag of services to small businesses throughout their ten county, northwest Michigan region. Programs include affordable lending; Mini Grants for Business Growth; and no-cost business consulting. They have loaned over \$8.6 million while leveraging an added \$27 million in 147 small business loans; awarded more than 300 Mini Grants and provided consulting services to over 1,100 businesses.

In a visit to Danu Hof Farms on April 27th, Galbraith and Venture North business development manager, Annie Olds, were joined by Nora Balgoyen of [ITC Holdings Corp](#), the nation’s largest independent electric transmission company headquartered here in Michigan. ITC has provided grants to Venture North to help Michigan small businesses.

“It’s so rewarding to see our investment in Venture North having a tangible, positive impact on families and businesses like Danu Hof,” said Balgoyen. “Building this supply chain of affordable and healthful foods for community members and visitors is no small feat. We hope everyone will have this farm high on their list to visit for great food and learning about the vitality of agriculture in northern Michigan.”

“It’s wonderful, to see these partners working together to support our farm and small businesses in general,” said Steffes. “With their continued help, we plan to expand facilities and our grower network to become an aggregation center for fruit, vegetables, meats and more for food services and families throughout the Antrim County area. We even have a future workforce living under our roof!”

Visitors are warmly welcomed at Danu Hof Farm and Market. “Tell everyone to bring their kids!” added Steffes. “We love showing them our farm and farm animals and helping them learn about life on the farm. It’s fun!”

