



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Cottage Food champions to gather in Darlington, WFU voices support**

CHIPPEWA FALLS – Champions of aspiring food entrepreneurs will gather at 8:30am tomorrow, April 27, at the Lafayette County Courthouse, in support of the right to sell homemade cookies and other non-hazardous baked goods in Wisconsin. A judge will hear arguments in a civil suit brought by Soil Sisters Lisa Kivirist, Kriss Marion, and Dela Ends. The case seeks to overturn Wisconsin’s ban on sales of non-hazardous home-baked goods. The three plaintiffs contend that the prohibition is an undue burden on their ability to launch home-based businesses, and that it violates the equal protection clause because sales of home-baked goods are forbidden while sales of pickles, jams, salsas, and other “Cottage Foods” produced in home kitchens are allowed.

“Wisconsin Farmers Union supports this legal action because the current ban on sales of non-hazardous home-baked goods is arbitrary and unjust,” said Kara O’Connor, Government Relations Director for Wisconsin Farmers Union. “A victory for the plaintiffs in this case would give aspiring food entrepreneurs all over Wisconsin the same opportunities that bakers have in other states to launch their home-based food businesses.” O’Connor noted that overturning the current ban could be especially beneficial in rural communities. “The positive ripple effect of adding one or two new small businesses in a rural community can be tremendous,” she said.

O’Connor encouraged all aspiring cottage food entrepreneurs, as well as those who want to support new local food businesses, to attend the court hearing in Darlington tomorrow as a show of support. Those who attend are asked to arrive promptly, and supporters are invited to bring homemade cookies to share after the hearing on the courthouse steps.

*Wisconsin Farmers Union, a member-driven organization, is committed to enhancing the quality of life for family farmers, rural communities, and all people through educational opportunities, cooperative endeavors, and civic engagement. For more information visit [www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com](http://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com).*

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