



HVADC Farm & Food Business
Accelerator Program

CLASS OF 2016-2017



David J. Allen
Lavenlair Farm, LLC
Lavender Farm
Whitehall, NY (Washington County)

David and his wife Diane are the owners of Lavenlair Farms, a 4000 plant farm selling 18 varieties of lavender and producing a wide variety of lavender bath and body products, and lavender honey. The property also includes a 200 year old farmhouse and meditative labyrinth. David is a seasoned project manager. He is planning to renovate an old one room schoolhouse on the property into a farm store to create an agricultural destination and increase on-farm sales. He will also add a propagation greenhouse. *Read more about the farm at www.Lavenlairfarm.com.*



Suzanne Balet Haight
Balet Flowers & Design
Greenhouse and Flower Farm
Malta, NY (Saratoga County)

The Balet family has sold local farm products since 1978. When Suzanne returned to the family farm with a degree in horticulture from SUNY Cobleskill/Cornell, she transitioned the farm to bedding plants, vegetable and herb plants and cut flowers. Growing in a greenhouse and on a five-acre flower farm, Balet is planning an expansion of its retail sales at the farm, as well as event facilities to host weddings and other special events. *Read more about the farm at www.baletflowers.com.*



Brigid Dorsey
Les Collines
Consumer Packaged Goods
Craryville, NY (Columbia County)

With a background as a freelance writer and French instructor at the high school and college levels, Brigid founded Les Collines in 2013 as a producer of small-batch, locally sourced, sweet and savory artisanal jellies and preserves. Currently selling in stores across four states, Les Collines has set its sights on expanding production and distribution. *Visit www.thelifeipicked.com to learn more about the jelly, Brigid's writing, and her love of place, animals, good stories and good food locally grown.*



Sara Higgins
Raspberry Fields Farm, LLC
Consumer Packaged Goods
Marlboro, NY (Ulster County)

After founding and running a gift basket company featuring locally sourced artisan foods for ten years, Sara created Raspberry Fields Farms in 2007, a small batch, artisan purveyor of granola, cookies, gift boxes and wedding favors. She is also a founder and member of Meet Me in Marlborough, a group of farmers and businesses united to promote local agriculture and tourism. Now Raspberry Fields Farms is planning to expand its commercial production and retail spaces, as well as explore new regional partnerships. *Learn more about the products at www.raspberryfieldsfarm.com.*



Hillary and Claire Lindsay
The Green Onion, LLC
Agri-Cultural Center
Chester, NY (Orange County)

Owners and sisters Hillary and Claire Lindsay run an active calendar of community events and educational programs, as well as a farmers market featuring locally sourced products

at The Green Onion. The Hudson Valley natives have both studied in, and have worked in, sustainability and organic farming. They opened The Green Onion in 2016, and look forward to expanding its farmers' market operations and further develop its event and educational offerings. *Read more about The Green Onion's market and event programs at www.hudsonvalleygreenonion.com.*



Rick Minkus and Dylan Dembeck
Minkus Family Farms, Inc.
Onion Farm
New Hampton, NY (Orange County)

Owner Rick Minkus began farming onions in high school, and commercially growing in 1993. Truly a family operation, Minkus Family Farms grows, packs and distributes onions

year-round from its 1500 acres of owned and leased land. With a background in finance, son-in-law, Dylan Dembeck joined Rick's two sons and wife in the business in 2014. In 2015 Minkus completed a new onion packaging warehouse and is looking to reach larger customers to match its capacity. *Read more at www.freshonions.com.*



Josh Morgenthau
Fishkill Farms
Apple Farm and Cidery
Hopewell Junction, NY (Dutchess County)

Fishkill Farms has been in continuous operation in the Morgenthau family for over 50 years, with Josh as Managing Partner for the past eight. In that time, Josh has overseen the expansion of the farm, which has 150 acres in production, a farm store, fresh cider press, U-Pick, and event space. Fishkill is currently expanding its operations to include a craft cidery, tasting room and large scale event space. *Learn more about the farm at www.fishkillfarms.com.*



Marjorie and David Randles
Argyle Cheese Factory LLC
Farm and Cheese and Yogurt Producer
Argyle, NY (Washington County)

The Randles are hands-on cheese and yogurt makers and the owners of Argyle Cheese Factory, a family farm producing cheese, yogurt and buttermilk, and bases for smoothies,

salad dressings and cheesecakes. Dave had previously been a full-time dairy farmer for 40 years and Marge had owned a tax and financial planning practice for 30 years. Both are graduates of the Cornell University College of Agriculture. They are scaling up their processing and retail spaces to increase their market presence throughout the region. *Learn more about the Randles at www.cheesefarmer.com.*



Jennifer Soukup
Soukup Farms
Maple Farm
Dover Plains, NY (Dutchess County)

With a degree in culinary arts and service management, Jennifer is the owner of the third generation Soukup Farms, producing handmade maple products, selling pumpkins and

hay, and hosting events. What started as a hobby in the 1950s, now has more than 2,000 taps in two sugarbushes. With renewed consumer interest in the maple production process, Jennifer has plans to further increase the maple trees taps, and honey bees, and develop more events. *Read more about the farm's production at www.soukupfarms.com.*