

Paula Schafer
Saratoga and Washington Counties
July Agents Column

Battenkill Kitchen, Inc. Is Open for Processing

The Battenkill Kitchen, Inc. (BKI) celebrated its official grand opening on April 30 with a ribbon cutting ceremony followed by cooking demonstrations and tastings, with various ingredients used being sourced from regional farms. After almost two years of work, the commercial shared use kitchen facility is ready for agricultural producers to utilize the space to create their value-added products.

The BKI, a membership based organization, is a shared use kitchen facility located at 58 East Broadway connected in the back to the Historic Salem Courthouse in Salem, Washington County. The kitchen is open for all producers, individuals, and local growers to create, process, and package food products. The BKI is a NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets approved site which can be rented out on an hourly basis, minimizing the start-up expenses for farmers looking to extend their season through value-added offerings, small businesses looking to launch a food product, and regional community organizations requiring a commercially equipped kitchen to process products for individual use or retail sale.

If you are a producer thinking about processing this seasons product to create a value added product, contact the Northeast Center for Food Entrepreneurship at Cornell University at 315-787-2274 or visit www.nysaes.cornell.edu/necfe to learn what requirements are needed. Then contact Will Lennon, BKI president at 518.854.3095 about renting the facility. For further information about the BKI and how to join visit www.aedpws.org.