

Food ideas

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farmers' employees," Macke said of her participation in Fair Trade. "It makes me feel like I'm doing this small thing to make the world a better place."

For holiday gift-giving, By the Light of Day offers a variety of teas including their new Chakra teas as well as green teas, red/black teas and a host of others.

"We blend our teas — right here in Leelanau County — in small five pound batches by hand and are using locally grown fruits in our blends," Macke said.

P.O. Box 4022, TC; 228-7234;
www.bythelightofday.com.

Food for Thought

At Food for Thought in Honor, the Web site says it all: www.giftsthatmatter.com. Owner Tim Young believes in keeping local dollars local. So when a purchase is made at his business, one percent of the gross sales are directed to local non-profit agencies, making them

truly gifts that matter.

"In this world of big box shopping, many consumers have not connected their shopping habits with the impact on their local economy, environment and their own job quality and security," Young explained.

By far the most popular holiday gift that Food for Thought ships each year is their Wild Blueberry Merlot (preserve) with brie cheese gift basket. The gift is accompanied by a recipe card with directions to create an hors d'oeuvres by combining the two.

10610 Oviatt Rd., Honor; (888) 935-2748; www.giftsthatmatter.com.

The Fruits of Northern Michigan's Labors

Traverse Bay Farms/Fruit Advantage

Andy LaPointe, owner of Traverse Bay Farms/Fruit Advantage, likes to think of his business as an "orchard of health."

"It's the fruit you enjoyed as a kid, yet with pizzaz," LaPointe said.

All of Traverse Bay Farms/Fruit Advantage products are fruit-based. Some of the favorites at holiday time include the fruit syrups like blackberry, blueberry, peach and strawberry. Pumpkin butter and Apple butter are also popular with holiday gift-givers.

Traverse Bay Farms/Fruit Advantage also offers its Fruit Advantage, a dietary supplement that offers the health benefits of fruit year-round.

P.O. Box 1229, Bellaire; (877) 746-7477; www.traversebayfarms.com

Leland Cherry Company

The most popular items at the Leland Cherry Company include Montmorency Tart Cherry Concentrate and dried cherries. However, Leland Cherry also has the perfect gift for your canine friends. Hip Bones Cherry Dog Treats are the perfect treat for man's best friend.

"They are made from all natural ingredients and real cherries," said owner Michelle White. "They feature a healthy joint formula for canines."

(800) 939-3199; www.lelandcherrycompany.com.

The Cherry Stop

The Cherry Stop in downtown Traverse City offers the fruits of Northern Michigan with the convenience of holiday gift baskets. According to owner Jamie Roster, the baskets are prepared to help keep life simple at the holidays, whether you're planning for corporate gift-giving or just need a small gift.

"It's an easy gift," she said of the baskets. "Especially if you need something last minute or just a small gift for an acquaintance or employee."

The Cherry Stop features locally-made, locally-produced cherry products including salsas, dried fruits and preserves.

211 E. Front St., TC; (800) 286-7209;
www.cherrystop.com.

American Spoon Foods

One product that has great appeal is American Spoon Foods fruit

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