



North Idaho

An ancient apple orchard blossoms into a thriving business

2018



Athol Orchards

Nikki Conley
Erreck Conley

Athol, Idaho
Started: 2016

atholorchards.com

“Our consultant had vast experience in the retail market which sparked our interest to sell our farm crafted products beyond Idaho.”

As a first generation farmer, Nikki Conley’s passion for growing her own food started when she traveled annually to pick her own apples with her family from the high mountain orchards of California. The aroma of damp earth, old barn wood and apples are some of her fondest childhood memories, which in turn blossomed her idea to start Athol Orchards Antique Apple Farm and Bakery in Northern Idaho with her husband, Erreck.

The 10-acre property operates as an apple farm growing antique variety apples, heirloom pumpkins, rare sunflowers, and has its own apiary. Conley currently sells her famous apple cider syrup, produce and flowers at local farmers markets. She is working towards opening Athol Orchards to the public as a “living history farm” where schools and families can learn about a farm to fork operation.

The Idaho SBDC became an intricate part of Nikki’s business success through taking courses offered at the SBDC to help her understand how to own and operate a successful business. The powerful referral network the consultants have at the SBDC also connected Nikki with the right individuals to help her seek funding for Athol’s licensed kitchen facility.



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