

THIS MONTH'S



What's Cooking

A Sweet Idea: Bella's all-natural cookies debut in Delaware

When Mark and Kelly Leishear's daughter Bella began pre-school, they noticed that her mid-day snack was often chock full of chemicals and other ingredients they preferred she didn't consume. After doing some research into organic companies and still feeling dissatisfied with their options, the Leishears decided to take matters into their own hands. Thus was born Bella's Cookies, Delaware's first all-natural and organic cookie company.

"I was always a big baker," says Kelly Leishear, "and after 75 recipes, we finally found one that pleased everyone. Our cookies contain no trans fats, hydrogenated oils, artificial ingredients, colors or preservatives—and they still taste great."

Right now, all of Bella's Cookies are being produced out of the Leishear family kitchen in Milton, limiting production to 500 a week and two kinds of cookies. They are in the process of building a commercial kitchen that would allow them to distribute cookies throughout Delaware. Many stores already have signed up to be retail locations.

The company intends to keep staggering the release of their newest cookie flavors. "We want people to get excited about a new cookie," says Mark Leishear, "you know when the release date is and you count the days." (When the Choco-Bomb "dropped," the Leishears brought some into the TSN Publishing office—they disappeared in minutes.)

For the time being, those who are interested can get Bella's Cookies and keep abreast of new developments at www.bellascookies.com.

— *Lori Zaspel*