



## *Meet the Grower*

### *Van Dyk Farms Imlay City, MI*

Located in the heart of Michigan's thumb in a rich 2,000 acre valley of organic "muck" soil, John Van Dyk started farming on his own around Imlay City in 1958. With the help of his wife, Wilma, he grew lettuce and potatoes from the start. The farm incorporated in 1981 when Doug, one of his sons, joined the operation full-time after attending MSU's Agricultural Technology Program and working a season with a large lettuce growing operation in Florida. Dennis, another son, joined full-time in 1983 after completing the Ag Tech. program in vegetable production at MSU. While at Michigan State, Dennis was the recipient of a scholarship from the Michigan Vegetable Council. Adam came in full time in the spring on 2013 after graduating with a business degree from Calvin College. While studying at school, he had an internship in Yuma, Arizona to learn from some of America's largest farms and produce operations.

Van Dyk Farms is a major local supplier of iceberg and romaine lettuce to fresh and processed markets in Michigan and other states along the East Coast. About four different types of lettuce are grown and marketed on over 600 acres of land. Van Dyk Farms did grow potatoes up until 2008. Today they do their best to limit their carbon footprint by limiting soil tillage and adapting other healthy growing practices.

Van Dyk Farms, Inc. is a family-based operation who values all of their employees. Doug and Beth Van Dyk and their children, Dennis and Carol Van Dyk and their children team up with two harvesting crews, a weeding crew, and the transplanting crew to help supply restaurants and markets with their leafy green needs.



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