

# MICHIGAN GROWN



## Paul & Carla Schultz

EIGHT PLATES FARM  
MAYVILLE, MI

### What do you farm and how are you managing your acres?

Our family of 8 farms wheat, black beans, corn, soybeans, hay, hogs, and cattle. Since we have an integrated livestock farm, we utilize the manure of our livestock as a natural fertilizer for the soil. We've also been implementing cover crops, minimal tillage, and filter or prairie strips for many years. This helps feed the microorganisms in the soil for overall improved health of humans and animals.

### Why do you farm?

We farm for the love of the land, love of livestock, and love for the environment. It is such a fulfilling lifestyle when you can help feed the world and those around you. From the first tiny squeal of a piglet to the first shoot of green life in the field, the farm offers life lessons and responsibilities that are hard to beat.

### How is the way you farm protecting Michigan's natural resources?

We are putting our best foot forward by planting filter strips, using renewable energy when possible, looking into climate smart programs, and implementing regenerative practices when raising livestock. We are determined to protect our resources, which takes patience, but ensures that the future generation can enjoy all our state has to offer.



## FARM SNAPSHOT

# 1000

Acres farmed

# 45

Collective years farming

# 20

Years of conservation



Eight Plates Farm: Grass Based Beef and Pork



@eightplatesfarm



[www.eightplatesfarm.com](http://www.eightplatesfarm.com)



[www.miagadvance.org](http://www.miagadvance.org)

### What would help Michigan farmers achieve their production and conservation goals?

Farmers are consistently in need of resources to understand and navigate the programs available. They also need a voice to share what they have learned from their own observations of the ecosystems around them. It seems that regulations abound, and this farmer voice needs to be represented in a way that allows freedom to farm while also keeping within the boundaries of caring for the earth as a whole-fulfilling the food needs of our world and as well as our local communities.

