

MICHIGAN GROWN



Matt Schwab

SCHWAB FARMS
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What do you farm and how are you managing your acres?

We raise corn, soybeans, wheat, and hay. My family raises 20 Black Angus Brood cows and feeds 50 head of butcher cattle a year, utilizing permanent summer pasture, and cover crops and cornstalks for fall-through-spring grazing. We have implemented no-till planting on certain acres and prescription tillage where needed for other acres. We sell our beef through a licensed and inspected on-farm market called "Doc's Bayside Beef".

Why do you farm?

My heritage, for one. I'm hardwired to be outdoors, I love the challenge, and I enjoy seeing the benefits of our labor. Previous generations of family built the foundation of the farm and I've been fortunate to keep adding to it and improving. The opportunity to raise a family on an independent business and teach life skills is priceless.

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

We utilize filter strips alongside particularly susceptible waterways. This keeps sediment and hopefully nutrients from entering the watershed that emptying into Saginaw Bay. The same reasoning applies to utilizing cover crops and no-till on fields that are susceptible to erosion.



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

I believe we have more producers looking at conservation in my area. NRCS has funded cover crop practices locally (Bay and Arenac County). However, dollars seem to run short, not allowing to recruit new acres. I believe the contract terms need extended or renewed more easily. If we get producers to voluntarily enact conservation, there will be less need for government oversight and regulations.

FARM SNAPSHOT

800

Acres farmed

60

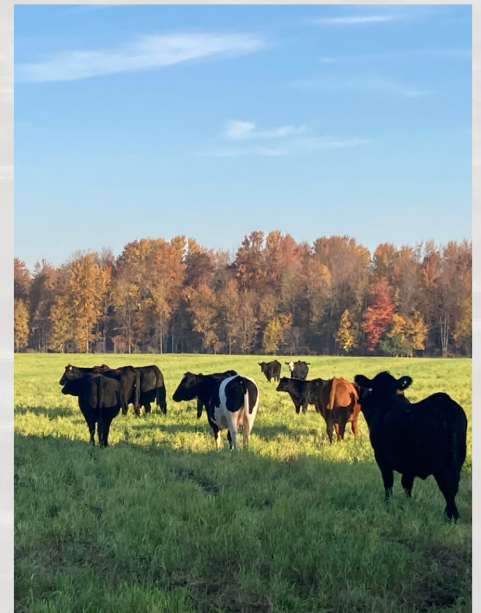
Acres of permanent pasture

29

Years of conservation

150

Acres of woodlot providing revenue from timber, maple sap, and recreational activities



Schwab's Ag and Outdoors



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