

MICHIGAN GROWN



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TENERA GRAINS & TEFFOLA
ADDISON, MI

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

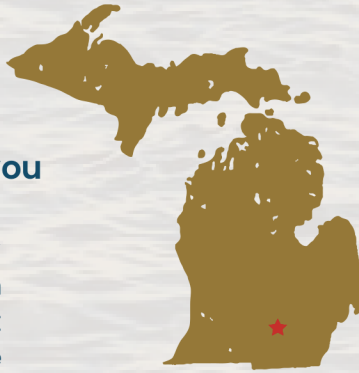
We raise row crops and specialty grains! Still some of the typical cash crops of the region (corn and soy) but we've also expanded into some more niche markets like barley, rye, teff, buckwheat, millet and oats among others. Many of the times we started using the grains as cover crops but now we're finding buyers for the grain.

Why do you farm?

Our farm has been around for seven generations now. In the beginning, our ancestors were farming for sustenance. The reasons have slowly shifted - in the mid 1900's, the farm was all dairy with minimal acres for feed. Now that the farm has added more acreage, we're farming to be better stewards of the land. Supporting our family and continuing the legacy with innovation is important to us as we think towards ensuring we're around for another seven generations!

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

Using cover crops has helped us reduce soil erosion (especially with all that March and April slushy flooding) and built up our top soil layer while crop rotation has made a more robust soil system.



FARM SNAPSHOT

1250

Acres farmed

185

Collective years farming

40+

Years of conservation

10

(+3 in R & D)

On-shelf products featuring grains from the farm



www.eatteffola.com



www.miadvance.org

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

Start slow but steadily improve. We work with consultants who help analyze our soil field by field and make recommendations on inputs for the best yields. Don't be afraid to try new things on smaller acreage just to see if it works. If you're looking to explore smaller, alternative grains, you probably want a buyer for the harvest before you put seeds in the ground so joining groups like MIAA & Artisan Grain Collaborative to meet people is a great start to help make that happen.

