

MICHIGAN GROWN



TC Collins
WILLOW RUN ACRES
YPSILANTI, MI

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

I farm vegetables and a wide of variety of perennials including fruit, herbs, flowers, edible flowers, and mushrooms. I also produce a variety of composts including aged manure, vermiculture and leaf compost. I use sustainable agriculture practices such as cover crops, no chemicals, low till and no-till methods, hilled row crops, raised beds and intercropping to manage my farm.

Why do you farm?

I farm to keep our family legacy alive and viable, to bring sustainable agriculture education to young people and their families, and to feed the people in need in our community.

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

The use of sustainable agriculture practices protects Michigan's water, air, and soil. I work to reintroduce native plant species and eradicate invasive ones. I also work to preserve native pollinators such as the Monarch butterfly by planting the flowers they feed on.



FARM SNAPSHOT

6

Acres farmed

50

Years farming

50

Years of conservation

101,800

Number of students & families taught about sustainable farming



www.willowrunacres.com

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

We need to create more spaces where farmers can come together to share resources, information and to network. We want to increase grant funding for farmers that specifically includes funding for infrastructure and land acquisition. Grant funding cycles need to be correctly aligned with farmers' planting and harvesting schedules according to their regional hardiness zones. We also specifically require funding for Black and BIPOC farmers because we currently do not have the equity to be able to purchase land or grow our farm infrastructure. We also need increased access to heirloom seed stock and autonomous farm technology.



www.miagadvance.org



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