



FARM STATS

Location : Imlay City, MI

Year Founded : 1958

Acreage : 600

Crops:

Romaine Red Leaf
Green Leaf Head Lettuce

MEET THE GROWERS

Van Dyk Farms

John Van Dyk started farming on his own on the muck soil 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. Rob joined the farm full-time in 1999 after completing business studies at Spring Arbor University. Van Dyk Farms is a major supplier of iceberg and Romaine lettuce to fresh and processed markets in Michigan and other states. 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 and continued it through 2008. Van Dyk Farms, Inc. is a family-based operation. Doug and Beth Van Dyk and their children, Dennis and Carol Van Dyk and their children, and Rob Sommer team up with two harvesting crews, a weeding crew and the transplanting crew.

