Wallendal Farms
Grand Marsh, WI

One Family, One Farm, One Environment
Vision:
We passionately challenge ourselves to cultivate growth, personally and collectively, in order to create an enduring environmentally-conscious business and family.

Mission Statement:
We will succeed by innovating, producing high quality products, building strong relationships, growing our market intelligence and utilizing production technology.

Core Values

• Innovators
• Practicing Integrity
• Adaptability
• Uphold Family
• Partner of Choice
• Sustainability
Overview: The Farm

- 3rd Generation Family Farm
- 3300 acres of row crops and vegetables all under center pivot
- What we grow:
  - Forage Corn, Seed Corn
  - Seed Soy, Non-gmo soy
  - Alfalfa
  - Snap Beans, Sweet Corn
  - Kidney Beans
  - Pumpkins
- Sandy Soil!! Soil is under 1% OM.
- 25% of Acres are Organic or in Transition
- Tech, Research, Growth Focused!
Best Farming Practices

- Conservation Strip Tillage
- Cover Cropping
- IPM Program
- Cultivation
- Research Focused
- Partnerships
- Soil/Water Probes
- Soil Health Focus and conservation application
  - EC Mapping
  - VRT, VRI and VR fertigation
  - Zone Sampling
Your Environment is Ours, Too!!

• We work hard to farm sustainably and responsibly.
• We value the education from our historic projects and continue to uphold our established values.
• We work on projects for our environment:
  • Cover Cropping
  • Natural Pollinator Habitat Establishment
  • Ecology Restoration
  • Water Sustainability
  • Wind Erosion Control
  • Ground Water Studies
Research Based!

• Pete worked on NRCS soil sampling
• 1960’s strip tillage and cover cropping
• 1988 first grid sampling
• Worked with NASA in 1988 to ground truth NDVI
• 20 year root rot research plot
• UW researcher relationships
• Currently NDVI, VR, and Biologicals research
Organic Transition

Why?
• Soil Health
• Reduced impact on environment
• Productivity
• Environmental regeneration and sustainability
• Experience with Veg Crops
• Demand
• Legacy of our farm

When?
• Started Transitioning in 2015/2016.
• Continuing to transition ground.
• 2016 started Officially organic farming

How?
• 20% Transitioned now, working to transitioning 33%+
Philosophy of Transitioning

- Increase soil health with use of cover crops
- Reduce the weed bank
- Prepare the land for our anticipated rotation
- Increase cover crop and rotation diversity
- Choose fields that need soil health attention
How Are We Transitioning?

• 1 or 2 year cover-crop
• Soybeans
• Alfalfa
• Sunflower
• Practicing small scale trials
• Slowly!
• We’ve chosen ground that benefits most from organic practices.
Breaking Down the Numbers..... Weathering the Storm

• Costs of weed management
• Cost differential of organic products vs. commercial products
• Front loading field fertility inputs
• Cover crop mixes and costs
• Rental agreements
• Revenue gap (if any)
Weed Management: Different Philosophies

• **Reduced Cultivation & Tillage**
  • Planting into an existing crop
  • Planting into a winter killed cover
  • Tilling and planting into a non-covered field and sowing an inter-crop

• **Traditional Tillage**
  • Tilling field
  • Cultivating until row closure
Weed Management: Reduced Cultivation

Non-vernalized rye spread 10 days, 5 days, and 0 days before planting.

Results of Non-vernalized rye: 5-12 bu yield higher than cultivated rye.

June 26th, 2018

July 19th, 2018
Weed Management: Reduced Cultivation

- Top Picture: 6/13/2018
- Planted 5/25 and crimped approx. 6/10/2018
- Bottom Picture: 6/26/2018
- Grass weeds starting to come through rye cover
- Soy eventually outgrew grass weeds, but was not a “clean” looking field
Weed Management: Reduced Cultivation

**July 20th, 2018**

**Interseeding!**

Corn – Trialed in 2018 – Mix: Crimson Clover, Winter Peas, Teff Grass, Collards

Cucumbers: Trialed in 2018 – Mix: Buckwheat, Kale, Non-vernalized Rye

**July 29th, 2018**
Weed Management: Cultivation

• Tillage:
  • Sunflower Disc
  • Rubin 9 Lemken
  • Turbo Till
  • Orthman Strip till

• Cultivation Early
  • Tine Harrow
  • Rotary Hoe
Weed Management: Cultivation

- Row crop Cultivation
  - 22” Sukup Rigid Blade Cultivator with Finger Weeders
    - Can get nearly Intra-row
  - 12 row 22” Lilliston Rolling Cultivator
    - Can be adjusted to be aggressive, high speed operations possible
Weed Management: Cultivation

- Row Crop Cultivation
- Danish Tine Cultivator
  - All around versatile
- C-shank Cultivator
  - Aggressive use when roots established
Questions?
Why We Care... Legacy!!
We are the Wallendal Farms Family