



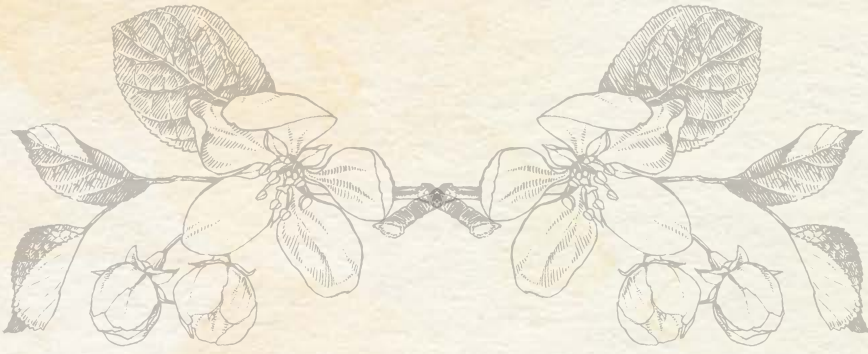
Field Guide

Farm Stands



FRESH FOOD
FROM
PROTECTED FARMS





Farm stands are a quintessential feature of the Grand Traverse region’s landscape. Fresh cherries, apples, asparagus and tons of other favorites are eagerly gathered by locals and visitors alike from a host of charming stands and markets. That produce would not be possible without the land it’s grown on, and GTRLC is proud to have protected more than 11,000 acres of critical farmland since our founding in 1991. Included in this guide are just some of the farm stands on protected farms within our region. Get out and taste for yourself why our region consistently ranks among the best agricultural areas in the nation!

WHAT’S PDR?

You’ll see “PDR” mentioned frequently as you browse this guide. It stands for Purchase of Development Rights, and in this guide refers to Peninsula Township’s PDR program. Like other rights associated with land, the right to develop a property has a cash value. Under the township’s PDR program, a voter-approved millage is used to generate money that allows the township to purchase farmers’ development rights and permanently extinguish them, thereby ensuring that the land will be protected from development in perpetuity. It was first approved in 1994 and renewed for 20 years in 2002. GTRLC has helped manage the program on behalf of the township for much of its existence.



For more information about the Conservancy visit: [GTRLC.ORG](https://gtrlc.org)



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FEATURED FARM STANDS

- 1

Cherry Connection of Edmonson Orchards
- 2

Farmer White's
- 3

Johnson Farms
- 4

Robbins Farm Market
- 5

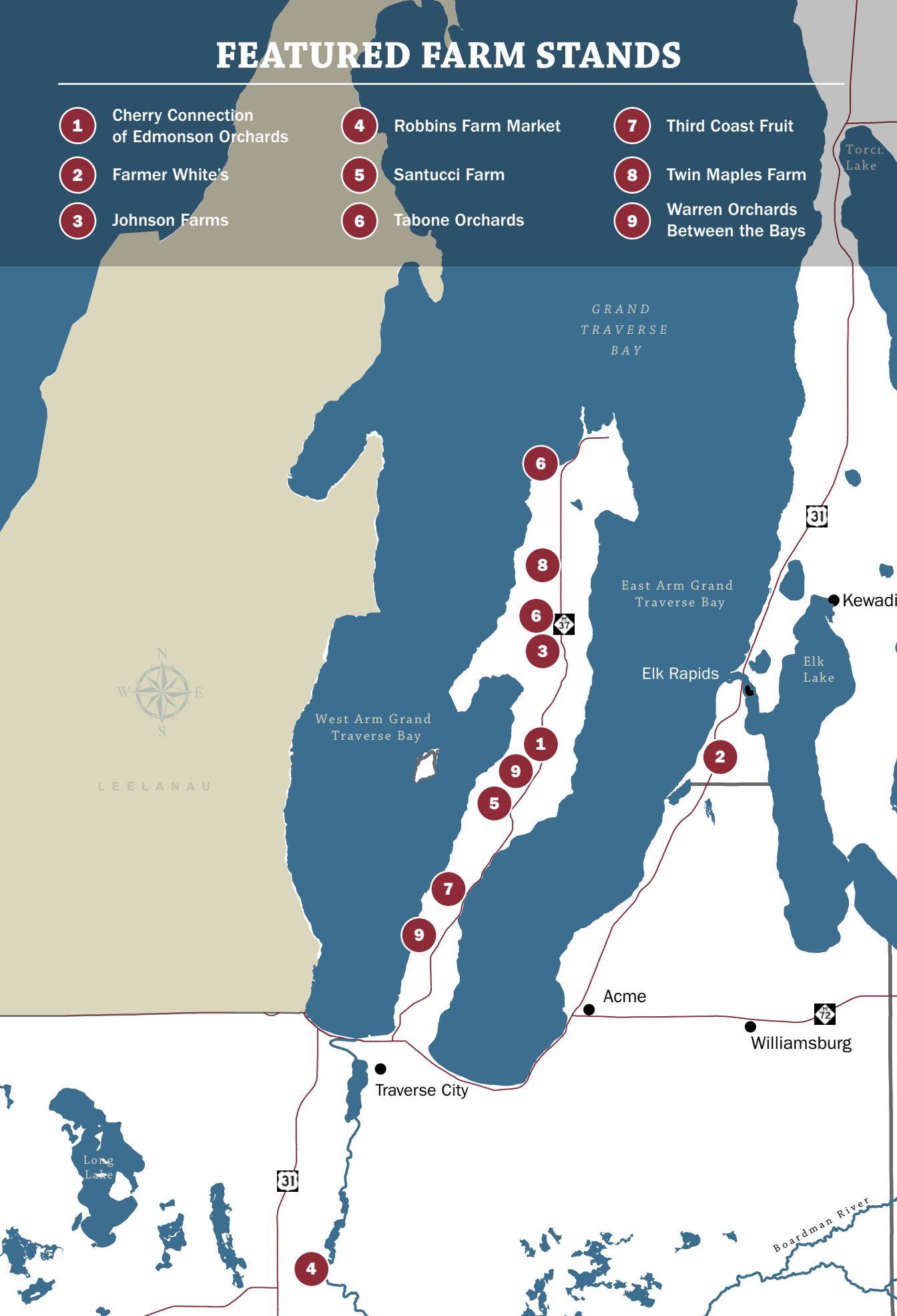
Santucci Farm
- 6

Tabone Orchards
- 7

Third Coast Fruit
- 8

Twin Maples Farm
- 9

Warren Orchards Between the Bays



CHERRY CONNECTION OF EDMONSON ORCHARDS

Farmer:

Dave Edmonson
Joanne Westphal

Location:

12414 Center Rd
Traverse City, MI

Contact:

(231) 223-7130

"We are the oldest U-pick operation on the Old Mission Peninsula and manage our orchards for the safe entry of the public. We are also located on the highest point on the Old Mission Peninsula, and the spectacular views are worth the visit to our farm!"

— Joanne Westphal



Produce

SUMMER

Cherries, raspberries,
peaches, apricots, plums

FALL

Pumpkins, chestnuts



About the Farm

While Cherry Connection of Edmonson Orchards is rightfully proud of many things cherry – it is the pioneer U-pick operation on Old Mission and offers eight varieties of delicious light and dark sweets – why not do something different and swing by for red, black or yellow raspberries, also offered in a U-pick operation around the same time as cherries. This farm was protected under Peninsula Township’s PDR program. In addition to the produce listed, this operation offers dried cherries and other value-added products both at the stand and at the Traverse City farmer’s market.

[🔗 Back to Map](#)



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FARMER WHITE'S

Farmer:

Mary Cooper
Vincent Cooper

Location:

11373 US 31 South
Williamsburg, MI

Contact:

(231) 632-1500
www.farmerwhites.com

“Our homemade pies are loaded with two pounds of fruit, not overly sweet, and are delicious! We grow a large variety of apples, some you can't get in a grocery store.”

— Vincent Cooper



Produce

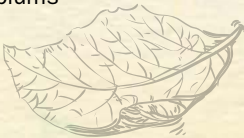
SPRING

Rhubarb



SUMMER

Strawberries, cherries
(sweet and tart), peaches,
apricots, plums



FALL

Squash, pumpkins, gourds
and several varieties of
apples, along with fresh
unpasteurized apple cider
and donuts.



About the Farm

This 100-acre farm is one of several on the beautiful US-31 corridor between Traverse City and Charlevoix. For decades (since 1958, specifically) passers-by have stopped at Farmer White's for not only fresh produce, but a wide variety of value-added products available throughout the year. More than 40 varieties of jam, signature baking mixes, dried fruit and handcrafted gifts make this place truly special. This farm is protected under a 10-year term conservation easement.

[Back to Map](#)



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JOHNSON FARMS

Farmer:

Dean Johnson
Heatherlyn Johnson

Location:

14490 Center Rd
Traverse City, MI

Contact:

(231) 360-7081

“We have nice sugar content, we get nice size, we get nice color – this area really grows the perfect honeycrisp apple. You can’t even grow them in Grand Rapids like we do here.”

— Heatherlyn Johnson-Reamer



Produce

SUMMER

Cherries (sweet and tart), potatoes, peppers, peaches

FALL

Honeycrisp apples



About the Farm

Another multi-generational farming operation (Heatherlyn is the fifth generation) with rich history, this farm is known for both its delicious cherries and wonderful honeycrisp apples. More than 200 contiguous acres of farmland are protected, a legacy started by Heatherlyn’s grandfather Walter Johnson in the early 1990s in an effort to show support for the initial PDR millage vote in 1994.

[Back to Map](#)



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ROBBINS FARM MARKET

Farmer:

Jack Robbins

Location:

1007 Cass Rd
Traverse City, MI

Contact:

(231) 947-9360

“Lucille and I always loved seeing everybody come back year after year. Now the kids that came are married and bringing their own kids. It’s hard work but its a lot of fun.”

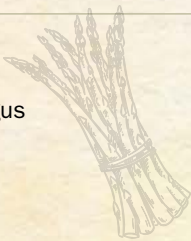
— Jack Robbins



Produce

SPRING

Rhubarb, asparagus



SUMMER

Tomatoes, peppers, squash, green beans



FALL

Squash, carving and pie pumpkins, apples

About the Farm

Anyone who’s regularly traveled the busy Cass corridor over the past 25 years is familiar with this stand, which sits next to a charming old farm house on the west side of Cass just before it hooks and travels over the Boardman River. Operated for years by Jack and his late wife Lucille, Jack now runs it with the help of his children. Produce listed should be viewed as a general guide, as it can change from year to year. Jack donated a conservation easement on 54 acres of his land in 2019.

[Back to Map](#)



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SANTUCCI FARM

Farmer:

Marc Santucci

Location:

11789 Center Rd
Traverse City, MI

Contact:

(517) 974-7233

“What makes us special is that we have dwarf cherry trees that are easy for the kids and adults to pick. We also have a pitter and will pit the customers’ tart cherries if they pick 10 pounds or more.”

— Marc Santucci



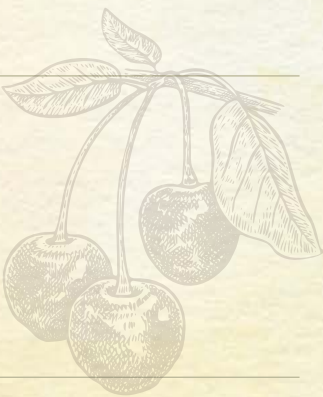
Produce

SUMMER

Sweet and tart cherries
(12 varieties!)

FALL

Chestnuts



About the Farm

The beautiful Santucci farm was one of the first farms to offer U-pick cherries on the Old Mission Peninsula. If you’re looking for cherry variety, you’ve found it. They offer a whopping 12 different kinds of sweet and tart cherries, along with homemade jam and some other value-added products. Perhaps Santucci Farm’s most unique offering is U-pick chestnuts (it’s mostly picking fallen chestnuts off the ground). These trees are foreign hybrids and thus free of the chestnut blight that essentially wiped out the beloved American Chestnut by the mid-20th century, but their nuts are just as tasty! This farm was protected under Peninsula Township’s PDR program.

[📍 Back to Map](#)



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TABONE ORCHARDS

Farmer:

Mario Tabone

Locations:

14998 Peninsula Dr
Traverse City, MI

19521 Center Rd.
Traverse City, MI

Contact:

(231) 631-7512

“We believe what makes our roadside stands special starts with our philosophy: ‘We’re glad you stopped by for a taste of Northern Michigan!’ Folks can take their time, sit down at our picnic table and enjoy their purchases right on the farm.”

— Mario Tabone



Produce

SUMMER

Cherries, tomatoes, apricots, plums, peaches, onions, shallots, potatoes, gourds

FALL

Honeycrisp apples, pumpkins, gourds, Indian corn



About the Farm

There’s a lot you can do with 21 acres. Just ask Mario Tabone, who offers an impressive selection of produce at two self-serve farm stands. Take a look for their new colorful mural going up in the fall of 2019 at the Peninsula Drive location – Mario hopes it will become a favorite picture spot on the Peninsula! This is yet another farm protected by Peninsula Township’s PDR program. In addition to fresh produce, look for a variety of value-added products, including fruit pies, honey, maple syrup, jam, aged Balsamic vinegar and more.

[📍 Back to Map](#)



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THIRD COAST FRUIT

Farmer:

Isaiah Wunsch

Location:

555 Wilson Rd
Traverse City, MI

Contact:

(231) 620-0791

“We are a traditional northern Michigan industry, but we also try to adopt the most modern horticultural practices possible, and are obsessed with growing cherries that offer a memorable eating experience. As we move forward with replanting the Wilson Road farm, we will be planting some tasty new cherry varieties on easy-to-pick dwarfing trees.”

— Isaiah Wunsch



Produce

SUMMER

Several varieties of cherries, with several more coming. Also looking to add apples, peaches, pears, nectarines and vegetables.



About the Farm

In short, the Wunsch family knows fruit. This multi-generational clan has grown cherries on Old Mission for decades, and Isaiah is the latest to offer his fresh, delicious produce. With help from GTRLC, who secured a conservation easement on the property, Isaiah recently purchased Wilson Orchards, a landmark cherry farm at the Peninsula’s narrowest point. He’s looking to ramp up farm stand operations as well as developing a new spectrum of fresh sweet cherry varieties for distribution across the state.

[Back to Map](#)



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TWIN MAPLES FARM

Farmer:

Fred Dohm

Location:

16625 Center Rd
Traverse City, MI

Contact:

(231) 633-4494

“I keep checking until the sugar content is just right. Usually it’s a little sweeter than other syrups. We’ve been making it (maple syrup) for 20 years.”

— Fred Dohm



Produce

SPRING

Maple syrup

SUMMER

Maple Syrup, plums,
cherries

FALL

Maple Syrup, honeycrisp
apples

About the Farm

In continuous operation since around 1890 and in the Dohm family for about 100 years, this 93-acre apple and cherry farm is known for the high quality maple syrup produced from a 10-acre “sugarbush” of maple trees. This syrup is offered year-round at the Twin Maples farm stand and seasonally at farmers markets. The farm was protected in 2019 as part of GTRLC’s *Campaign for Generations*.

[Back to Map](#)



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WARREN ORCHARDS BETWEEN THE BAYS

Farmer:

Wendy Warren

Locations:

8169 Center Rd
Traverse City, MI

2705 Island View Rd
Traverse City, MI

Contact:

(231) 590-2363
www.betweenthebaystc.com

“We are a fifth generation farming operation, with the sixth eager to learn and take part. Our primary goal is to honor previous generations by offering only the highest quality products, as they did.”

— Wendy Warren



Produce

SPRING

Asparagus, rhubarb

SUMMER

Strawberries, saskatoons, sweet and tart cherries, blueberries, apricots, plums, peaches, zucchini, green beans, cucumbers, broccoli, sweet corn, carrots, onions and more.

FALL

Apples, pears, winter squash



About the Farm

An Old Mission farming operation for more than 150 years (one of the first orchards on the peninsula, established in 1867), this 90-acre farm might take the blue ribbon for the sheer variety of delicious produce offered throughout the year. Though most is grown on the farm, some is brought in from other local farms that specialize in a particular crop. Maple syrup and its less common but equally delicious cousin maple sugar are also offered. This farm, which offers produce at two stands, was protected under Peninsula Township’s PDR program.

[Back to Map](#)



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Our service area lies within the West Michigan Fruit Belt, a globally unique growing zone that stretches in a relatively narrow band along the Lake Michigan coast from Indiana to the Straits of Mackinac. According to the American Farmland Trust, this belt is one of the 10 most threatened agricultural resources in the nation.

Our goal is to protect 2,000 additional acres of farmland in our five-county service area as part of the *Campaign for Generations*. Will you help?

donate securely online at:

www.gtrlc.org

