

# AARON W. AND ROSA P. LUCKHARDT FARM

## SALINE, MICHIGAN

### ESTABLISHED NOVEMBER 1, 1915

The Aaron W. and Rosa P. Luckhardt Farm was established on November 1, 1915, in Saline, Michigan. Aaron and Rosa were married in 1888 and had their first of seven children in 1895. After purchasing a 160-acre farm in 1915, Aaron and his oldest son, Alvin, partnered to grow corn, wheat, oats, and alfalfa hay. They also raised horses, dairy cows, chickens, and hogs.

Alvin married Martha Ernst in 1918. The young couple lived on the homestead while Aaron and Rosa retired and moved to downtown Saline. In 1924, Alvin and Martha purchased 120 acres from Alvin's parents, while the other 40 acres were sold out of the family.

Alvin and Martha's five children were all born and reared on the farm. Among those children was the farm's current owner, Eugene Luckhardt. Eugene was an active participant in the 4-H program and showed sheep during his youth. He married Joann Lindemann in 1958, and together they lived in a mobile home on the farm's property. Much like the arrangement between Aaron and Alvin, Alvin and Eugene worked the farm in a partnership, with Eugene ultimately purchasing the land in 1968.

Eugene and Joann, with the help of their son Gary, spent more than two years renovating and updating the original 14-room farmhouse. The walls were torn down to the studs to make way for insulation, plumbing,



*A view of the Luckhardt farm showcases the family's house and barn.*

heating, and electricity. When Aaron and Rosa bought the farm in 1915, it came equipped with a hip-roof barn, chicken coop, corn crib, hog barn, cooker house, and tool shed in addition to the farmhouse. Under Eugene and Joann's ownership, the family removed many of the older, smaller buildings and replaced them with larger sheds to store farm equipment.

Following Luckhardt tradition, father and son partnered in their professional endeavors—farming and plumbing.

In 1986, Eugene and Gary purchased an adjoining farm, which included 30 acres that had been sold out of the Luckhardt family in 1924. Gary moved to the neighboring farm after marrying Renee Kanitz in 1995. They had two children, Alyssa and Ryan, both of whom are active on the farm today.

The Luckhardt family currently raises sheep and cattle and grows corn, wheat, oats, soybeans, and hay. They also lease their land for mineral rights. Although Eugene still owns the land, grandson Ryan helps with many of the day-to-day responsibilities. As part of the fifth generation of Luckhardts to live on the land, Ryan plans to be a full-time farmer. ☒

*This Centennial Farm designation is sponsored by*

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*A farmhouse and other buildings were already established on the land before the Luckhardt family purchased the farm in 1915.*



*A young Eugene Luckhardt with a prize-winning sheep.*

*Eugene Luckhardt by an oil well pump.*

