

## Nathaniel Howes Farm

Lawrence • Established February 4, 1903

The Howes farm was established in 1903, when Nathaniel and Celena Howes purchased 79.5 acres of land. At that time, Nathaniel grew hay, corn, and wheat, in addition to keeping a few horses and dairy cows. The farm's greasy clay soil proved to be useful in holding water for the crops during dry spells but a burden when trying to move any machinery through it.

With Nathaniel's passing in 1953, Celena sold the farm to Nathaniel's first cousin, Fred Garrod Sr., who already owned adjoining property on the east side of the Howes' farm. Fred Sr. was a dairy farmer and used the increase in acreage to expand his hay, corn, and wheat crops. Fred had married his wife, Edith, in 1923, and they had four children together. One of their sons, Fred Jr., graduated from Michigan State University, wanting to continue working on the family farm.

After Fred Jr. married his wife, Patricia, in 1960, the couple moved into the home where Nathaniel and Celena had once reared their family. The original farmhouse served as their home until 1971 when a new one was built just a few feet from the old location.

Fred Sr. and Fred Jr. worked the farm together until Fred Sr.'s passing in 1973. After the farm was officially sold to Fred Jr., he and Patricia continued to operate the dairy farm and grow crops. They have since discontinued dairy farming but have added more acreage to continue their own family farming tradition.



▲  
*Historical  
and current  
images of  
the Howes  
barn.*

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## Peter and Winifred Bogard Farm

McBain • Established March 31, 1920

The Peter and Winifred Bogard Farm began when the couple purchased land in McBain in March 1920. Prior to purchasing the farm, Peter served in France during World War I, returning home in May 1919 and marrying Winifred just a month later. Building their home on the property, the couple moved there to rear their five children.

In 1936, Peter purchased an additional barn, and with the help of his brother, Dennis, who was a carpenter, a nearby barn was disassembled and moved by horse and wagon to the Bogard farm. The couple kept five horses that were used for much of the farmwork, as well as pigs, chickens, and a small herd of dairy cattle. The crops they farmed included sugar beets, potatoes, corn, and hay.

Modern updates, such as electricity, came to the farm throughout the 1930s. The family worked to bring water to the barn in 1935 and indoor plumbing to the house in 1939. Prior to indoor plumbing, an outhouse was utilized, with catalogs used as toilet paper since toilet paper was deemed an unnecessarily high expense. Milking machines and the first tractor came to the farm in 1941, allowing the owners to downsize the number of horses they needed.

One of Peter and Winifred's sons, Lee, bought the farm along with his wife, Harriet, in 1961. They started with 27 Holstein cows and grew corn, oats, and hay. Lee and Harriet brought up two daughters and two sons together as Lee continued his family farm's legacy.



▲  
*Lee, Edna, and Jerry  
Bogard on a doodlebug,  
or homemade tractor, and  
the Bogard farm property  
as it is seen today.*