

## About M&M Farms . . .

M&M Farms was founded in 1962 by Michael Gene Majzel, Jr., who owned and operated the family crop farm until his death on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at age 93.

In 1931, Michael (Mike) was born on the family farm in New Haven Township, MI. He was a second-generation immigrant born in the United States after his parents immigrated in 1929 from Czechoslovakia.

Mike's love of farming started at an early age, engaging in 4-H dairy programs and later serving as a 4-H leader. In 1950, as a senior in high school, Mike purchased his first 80-acre farm in Hazelton Township.

By 1960, Mike was well-known to the Saginaw Valley farm community when he designed and built an eight-row planter using two four-row units. At that time, it was the only eight-row bean planter in Shiawassee County, years before the industry began commercially producing eight-row planters. Well over a dozen farms in the valley used his planter design. A few years later, eight row planters were industry-built. Mike then designed and built a twelve-row planter with hydraulic markers, which was also the areas' first twelve-row front mounted cultivator.

Mike established M&M Farms in 1962 near Henderson in Rush Township. Although Mike was the true farmer, M&M Farms would not have been as successful as it was without the lifelong support of his wife, Martha, and their four children. The entire family worked on the farm doing whatever needed to be done from driving tractors to picking stones and weeds to washing farm equipment. Over the years, Mike transformed the grounds into large, open, flat, tiled fields perfect for large farm equipment and growing soybeans, wheat, oats, and navy beans. Later, corn and alfalfa were added to the list of crops.

In 1968, M&M Farms faced a loss as a tornado took down the original dairy building that was used for equipment and grain storage. As a replacement, Mike built two pole buildings: one for machinery storage with a large shop area and one for grain storage. The unique grain storage building contained six silos with grain legs attached to each. The other side of the building was designed specifically for storing grain on a cement platform. Both buildings still exist by the farmhouse today.

Over the years, Mike was recognized for his lifelong farming passion locally and state-wide. He served on the Shiawassee County Farm Bureau, the Advisory Council for the Cooperative Extension Service, and as a County Officer of the National Farmers Organization. In 1976, the Cooperative Extension Director at Michigan State University awarded Mike a Certificate of Recognition for outstanding community leadership and service. Mike also served on two Governor's Conferences on Agriculture and on the Advisory Committee to the Michigan House Agricultural Committee in 1979 and 1980. In 1979, Mike participated in the Tractorcade, a protest on tractors organized by the American Agriculture Movement in Washington, D.C. in response to rising commodity prices. In 2002, Mike was one of 20 people selected to participate in the Michigan State University College of Agriculture study tour to Argentina.

In 2002, Mike formally retired, but a true farmer never retires. He even purchased an excavator after retiring, purely for the enjoyment of digging ditches and continuing to improve his land.

Today, M&M Farms consists of 1,024+ acres and is one of the most successful, productive farms in Michigan. Mike always envisioned M&M Farms would continue to thrive as a crop farm long after his passing. The family agrees with this direction and states. "Our dad has dedicated his heart and life to making M&M Farms what it is today. It would be an honor to sell to the next generation of farmer(s) to continue our dad's legacy while making a legacy of their own."