

## MICHIGAN'S AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AVAILABLE IN NORTHWEST MICHIGAN

Michigan's agricultural production is the second most diverse in the nation, following only California. Farms in northwest Michigan make important contributions to this agricultural diversity. Many small farms in the region serve local markets, turn produce into value-added products, or specialize in niche markets.

Source: USDA Census of Agriculture 2012



## PERMANENT FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Much of northwest Michigan's population increase has been focused in rural areas, driven by a desire for rural lifestyles and large development lots. Permanent farmland easements protect the long-term viability of the local food supply by preventing conversion of productive working lands to non-agricultural uses. Temporary farmland protection agreements can offer additional incentives for preserving land for a given period of time. Permanent land protection continues at a significant rate while temporary land protection through the state is continually growing.

Source: Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, Leelanau Conservancy, Little Traverse Conservancy



## WATER QUALITY

Farmland plays an important role in groundwater recharge and in preventing stormwater runoff. Through the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP), local farmers are working hand in hand with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) on soil erosion and water stewardship practices, proper chemical storage and food safety considerations. MAEAP certified farmers are using environmentally sound practices to protect our shared natural resources fostering a truly sustainable local agricultural community.

Source: Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

