

Ervin H. and Lydia Thompson Farm

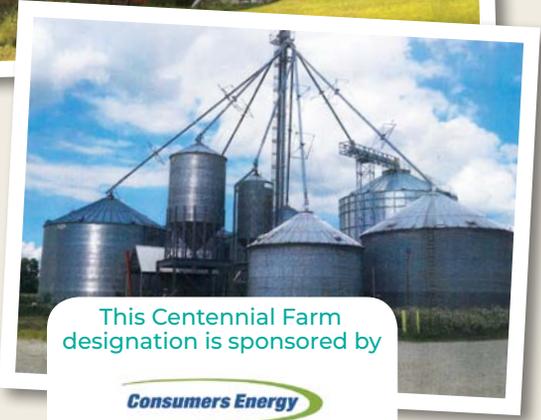
Campbell Township • Established April 3, 1920

The Ervin H. and Lydia Thompson Farm was founded in Ionia County in April 1920. The two purchased the farm through a sheriff's deed sale. The first barn was built on the property in 1922—two years before the couple constructed the house in 1924. Ervin and Lydia had three children—Minerva, Lester, and Floyd.

Floyd and Mabel Thompson rented the property from his parents and farmed it for many years. In addition to registered Hereford cattle, they raised the usual farm animals: a few hogs, milk cows, and chickens. The Thompsons sold extra eggs to buy other necessities, such as sugar, coffee, and salt.

Floyd and Mabel's son, Kenneth J., married Charleen Cappon. The couple purchased the family farm on March 24, 1952. At that time, they raised cow-calf pairs and some feeder cattle. They grew corn, wheat, and oat crops. Under their care, the farm expanded to around 500 acres.

The Thompson family added grain storage in 1998 and again in 2018. They built additional barns in 2005 and 2015. The family raised feeder cattle until 2000. Kenneth and Charleen's son, Brian K. Thompson, currently operates the 1,800-acre farm, where he grows corn and soybeans.



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Amel C. and Florence A. Losh Farm

Springfield Township • Established October 2, 1920

The Amel C. and Florence A. Losh farm was established in October 1920 in Oakland County. At that time, Amel had five or six cows and milked them by hand. He strained the milk and put it cans, which were then sold in Pontiac.

Amel and Florence had three children—Louise, Russell, and Robert. Robert joined his father on the farm in 1940. Shortly after, they added more stanchions and a milk machine to their operation. Amel died in 1947, but Robert continued to raise dairy cows and grow hay, straw, and feed corn. He added a conservation farm pond in 1960 and a pole barn in 1964. The barn housed bulk milk tanks that replaced the milk cans his father had used.

Terry, Robert's son, joined him on the farm in 1984. The next year, they installed a free-stall barn, a double 4 milking parlor, and a 1,000-gallon milk tank. They also purchased more Holstein cattle. The Loshes have been members of the Michigan Milk Producers Association for 40 years.

In 2000, milk haulers stopped traveling to Oakland County to pick up milk, forcing the Losh family to sell their milk cows. In response, they started raising and selling beef cows. They also grew hay, corn, wheat, potatoes, and soybeans. Today, the Losh family farms hay and corn.



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