

2020 FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR
JOE & HELEN SCHWINN

Joe & Helen Schwinn own and operate Schwinn Produce Farm. Joe has been in agriculture production for 45 years and Helen is the Principal of St. Benedict's Catholic School in Atchison, KS. They have two children, Sarah Jo and Zachary.

The farm's two main crops are just the same as they were 45 years ago, sweet corn and tomatoes. Other crops include cantaloupe, watermelon, peppers, cucumbers, and a large pumpkin patch. Corn and soybeans are grown as a rotational crop and also aid in weed control. The biggest addition came to the farm in 2012 with the completion of the construction of a traditional timber framed barn. This facility, known as The Barn, is used to host weddings, anniversaries, family reunions, and milestone birthdays.

Schwinn Produce Farm was established in 1974 as a 4-H project at 32263 179th Street Leavenworth, Kansas. With a modest beginning of a few hills of cantaloupe and a dozen rows of sweet corn this endeavor began. After expanding to over 10 acres by the mid 1980s' Joe Schwinn began college at Kansas State University to earn a degree in horticulture which was funded by the produce farm revenue. Upon Graduation more ground was rented, and the 4-H project became a livelihood. This ground that originally belonged to John Hund, Joe's grandfather was purchased in 1996. John Hund farmed this ground after his father, who purchased the land in 1881. The ground is adjacent to the 179th street property. This ground was used to further expand the operation and aid in better crop rotation practices. In 2008 the remaining 6 acres of the Hund homestead was purchased, increasing Schwinn Produce Farm to its current 50 acres.