

JANIE'S FARM

Iroquois County, IL

SIZE

457 acres of certified organic farmland

FARMERS

Harold & Ross Wilken



FARM VISION

Janie's Farm is a certified organic family farm that grows and mills nutritious grains and beans for their local region.

ABOUT THE FARM

Harold Wilken is a 4th generation farmer in central Illinois, and a 1st generation organic farmer. Harold began farming conventionally but switched to organic after he developed health problems that led him to reconsider the use of chemicals on his farm. Janie's Farm is now one of the largest diversified organic farms in Illinois. Harold's son, Ross, has joined him on the operation where they grow a wide variety of edible beans, corn, and wheat and milling grains.

FARMING PRACTICES

When Harold successfully transitioned his existing operation to organic, he began looking for additional acreage to expand. Harold has diversified his operation over the years, partially by working with the University of Illinois to conduct on-farm research of ancient & hybrid breeds of wheat. Some of these varieties proved viable, and Harold introduced them to his rotation. Chicago-area bakeries took notice and began sourcing flour from Janie's Farm. With the support of bakeries, Harold built a mill to process organic grains, which began operating in 2017. The Mill at Janie's Farm is the only organic flour mill in its area and serves as infrastructure for the growing population of organic farmers in that region.

HOW WE HELPED

Harold is Iroquois Valley's first farmer. He brought the first land opportunities to the company in 2007 and made our mission to provide secure farmland tenure a reality. Iroquois Valley has since reinvested in the Wilken family by purchasing additional acreage for both Ross & Harold. Reinvesting has allowed them to continue growing and diversifying their operation.

