



# YKER ACRES

Carlton County, MN

## SIZE

160 acres of transitioning organic farmland

## FARMERS

Matt, Sara Weik & Family



## FARM VISION

The main goal at Yker Acres is to provide their community with responsibly-raised food. Matt and Sara grew up around farms, especially hog farms. They saw the decline of family farms and their replacement by CAFO's. They wanted to change that by farming regeneratively.

## ABOUT THE FARM

The Weik family raises heritage hogs and beef cattle in Northern Minnesota where they sell directly into the Duluth and Twin Cities farm-to-table restaurants and premium pork product markets. The Weiks raise three heritage breeds - Large Black, Tamworth, and Mangalitsa - chosen for their ability to thrive in the cold northern Minnesota winters. The Weiks also have a small herd of beef cattle that grazes on the farm's pastures and forests.

## FARMING PRACTICES

Hogs are ruminants that benefit the soil by instinctively rooting. Yker Acres grows happy pigs by providing them with a low stress environment. They are pastured, which means they are outside 365 days a year. They have access to housing, fresh water, big wallows of mud, love, patience, good feed (peas, barley, & pasture). The Weiks crossbreed their pigs with the goal of a variety perfectly suited to their farm, with a product well-suited for local chefs.

## HOW WE HELPED

Iroquois Valley provided mortgage financing for the Weik's 160 acre farm in 2016. The Weiks relocated from a small, 16-acre farm. The new farm significantly expands their acreage and allows them to build their business. This financing was Iroquois Valley's first investment in Minnesota. We acted as senior lender in addition to complements from FSA and USDA program funds.

