

TULIP TREE GARDENS

BEECHER, IL

SIZE

63 acres of owned & 34.5 acres of leased transitioning to organic

FARMERS

Rachael and Jesse Smedberg



FARM VISION

Restore biodiversity and ecological balance through organic and regenerative agriculture practices. Utilizing permaculture design standards to support a rich diversity of plants and livestock, Tulip Tree Gardens is committed to protecting and improving the health of its locality, the earth, and its inhabitants.

ABOUT THE FARM

Rachael and Jesse Smedberg founded Tulip Tree Gardens on a simple idea: nature nurtures us. Initiated by their deep knowledge and connection to soil health and organic practices, they are passionate about dissolving food access barriers and reaching food desert communities with local meat, fresh produce, and wellness products.

FARMING PRACTICES

Firmly grounded in a regenerative framework, Tulip Tree Gardens stands out for its pioneering approach to organic hemp production and local food distribution. Rooted in the wellness movement, this innovative family-operated farm cultivates hemp, vegetables, and hay; raises livestock; and sells CBD products to wholesale and nationwide clients. Recently, they've strategically expanded into food distribution, utilizing their retail presence, wholesale operations, and aggregation capabilities to secure a USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance grant.

HOW WE HELPED

As first-generation farmers growing hemp (a crop often excluded by traditional lending partners), Tulip Tree Gardens' growth trajectory was blocked by inadequate access to affordable capital. In 2021, Iroquois Valley stepped up to refinance Tulip Tree Garden's debt, providing a supportive loan package. This financing enabled the Smedbergs to build their credit while also funding strategic growth.

In 2023, Iroquois Valley and Tulip Tree Gardens collaborated further on a purchase lease of the farm across the street, which closed along with funding a larger operating line of credit to scale their farm operations, notably adding an innovative hemp fiber enterprise.

