

# FUN FACTS ABOUT OUR LEELANAU COUNTY CHERRIES



Leelanau County grows more tart cherries than any other county in the nation - more than 1,000,000 trees grown on 9,000 acres



25% of all tart cherries grown in the United States come from Leelanau County - two slices of every cherry pie



Half of all Michigan sweet cherries are grown in Leelanau County



Half of all cherries grown in the entire region - the Cherry Capital of the World - are grown in Leelanau County



Leelanau farms bring in more than \$30 million each year in direct sales; employ more than 1200 people; generate an additional \$20 million each year in processing; and contribute significantly to Leelanau County's \$77 million annual tourism economy



## FARMS ALONG THE ROUTE

1. The Gregory Brothers – Don and Bob – are principal owners of Cherry Bay Orchards, which owns much of the land along Jacobson Road. The farm at the intersection of Jacobson and Solem Roads is also home to Don and Ann Gregory's historic farmhouse.
2. Cherry Bay Orchards
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4. Tom Lawton's family farm covers approximately 150 acres and is planted in tart and sweet cherries. It is farmed by Cherry Bay Orchards.
5. The first stop on the tour is at the Cherry Bay Orchards farm on Stowe Road.
6. The apple farm between Setterbo and Hansen Roads belongs to Alan and Lynn Bakker. Bakkers' Acres sells produce at farmers' markets and at their fruit stand on North Setterbo. Notice the newly-planted high density apple orchards on the corner of Hansen and Setterbo.
7. In addition to managing Redpath Orchards, Dave Alpers owns this orchard to the east of Hansen Road.
8. The area just west of Novotny Road is one of the Redpath Orchards farms owned by the Fisher family.
9. Cherry Bay Orchards
10. Pete Korson owns this orchard on Macksey Road. In addition to growing fruit, Korson also raises pigs and cattle.
11. Jerome and Carol Korson live on this family farm where they do general farming growing mostly hay and corn.
12. Julius and Grace Kolarik are one of the families that can trace their roots in this area back several generations. The family owns the farms immediately to the west and south of St. Wenceslaus Church on Kolarik Road. Julius has one of the largest honey bee operations in Leelanau County.
13. The farms surrounding St. Wenceslaus Church have remained in the same hands for well over 100 years. The old Bohemian family names you find in the St. Wenceslaus Cemetery - Houdek, Jelinek, Kalchik, Kolarik, Korson, Kovarik, Novotny and Sedlacek, just to name a few - are the same as the people who still grow cherries in this area. This farm belongs to one of those families, the Sedlaceks.
14. Another Redpath Orchard farm
15. Blaise and Sarah Korson own this farm as well as farmland on both sides of Eagle Highway at Alpers Road.
16. Roger and Coco Newton purchased this 100-acre farm ten years ago and, through a conservation easement, have ensured this historic farmland will forever remain undeveloped and dedicated to agricultural production.
17. Martin and Mary Jelinek own this farm on Jelinek Road, named after ancestors who owned the farm before them.
18. Elmer and Mildred Kalchik own the farm with the prominent silos. The Kalchiks grow both cherries and apples. Son, Steve, manages this farm.
19. Elmer and Mildred Kalchik
20. Another Jelinek farm, this is the homestead where Martin and Mary reside. Their son, Marty, runs this farm and he and his wife, Sue, sell produce from the Jelinek farms in downtown Suttons Bay.
21. Elmer and Mildred Kalchik
22. This farm on Kolarik Road belongs to Don Herman.
23. Another Kolarik farm - this one belongs to Penny Kolarik. The farm includes property on both sides of Kolarik Road.
24. This 40-acre farm is owned by the Ashken family. In 2007, to celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary, the Ashkens planted two champion "marriage trees" on either side of their driveway. To find out more about marriage trees or the Champion tree project, visit: [www.marriagetrees.com](http://www.marriagetrees.com).
25. This farm is owned by the Morton family and managed by Bruce Carlson. It is planted in tart and sweet cherries.
26. Don and Lois Carlson, fruit growers, own land on both sides of Peterson.
27. The Scott family and the Darigan family own farms on Swede Road which are managed by Bruce Carlson.
28. The Brown families own this "Brown Brothers" farm where they are raising cherries, apples, peaches, plums and apricots. Brown Brothers sell their produce at farmers' markets.
29. The Mitchell family owns several farms in Leelanau Township including the original Cherry Home farmstead near the Grand Traverse Lighthouse. They raise cherries and apples.
30. Bob and Jane Weaver grow cherries and apples. They are one of the largest producers of organic cherries anywhere. They have farms throughout Leelanau County.
31. Omena Heights Orchards is owned by the Smith family. A very unique fruit site with a rich history on Omena Point and one of our stops along the tour.
32. The Southwell family owns this farm. You can't see much of this beautiful orchard from M-22; it is on the hills behind the woods.

