

Brines Farm / Shannon Brines short bio

Shannon Brines began authentically growing vegetables and fruits as a child growing up in Dexter and established Brines Farm on that family land in 2004 due to his passion for slow food and sustainable, year-round agriculture. He began selling year-round at farmers markets shortly thereafter and offered the area's first fresh produce Winter CSA share program a few years later. Shannon was selected as a member of the US delegation to participate in Terra Madre 2008 in Turin, Italy: a world slow food meeting focused on increasing small-scale, traditional, and sustainable food production. Shannon is an Applied Geographer and Lecturer at the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources & Environment interested in land use, agriculture, food systems, public health, and sustainable design. He is active in our local food organizations: serving on the Slow Food Huron Valley board, HomeGrown Festival steering committee, Local Food Summit steering committee, Public Market Advisory Commission, in addition to his roles on the Tilian Farm Development Center steering committee and Four Season Farmer Development Program advisory team. Having a farm incubator in our area has been a dream of Shannon's for more than 10 years, so his primary concern at Tilian is helping establish a strong vision and plan for the center's future, in addition to serving as a mentor for beginning farmers. Shannon makes sure to leave some time for cooking, running, cycling, camping, music, friends and family.

"The simple truth is that we need more farmers. If the greater Washtenaw county area wants to be a healthy and sustainable community then we all need to support efforts like Tilian Farm Development Center. Currently everyone from local food businesses, chefs, institutions, to everyday eaters are demanding more supply of fresh, nutritious local food. There is lots of potential for more farmers and more niche markets. Vibrant and robust local food systems have plenty of room for diversity and redundancy. Together with a collaborative community effort we can increase the numbers of farmers and comradery of farmers in our community... and we will have a great time doing it. This has been and continues to be my goal which is why I am extremely happy to be a member of the Tilian steering committee, an accessible mentor farmer to all, and a part of this community."

-Shannon Brines
Farmer/Founder of Brines Farm

Steering Committe member of HomeGrown Festival, Local Food Summit,
Slow Food Huron Valley, and Tilian Farm Development Center

Member of the City of Ann Arbor Public Market Advisory Commission

Lecturer/Geographer at School of Natural Resources & Environment
University of Michigan