

FARMER PROFILE

BOSTON VALLEY FARM

RJ & Kate Geiger, Trent, Aubrey, Alley, Emmy, Beau

Rooted in Resilience

Along the winding banks of Eighteen Mile Creek in Boston, NY, the Geiger family found a place where their dreams could take root. Kate, RJ, and their five children were looking to start a farm. When Kate's family purchased Boston Valley Farms in 2020, they were not only drawn to the land but to the living rhythm of the creek and its constant reminder that resilience is shaped by movement. Boston Valley Farms is a family livestock operation built on hard work, compassion,

Farm at a Glance**COUNTY:** Erie County, NY**WATERSHED:** Lake Erie**FARM SIZE:** 300 acres**ENTERPRISE:** Row Crop (corn silage, hay), Poultry (1,000 turkeys), 10 breeding hogs, 100 Beef Cattle**RIPIRIAN BUFFER:**

- Filter pollutants + reduce Polluted Run off
- Native plants + trees anchor soil + stabilizing streambanks
- Buffers manage and can slow high velocity flood waters
- Create habitat and biodiversity for wildlife + aquatic life



and the belief that farming is strongest when family stands at its center. They farm 300 acres of crops and have invested heavily in building livestock infrastructure and developing a direct-to-consumer marketing strategy. Like navigating any stream, their journey has had twists and turns, but the Geiger's have continued to follow the current.

Building their own path forward

Two years into their adventure, the family hit a bottleneck: there was one state-certified poultry processor within an hour's drive. Thanksgiving turkeys were quickly becoming a strong component of their business strategy. But with only one processor in the area, they were unable to meet their customers' demands.

Staying true to their vision of a full farm-to-table experience, they decided to build their own on-farm state-certified 5A processing facility – a decision that kept their work close to home and strengthened the economic

viability of their farm. Today, the family processes over 1,000 turkeys annually, a testament to the shared determination that flows through every member of the household.

Resilience in Every Season

Following back-to-back floods in 2014, 2015, and 2019, the creek that made their land so special became a concern. Along the Eighteen Mile Creek corridor in the Lake Erie Watershed, the farm was losing prime cropland to bank erosion. With each flood, the creek was slowly eating away the soil that sustained their livelihood.

In 2024, the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District led a restoration initiative to stabilize the streambank and plant a native-species riparian buffer. With funding from American Farmland Trust's partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the project restored stability to reduce erosion of their working lands, protected water quality, and enhanced habitat diversity.

Cultivating Connection and Leadership

While the restoration work focused on stabilizing the creek's flow, the farm's commitment to conservation extends beyond that landscape. American Farmland Trust selected Boston Valley Farm as a demonstration farm for the Women for the Land program recognizing their commitment to conservation and sustainable management of the land they farm

As an AFT women-led farm, Boston Valley Farm hosted a Sustainable Poultry Production + Processing Demonstration in 2024 for women in agriculture. In partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Learning Circle provided an opportunity to share practical information on poultry infrastructure, health, and processing facilities. The day included a poultry processing demonstration, conversations among neighbors, and the sense that, like the creek, knowledge and community flow best when shared.

Just as Eighteen Mile Creek carves a path through the valley, Boston Valley Farms continues to grow, adapt, and nourish the community. Their story is one of family, stewardship, and deep connection to the landscape that shapes them. Kate says, "It's amazing what we have done in such a short time when you take a moment to step back and breathe to see what you have accomplished." Their efforts today ensure that generations to come will inherit a farm and a watershed where dreams can keep growing along the water's edge.

