

FARMER PROFILE:

TAMBERLANE FARM



Chase & Amanda Brown with their son

The Beginning

Tamberlane Farm began in 1976 as a cow-calf operation where Chase Brown grew up helping his grandfather, Jake, with the daily chores. The farm sits on a hill overlooking Canandaigua Lake, a Class AA drinking water supply for 70,000 people and a treasured recreational and cultural heritage landmark. The Browns raised three generations of their family on the land; Chase took the helm in 2018 with the intention of continuing his grandfather's work as a sustainable beef producer. Chase and Amanda first met when she was working as a herdsman

at a local dairy farm responsible for hauling livestock to auction where Chase was a stockman. Amanda grew up in a construction family but was drawn to agriculture as a teenager, taking jobs on farms to gain experience. Today, they run Tamberlane together with 100+ beef animals on 200 acres of pasture.

The Browns began with six animals and completed their farm store just before the pandemic hit. During COVID, their sales skyrocketed through social media and word of mouth.

Now they are selling five animals per month and working hard to keep up with demand. Amanda does most of the meat sales, marketing, and bookkeeping. The store gives her the flexibility to raise their young son, Henry, who is growing up on the farm and doing daily chores just like Chase.

Farm at a Glance

COUNTY: Ontario County, NY

WATERSHED: Canandaigua Lake

ENTERPRISE: Cow/calf operation, Processing five animals per month

FARM SIZE: 200 acres

SOIL HEALTH PRACTICES:

Reduced chemical inputs, rotational grazing, adaptive pasture management, covered barnyard/heavy use area



Farming on the Lake

With Pastures overlooking sunsets on the lake, Tamberlane is a beautiful spot to raise a family and the surrounding area is a major tourist destination in the summer months and the surrounding area is a major tourist destination in the summer months. The tourist crowds boost sales at the farm store, and the idyllic setting provides the perfect backdrop for an engaging online presence.

But Canandaigua Lake is also known for high property values and strong public attention to preserving the area's pristine natural resources. Farms operating in the Finger Lakes must be vigilant about their public image to instill trust and confidence that they are managing their land sustainably.

A Commitment to Sustainability

Sustainability has long been at the heart of Tamberlane's mission. The farm was one of the earliest participants, 17th in the county, to participate in the New York State Agricultural Environmental Management program, ranking 17th in the county when it launched in the early 2000s. The program is administered by the County Soil & Water Conservation Districts, which provide technical assistance and cost share for practices that improve soil health and water quality. After the rapid expansion following the pandemic, the Browns saw that overwintering their herd on an open feedlot site 300 yards upslope from Canandaigua Lake was a critical resource concern. The Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District quickly stepped in to design a covered barnyard and runoff control to eliminate potential water quality impacts. The new barnyard was carefully planned to allow the farm's continued growth, providing the animals with stable access to pasture and ability to collect and store manure throughout the winter months.

Tamberlane's 200 acres of pasture have also seen upgrades since Chase and Amanda took over. They started with soil health testing, providing a foundation to build their crop fertility naturally using manure and limiting chemical inputs. Nearly all acres are rotationally grazed, with new fencing planned to improve efficiency and pasture resilience. The herd is moved to fresh grass every week, and pasture conditions are continuously monitored for improvement.

As the farm grows, the Browns continue to work to improve their environmental impact while giving back to the community. Along with their work with the Soil & Water District, they welcome partnerships with Cornell Cooperative Extension, American Farmland Trust, and Farm Bureau. They have opened their farm to the public, rising to become trusted peer leaders in a new generation of young farmers. When asked to give advice to beginning farmers, Amanda says, "It takes time to build something, but it's worth it. And even though it's a lot of work, it doesn't feel like work. That's when you know."

