

Meet the Family



Jonamac Orchard is a three generational family farm in Northern Illinois. Founder, Gerald McArtor, found a passion for growing apple trees after taking some Horticulture classes at Kishwaukee College down the road in Malta. He planted several trees at his house, and then he and his wife Mary Lynn purchased the farm from the Johnson family in 1984. Gerald decided to call the farm "Jonamac Orchard" a combination of the names Johnson and McArtor, and also a variety of apple grown on the farm.

Gerald and Mary Lynn grew the farm by planting more trees, pumpkins, and expanding offerings in the store and bakery including apple donuts and caramel apples. To help manage the growth and work load, they brought their son Kevin and his wife Denice into the business in 1993. They purchased the barn/house in 1996 and moved in with their sons Max and Jake. Kevin added the corn maze back in 1999, and many of the agritainment activities on the farm. He still does the entire corn maze design by hand each summer. Denice has grown the store and bakery over the years to now include a larger bakery and many gift items in the store.

In 2012, Jerry and Mary Lynn's granddaughter, Jenna, and her husband, Mike Spychal, started working full time at the business and have become partners in the business as well. They work to oversee day to day operations on the farm and have helped add the Animal Barn Petting Zoo, Wine and Hard Cider in the Cider House, and events. In February of 2016, we welcomed the 4th generation of our family, Amy Catherine Spychal, and this fall we will be joined by our first great grandson in October.

Our family is truly grateful for the opportunity to work together to provide others with a fun family fall tradition.