

Jose Luis Fernandez & Catrina Garcia

“We like to grow things, to produce healthy food and avoid contaminating the environment.”

Jose Luis Fernandez is from Jalisco, Mexico. There, for generations his family cultivated corn and beans. In Jalisco he worked with his family and then with Driscoll foods

before coming to the United States, looking for better opportunities. He began to work with a spice company and then with a florist. Not too long ago, he heard about the organization Alba and that it could give him the chance to grow his own food, on his own land. In 2014, he graduated from the Farmer Education Course (PEPA) and today, works the land on the Triple M farm with his wife Catrina right by his side.



Working on their own took a lot of sacrifice. “The first years were hard, but we like it. Alba has given us so much support. They help with the paperwork, and insurance and investments. We made good friendships and help other farmers with harvesting when they need it. And then they help us when it’s our turn.” Jose Luis and his wife have focused these first years on picking the right products for their plot and contributing to build a successful business year round. “We grow tomatoes. Then we make salsa with those and the cilantro and my son uses it at his lunch food cart. We want this as a support for our family.” Instead of buying from a store out of season, they use preserves as a way to extend the life of their organic produce.

Above all else though, Victor and Catrina are looking to make direct connections with people. “We like to eat well. We think working outside, in the fresh air, under our own leadership, is the best thing that we could do.” In the future, both Jose Luis and Catrina want to learn more English, work towards having a stand at a Farmer’s Market and continuing to grow the best product they can with the resources they’ve gotten from Alba.

