



Dinsmore Family Farms

Jonathan Dinsmore is the fourth generation to farm his family's ground in Yuma, Arizona. His great grandfather started farming in the early 1940s. Today, you will find both Jonathan and his Dad on their Yuma farm. Together, with the help of 20 employees, they grow different types of lettuce including iceberg, romaine, red leaf, green leaf, and butter leaf. In the Spring and Summer they grow durum wheat, alfalfa and sudan grass. The Dinsmore family grows on over 1,500 acres.

There are many different varieties of lettuce seed used on the farm. Some common varieties are called Bubba, Fresh Heart, and Del Sol. Each seed variety has a specific purpose and seasonal time slot to be planted. We use different varieties to be planted when it's still hot and will be harvested with warmer temperatures just like we would use a different variety when planting in cooler temperatures and harvesting at the peak of winter.

Most lettuce harvest begins around Halloween. The crews consist of about 30 to 40 people. There are those who cut the lettuce, those hydrating and packaging, those who are preparing the boxes or harvest cartons, and the crew foreman who oversees their machine. Then you also have the tractor, forklift, bus and truck drivers. Most harvest takes place during daylight and but sometimes runs into the evenings to fulfill large orders.

Jonathan's favorite thing about growing lettuce? "Knowing that I am helping feed the world with healthy food options just like my father, grandfather and great grandfather makes me proud."

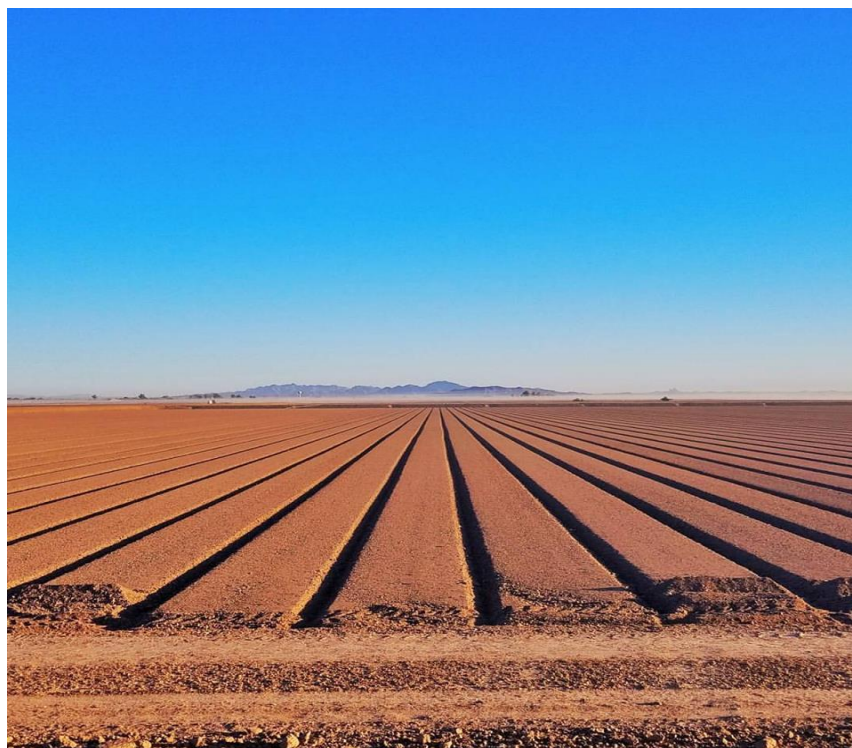
Dinsmore's lettuce is contracted through a company called D'Arrigo Brothers under the pink label, Andy Boy. They manage the harvest, cooling and shipping of the lettuce. Some of the produce ends up in schools, but most can be found in the grocery stores or on your hamburger at fast food restaurants.

Lettuce is about 94% water and Iceberg lettuce is the most popular and most commonly cultivated variety of lettuce in the USA. Americans consume 30 pounds of lettuce per person each year. Iceberg lettuce is the most popular and most commonly cultivated variety of lettuce in the USA. Americans consume 30 pounds of lettuce per person each year.

Food safety is an important part of our everyday operations. Everything from employee training to water source sampling is completed on a regular basis. For example, employees are taught the correct ways of washing their hands and maintaining a safe and secure work environment. All harvest tools are sanitized before and after harvest. And everything is documented to ensure traceability from your table all the way back to the exact field and crew who harvested your vegetables.



Preparing the planting beds



Ready to plant!



Romaine lettuce sprouting