



Susie Raker-Zimmerman grew up with horticulture being a constant in her life having worked in the greenhouses since she was a teenager. A Michigan State alumna, Susie started her professional experience in breeding, greenhouse production and sales as well as having worked at a weed science lab technician. After working at Bachmans Nursery Wholesale in Minneapolis, she returned to the family business and held various positions at what is today known as Raker Roberta's Young Plants. A 12-acre greenhouse facility that employs more than 200 people, the company is the leading wholesaler of custom grown plugs and liners in North America. Producing nearly 180-million plants a year, their team proudly supplies over 3,000 plant varieties to greenhouses and nurseries around the planet. As general manager of the business, Susie was the third generation to take the company reins. She helped overcome financial challenges and was instrumental in ensuring a smooth transition when the company was acquired in 2017. Under her leadership, she has worked with management to implement KPI's and a structure leading to their current business success. In addition to serving as Vice-President of Raker Roberta's Young Plants, Susie is Chairwoman of the Board of AmericanHort where she has held a board role since its founding in 2015. She was previously on the board of the Ohio Florist Association (OFA) and a board member of the Michigan Greenhouse Council. Susie lives on a hobby farm in the middle of nowhere and is mom to a spirited 8-year old daughter and wife to Matt. She enjoys living a life in rural America - raising animals, driving tractors, gardening and passing along her passion for horticulture and agriculture to little-people.