EB: Okay, so, Marcus.

ML: Uh-huh.

EB: Your lovely wife. Thank you again, for letting us do this. And we need your verbal consent also on this video, so--

ML: Okay.

EB: Okay.

EF: Okay.

BL: Okay!

ML: We consent that.

EB: Okay, so--

ML: To use our voices.

EB: I guess that the first question would be how did farming become a part of your life?

EF: How did it start?

ML: I grew up on this farm.

EB: Wow.
ML: Yeah, and it's always been a part of my life. Went to college, came back, or had several jobs before I came back--

EB: Mmhmm.

ML: And then I came back and helped my father, and then took over--

EF: What generation?

ML: And finally, he--after he passed away.

EF: It's yours.

ML: Well, I, we bought it.

EB: Okay.

ML: Before he passed away.

EF: Right. How many--what generation farmer are you?

ML: Oh, gosh. I'm the second generation here--

EF: Right.

ML: But farming is…

EF: Yeah.

ML: Probably the fourth.

EB: Wow. That's great.

ML: In the family.

EB: In the family. That's really cool. And, do you have kids?

ML: I have two boys, yes.

EB: Are they interested at all in this?

ML: Yes.

EB: Do they help out at all?
ML: Eh. They're interested, let's say that. They help out some, yes.

EB: They help out some. [laughs]

EF: Um, so you grew up on this farm?

ML: Mmhmm.

EF: So did you change anything when you took it over or did you keep it pretty much the same?

ML: Well, we weren't organic at that time.

EF: Right.

ML: And we changed it to organic.

EF: Oh, okay.

EB: Wow.

ML: About, uh--it's been about fifteen, fifteen, fourteen years now.

EB: Wow. Is that uh, is that a hard process to change--to organic from non?

ML: No.

EF: No?

ML: No. You just decide you're gonna do it, and uh...it takes three years of no...

EB: Like paperwork and--

ML: Yeah, paperwork. And, well, you don't have to--you could go. You know, you wouldn't have to be signing all the paperwork--

EB: Sure.

ML: Just keep records. You gotta keep records. So yes, yes, I guess there is paperwork. But there's not the official paperwork--

EB: Right.

ML: Unless you want to start right at the beginning with--being, what do you call that? You're organic or you're trans--
EB/BL: Transitional.

ML: You're in transition.

EF: Conventional. Oh, transition.

EB: Gotcha.

ML: Going from organic--going from conventional to organic, you're in transition.

EB: Wow. So, from when you started--or, from doing organic to now, have you changed anything or, are you still growing the same things, or?

ML: Uh, we started out with vegetables in our mind. That we were gonna do that big time--

EB: Right.

EF: Yeah.

ML: Well, we found out it was more work than what--

EF: It was worth.

ML: More work than we could handle.

EB: Yeah.

EF: Okay.

ML: It was worth it--

EF: Yeah.

ML: But, it, with the other, we have other crops too besides vegetables.

EF: Mmmmm.

ML: Just doing everything was too much.

EB: And it's just you who works basically?

ML: Yeah, it's just us--

EB: Wow.
ML: Yeah, the two of us.

EB: That's amazing.

EF: You still do grow vegetables a little bit, though, right?

ML: Yeah, mhm.

EF: I think I remember that on the tour.

EB: Yeah.

ML: Right, right. We've got vegetables.

EB: Do you, do you also have cattle?

ML: Yes, we do--grass-fed beef.

EB: Grass-fed beef. What do you do with them when the weather's like this?

ML: We just, we, we bale hay during the summer.

EB: Okay.

ML: And they're, they're inside. They can run in and out and we give 'em hay.

EB: Okay.

ML: We feed 'em hay. 'Course there isn't any grass or anything.

EB: Right, well that's...

ML: Yeah, that's why you're thinkin'--

EB: Yeah. And you grow all the hay?

ML: Yeah.

EF: So, growing up on this farm, what were your chores...as a young lad?

ML: Well, we had a--we milked cows at that time--

EF: Oh, yeah.
ML: So we had to take care of the cows and help milk. And take care of the calves, that was a big thing. And, the daily chores. We had chickens, feed the chickens, take care of the calves. Milk the cows. And then everything that has to be done outside--

EF: Sure.

ML: In between those--the chore-time. Weeding the garden and baling the hay and cultivating the corn.

EB: Wow.

ML: Uh-huh. There was always something.

EF: Do you get up as early as your parents, or--?

ML: No. Not then.

EF: [Laughs]

ML: Oh, now?

EF: Yeah.

ML: Yeah, oh, I get up pretty much the same.

EF/EB: [Laughs]

ML: 'Course we're not pressured. When you're milking cows, you gotta be up at certain times.

EB: Certain times.

EF: Oh, okay, right.

ML: And take care of 'em. So if I sleep in a half-hour, it's alright.

EB: You're alright. Every once in a while.

ML: Yeah, uh-huh.

EF: Okay. So, would you view your farm more as a business or as a lifestyle choice?

ML: Oh, it's both.

BL: Both.
ML: It's both, really.

EF: Yeah.

ML: But it's, it's definitely a business, but it's one you gotta choose--

EB: Sure.

EF: Yeah.

ML: There's a lot of hours in things.

EF: Seems like you have to be really committed if you want to run a farm, especially at your size.

ML: Right, right, you do.

EB: How, how big is your farm?

ML: Uh, two-hundred and thirty acres.

EB: Wow. Wow; like, I can't even like register that. I don’t even know what that means.

EF/ML: [Laughs]

ML: Yeah, well, if you just go out here and turn around, that everything you see is mostly, mainly a part of it. Yeah.

EB: Wow.

ML: And that's a hundred and sixty--we're right in the middle of a hundred-sixty acres right here.

EF: Okay.

ML: And then we bought seventy acres back the road.

EF: Do you, do your neighbors--it seems like they all farm. Is there any cooperation between the neighbors or anything?

ML: Oh yeah, right, right. Everybody helps each other out once in a while--

EF: Everybody helps.

ML: When you're in a bind or something like that...
EF: Yeah.

EB: Are the other farms around here organic, or--?

ML: No.

EB: No.

ML: No. Nobody, nobody--

EB: Are you the only one--?

ML: Nobody right close by, but there are some in the county, yes.

EB: Yeah.

ML: But, like, nobody's next door. There's nobody.

EF: What do they think of your organic choice?

ML: Oh...you get teased. "Oh, what are you doin' with those weeds?" and--

EF: Yeah.

ML: Yeah. There, there's weeds that shove up and stuff, so. But basically, nothin's been said too much.

BL: A light minimum.

ML: Right. At the beginning it was more, "Oh you're goin' organic," and "How're ya gonna do it?" and "Won't there be lots of weeds?" --

EF: Yeah.

ML: And, "Won't they spread on my farm?"

EB: So weeds, weeds is a big component to---

ML: Yeah, oh yeah. Well that's the main thing.

EB: How do you deal with them?

ML: Cultivate.

EB: Cultivate.
ML: And rotate. Rotate your crops.

EB: Also, I think I remember from the tour, in your, with the vegetables, I think, you had a covering over--

EF: Yeah, like the plastic--

ML: Mulch.

EB: Over some of 'em.

ML: Plastic mulch.

EB: Does that help?

ML: Oh, yes.

EB: Does that pretty much do the job?

ML: That was, uh. We wouldn't be doing vegetables at all if we--

EB: Without that.

ML: Didn't have that.

EB: Wow.

ML: 'Cause when we first started out, we were hoeing everything.

EF: Wow.

ML: And we had three times as much.

BL: Yeah.

ML: Vegetables and yeah.

EB: It's a lot of work!

ML: We did that when? Two years?

BL: Mmhmm.

ML: Two or three. It was.

EB: Wow.
EF: Okay, going off of that, what would be like, the hardest thing in your farm that--right now, that you do?

EB: To do?

ML: Labor-wise, you mean?

EF: Yeah.

EB: I guess, yeah.

ML: It's probably baling the hay, yeah.

EF: Okay.

EB: Is that something your neighbors would help with, or?

ML: Oh, I get, I get hire help, yeah.

EF: So, what's that process like?

ML: Uh, you mow it first. The hay process?

EF: Yeah.

EB: Mmhmm.

ML: You mow it, then you have to wait 'til it dries, then you might ted it, which is just fluffing it up, to get it up in the air--off the ground a little bit.

EF: Mmhmm.

ML: Then, after it dries, you rake it, and then you bale it.

EB: Huh.

ML: And then, we do small, square bales, which're about fifty pound bales--

EF: Uh-huh.

ML: And they have to be handled.

EB: Wow.

EF: Hello.
ML: In the barn.

EB: Hi.

ML: This is our son, Will.

EB: Hi, Will.

ML: He goes to ATI; he's a freshman at ATI.

EF: Oh.

EB: We're from Wooster. College of Wooster.

ML: This is Ellen, and, and--

EF: Erin.

ML: Erin. Sorry.

EF: They're similar.

EB: No problem.

[Laugh]

EB: Yup, well.

EF: He gets to be in the library too.

[inaudible chatter]

EB: Um, is your--

ML: He already answered your question.

[Laugh]

EB: Is, um, your farm your only source of income? You said you work at a hospital?

BL: I work part-time.

EB: Part-time.

BL: I'm a speech therapist.
**EB:** Wow.

**BL:** At the hospital.

**EF:** Oh, okay.

**BL:** So, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**EF:** Okay.

**ML:** I don't work off the farm.

**EB:** I, yeah--there's a lot of work to be done here, so I don't see how you could.

**EF:** Um, and, what's your most consistent crop in terms of making a good profit? Or, your most high yield?

**EB:** Does that change year to year, like demand for certain things--?

**ML:** Uh, well, on the grains, yes, it goes up and down.

**EB:** Yeah.

**ML:** It fluctuates. And the hay too. But I suppose hay is the main, main crop, isn't it?

**BL:** Mmhmm.

**ML:** It's where, uh, we usually make our most profit on. Even though it is a lot more labor intensive--

**EB:** Yeah.

**ML:** It's still the--

**EF:** Highest.

**ML:** People need it, you know.

**BL:** Pays for itself, so.

**ML:** Mmhmm.

**EF:** Yeah, alright.

**EB:** Hmm. What--you switched to organic. What were your main reasons for doing so?
ML: Just the fact that we didn't have to use chemicals, which I was--we were kinda... Before we switched, we looked into it a little bit. We went to several meetings or--and talked to different people and things.

EB: Mmhmm.

ML: The main, yeah, the main reason: the environment.

EB: The environment?

ML: Yeah, the environment and stuff.

EF: Hmm.

ML: Protect the water and the soil.

EB: Sure.

ML: We heard things about, you know, it was killing the soil, everything. The micro-organisms and the bacteria. It was changing, changing that, so...

EB: Yeah.

EF: Do you ever, like, tell your neighbors or does that like, does that ever come up?

ML: Well, the one neighbor was kinda goin' that way, and we--we went to; he was even selling organic products, and we went to a few of his open-houses and meetings and stuff, but then he, he got out of it.

EF: Huh.

ML: About the time that we were starting into it. Or, we went all the way into it.

EF: Gotcha.

ML: But, things just didn't work out for him.

EF: I'm sure you don't want to sound too preachy.

EB: Yeah.

ML: Yeah, right. Like, they don't want to hear it. Yeah, but they're more in it--when the crops, when the conventional crops, the non-organic crops, when the prices go down, they're more in-tune. They might ask more questions and stuff, but right now prices are high all the way around, so, they're not--
EF: Too concerned?

ML: Yeah. They aren't. They'll just go. And you can't really--a lot of the bigger farmers just can't handle the cultivation and all that.

EB: Sure.

ML: They, they plant. They hire this brain-done and that's it.

EB: Yeah.

ML: Or, or they till, they plant, and then they're done until the harvest. And then they hire this brain-done and, that's all you have to do.

EB: Yeah, it'd be hard to go from something like that to something more labor intensive and--

ML: Right. Especially with the, the--they have five to a thousand acres or more.

EB: Yeah, that's...

EF: Yeah.

ML: It's just, yeah.

EB: Hard.

ML: Yeah.

EF: So--

ML: Instead of having to cultivate your crops like two years--

EB: Sure.

ML: Or, two times during the year, and uh, trying to get the weeds that way. And you never don't...you can't get 'em all.

EB: Yeah.

ML: And then too--and you gotta do it in a timely fashion.

EB: So many factors!

ML: Right, right.
EF: So, what do you use to keep, um, your soil fertile? Do you spread any compost, or?

ML: Well from the cattle--we have cattle--and we, like have 'em in the barn right now. And the straw we use from the small grains that's the stalks of the plant after you take that off. We bale that also and store that in the barn, and then we use that as bedding and then the, the cows. You know if you give 'em straw every day, course they're, they make it dirty. [Laughs]

EB: Sure, sure. [Laughs]

ML: They--and then it just keeps building up. And in the spring, we have certain fields that we, every year, we switch fields. We have a rotation, and that uh, helps us to fertilize it, and also the rotation too.

EF: I think I also, from the tour, you talked about green manure as well, right?

ML: Right, we do that. Like we put the manure on the ground that's gonna be corn next year.

EB: Mmhmm.

ML: 'Cause corn's a heavy--it needs a lot of nutrients.

EF: Okay. Just, talking about the future of organic, what do you think the local organic movement is like in Ohio or in America?

EB: Mmhmm.

EF: Do you think it's growing, or?

ML: From what I hear, it is growing. We, just through--from our certifier, he said the numbers were up.

EF: Mmhmm.

ML: And everybody--there's a lot of people that don't get certified. They're not certified organic, and they just don't use chem--they, they try to go the organic way.

EF: Yeah.

ML: They do it the organic way.

EB: Mmhmm.

EF: Do you--
ML: They take a lot of organic interest, yes.

EF: Do you think that the certification is worth it or?

ML: For us, yes.

EF: Mmhmm.

ML: 'Cause we're selling grains and we're selling--we have a lot of product to sell to different certified people. Those are the dairies we sell our hay to, and also, our corn, and all our grains--

EF: Mmhmm.

ML: They're certified, so they have to buy from a certified person.

EF: Oh, okay. 'Cause I know we visited a beef farmer--

EB: Yeah, beef cattle and he, he did all the practices but wasn't actually--

EF: Certified.

EB: Certified on paper.

EF: 'Cause he felt like he didn't need it or his customers knew him well enough or--

EB: Like a trust thing, yeah.

ML: Well, our beef is not certified organic.

EF: Mmkay.

EB: Oh, yeah?

ML: 'Cause we haven't...the customers don't seem, at least, the customers that we're working with, they don't seem like they have to have a label on their meat. And it costs them quite a bit more 'cause the processing fee is quite a bit more.

EB: Hmm.

EF: Right.

ML: 'Cause it has--'cause if they want exactly organic, they...If they want the label, then they have to pay the processor more too. Takes the beef, or, that butcher's the beef.
EF: So, you end up paying for a label and not the meat?

ML: Yeah, uh, yeah. But you know you're getting a good quality meat--

EF: Sure.

EB: Yeah.

ML: But, it's, it's the label you're paying for.

EF: Yeah.

ML: 'Cause, we're doing the same way. We were organic last year, but this year, we didn't certify. But we're still gonna keep producing it the same way.

EF: Sure.

ML: Yeah.

EF: Yeah, makes sense.

EB: Do you think interest in agriculture in general has changed at all in recent years with technology being what it is, um...do you think people have kinda stepped away from this kinda lifestyle? Or is this too complicated of a question? I don't know.

ML: No, that's not. What do you think?

BL: Oh, in Wayne County, there's a lot of agriculture, I mean--

EB: Yeah.

ML: Yeah, there's a lot of agriculture right around here and it seems like, when they economy went down, you were running the Farmer's Market for--

BL: Mmmmm.

ML: in downtown Wooster. And you had a lot more interest once, uh--

BL: Right; people wanting to sell things and...

EB: Wow.

EF: What's running the Farmer's Market like?

BL: Um, a lot of work. Um, it's basically setting up the vendors--
EB: Mmhmm.

EF: Yeah.

BL: And, you know, arranging their spaces and doing whatever. Making calls or whatever. I work with Main Street from Wooster, downtown Wooster--

EF: Right. Wow.

BL: So, it's getting there early in the morning, and--

EB: Yeah.

BL: Blocking off streets and--

EF: Do you do this every week, or--?

BL: Every Saturday. I have another woman that helps me, so we kinda split the season. You know, so we don't--

EB: Kill yourselves?

BL: Pretty much. [Laughs] Yeah, um. So, and that, that helps too. In addition, both of us, the woman that helps, we sell there also--

EF: Right.

BL: Yeah, it's a long--

ML: But there was a lot of interest this year.

EF/EB: Yes.

ML: There was a lot of people she had to turn—she had to turn people away.

EF: Wow.

ML: Growers. That uh—you know, they're small, small growers, but they're, it seems like the demand for land is fairly good. I mean, for rentable land.

EF: Yeah.

ML: Around and there's not—and if we wanted to expand, there's not really anybody close that has land available that isn't already rented.

EB: Huh.
ML: Yeah, so there's--

EB: Wow.

ML: It's pretty; it's already pretty set. I mean, to tell, to say whether there's a lot more interest in, in food and stuff--

EB: Mmhmm.

ML: From, from other people, yeah, but whether people are getting into farming on a big scale is, is still, is kinda set in a way.

EB: So you feel pretty stable where you are in…?

ML: Oh yeah, we're stable.

EB: Do you know anyone who has stopped farming around here or just anyone?

ML: Um, no, not...no.

EB: Wow.

ML: Not unless they retired, you know, they retired. But we haven't had anybody for a while. Like my dad, he farmed 'til he was 80-something.

EF: Wow, that's incredible.

ML: Probably go the same way here. I don't know.

EB: Do your neighbors, do you know how long they've been farming, or just a general idea, have most of them had it in their families?

ML: Mmhmm.

EB: Wow.

ML: Most of it was family-oriented and it's just kept on.

EB: Wow.

EF: So you kinda have like a community here of, like, families and…?

ML: Right. It's been around for quite a while.

EB: Yeah.
ML: Mmhmm.

EF: That sounds awesome.

EB: That is awesome.

EF: Wish my neighborhood was like that.

EB: Yeah!

EF: Um---

ML: They're not movin' in and out--

EB/EF: Yeah.

ML: Too often, and, uh, I don't know--you probably noticed on the way in, there's not too many houses.

EF: Yeah.

EB: Yeah.

ML: Just on the side of the road, like--there're not very many developments.

EB: Yeah, that's good.

ML: Right here, in this, in this block. But you go just a little bit towards Wooster and you'll--

EB: Yeah, they start poppin' up.

ML: Yeah, you'll see 'em. Yup.

EF: Yeah, little developments.

ML: They sell off their land a little bit. So yeah, it has changed quite a bit.

EF: Do you see any other changes in the future? Or you think anything's...

ML: Changes for us or changes in agriculture?

EF: Yeah, both. I'll make this harder.
ML: We'll we're trying...this beef thing is new for us; we're trying to get that off the ground--

EF: Mhmm.

ML: We've only been at it about two years, and we're, we still need some business from, er, more customers with that.

EB: Mhmm.

EF: Mhmm.

EB: If you got more business, do you think you'd expand it more?

ML: Uh, we're gonna, we're, we have kinda an idea at the numbers we want it, and we'll probably just keep it right there.

EB: Gotcha.

EF: Uh-huh.

ML: And we're, we're not there yet, but uh, we're building on it, yeah.

EB: Hmm.

ML: But we still need...more customers.

EB: You'll get there.

ML: Yeah, we think so. Right.

EB: Umm...

EF: So, overall, how would you--?

ML: In agriculture overall?

EF: Mhmm.

ML: Well, the way, as it looks right now this year, the way people are getting rid of their crops and stuff and their, their products and the prices of the products seems to be pretty bright future for agriculture all the way around. Yeah, organic will hopefully keep on going, but, it seemed like when conventional prices were lower--

EB: Mhmm.
ML: Then more people were looking at organic.

EF: Mmhmm.

ML: And they were, maybe more willing to do the work for the extra money, but now that the money's…

EB: So, you think it's highly dependent on, like, the economy and, like, the price demand?

ML: Mmhmm. Yeah.

EF: Hmm.

EB: Hmm.

EF: How have you seen the government be involved in your farm or farms in general? Is it a great involvement or?

ML: It's not a great involvement, but they do get--they start poking their nose into organics--

EB: Yeah.

ML: The, the ODA and stuff--

EB: Mmhmm.

EF: Mmhmm.

ML: Was startin' to--well, that was another thing. When they saw that organics was, they were making big leaps and bounds--

EB: Yeah.

EF: Yeah.

ML: On the food, I mean, people were buying it, and it was taking more of the food dollar--

EB: Hmm.

EF: Right.

ML: Than they started--
EB: And they gotta be part of it.

ML: They gotta be part of it.

EB: Yup.

ML: So they were trying to make regulations and stuff, and some of ’em didn't really suit the small guys, like us--they were kinda goin' towards the bigger operators.

EB: Mmhmm.

EF: Mmhmm. Hmm.

ML: And it wasn't quite as strict, was it? Wasn't that the way it was?

BL: Yeah.

EB: So is it, is it more just like, taking an interest and trying to gauge what's going on or are they trying to control or manage certain aspects of?

ML: Well, for that you know, they were trying to control, to control…

EB: Regulate it.

ML: Uh-huh.

EB: Hmm.

ML: They were trying to get, make it so that there was more--they could get more product or these other, bigger farmers that don't really want to do all the work--

EB: Yeah.

ML: They wouldn't have to jump through all the hoops to, to do it the way that it had been, yeah.

EB: Yeah.

EF: Mmhmm.

ML: But, for the last year, it hasn't even hurt any--

BL: Mmm-mmm. No.

ML: I think, really.
EB: So for your farm, there isn't much involvement really? You just kinda have control of what you wanna do?

BL: Mmhmm.

ML: Oh yeah, yeah.

EF: So, what's your opinion on Monsanto or other big organizations or GM crops?

ML: Well, there's just kinda trying to take, take over and take away some of our--

EF: Yeah.

ML: Pure-lines of natural seeds--

EF: Mmhmm.

ML: And messin', messin' with our genetics, it's, it's starting--

BL: Not good.

ML: And then when they don't really--they just pass it on to the customer without even--I mean--

EB: Yeah.

ML: The Department of Agriculture, they'll just say it's okay, and people don't get any say in it at all--

EF: Mmhmm.

ML: And then we're, we're kinda stuck with cross-pollination--

EB: Mmhmm.

ML: And different things that could happen from the, the crops being planted side-by-side--

EF: Yeah.

ML: That would mess up what we do have already.

EF: Do your neighbors buy seeds from these corporations or do they?

ML: Oh, yeah.
EF: Oh, they do.

ML: You can't, you can't get away from it now.

EF: Mmhmm. Yeah.

ML: If you look at, goin' down the road and all you see is these soybean fields with no weeds--

EB: Mmm.

ML: That's, that's your Roundup.

EB: There it is. That's it!

EF: Roundup Ready crops.

ML: That's your Roundup Ready beans, and that's genetically--

EF: Altered.

ML: Modified, yeah. So they can handle that spray.

EB: Yeah.

EF: So are you worried that it's going to mix with your crops and?

ML: Oh, we worry, yes--

EF: Yeah.

ML: But I'm not plantin' beans right now, for one thing--

EF: Mmhmm.

ML: And it doesn't, they--beans aren't pollinated through the wind--

EF: Okay.

ML: Yeah, they're, they're not. More insects, I think.

EB: Mmhmm.

ML: But corn and stuff, yeah, we're, we're--yeah, we're kinda worried about but they haven't really done any testing--
EF: Mmhmm.

ML: Yet to see. I don't know if that'll come to be or not. They'll test our organic products and see if it's got any of the contaminated--

EB: Yeah.

EF: Yeah.

ML: Or see if it's contaminated.

EB: If they would find something like that, what would happen?

ML: Well, they could say, "Couldn't be classified as organic."

EB: Yeah.

ML: Uh, probably.

EB: Huh.

ML: Though they have, I haven't heard of anything happening like that yet.

EF: Yeah.

ML: Yeah, it's just so we don't lose our heritage varieties--

EB: Yeah.

ML: And stuff. Of course, they're takin' over the seed companies too.

EF: Right.

ML: And the [unclear].

EF: Create a monopoly.

ML: Yup. So you almost have to--sometimes, you have to buy from, from 'em. Well, we don't, but you might have to in the future--

EB: Mmhmm.

ML: If they keep on taking over these little seed vegetables...

EF: So, a little more upbeat now.
ML: Okay.

EF: What advice would you give to young people getting interested in agriculture or, wanting to start their own farm?

ML: Mmhmm. It would take--it takes a monetary investment--

EF: Mmhmm.

ML: That's for sure. I'd have some money saved away and so you can start that way.

EB: Yeah.

ML: Yeah. Or have somebody back ya or, or do something like that. But it's, it's a good life and, and bein' able to be your own boss--

EB: Mmhmm.

EF: Mmhmm.

ML: Work when you want to basically, but work when you have to. I mean, you have to be active, you have to know--

EB: Yeah. [Laughs]

EF: Yeah. [Laughs]

ML: Those different types of the year--

EB: Sure.

ML: When you have to be a lot busier and more of a routine.

EB: I think you'd also just get that, just, personal satisfaction of seeing the result of everything you've done.

ML: Right. You get that--

EB: Out there.

ML: Too. Uh-huh. And then with your vegetables, you have some contact with the customers.

EB: Mmhmm.

EF: Mmhmm.
ML: And I enjoy that. I talk to them. And they, most of 'em were very appreciative of your, of what you're doing.

EF: Yeah.

EB: Sure.

EF: So do you only sell in farmers' markets or do you sell online too and ship it to them or?

ML: No, it's just, it's just farmers' markets.

EB: Just farmers' markets.

EF: Okay.

BL: And, Local Roots store--

EF: Local Roots.

BL: In town.

EB: Do you keep any or most of what you grow or for, just for yourselves?

BL: Yeah.

ML: Vegetables, yeah.

EF: Mmhmm.

ML: We do a lot of freezing and stuff.

EB: Hmm.

ML: So, we're not gonna go hungry.

EF: Have you ever been involved in like, a CSA or?

ML: We did that two years?

BL: Mmhmm.

ML: Tried it for two years, and just with the other work, it was just--

EF: It was too much of a hassle to get all the food in--
ML: Right, at a scheduled time.

EB: Yeah.

EF: Mmhmm.

ML: And, and have a, that variety that people want.

EF: Right.

ML: And we never had, we never had ten or more. We just had, I think seven was the highest.

BL: Mmhmm.

ML: The first year--

EF: Mmhmm.

ML: Or the second, maybe that was the second year. But yeah, we, we tried it out. And I can see where it would work for some people--

EF: Yeah, I'm involved in one at home--

ML: Oh.

EF: And he's having the same problems. I remember one week, we just got kale.

ML: Uhhh...

EF: And, I mean buckets of kale, it was so funny. [Laughs]

ML: [Laughs] Was that in the spring of the year or the fall?

EF: It might've been spring, I think.

ML: Okay.

EB: Yeah.

EF: We had kale pie for days. And...

ML: Oh-ho!

EF: Yeah...
ML: Ugh!

EF: But it was fun...I'm glad we're a part of it.

ML: Uh-huh. And where were you--? Where are you located?

EF: Um, in Pennsylvania.

ML: Oh.

EF: In southern Pennsylvania, so we get potatoes too.

ML: Uh-huh.

EB: We don't have anything like that around [unclear]. Sadlly.

EF: Oh.

ML: And where are you from?

EB: Um, Steubenville, Ohio.

ML: You're from Steubenville?

EB: Yeah. And there's, there're some farms, but not much.

ML: There's a lot of beef down there--

EB: Well, yeah.

ML: A lot of grazing.

EB: Mmhmm. We do like, grass-fed beef.

ML: Mmhmm.

EF: Mmhmm.

EB: I go with my mom to the farm. It's very fun.

ML: Okay.

EB: It's really good too.

ML: Good, good. Uh-huh.
EB: Yup.

EF: So.

EB: Well, that's about--

EF: I have a final question...

EB: Okay. Yeah, go for it.

EF: What time exactly do you wake up in the morning?

EB: And when do you go to bed?

ML: Uh-ho! Well, usually I fall asleep right after supper, right now, but it's, it's ten o'clock, and it's about six.

EF: In the morning?

ML: Getting up, yeah.

EF: Ooh. College sleeping schedule's a little different.

BL: Little different.

ML: Yeah.

EB: It's the life. [?]

ML: Right. I could--well, I can imagine. But, enjoy it while you have it.

EF: Yeah. Uh. Well, thanks for doing this.

EB: Yeah--

ML: Alright.

EB: Do you have any--

EF: Final words?

EB: Final comments, or stories or anything?

ML: Just if you do have an interest in farming, you could pursue it--do pursue it--
EF: Uh-huh.

ML: And, there's lots of openings. I mean, there's people--well, like you said, you worked on a farm. Or was that your family?

EF: Um, no. I was a part of the CSA.

ML: Oh, you were a part of the--

EF: Mmhmm.

ML: You were buying, you were a customer?

EF: Yeah.

ML: Okay.

EF: But I worked in the city farm area.

ML: Oh, okay.

EB: Huh.

EF: It was like an urban garden farm.

EB: Mmhmm.

ML: Right, there's a lot of agricultural opportunities.

EF: Yeah.

ML: And, uh--

EF: It seems no matter where you are, you could always…

ML: Right, if you're willing to get a little dirty--

EB: Yeah.

EF: Mmhmm.

ML: On your hands and knees, yeah. There's a lot of work to be done out there to grow food. Mmhmm.

EF: Alright, well...
EB: Okay, well, thank you so much for--

EF: Well, thanks. I'll stop it.

EB: For everything, yeah...