GC: This is Galen Cobb and Alex Haas with Fred and Phyllis Cannon on the tw—third of December, two thousand eleven, talking about his one hundred and forty-two acre farm in Wayne County, Ohio.

AH: All right. So, um, we're kinda interested in how you got into farming and what, what brought you out of the city and into the farm.

FC: Well, going back to my childhood, I was not raised on a farm—

AH: Okay.

FC: However, my uncle—uh, my mother's brother, Fred, who I was named after—they had a dairy farm and I was just—I always loved to go to the farm on the weekends, which I did growing up and through the summer and Christmas vacations. And then when it came time to, uh, go on to college, uh, everybody thought that I should be an engineer, but I never gave up my love for agriculture. I mean, I went through the 4-H—we showed cattle at the fair and all that growing up—

GC: Uh-huh.

FC: But, when I went to college, I—just like I said, I never gave up my love for agriculture, particularly for livestock and so I switched majors and just majored in agriculture and graduated from Ohio State University in 1965 and, uh, other than a few years that I was involved with the steel industry in, uh, Warren, Ohio—Republic Steel—we've been in something related to agriculture but actually actively farming since, uh, 1975.

GC: Mmhmm.

FC: And we, we started at a dairy business in a partnership—
FC: We moved here from Youngstown, Ohio over here and we moved into an area that we really did not know, but we had the opportunity to go into partnership with a, a fella that was, uh, local here—Gary Crocker—being ten years younger than we were, but we, uh, teamed up with him and rented his father's farm—it was six hundred and nineteen acres—and we bought the herd of cattle, which consisted of approximately two hundred milk-cows and two hundred replacement heifers, so we started that and then, we stayed there for—our partnership was for five years, that was the agreement—and then we split the herd of cattle after the five years. We bought this farm and moved here. That's—that was our start but—oh, actually, we had approximately two hundred head of cattle that we could have brought here but this farm's not big enough to support that number of cattle—

GC: Okay.

FC: We sold, uh, a hundred milk cows and we moved here with, uh, Bred heifers, and I guess we might've had a couple of milk-cows that belonged to our children at that time—4-H, uh, cattle. So that's how we wound up here and then we continued to milk here, raise all our own feed, uh, on the acreage—the tilled acreage we had and we milked about fifty to fifty-five cows and then in 1998—was it '8 or '7? I think it was 1998—we had the opportunity to sell the herd of cattle to a woman from up, uh, north—Geauga County, Burton, Ohio—

GC: The whole, the whole herd?

FC: Yeah—it was, uh—quickly tell you the whole story. She, she showed up here one night when we were milking—or, when I was milking—and, uh, she wanted to see the cattle. And we had sold cattle, you know, through the years, uh, 'cause we did not have to replace many, so we always had cattle for sale.

GC: Uh-huh.

FC: And I sorta got the feeling that she was looking for a pretty good cow or a pretty good heifer, like for her daughter, for 4-H.

AH: Oh.

FC: That's the impression I got.

GC: Mmhmm.

FC: So, I was just starting to milk and she looked the herd all over and of course, they always look better when their udders are full of milk—

GC: Right.
FC: So she looked them all over and then she, uh—and I'd just started milking and she said, "Well, where do you keep your young calves?" And I said—I told her I—where the young calves were, out by the silo and hutches. She went out and looked at the young calves; she said, "Where are your dry cows and all your breeding heifers?" And I said, "Well, they're down at the old barn." And I told her where the light switches were and she went on down. And she came back up, and I was just finishing milking and she said, uh, "I'd be interested in the herd"—

AH: [Laughter]

FC: And I said, "What do you mean the herd?" She said, "Everything." She said, "The calves, the cows, the dry cows, the heifers: everything."

GC: And she came out of nowhere?

FC: Well, she went through our vet and through another man—

GC: Okay.

FC: She knew a little bit about us before she came here. But anyway, we had a real healthy herd, you know—

GC: Uh-huh.

FC: Somatic cell count very low, and it was one of the highest producing herds around, milk-wise. And we had, you know, done well selling cattle. Anyway, she wanted the whole herd and it was sorta a shock, in a way. And I said, "Well, my golly, this is our livelihood," you know, et cetera, et cetera. I said, "We'd have to talk about this and think about it." Well, we did, we thought, "Man, this is an opportunity, maybe we should sell everything—"

GC: Mmhmm.

FC: Everything. So, we had the herd appraised by two different people and uh—

AH: How's that process work?

FC: They just—they, they know the genetics of the herd, they know—they both knew—one of them was Ohio Holstein Association field man and the other was, uh, a local dairy farmer who was an excellent farmer and, uh, he, uh, appraised them—the other one appraised them. We took the average of the two, called her up, she came down for supper—we met for supper at a local restaurant in town, TJ's—and, uh, we told her what we'd have to have for the herd. And she s—her first response was, "No way!"

GC/AH: [Laughter]

FC: "No way!" And I said, "Well, you know that's—you know, that was the appraised price—"
GC: Yup.

FC: You agreed that. So anyway, she got up like—we thought she was—she said, "Excuse me"—we thought she was gonna go to the restroom, which she might have done, and she was gone maybe ten minutes and she came back, she just said, "I'll take 'em."

GC: Okay.

AH: Wow.

FC: We think she made a call—and, anyway, that's how we got out of the business. We still kept the cattle around for a couple of months—I forget how long—we kept the heifers, uh, for a whole year.

GC: Okay.

FC: The agreement was that we would breed the heifers and then about six weeks before they would calve, she would come get 'em. And that's—so we slowly got out of the milk cows went all at once.

AH: Mmhmm.

GC: Right.

FC: But the, but the heifers stayed around here for a year. And then we started buying some shorthorn cattle—

GC: Okay.

FC: And then recently, I guess the last four years now, we've been crossing them with a Red Angus bull—

AH: Hmm.

GC: Mmhmm.

FC: You get sorta the best of both worlds of those two breeds.

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: So that's a quick story how we were—you know, got out of the business, 'n—'course, our kids were raised here and my wife, she—

PC: That's, that's the short answer to your question.

AH/GC: [Laughter]
GC: So, um, at this point, they're not dairy cows, though?

FC: We don't have any dairy cows. Nah, we haven't had any dairy cattle since about '98—

GC: Okay.

FC: So—

AH: So...

FC: Quite a few years. But we just have these beef cattle.

AH: Hmm. So, like—

GC: Then how, how well—sorry, you go ahead.

AH: Oh, sorry. Lifestyle wise, has it been a huge change?

FC: Oh, yes.

PC: Oh boy.

FC: You'd be going from dairy—

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: Oh my golly. See, dairy's so demanding—

AH: Mhm.

FC: We milked at four in the morning and four in the afternoon.

AH: Wow.

FC: And we only had to do that seven days a week—

AH: [Laughter]

FC: So you milk, you know, year round, and we rarely, rarely got away.

PC: Mm. But the big dairy change—er, the big change—was moving from Boardman, which is a suburb of Youngstown, where he grew up and where we lived. Um, to the farm—

AH: Uh-huh.
PC: Initially.

FC: Sure.

PC: I really came kicking and screaming all the way—

AH: [laughter]

PC: And um, it was a huge adjustment. Um, it took me a long time—

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: To, uh, adapt to it and, um, but I can't imagine living any other way now. I mean, I—I can't even imagine leaving the farm.

AH: Uh-huh.

PC: So it would be awful for me, but, uh, it was difficult.

AH: Uh-huh.

PC: You know, you know. One thing that was—that stands out was that our children were in the second grade and the third grade when we moved from the, uh, suburbs—

GC: Okay.

PC: And in—when we moved to the farm, they, they quickly learned not to say, "Well, what can we do now?"

GC/AH: [Laughter]

PC: And we'd go somewhere. And they'd learn a whole new way of living—

AH: Uh-huh.

PC: And it was good.

GC: They helped you out too, I'm assuming?

PC: Oh, they did.

FC: Oh yeah.

PC: They did. Um, at a very young age, actually. They loved—children love coming to the farm—
AH: Mmhmm.

PC: We have a, a nephew who came every summer from Arizona and spent a good part of the summer—

GC: Mmm.

PC: Here at the farm and it was the highlight of his year, I think. He loved it, so...

GC: And he was like, a suburbia kid? From Nevada?

PC: I'm sorry, what is that?

GC: I'm sorry, Arizona. Uh—did he, did he come from the suburbs when he—?

PC: He was a—yes, he—yes, he was living in Scottsdale, near Scottsdale—

GC: Okay.

PC: And this was a world of difference—

GC: Uh-huh.

PC: For him.

FC: But he really liked it here.

PC: Mmhmm, yeah. And children now, even, our grandchildren always have their birthday party here—

AH: Uh-huh.

PC: Even though they both live in—er, they all—we have four. They live in Wooster, now. And they always want to have their birthday party here.

GC: Huh.

AH: Hmm.

PC: And the kids who are their friends always want to come to their birthday party because they get to go run and jump in the hay in the barn—

AH: Uh-huh.

PC: And just do all kinds of running and farm things. See?
AH: Uh-huh.

GC: Sure.

PC: And a hay ride and, and all that kinda thing. So it, it's—children really, I think, love coming to the farm. It's a rare one who doesn't—

AH: Mmhmm.

GC: Right.

PC: So.

AH: You've got the freedom of the outdoors.

PC: Right.

AH: Yeah, yeah. So, what's your history, um, and your—in, in your transition?

PC: Before coming to the farm?

AH: Yeah.

PC: Uh, I grew up in a small town in eastern Kentucky, a coal-mining town—

AH: Okay.

PC: My father was a coal miner for thirty-five years and, um, I came to Ohio. I met my husband in Columbus, um, he was in school, and I was going to night school and working and, um, and then we got married and moved around a bit. He was in, uh, field work for, uh, Carnation Milk Company and he always wanted to go to a farm—I knew that—and he was a Ag major, I knew that, but I never thought we would actually go to a farm and live—

AH/GC: [Laughter]

PC: [Laughter] And uh, um, after about—let's see, well—about ten years—we'd been married about ten years when we came to the farm. But, um, he just called me one day and he said, "I'm in Wooster and we're going into farming," and I said, "Oh no."

AH: [Laughter]

PC: And we quickly made the—you know, sold our home and moved over here and, um...he, he worked every single day for at least a year.

AH: Wow.
PC: No time—and long days, fifteen-hour days.

AH: Mmhmm.

GC: Mmhmm. Well, get—getting everything started and everything kind of—

PC: Right.

GC: Kind of off.

PC: Yeah, yeah.

GC: How much help did you have at that time?

FC: At that time we had, uh, Susie milked and we had one full— I had a partner. The two of us, and, uh, his sister milked for, you know—helped milk. We had two people that milked. Gary usually milked, I usually fed the cattle, and then we had one full-time person.

GC: Okay.

FC: Taking care of four hundred head of cattle and farm six hundred and nineteen acres it’s just—

GC: That is a lot.

AH: Wow.

FC: It was a lot.

GC: That is a lot.

AH: Wow.

PC: It was very busy. But after I'd adjusted and learned to do some things on the farm, like drive a tractor and, um—I did all the mowing around the entire farm and, uh, I started—we, that was just when people started putting gas in their own car—

GC: Mmhmm.

PC: You know, you used to have an attendant at the gas station—

AH: Uh-huh.

GC: Sure.
PC: Well, we of course had a gas tank at the farm, and I would fill my car up there and it was just—so many new things that I learned to do that—

AH: Uh-huh.

PC: Had never done.

GC: Right.

AH: Whole new skill sets.

PC: Yes. My, my Bible study group came over to visit after we'd been here about three months—

GC: Mmhmm.

PC: And, uh, they, they were so astounded that I made a big lunch for all the farmhands and then we went out to lunch together—the women and—in, in the Bible study group. And when we went out to go out to the lunch in town, I filled my car with fuel at the gas pump there and they were like, "Oh my gosh."

GC: They were freaking out?

PC: Yeah, it was freaking out over this [unclear].

AH: [Laughter]

PC: And it was, you know, you were up at the crack of dawn and, and it was just a busy day all day long. And, never a dull moment.

GC: Mmhmm.

PC: And—but I think one of the best memories I have is of our son, who was about twelve at that time—he was driving a tractor in one field doing—I don't know what exactly he was doing—

FC: Balin' hay.

PC: Raking, and I was driving a tractor in an adjacent field and we were probably baling and you were driving a tractor in another adjacent field, and you could see all three of us—

AH: [Laughter]

PC: Across this expanse of beautiful green countryside doing something on a tractor, and I thought, "This is amazing."
AH: Hmm.

GC: That is a, that was a family moment right there.

PC: I love it—it was amazing to me.

GC: Huh.

PC: And our children loved it: they loved growing up on the farm.

GC: Did they?

PC: They did.

GC: Did they—so, so after they got past that point of asking you to like, "What is there to do?"—

PC: Yeah.

GC: They, they kinda—

FC: They knew what to do.

AH: They knew— [Laughter]

GC: They knew what to do. [Laughter]

PC: It's like—

GC: And they had a good time doing it, it sounds like.

PC: It was really like: "Which one do we do first?"

GC: Uh-huh.

PC: You know, it was that.

FC: Well, they had their chores—

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: And then we—they were involved at school with extra—with extracurricular activities and we wanted them to do that—

GC: Yeah.
FC: So they were responsible for work at home.

PC: Mhmhm.

FC: And they knew that: they never had a problem.

PC: They have a tremendous work ethic now; they both do. And uh—[unclear] farm—

GC: And how old are they at this point?

PC: Uh, our son's forty-five.

FC: Five, I think.

PC: Forty-five, and our daughter's forty-four.

GC: Okay.

PC: And, uh, they both live in Wooster near, near your campus, actually, two doors apart.

GC: Uh-huh.

AH: Do you think—

PC: And they each have two children.

GC: Each have—

AH: [clears throat] I'm sorry. Do you think, um, that they'll ever get into farming as a profession?

PC/FC: Mmmm.

PC: No.

FC: I doubt it. Now they're—

PC: They love to come out here, they love that it's here—

AH: Mhmhm.

PC: They love that it's part of their life, but they're both in the healthcare field—

AH: Okay.

PC: He's with Cleveland Clinic—
AH: Okay.

GC: Okay.

PC: He's a cardiac rehab specialist. And she is, um, a physical therapist who has a studio downtown—

GC: Cool.

PC: For yoga and Pilates. In fact, I think a lot of the college students come there for classes.

GC: Oh, no kidding?

PC: Yeah.

FC: A lot of college kids go there.

PC: So if you're interested—

GC: Where, where is it located?

PC: It's right downtown, across from the Daily Record, do you—?

GC: Sure, yeah, I've—oh, yeah, I've seen—

PC: It's the studio on East Liberty.

FC: It's on East Liberty.

GC: Uh-huh, yeah.

PC: Out on the, the main street there. But if you're ever interested, I think students love her classes, so you might wanna check it out.

GC: Does she do bikram or just regular yoga classes?

PC: [Laughter] Um, she does a number of different kinds of yoga.

GC: Okay.

PC: And, uh, uh, her father and I take a Monday night class and a Thursday night class.

GC: Sure.
**PC**: Together. And one of those classes is, um, yen yoga, which is like, mm—it's good for your joints—

**AH**: Huh.

**AH/GC**: Uh-huh.

**PC**: And your mobility and uh, we love it. We like that one a lot.

**GC**: Oh, that’s good.

**PC**: But she's always changing up her classes and, and doing new things. And she does, um, Pilates—

**GC**: Mmhmm.

**PC**: A little. Uh, she started out with Pilates. And it seems like it morphed into more yoga than anything else.

**GC**: Okay.

**PC**: Mmhmm, yeah. But they're, they're wonderful, so...

**GC**: Now, do either of them cultivate a garden or anything at their house or d—are they kind of involved in any sort of—?

**FC**: Well, they just have a few tomato plants, I think. Although we had a garden that was sorta shared by everybody this summer.

**GC**: Okay.

**FC**: Uh...

**AH**: Oh, that's cool.

**FC**: Is she up at the college?

**PC**: Who?

**FC**: Uh...can't think of her name. Friends of Tracy's that—did the garden.

**PC**: Well, it was Trevor who did the garden.

**FC**: Right, but his wife, was she involved in it?

**PC**: No, she didn't do the garden—
FC: Oh, okay.

PC: He did. Yeah, no, they're not affiliated.

FC: I don't know if that answered your question but no, I guess would be—

PC: No.

AH: So—

FC: They're—they, they have a few things but no, they don't have an active garden which, our daughter would love to have, and I think our son would too, but they just...

GC: It sounds like they don't really have time.

FC: They just—

AH: Yeah.

PC: They don't.

FC: I don't think they have enough time.

PC: Ye—yeah, they're very busy.

FC: Pretty active.

AH: So—

FC: And I would just say one thing about our nephew who used to spend his summers here when he was a kid growin' up—

AH: Uh-huh.

GC: Sure.

FC: I don't know how many years he had been here, but he was still a pretty young guy and, uh, one day we, we were comin' home from the hardware store and he said to me, he said, "Uncle Fred," he said, "You know, I just realized it but, you know, people don't really care what you wear here."

PC/AH: [Laughter]

GC: That's pretty funny.
FC: Seriously, though! He wasn't into labels or anything. He said, you know, "People don't care."

GC: Yeah.

FC: I said, "Kevin, that's, that's the way it is."

AH/PC: [Laughter]

FC: I said, "Labels are totally unimportant in life." So, yeah, that's—

GC: That's great.

FC: I've never forgotten that. That's, that was one thing that was in his head.

AH/GC: Uh-huh.

PC: Kevin was very wise for a little boy. Another, another thing that he always said that we loved was that Uncle Fred heard what he wanted to hear. [Laughter]

GC/AH: [Laughter]

GC: I'm sure to some extent, you can relate to that, yeah? Oh, man.

AH: So, um. Having, having people come and visit you on the farm and kind of getting the farm experience, um, how do you think that that has—do you think that helps kinda change the perspective of what a farm is and—?

FC: Oh, sure.

PC: Mhmhm.

FC: Yes. Without a doubt. Yes.

PC: When we first moved to the farm, which would have been in 1976—is that right? Or '75? The end of '75? Uh, 'course all of our friends and acquaintances were city or suburban people—

GC: Uh-huh.

PC: And we had visitors all the time. They—we would get calls. "Have you been there long enough that we should come and visit now?"

AH: [Laughter]
PC: And, and there were times when we had two different families who did not know each other staying with us on the farm to get—they just loved coming to the farm to see what that was about.

AH: Mhm."m.

PC: And it was a constant stream of, um, visitors and we loved having visitors: we lived in a very big house on that other farm and it was often filled with people—

GC: Mhm."m.

PC: And families that would come for long weekends and um, we had, um, at one point, we had a man from Poland when Poland was still behind the Iron Curtain—

GC: Mhm."m.

AH: Oh, wow.

PC: He came and worked at the farm for about—several months, didn't he? He was a, a mission for him to learn better farming practices.

AH: Oh.

PC: To take back to Poland. And he was a, I think he was a professor there.

GC: Oh, okay.

PC: But, uh, obviously they were allowing him to come out from behind the Iron Curtain.

GC: Mhm."m.

PC: And do this and his family—his wife and children—had to stay in Poland. And that was quite an interesting experience too. And we—things like that happened because we became affiliated with ATI in a way by often taking one or two of their students as farmhands.

GC: Okay.

PC: And, uh, so, we sorta had this, you know, working relationship with ATI.

AH: And ATI is the—

PC: It's the Agricultural Technical Institute—

AH: Oh, okay.

GC: Through the—through Ohio State.
PC: Through Ohio State, right.

AH: Oh, okay, okay.

PC: At the research center, so. That was—we did have lots of people interested in the farm and coming and checking it out—

AH: Mhmm.

PC: And, and loving it, I think. I don't think anyone ever came who said, "Oh, I couldn't do this" or "I wouldn't do this" or "I don't know why you do this."

AH: Uh-huh.

GC: Have any of your friends quote/unquote, like, "converted" to the—like, have they moved out to the farm? On—to, to some extent?

PC: I don't—I don't...

FC: I would say the Sauers did.

PC: Yes, yes.

FC: He was our doctor. He's retired now but they, they lived in town—not because of us, but they did move to the farm. They had chickens and, uh, drag horses, up on three oh one. Three oh two, three oh two.

PC: We always said Dr. Sauer was just a doctor so he could afford to play farm.

AH: [Laughter]

PC: And he did.

GC: Wow, that is, that is really interesting. So it, it sounds like a, a major theme of your—I don't even know if you'd call this an operation, but the, the whole family farm dynamic is pretty important to you guys.

PC: Very.

FC: Well, you know I think that—if I was to say the most—what we gain most other than it was our livelihood, it was, you know, it was our way of life—

GC: Uh-huh.

FC: Is the fact that the children were raised on a farm—
AH: Mmhmm.

FC: They're not farmers, however, as, as my wife pointed out, they both have a strong work ethic—

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: And it goes back to the farm.

AH: Mmm.

FC: And you know, we tried to teach 'em a strong work ethic.

AH: Yeah.

FC: And I could remember telling the kids, you know, two things in life you should never worry about—particularly when you're getting a job—never ask what time quitting time is and never ask when payday is.

AH: Mmm.

GC: Yes, sir.

FC: You do good work and all that stuff'll take care of itself.

GC: It all just falls into place.

PC: Mmhmm.

AH: Yeah.

GC: That's right.

PC: Yeah, and our son was very active—well, they both were—in sports and, um, he was recruited for basketball at a small college—

GC: Mmhmm.

PC: In Pennsylvania, and I remember the coach saying to us, "Oh, I'm so happy to get Dave. And I'm especially happy because he comes from a farm and we know that he'll be a hard-working basketball player." And he was. So, I mean—

GC: Great.

PC: He knew a farm kid just grows up working, that's just a given.
AH: Mmhmm.

GC: Uh-huh.

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: He, he, he came—the coach came here, you know, when the kids were playing high school basketball and he went to a game at our high school, and he said to us once—I think I remember him saying—he said, "Oh, it's so good to get back to a community where the kids all have red faces."

PC/AH/GC: [Laughter]

FC: Being out in the weather.

PC: Uh-huh.

GC: That is, that's funny.

PC: Yeah.

FC: I mention—I might share this with you: we mentioned Amish the other day—

GC: Uh-huh.

FC: And we had a visitor here on, uh, Thursday morning—was that Thursday, dear? Yeah, Thursday morning. And I'd gone over to get a load of sawdust—that's when I—trailer when you pulled in there for our cattle—and I said to myself—I was over there—the Amish school starts somewhere between 7:30 and 8 in the morning, so that's what time I was over there—and, and on my trip over, which isn't that far, it's just on the other side of the county, but I go past four Amish schools. So here are the Amish kids and generally the boys are with the boys and the girls are with the girls—

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: Are goin' to school, just bouncin' along—

GC: Sure.

FC: They, they all got their lunch pails—

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: Just laughin' and just, you know, enjoyin' themselves goin' to school.
GC: Uh-huh.

FC: Then you come upon this five-acre development, where a farm is sold off in five-acre lots—

AH: Mmm.

FC: And I go by it all the time. But what do I see there—is Mom in her SUV at the end of the driveway with the kid, in the car, waiting for the school bus. And here are these Amish bouncin'—

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: And I'm thinkin', "Oh man, who's learnin' the most here?"

PC: Mm, yeah.

AH: Mmm, yeah, yeah.

GC: Yeah, yeah, definitely.

AH: So, as these farms have been sold off, do you think that's had a huge impact on kinda the farm community?

FC: Well in some areas—it's had some impact in Wayne county—

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: Nothing like, you know, Delaware county or Franklin county, you know, the counties that're closer to the cities.

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: Medina—it—but it's had an imp—I mean, obviously, it's had an impact—

AH: Yeah.

FC: I mean take that acreage out—

AH: Yeah.

FC: And then, of course, it counted—we still have a real strong agri—you know, you could go buy milkin' machines—

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: You could buy tractors—
GC: Uh-huh.

FC: You know, we have that net here—

AH: Network, yeah.

FC: Where other counties have lost it, so a lot of 'em come here to buy their supplies. We're fortunate in that respect.

PC: But throughout these—oh what?—thirty-some years we've been in farming, and I have to say that there are many, many days and there's always time for us to be thankful that we're here—

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: We're so glad that we ended up here, farming—

AH: Mmhmm.

GC: Uh-huh.

PC: Of all things we could've done with our lives, I think—

AH: Yeah.

PC: I feel really fortunate that this happened for us. But, um, throughout those thirty-some years, anything that came along that might eat up a lot of farmland, we have vigorously campaigned against.

AH: Yeah, yeah.

PC: For instance, a new highway or, uh, a new—there was, at one point, a company trying to come in and build a huge equestrian center—

AH: Mmm.

PC: Which would've taken up a lot of farm and changed this whole rural atmosphere.

GC: Uh-huh. Sure.

PC: So we really campaigned hard against that. And so, we've been very politically active—

GC: Mmhmm.

PC: In trying to hold on to what this is—
AH: To farmland.

PC: Not just our farm—

AH: Yeah.

PC: But to the whole area.

GC: Sure.

AH: Yeah, that makes a lot of sense.

PC: And, um, agriculture that exists here; it's really important to us.

AH: Yeah.

FC: Tell 'em what we did with the farm.

PC: Um, I— I thought you'd talked about that. No? We put it in farmland preservation.

AH: Oh. Wow.

PC: So it will be a farm in perpetuity.

FC: Perpetually, right.

GC: What, what is, what is the—?

PC: It's a program, um, it's a statewide program that existed in Pennsylvania, long before it came to Ohio—

AH: Uh-huh.

PC: And, um, there was a referendum on, um, the ballot to approve like a quarter percent tax increase to cover the cost of, um, the program: to put farms into preservation.

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: And if you want to put your farm in, you have to go through a long, lengthy progress— maybe it takes years—to get accepted and, and then you also need to donate part of the value of your farm to that program.

AH: Mmm. So they can keep it up.

GC: Is it a per, per year thing, or is that just a one donation—?
PC: One donation.

GC: Okay.

PC: One, um, it's one process once you're accepted.

GC: Mmhmm.

PC: And then you go—we are in the Killbuck Land Trust—

AH: Huh.

PC: And they come once a year and ask, you know, "Are there any changes?" Because there—we are not allowed to do anything that changes this from being a farm.

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: We can sell it but—we can certainly leave it to our children, which we will—

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: And they can sell it, but it has to be to a farmer.

AH: Oh wow.

GC: No kidding.

PC: It always has to be used as a farm. And it wouldn't have to be—

AH: Oh, that's cool.

PC: This kind of farm, it could be any kind of farm—

AH/GC: Mmhmm.

PC: As long as its agriculture, um...

GC: Can it be subdivided, as long as it's—

PC: No.

FC: No.

GC: No subdivision?
AH: Wow.

PC: We couldn't even build another house here.

GC: Okay.

AH: So, um, does that take into consideration kind of different levels of farms too, so everything from kinda the small family farms to more larger farms—

PC: Right.

FC: Yeah, it can be anything as long as it’s ag—

GC: Related.

FC: Uh, agriculture.

AH: Oh, okay.

PC: And Wayne coun—

FC: You know, the livestock who chew grain—it'd be sheep or hogs or any type of livestock—

PC: Any agriculture.

AH: That's preserving that.

FC: No homes, no McDonalds.

AH: Yeah.

GC: No condos or anything like that.

AH: Yeah.

FC: Right, just strictly a farm.

AH: [unclear] water park.

PC: How many farms are here? Er, I'm sorry.

FC: In our county or in our state?

PC: In our county. About five or six now?

FC: At least that many.
PC: Yeah.

FC: Maybe more, I think, now.

PC: I think the program is winding down though—

AH: Oh, really?

PC: Um, one of the administrators for Killbuck Land Trust said that, um, this may—this next year is maybe the last year that there'll be funding for it and then it will be an inactive program.

GC: Hmm.

PC: But they have, like—the state of Ohio is in four quadrants and they've taken farms into each quadrant.

FC: There, there are many, many thousands of acres in this state—

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: That are preserved now—

PC: Mmhmm.

FC: And you could still, uh, turn your farm into, uh, a preserved land by donating—

PC: The whole thing.

FC: The—well, the develop—you donate the development rights.

PC: Mmhmm.

AH: Okay.

FC: But you still own the farm. Or you could donate the whole farm, which some have.

AH: Mmhmm.

GC: Hmm.

FC: In a different Land Trust.

AH: So if it does—if this farm trust—um, does end up, um, becoming unactive because of political or kind of economic reasons—
PC: It's economic.

AH: Will the protection of the farms still be there? Can they still say, "Hey, you can't develop this"?

FC: Oh yeah—

PC: Absolutely.

FC: It's in perpetuity.

PC: Right, in a—

AH: So...oh, okay.

PC: Yeah, forever.

AH: That's, that's nice.

GC: And how, how long has this been going on for? This land preservation—?

PC: The program's been here about ten years, hasn't it? Do you think?

FC: Mmhmm, yeah.

PC: About ten years. Good program.

FC: Yeah, I would say. Yeah, about.

PC: We applied every year for about five or six years and, um, then we just thought, "We're not going to apply anymore," and so it's a big lengthy process—

GC: Mmhmm.

PC: And, uh, a young woman who worked in the county office said, "They've changed the rules a little bit: they're going to go with a farm from each quadrant."

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: And said they were actually choosing a lot of farms in western Ohio, which are huge, expansive, uh—

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: You know, like, corn farms.
AH: Uh-huh.

GC: Sure.

PC: And they were picking those to put in the program. And, uh, after they changed it a little bit and decided to go by quadrant and get at least one or two farms from each quadrant, we were picked that next year.

GC: Oh, okay.

AH: [unclear]

PC: [unclear] And, uh, so they offer it to you and you accept, or not.

GC: Mmhmm.

PC: But once you are in, you are in, you can't say, "Oh, I changed my mind."

GC: Sure.

AH: Yeah.

PC: You're in it.

GC: Sure.

PC: And we're happy about it; we have never had a moment of regret about doing it.

AH: Yeah.

GC: Mmhmm. I just—that's—I, I actually had no idea there was anything like that in Ohio.

PC: Mmhmm. It's called—it's the PDR.

GC: PDR.

PC: PDR.

AH: Yeah, I had heard about, um, kinda land preservation projects for preserving tracts of, kind of like, forests and—

PC: Mmhmm.

AH: I guess that would make sense in the mountains where I grew up—

PC: Okay.
GC: Mmhmm.

AH: In the Appalachians—

PC: Mmhmm.

AH: But I, I really didn't realize that had extended to farmland. That's pretty interesting.

PC: Penns—Pennsylvania has a huge program—

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: Of PDR and they have whole, like communities that are in the PDR—

AH: Mmhmm.

GC: Hmm.

PC: Which is purchasing of development rights.

GC: Mmhmm.

AH: Hmm.

FC: What, what's the—you're talking about woods and stuff—over north of Orville—this is a personal friend of ours, he's our attorney—his family donated to the state four hundred acres of virgin forest—

AH: Wow.

FC: It's the largest tract of virgin forest in Ohio—

GC: Four hundred acres.

AH: Wow.

FC: What's it called? Somethin' Woods?

PC: Um...

FC: I can't think of the name—it'd be his mother's sister's married name. Or, his dad's sister's married name.

PC: Is it Johnson Woods?
FC: Johnson Woods.

GC: Johnson Woods.

AH: Wow.

FC: If you want to go over there someday, you'd enjoy that.

AH: Oh, I bet. I bet.

GC: Yeah.

PC: There's a boardwalk through it—it's beautiful.

FC: There's a boardwalk—an' you see some timbers in there: huge, never been cut.

AH: Wow.

FC: Huge! Never been harvested.


GC: Wow.

FC: If a tree dies, it just dies.

AH: Uh-huh.

GC: Now was this—how did—how did he come, come, uh, up with this land? Was it, like, passed down through his family or—?

FC: Well, yeah, it's in his family. Johnson's would be—I'm pretty sure it's his dad's sister's married name—

PC: Yeah, I think it is.

FC: His name's Richard—

PC: His aunt.

FC: And they were big farmers. That, that whole family—

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: Had some big, beautiful farms in Wayne County.
GC: They were able to keep that forest section virgin?

FC: I don't know why that was never, ever farmed—

GC: Four hundred acres!

FC: Four hundred acres, yeah. Never cleared—

GC: Huh.

FC: Never farmed— I mean, obviously it wasn't farmed.

GC/AH: Mmhmm.

FC: I guess the only wood that was ever taken out of it was just wood to build a, a home or a barn there—

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: Back in the 1800s. Johnson Woods. I think it's Fulton Road.

AH: Hmm.

GC: Oh, okay.

FC: Fox Road.

GC: How close is that to here?

FC: Oh, not very far, east of here.

PC: It's very near Orville.

GC: Orville.

PC: Yeah, if you take, um—

FC: Right to the north of Orville; right off of 57.

PC: Yeah, it i—there's a sign for it.

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: Uh, there's a little, uh, parking area and a walk, a boardwalk.

GC: Sounds like a good spot—
FC: Beautiful walk through it.

GC: To take a date or something—

AH: Oh, yeah.

PC: Yeah.

FC: Oh, you should go on over there. Yeah, it's quite interesting—

GC: Mmhmm.

FC: To just think about it.

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: You know, those trees were—they're still there.

AH: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, no, it's always amazing to see, to see, um, something so, so old, you know?

PC: Mmhmm, right. Because we don’t see that.

AH: A lot of times we don't have that perception and we see these trees, and we think, "Oh, wow, they're so big," and, but, they're only about seventy—

FC: They estimated the value of the wood to be several million—

AH: Oh, I'm sure.

FC: And that was many years ago.

AH: I'm sure.

GC: Mmhmm.

FC: That four hundred acres.

PC: It's a great place to see how woods evolve over time—

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: And like, it might be an area of all oaks, then it becomes an area of all maples or something—
AH: Yeah, yeah.

PC: 'Cause they—

GC: Do they allow researchers to come in and kind of survey the land?

PC: I, I think you actually cannot get off the boardwalk. You're not allowed to get off the boardwalk—

AH/GC: Okay.

PC: And to disturb anything—

AH/GC: Mmhmm.

PC: But a walk over there in the spring, when the spring flowers are coming up in the woods—

GC: Wow.

PC: It’s just breathtaking.

AH: Wow.

GC: Or even in the fall—

PC: In the fall, when the colors—

GC: When the colors change.

PC: When the colors, yeah. It's about a mile and a quarter, I think as it winds through.

GC/AH: Mmhmm.

PC: Doubles back.

GC: Can you, can you bike the boardwalk?

PC: No, I don't think you can do anything except walk.

GC: Walk, okay.

AH: So, we've been talking a little bit about preservation of land and preservation of, kind of, farming communities and how the land is so tied to the communities. Um, so how do you think the Amish kinda play a part in preserving land?
FC: They play a big part and many of the Amish churches have, uh, agreed that they will not sell land out of their church.

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: So when land—when farmland—becomes available it's—they don't sell it to—they call us the "English." They do not sell—

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: Not all churches.

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: But most of 'em now, they ke—they realize that land is a, is a commodity—

AH: Yeah.

FC: You can't replace—

GC: Yeah.

FC: Try to keep it in, in their own—

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: Church.

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: It amazes me how the Amish often acquire a big farm that's on, on the, on the auction block. And you think, wow how did they acquire, or accumulate, that much money—

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: To pay top dollar for a farm in Wayne County or Holmes county, but they do, don't they?

FC: Mmhmm.

AH: Hmm.

PC: And, uh, and we're always happy to see them acquire a farm—

GC: Sure.

PC: Rather than have it become developed.
AH: Yeah, yeah.

PC: And they're very good at doing that.

AH: Yeah, 'cause you know that it's going to stay within the tradition.

PC: Mmhmm, right.

FC: Mmhmm.

PC: And it's gonna be a farm.

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: The, the Amish do not worship the dollar like many English people do—

AH: Hmm.

GC: Mmhmm.

FC: So they, they realize the value of land as producing food for their—what was it? Where was I the other day? Uh, oh. I got a letter from Amish people that were our friends—

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: And they moved to New York. And what, what did he say? What was it? They were butchering chickens. Forget what that—

PC: Oh, I read that. I forget what it said.

FC: He said, "We're, we're, uh, we're putting away food for the winter." I mean, that's the way they—

PC/AH: Mmhmm.

GC: They do it, yeah.

FC: Yeah, that's what they said in their letter. The boy said.

AH: So there's a strong tie, yeah.

FC: I was over there…

PC: It's amazing how they live—
AH: Mmhmm, yeah.

PC: How hard they work.

AH: Yeah.

PC: Just to feed their families, which are often very, very large.

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: We're just amazed by it.

FC: Anna was the wife's name and I was over there a couple of years ago in the fall—

GC: Mmhmm.

FC: And went over to get Andy who helped us and they got all the canned pears that were—I said, "Anna, how many pears you have there?" These were two quart sizes: she had a hundred and seventy two-quart sizes of pears she had canned that day.

AH: Wow.

GC: A hundred and seventy?

FC: Hundred and seventy.

AH: Oh my gosh. Did she have an orchard?

FC: Well, they had eleven children and you know, they just—

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: And they don't go to the store, they just, you know, raise everything.

AH: So that was from like a personal orchard that they had?

FC: No, they bought the pears, I think.

AH: Oh, okay.

FC: They bought 'em, you know, by the bushel.

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: From some other—no, I don't think they had pear trees.
AH: Hmm.

FC: They were dairy farmers, mainly.

AH: Oh, okay.

FC: And he had a sawmill is how they made their money.

AH: Okay.

PC: They are incredibly resourceful.

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: They are an inspiration when you get to know them.

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: Oh, uh, uh, uh, Edna—I'll just quickly tell you this story—they only have the one daughter, they had all boys, other than Edna. And she musta been maybe eight or nine, I'm gonna say—

GC: Okay.

FC: And it's March and it's a day in March where it's muddy but yet there's snow—

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: You know what I mean? And the school was down over the hill. Their farm—it was on their farm, but it was over the hill—and, and I went, it was three o'clock, the kids were getting out of school, and here comes Edna, up the muddy lane.

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: And she's carrying her shoes in her fingers like this—

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: And her feet—bare feet—in the mud and snow—

AH: Oh my gosh.

FC: And I mean, it's cold.

AH: Uh-huh.

PC/GC: [Laughter]
FC: You can imagine what that'd feel like on your feet.

GC: Yeah, I am. And she's — she's so young.

FC: And I said, "Edna," I said, "Why don't you have your shoes on?" She's holding 'em there and she says, "Oh," she said, "I don't wanna get 'em dirty."

PC/AH: Aww. [Laughter]

GC: No kidding.

AH: Wow.

GC: No kidding.

FC: Could you imagine sending some eight year old kid from the city out in that snow and mud—

AH: Yeah.

FC: To preserve shoes—she only had the one pair, I'm sure.

AH/GC: Mmhmm.

PC: The very first time I had an occasion to go to that farm with Fred and, and see their, where they lived and how they lived, it was exactly like a step back in time to my grandfather's farm in Kentucky.

AH: Wow.

PC: And it was just, like nothing had changed.

AH: Uh-huh.

PC: It was amazing that they lived—and my, my grandfather had—they ra—they were in agriculture, that was their livelihood.

AH: Uh-huh.

GC: Mmhmm.

PC: Self-sustaina—very small. You know, maybe—they had two horses and maybe one cow.

GC: Sure.
AH: Uh-huh.

PC: You know, they smokehouse and they butchered all their meat and they, they did everything on the farm—

GC: Mmhmm.

PC: Which is what I remember as a child, visiting there, and it's exactly how the Amish live now.

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: Tell 'em the story how you went over there and David—the little boy—was in the, uh—had big horse—big draft horses in the driveway.

PC: Oh, yeah. We had—have to drive back a lone dirt lane, it's very deeply rutted and I have a little Volkswagen that's kinda low and I thought, "Oh, I'll hurt my car!"

GC: [Laughter]

PC: And so, I get over a little crest and there is little David, who is five—and we have a grandson who was five at the same time—

GC: Uh-huh.

PC: And he has the reins for two giant pulling draft horses and there’s somethin hooked on the back and he's hauling 'em. I'm thinking, "Oh my goodness—"

GC: What?!

AH: [Laughter]

PC: And his dad, Andy, steps out of the barn and says, "Move them over a little bit, David; Mrs. Cannon's coming in." And, and it was just like...oh...

AH: [Laughter]

GC: Wow.

PC: This, you know, it just sorta—it just sorta gives you a day of like, "Wow."

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: "This is great, I'm so glad I'm here," you know?

AH: Mmhmm, mmmmm. Yeah, yeah.
GC: Well then, and then, your kids come along and do similar things that're just like—

PC: Mmhmm.

GC: Where'd, where are you getting this, this sorta skill from?

PC: Yeah.

GC: It's really interesting.

PC: We, uh, we had Andy over once; Andy came over and helped Fred with hay one day and brought some of the little boys and the little David came along. And our little Noah, who was five at the same time, was here. And we have a photo of the two of them, sitting out on the patio—we only have the back, because the Amish don't want you to take their photo—

AH: Oh, okay.

GC: Mmhmm.

PC: So we just have a back-shot. And they're sitting there talking German because the Amish speak German until they go to school, then they learn English. And our grandson's father is German—

AH: Oh.

PC: So, they—he speaks German with his dad all the time. And they were sitting there having this very animated, German conversation—

AH: [Laughter]

PC: It was delightful.

AH: That is precious. Oh, that is so precious.

GC: But you, you didn't interact with the Amish at all until you moved out here?

PC: ‘Til we moved here.

FC: Well, I did as a kid growin' up—

GC: Right, when you, when you came out to the farm.

FC: We were, uh, my grandfather and uncle's farm was on the state line and there were a lot of Amish in Pulaski, which is in Pennsylvania, not very far from the state—
GC: Sure.

FC: So I had a little experience—

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: But nothing like here.

PC: I knew nothing of the Amish. I'm sure I never heard of them. Of course, I grew up in Appalachia—I heard you mention Appalachia.

AH: Yeah, yeah.

PC: And, uh, gee, we didn't know anything about Catholicism or Islam or anything—

AH: It was Baptist.

PC: We were all—it was very homogenous. Baptist, right.

AH: Yup, yup.

PC: And we lived in a very isolated town, up in the hills.

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: And, uh, you know, it was a great way to grow up. I did love it, but you have to leave if you want to establish yourself in the world—

AH: Yeah.

PC: And get a job or anything.

AH: Yeah.

PC: So. But um, didn't know anything about, uh, other cultures—

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: Or nationalities or anything—

GC: Hmm.

PC: So it's been a learning experience.

AH: Yeah, yeah. I'm sure.
GC: I mean, it sounds like the learning experience continues.

PC: Mmhmm.

GC: Like, you guys are still living in this dynamic setting that is open to, to visitors—

PC: Mmhmm.

GC: And open to, to new experiences on the farm and—I mean, do you, do you feel like—

AH: Teaching others too.

GC: What's that?

AH: Teaching others—

GC: And teaching others what—

AH: And bringing others into it. Yeah, like us! [Laughter]

PC: [Laughter] Well, I strongly recommend, if you ever have an opportunity to live on a farm, try it. At least try it. It is—it's a wonderful way to live.

AH: Yeah.

GC: Mmhmm.

AH: There's, um, I know there's something called "WWOOFing," that's become popular, especially with college students, which is working on, um, let's see, WWOOFing—working on an organic farm or something.

PC: Mmhmm.

AH: And so students will go out for their summers and you're paid through room and board and, um, and so, it, it's just about getting the experience.

FC: That'd be quite an experience.

AH: Of being out on a farm. Yeah.

PC: So the farmer gets a hand—

AH: Mmhmm.

GC: Right, and then you—
PC: And then you get the experience.

GC: Get the experience, yeah.

AH: [unclear]

PC: Yes, that'd be wonderful.

GC: It's a good trade-off.

PC: Mhmm, yes it is.

AH: Yeah, and, uh, learning about, you know, working with your hands as opposed to—so much in school is about us working with ideas—

PC: Mhmm.

AH: You know, that's, that's what academia is: us playing with ideas and trying to expand our mind, but it's nice to kinda have that opposition where you're working with your hands and learning—

GC: Experientially.

AH: Experientially, oh yeah. I think that's been a great part of what we've been working on this semester.

FC: Excuse me one second.

PC: I think the thing that's, um—I know when you first arrived, Fred mentioned something about there's a stereotype of farmers—

GC: Mhmm.

AH: Yeah.

PC: And there is I’m sure.

AH: Yeah.

PC: But when you really get to know what farming is about, and we came to it from a city or a small town lifestyle—

AH: Uh-huh.

PC: So we came—I didn't know anything about farming at all—
AH: Uh-huh, yeah.

PC: And, uh, then you quickly learn that a farmer has to know—

AH: Yes.

PC: Everything.

AH: Oh, yes.

PC: He has to know when to plant, how to plant, how to crop effectively.

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: How to take care of the soil effectively—

AH: Yeah.

PC: How to manage the water resources effectively, so that it's not harming the environment.

GC: Mmhmm.

PC: Um, how to, uh, milk cows; how to have good cow health—

AH: Uh-huh.

PC: How to, um, vaccinate your cows; how, how to have, help the veterinarian do a surgery on your cow as she's standing in her stall—

AH: Yeah.

PC: I mean, I remember the first time I went out to the barn and saw Fred holding the light for the veterinarian who was doing a surgery. Fred was white as a ghost—

AH: [Laughter]

PC: Ready to go.

GC: [Laughter]

PC: But after he got through that first surgery, he could do that, you know, from then on.

AH: Uh-huh.

PC: From then on, he was okay to do that.
GC: Mmhmm.

PC: But there's just so many things a farmer has to know—

AH: Oh, yeah.

PC: And know really thoroughly to, um, to be, um, successful.

GC: Mmhmm.

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: Because it often is a hard life economically—

AH: Yeah.

PC: And if you have a drought year, which we've been through two serious drought years, you end up going deeply into debt—

GC: Mmhmm.

AH: Mmm.

PC: Because that's all you can do.

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: You buy your feed from out west and you pay five prices for it—

AH: Mmm.

PC: And you go deep because you're going to save your farm or you're going to die trying.

AH: Yeah, yeah.

GC: Yeah.

PC: Then you dig out for a number of years economically. So, a—so a farmer has to know finances—

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: Um, you know, how to manage a business, um, how to manage a staff or a helper—

AH: Uh-huh.
**PC:** Or several helpers or maybe just one. And um, uh, to compute all the tax work and everything that goes along with agriculture. It's just, it's a constant learning process.

**GC:** Mmhmm.

**PC:** And, um, and you have to stay up with the times too. If you, if we were still farming actively, we would have to be operating, I think on, on a, the, the network—computer system—

**GC:** Mmhmm.

**PC:** Not just, you know, doing book work—

**GC:** Not just like word of mouth source stuff.

**PC:** Right, we'd have to stay up to date.

**AH:** Oh.

**GC:** Well, speaking of kinda the, um, economic variability, do you feel like the, um—what kind of forms of community support are kind of out there for you guys like—

[Phone rings]

**GC:** Like if, if you were to fall back on something—

[Phone rings]

**GC:** Would, would people donate their, their time or, um, their own resources—

[Phone rings]

**GC:** To help you kind of get out of that drought period?

**PC:** Like in a bad year?

**GC:** In a bad year or, yeah, just in general.

[Phone rings]

**GC:** Like, do you feel like there's community support in this area?

**FC:** Well, I feel there's strong community support, you know, with neighbors—

**GC:** Uh-huh.

**FC:** And friends, uh—you know, when there's sickness or death or fire—
AH: Mmhmm.

PC: Mmhmm.

FC: Or something, seems like the community pitches in in a rush—

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: To help.

PC: And we had farm, uh—we had friends who were—well, we had a couple friends who were airline pilots, lived here—and they'd get, you know, a number of days off in a row—

GC: Uh-huh.

PC: They often would say, "Are you making hay? Can we come and help?" They loved doing it—

AH/GC: Uh-huh.

PC: So we had that kind of help too and support, so it wasn't unusual to have a pilot, you know, driving the hay wagon that was, uh, bringing in the hay. And that was a plus for us, having—because we knew city friends as well as country friends. Our country friends are struggling the same way we are—

GC: Sure.

AH: Uh-huh.

PC: And working—and they're making hay the same day we are, pretty much, but when you have the city friends, who are fascinated by the farm and the farm life—

GC: Mmhmm.

AH: Uh-huh.

PC: Then there's another, um—

AH: Resource.

PC: Source of help, yeah.

AH: Yeah, yeah.

PC: And they, they felt like they, we were doing them a favor.
AH: Uh-huh. Yeah, yeah.

PC: So it was great. Yeah.

GC: It's great when favors can be—

PC: Mmhmm.

GC: Seen both ways.

AH: Yeah. So, she was telling us the story of your first surgery. Um—

FC: Oh, on a cow.

PC: [unclear]

AH: Yeah, so, um, was that entirely new to you? Like, those types of things? Did you expect that coming in?

FC: Well, no, I expected it, but it just—

AH: It still blows you away?

PC: [Laughter]

FC: Do you know what amaz—of course you know, with anything you learn—

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: What amazed me was this, uh, you would operate on a cow, like for a displaced abomasum—I think that's what you were talking about—

AH: What is that?

PC: Mmhmm. They make an incision in a round whole stomach.

FC: They make an incision—

AH: Uh-huh.

PC: You know, like—

FC: And the cow's standing during the operation and we—i—it's just shortly after the operation, she's eatin' hay.
AH: [Laughter]

FC: It's just amazing.

GC: Huh.

FC: When you think about a human being having an operation of that nature—

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: And then, of course, you know, when you have babies—the calves, it's just—it's remarkable. You know, you think about nature—

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: You know, what we do with human beings when they're born, and these cattle're born, some of 'em are born right out on the snow.

AH: [Laughter]

FC: Before you know it, I'm talking about fifteen minutes, they're licked off—the cow mother knows to lick 'em off. And they're up and startin' to nurse the cow—

GC: Sure.

FC: It just blows me away.

AH: Wow. Wow.

FC: How...


GC: [unclear]

AH: Yeah.

FC: And how you could put a seed in the ground and, and there's corn, you know? It just, it just—

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: How's that happen, you know?

AH: Yeah, yeah.
GC: It's almost like by magic or something.

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: That ol' Jack an' the Beanstalk theory. [Laughter]

GC: Sure.

AH: So, um, could you tell us a little bit more about, kind of, the transition through the seasons on your farm and about kind of the yearly process that you go through?

FC: Well, when you're in the dairy business, of course, you're milkin', you know, every single day of the year.

AH: Mmhmm.

GC: Sure.

FC: But you're always plannin' ahead as to, you know, we've gotta raise enough crops.

AH: Mmhmm.

GC: Sure.

FC: To feed the cattle.

GC: Uh-huh.

FC: So that's always on your mind and then agriculture is so weather-related.

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: I mean, it's like—particularly hay, you know. Good hay is an easy—is an, is an excellent feed for cattle where bad hay is a terrible feed for cattle.

GC: Mmhmm.

FC: Particularly dairy cattle.

AH: Mmm.

FC: So you know you—in our part of the world, uh, we have—generally need almost three days dry hay. So you're—that's a—you know, we go through that all the time.

GC: Sure.
FC: When you mow hay—

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: Then if you wait too long, then the hay gets mature, so you lose the quality that way.

GC: Uh-huh.

GC: Uh-huh.

FC: So that's always a fight. And then, of course, you know, with corn, you know, you gotta get it in early—or you'd like to get it in early 'cause the growing season's so long—

GC: Mmhmm.

FC: So it'll ripen by fall and, but that's just the life of a farmer.

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: It's so weather related and, of course, the quality of your soil is so important.

AH: Mmhmm.

GC: Mmhmm.

FC: The drainage—where—we live in an area—Wayne County—that we have well-drained soils. There're areas in Ohio or other parts of the United States that do not have well-drained soils—

GC: Mmhmm.

FC: We got adequate rainfall here, so that's all pluses, and we get adequate sunshine.

GC: Mmhmm.

FC: You get up toward the light, they, they lose out on sunshine—

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: So they have a hard time making hay so that's why you find more dairy in this part of the state, I believe.

GC: Okay, okay.

PC: But we also have well-drained soils because we spent tens of thousands of dollars—
FC: In tile.

PC: Putting in drain tile.

FC: Yeah.

AH: Mmm.

PC: And when you have to make those investments—

AH: Mmm.

PC: Huge investments—

FC: Yeah.

PC: You have to build a new barn, you have to build a new silo, and so you go deeply into debt. Most farmers are deeply into debt.

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: And the other thing that we haven't mentioned is the confinement. Farmers are very much confined—

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: To the farm. I mean, uh, after we got out of dairy, it took us a while to realize that if we got a wedding invitation out of town, hey, we could actually go.

AH: [Laughter]

PC: You know?

AH: Uh-huh.

PC: We hadn't been able to go for twenty-five years, but we could go now.

AH: Uh-huh.

GC: [Laughter]

PC: It takes a while to adjust back to being able to leave the farm for something—

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: An occasion or something.
GC: Sure, sure.

FC: You mentioned earlier about the deef—beef, the dairy—the beef cattle are more for us 'cause we only keep around twenty, twenty-five heads—

AH: Oh, okay.

FC: We have twenty, twenty-five calves, we'll have fifty here in the summer, but it's not a huge income—

AH: Mmhmm.

GC: Sure.

FC: For us. It's more—

PC: It's a hobby.

FC: It's a hobby. I love the cattle and we love the calves runnin' around—'course we don't have any calves now, but they'll be startin' to calve—they calve in March.

AH/GC: Okay.

FC: But I'll take you out there—you said you wanted to go 'round?

GC: Oh, definitely, yeah, we would love to check it out.

AH: Yeah, yeah, we would love to see it.

PC: I think Fred was meant to have cattle: he's always loved cattle. And I don't think he could be happy if we didn't have cattle.

GC: Huh.

PC: And it's interesting, he, he knows them as individuals. They still all look a little bit alike to me.

AH/GC: Uh-huh.

PC: Um, but he doesn't re—he's not able to pick people out a crowd—they all look alike to him, I think.

AH/GC: [Laughter]

PC: He's definitely a cattleman; he needs to have cattle.
AH: [Laughter]

FC: I love that they know—when you hear, when you hear that she said "cattleman," when you hear this statement that he or she is a good cattleman, there are, there are people that're very good—or with horses—

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: They're just excellent with horses, some people—

GC: Mmhmm.

FC: And some people are excellent with cattle; they just have a natural feel for it.

PC: Mmhmm.

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: And that's the way I feel with cattle, but I do know—I have a lot of friends that pull horses for a hobby—

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: And that's a friend of mine, there's horses—my nephew—uh, our nephew—painted that. That was at our fair, but anyway, there're horse pullers that are just—these guys are so good with horses.

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: It just blows me away, how good they are. And there’s people with cattle that're just the same way. Or sheep. Or hogs.

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: They're just so good, you can't teach that—

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: It's just some—it's just like a good jockey. You know, a good jockey—

GC: Can just get on a horse.

FC: Gets a lot out of a horse: it's not just a guy on the back of a horse.

GC: Uh-huh.
FC: And they know what they're doing.

PC: Kinda born into it.

FC: And the horse knows.

AH: So, for someone—

PC: Fred wa—I'm sorry—

AH: Oh, I'm sorry.

PC: I was just gonna say, Fred was on the judging team for Ohio State—

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: Um, back in the '60s, when he was in college and they won the national—what did you call it? Finals? You were the national winning team?

FC: Champion.

PC: Champion team for judging cattle.

FC: And we had us find, and we had a reunion—they have it every year for the team that won—we won it—it was in Chicago, the, uh, national livestock expo—the world livestock exposition—

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: Now it's in Louisville, Kentucky, but anyway, every year, they had the team back from forty years prior—

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: So we won in '64, so it would've been—what would it've been? '94? It's been that long ago?

PC: Mm-mm.

FC: No, no—now '64 would be 2004. So we went back to Louisville for this little deal and it was—it was very, very nice, but what amazed me was every person—including our coach, who was still living—

GC: Mmhmm.

FC: In '04—Randy Reid—uh, every one was in production agriculture.
AH: Wow.

FC: And they pointed out that this is a real rarity that, you know, college students from forty years ago—

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: Are still in production agriculture.

PC: Is that six or eight? Six men? How many were on your team?

FC: Seven.

PC: Seven.

FC: Seven—no, eight! Eight.

PC: Eight.

FC: Eight, eight, eight.

PC: And they're all in ag.

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: Yeah, and they were all in production agriculture, which was—

AH: Yeah.

FC: And they mentioned that when they were givin' out the awards.

GC: Now, where else could they potentially have been? Like, I'm confused what that means—

FC: What's that? Production agriculture?

GC: No, no, why you're so surprised that they were still—that you guys were all still in production.

FC: Well, you know, a lot of guys would, would—you know, they'd go on to be a vet or not do agriculture at all—

GC: Oh, okay.

FC: When they got out of college, or—

GC: Sure.
FC: They just said it was very unusual—

GC: Uh-huh.

FC: These people that have it every year. And see, we went to the bank, but when they honor you at the bank, what they review, you know, what you did and all that, but there are, there are students—I mean, there were hundreds of students there from all ag universities all around the United States competing, so you got to meet these young people. And it was, it was very nice—

AH: Uh-huh.

PC: Mmhmm.

FC: I enjoyed it. Very much.

PC: And throughout the years—well, especially while we were here at this farm, um, which, we've been here since nineteen eighty—

GC: Mmhmm.

PC: Ohio State has, um, several professors there in agricultural schools who bring their class to our farm to show the class what a typical dairy would be like.

AH: Uh-huh.

GC: Oh, okay.

PC: Yeah, we were sorta used as a classroom—

GC: Yeah.

PC: Um, a resource for that class. And that has gone on all the years we've been here, I think.

FC: Mmhmm.

PC: Hasn't it?

FC: What, what they would do in the later years, you know, most dairies would get, would wanna get bigger and bigger and bigger and they still do today—

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: They [unclear], you know—we, we believe that bigger's, uh, only bitter, not better.

PC: [Laughter]
FC: And what we used to do—what they'd stress too, 'cause we, like I said, we only milk fifty, fifty-five cows, which is a very small operation today—

AH: Mhmm.

FC: And they, they—how in the world can you make a livin' on a hundred tillable acres and fifty cows?

GC: Yeah.

FC: Well, we did it. This is how we did it and, you know—

AH: Mmm.

FC: We tried to make our cows live a long time—

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: So we were able to sell, as I said earlier, replacements, and anyway, that's our—that was our philosophy.

AH: Uh-huh.

GC: And they, they were kept outside during that time? They were fed on—

FC: Well, we grass feed our cattle, but the dairy, when we were in the dairy, we did feed grain to our dairy cattle—

GC: Oh, okay.

FC: You almost—you don't have to—but we thought we had to back then. But anyway, that's just fifty head. Our philosophy was you don't have to get big, you just have to get better.

GC: Yeah.


GC: You can be more efficient with it.

FC: More efficient. Right.

AH: So, um, so, how, how do you see this transition that's kinda happened in agriculture towards—

FC: The bigger?
AH: Bigger? Do, do you think that's—

GC: Well, bigger being better too.

AH: Yeah—

GC: That kind of mentality.

AH: Do you think that, um, that that's kind of hurting some of the, um, kind of the practices and traditions of dairy farming?

FC: Yeah, the traditions definitely. I think that when these huge—and we're gettin' 'em around here—these, these people that farm thousands of acres right here, they put so many small families out of business—

AH: Mmm.

FC: You can't compete. You know, for us—uh, some...not us personally—but farms like ours, so you go out and buy your seed corn, if you use fertilizer, you go out and buy your fertilizer. Even equip—just, anything you buy, you don't have a real, you know, you, you're not competitive with these people—

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: That could buy a train-car load—

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: Of grain.

AH: Yeah.

FC: Of, of seed. Or fertilizer or any chemicals they would use. Or they could deal eh, at the local tractor or equipment dealership so much better 'cause, 'cause they don't want a little tractor, they might deal on three or four tractors every year. And so they have a real advantage—

GC: Mmhmm.

FC: And, and it just—it becomes more difficult for the smaller farmer to compete.

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: So a lot of the small farms either are developed or—we don't say "developed," we say "destroyed"—
AH: Uh-huh.

GC: Mmm.

FC: Or then it's consumed by a larger farm. And I mean, I'm not opposed to large operations—

AH: Okay.

FC: But I—

PC: Well, I am. I think they're destructive to the environment when they're too large.

AH: Mmm.

FC: Well, they use a lot of chemicals—

PC: Mmhmm, yeah.

FC: Andy—this is the Amish man we were talking about—

GC: Mmhmm.

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: Once said to me when he sees these huge—we were goin' down the road and there was like two big combines—they don't even stop to load the combines, they pull in the grain rig, they keep combining—

GC: Yup, yup.

FC: They dump into the grain wagon while they keep combining.

AH: Oh my gosh.

FC: He said, "I wonder how those people enjoy farming."

AH: Mmhmm.

GC: Yeah.

FC: You know, he farms with horses, he rakes hay and he stops and—so that's what he meant, you know—

AH: Uh-huh.

GC: Okay.
FC: You know there's a certain enjoyment in life instead of just pushin', pushin', pushin', pushin'—

GC: Uh-huh.

AH: Always for production—

FC: Right, just—

AH: Instead of for—

FC: Right. For the ultimate dollar.

AH: Yeah.

PC: And, but to be a successful small farmer like Fred is, you have to know how to be your own mechanic too.

AH: Mmm.

FC: Yeah.

PC: And repair your old tractor that's a 1940s tractor—

FC: [Laughter]

AH/GC: [Laughter]

PC: And you keep your, uh, silage wagons running—

GC: Are we gonna get to meet this, this tractor?

AH: [Laughter]

PC: Yes. [Laughter]

GC: This, this Old Faithful?

PC: Yes.

FC: We'll introduce our old tractors.

AH/GC: [Laughter]
PC: Had he not known how to, to be a mechanic and to repair and to rebuild—that's how he got into building—

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: And renovating barns—is he renovated our barn himself. I mean, you just have to do it yourself—

GC: Okay.

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: You have to be—

GC: Self-sufficient.

PC: Very capable with your hands.

GC: Yeah.

PC: And know how and [unclear]—

AH: Multi-skilled.

PC: You—absolutely, yeah.

GC: Well, and have some confidence with it. 'Cause, I mean, you definitely go into projects not knowing the entirety of, of what it's actually gonna take—

PC: Right.

GC: To finish.

FC: We had a drought here in '88. That was the worst year of our—

PC: Mmhmm.

FC: Whew.

AH: Really hard?

PC: It was bad.

FC: You weren't around here in '88—

GC: No.
AH: No, not yet.
FC: 'Course you're not old enough—
GC: [unclear]
FC: But the only thing growing—the only thing growing—was dandelions. I kid you not.
AH: Oh my gosh.
FC: I mean, our yard, the pasture, the fields—it was, it was—ugh. Anyway, that's one of the bad years—
AH: Mmhmm.
FC: That was the worst year we ever had. We didn't know if we were going to make it.
AH: Mmhmm.
FC: As did a lot of other farmers—
GC: Sure.
FC: Some of 'em didn't.
PC: And we did go into debt quite a bit.
AH: So the ones who didn't make it, was the community there to kind of catch them and help them?
FC: Well, I think yeah, to a certain degree—
AH: But there's only so much they can do...
GC: I mean, like you said, you and a bunch of other people—
FC: I mean, community was there not so much to give money but the community would, would help out when there's a problem.
AH: Mmhmm.
FC: Where they—what they could share.
AH: Mmhmm.
FC: But they didn't have anything to share—

AH: Yeah, because no one really had anything. Yeah.

FC: Because everybody was in the same boat.

GC: Hmm.

AH: Wow.

PC: And, and we know farmers now who—at that time—ended up going out of the business and they're in a, a different field now—

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: They might be in, um, ag-related office work or something—

AH: Uh-huh.

GC: But they didn't come back to the farm necessarily?

PC: Mm-mm. No. We know, know several who got out and stayed out. It's hard to get in—

GC: Mmhmm.

PC: And, uh, but once you're out, I think you're—

FC: Pretty hard.

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: You stay out.

FC: Yeah, you think—Phyllis said it's hard to get—you think about a young couple, say, "We wanna start farming." Well, you think, you know, land around here—

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: Six to eight thousand. You gotta build a barn, you gotta build a silo—

AH: Yeah.

FC: You gotta buy livestock, I mean you, you could have a million dollars invested before you even know it—

AH: Yeah.
FC: And you haven't had any checks comin' in so, so it's hard to get into.

AH: So—

FC: A lot of farms, although there are young farmers like Josh Moorefield, I mean he just—

PC: He's amazing.

FC: He's amazing. He works all the time. But he—

AH: Mmm.

FC: How old is Josh?

FC: He's about thirty, I'd say.

PC: Thirty-one or so.

GC: I think—[unclear]

FC: You know who [unclear]?

AH: I think another student actually is going to interview him.

GC: May be interviewing him.

FC: Who, Josh?

AH: Yeah.

FC: Oh, Josh is quite a guy.

PC: Yeah...

AH: That's remarkable.

FC: But Josh was a freshman in high school—

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: He was the—freshman, now—he was the best cross country runner in the state.

GC: Okay.
FC: Alright, then it came track season in the spring: he's the best miler in the state, as a freshman.

AH: Wow.

FC: He's that athletic.

GC: Sure.

FC: So, anyway, he's not showin' up for practice, and the coach says to him, "Josh, you missed some practices." He said, "Well," he said, "Coach," he said, "it's the spring of the year." He said, you know, he said, "I farm." And he said, "I, you know, I gotta do this and that." And the coach said, "Well, it's not fair," and Josh said, "I'll never miss a meet: I promise ya, I'll be at all the meets."

AH: Mhmhm.

FC: And he said, "Josh, it's not fair to the other kids for you not to come to practice, to just come to the meets."

GC: Sure.

FC: Josh said, "You know," he said, "you are right." That was it. He never ran track again.

GC: That is—

AH: Wow.

FC: He said, "You're right." And his sister, uh, I think she still owns it—

PC: She's married to, to Matt's, uh, brother—Matt, Matt Mariola.

GC: Okay.

AH: Oh, okay.

GC: Uh-huh.

FC: Mike.

PC: Your professor.

GC: Yeah.

PC: Yeah.
FC: But I think she still owns the track record at the College of Wooster—

PC: Yeah.

FC: For the half-mile or the mile—

PC: They were just gifted runners.

FC: She's All-American runner—

AH: Uh-huh.

GC: Hmm.

FC: From College of Wooster.

AH: Mmhmm.

FC: Moorefield. But anyway, that's just—but he made it. He started out and he's—

PC: He's a rarity, I mean I think, you know for someone, right outta high school. He didn't even want to go to college, he wanted to get right into it and he did.

GC: Yeah, actually, I know—

PC: Yeah.

GC: I know that he's being interviewed—

AH: Yeah. Yeah.

PC: Yeah.

GC: By one of our classmates.

FC: Yeah, he's a hard-working kid—

PC: Yeah, he should be.

FC: Man. Man.

PC: He just became a father—

AH: Wow.

PC: About four or five days ago.
FC: That's [unclear]—
GC: No kidding.
AH: That's exciting.
PC: Mmhmm.
FC: Baby boy, yeah.
PC: And we've had a, a business relationship with him—
FC: Well, he rents part of our farm—
PC: Since high school, yeah.
AH: Okay.
FC: Mmhmm, that's who.
AH: So—
GC: So, you two are technically retired right now, is that true? Or—?
PC: He's retired. He, he was a county commissioner for three terms—
GC: Okay.
PC: He retired from that office in Decem—and I said—he said, "What do you think I oughta do when I retire?" And I said, "Well, I don't know really." And he said, "I think I'll rebuild barns."
AH: [Laughter]
PC: And I said, "Do you know how to rebuild barns?" And he said, "Yes, and I'll get a few books out of the library."
AH/GC: [Laughter]
GC: "I'll get a few books"!
PC: He did—
FC: I said I did, yeah.
GC: You did?
FC: Yeah.

GC: Good.

PC: And he does, and he has a thriving business that it's hard to keep up with—

AH: [Laughter]

PC: Loves it as much as anything he's ever done, I think.

GC: Okay.

FC: We've gone as far as—and we don't wanna bore you to death with this—but we've gone as far as Cumberland Island, Georgia to restore a barn—

AH: Wow.

FC: For the Carnegie family out of Pittsburgh.

GC: No kidding?

AH: Wow.

GC: Wow.

FC: And they call us every year and want us to come back and do more work.

PC: There aren't many people doing that kind of work—

AH: Uh-huh.

PC: You know and—

AH: You found a niche.

GC: No, no, that's definitely a niche.

PC: He found a niche and he loves it, yeah.

GC: Huh.

PC: You have to see—he pretty much single-handedly did this barn out here. Although I went out once in a while and helped with bits and pieces, but it's an amazing structure that he did pretty much on his own.
FC: Yeah, if the, if the young people wanna start a business or profession, boy, there's so much work—

GC: Mmmmm.

FC: We get calls all the time—

AH: Wow.

FC: But we just—we're limited on how far we wanna go—

AH: Yeah.

GC: Oh, sure.

FC: We don't advertise.

GC: It's all by word of mouth, then?

PC: Word of mouth.

AH: Wow.

FC: We've—

PC: It's called "Barn Again."

AH: [Laughter]

GC: "Barn Again" [Laughter]

AH: I love it. [Laughter]

GC: Very clever, very clever. Well, I mean, I've gotten a ton out of this interview, is there anything else you'd like to add?

FC: Well, if you want, I'll show you a couple of the [unclear]—

AH: I have one more question.

GC: One more question? All right.

AH: Yeah, um, so for young people like us who are interested in farming and getting started but we never had the background and we don't really know the community, is there any advice you could give to young people?
FC: You mean to get into it?

AH: Yeah.

FC: Well, you mentioned where you could go sorta on a co-op.

AH: Mmm.

FC: I, I read in farm magazines where a lotta stories—success stories where people like yourselves have written to a bunch of farmers and just say, "Hey, I," you know, just tell the story of your life, but you're very interested in agriculture. "I would like to"—you know, like you said—"be a co-op for the summer," or whatever and, "you teach me and—"

GC: Okay. Well, I mean, we're taking classes and stuff—

FC: And it's, some bought farms like that—

AH: Wow.

FC: They, they worked, worked on the farm and then they started buying the farm. There's a lot of older people that they want the farm to go on; their kids don't wanna farm—

AH: Yeah.

FC: And they welcome this.

AH: Yeah. So, have you, have you seen kind of a decrease of interest from youth in farming or do you think that there's still, um, the potential for youth to kind of maintain and continue?

FC: Well, I think there's a real potential, don't you?

PC: I do. We're—um, our grandchildren, er, one of our grandchildren is in 4-H and our children were in 4-H—

GC: Mmmmm.

PC: So we go to the fair, you know—

AH: Mmmmm.

PC: At least three times every day.

GC: Sure.

PC: And, uh, you see lots of kids there with their, bringing their animals to show and they have tremendous interest in becoming, uh, farmers [unclear].
AH: Okay.

GC: And the farming community's incredibly exciting these days 'cause there's so, like, so many technologies coming out, so many like—

AH: Yeah.

PC: Right.

GC: Innovations that are occurring. And there's a lot of money to be made if you get on the right horse.

PC: Mmhmm.

GC: If you bet on the right horse.

AH: Yeah.

FC: [laughter]

GC: And I was actually kinda—on a related note—I was talking to a professor from the OARDC yesterday and he said that—I think the figure was like, seventy percent of farmers in Wayne county, the median age is like, sixty-five or sev—upper sixties.

FC: Yeah, there're—

PC: Wow. That's—

GC: So, that—those farms are gonna turn over in the next fifteen to twenty years.

PC: Mmhmm.


GC: To, you know, some other—some next generation. So I think there's a ton of potential for—

FC: Oh, I think there're—well, people have to eat.

AH: Yeah, yeah.

GC: Yeah.

AH: So it always has to be around.
**FC**: If you want to work hard, I know as a fact, you could make a good living just getting into the vegetable business.

**AH**: Mmm.

**GC**: Mmhmm.

**FC**: Small acreage—

**AH**: Mmhmm.

**FC**: Where you don't have a ton invested—

**GC**: Mmhmm.

**PC**: But conversely, I think, there's a huge—I, I don't know the exact figures, but there's a, a large percentage of farmland that has been lost in the last decade—

**AH**: Mmm.

**PC**: In Wayne county.

**FC**: Oh, yeah.

**GC**: Well, if not that, even just topsoil, which is the most integral—

**PC**: Right.

**GC**: Er, one of the most important parts of—

**AH**: Yeah.

**FC**: That's the advantage of having, having livestock is, is at least you return the manure to the ground.

**AH**: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

**GC**: Okay, so, so you do return, return it…

**FC**: And the pastures on the road and hey, if you have livestock—and I'm talkin' about livestock that would consume hay—so then you don't have the erosion problem—

**AH**: Mmhmm.

**FC**: On hay ground. And then if you rotate your ground, that's, that's one thing the Amish learned a long, long—
AH: Uh-huh.

FC: And our forefathers learned: you gotta rotate this ground.

AH: Uh-huh.

FC: You can't have [unclear].

GC: Well, they didn't have the—they didn't have any of the technology that we're working with these days—

PC: Right.

GC: I mean, they just had to do it by, uh—

AH: So combined with the technology and the knowledge and the past practices—

GC: The traditions.

AH: Yeah—bringing them and kind of bringing them together to work as one, yeah.

PC: The great thing about being in an area like this that is an agri—I think this is the best agricultural county in Ohio. Isn't it?

FC: Yeah, second as far as income.

PC: Because of that, we have a great deal of support—

AH: Mmm.

PC: In terms of businesses that supply what we need and organizations like Soil and Water Conservation—

GC: Uh-huh.

PC: And we've alway—always worked with them and taken care not to pollute the water sources near us—

AH: Yeah, yeah.

PC: And that kind of thing. So, and I think if you have a farm in an area that doesn't have all those support systems, it's a lot harder to farm, don't you think?

FC: Oh, yeah.
PC: Yeah.

FC: That's what I was sayin'—people have to dri—

PC: Yeah.

FC: People have to drive in from a long way, just to get their parts.

PC: And we have it all right here, at our fingertips.

FC: We have it all right here.

GC: Okay.

PC: And great programs—great government programs.

FC: Now, the research center here's amazing—

PC: Such as Soil and Water Conservation.

AH: Mmhmm.

PC: Research center.

GC: Research center too.

PC: Yeah.

AH: Yeah, oh yeah, having the university—

PC: Yes. Mmhmm.

AH: Must be a great opportunity.

PC: It is.

FC: All right, well, we'll take a little jump in the golf cart—

AH: Yeah.

FC: And we'll take a little spin around.

AH: That'd be great.

GC: That sounds great, yeah.
AH: Thank you so much for, uh, joining us.

GC: Yeah, thank you.

FC: Well, thank you for coming and showing an interest in agriculture, really—

AH: Oh, yeah.

FC: We, we [unclear] hopes that—

PC: I would love to go on the ride with you, but because I am a suburban farm wife—

AH/GC: [Laughter]

PC: Suburban slash farm wife person, I have a luncheon planned in town—

GC: Okay.

AH: No worries.

PC: With some friends, and so I think I'll excuse myself.

GC: No problem.

PC: But I'd really love to go with you. I hope you two will feel free to come back to this farm anytime.

GC: Definitely.

AH: That would be wonderful.

PC: And if you would leave your name and number and so forth, uh, the next time we do a talk-around fire, which is what we do with our family—

FC: Another chat.

GC: Oh, yes!

FC: Food right there.

PC: We build a fire—

GC: Yeah!

PC: And we do s'mores and hot dogs—
GC: Mmhmm.

PC: And we all love it.

AH: [Laughter] That would be fantastic.

PC: We would call you and, and—

AH: Thank you.

GC: Thank you very much.

PC: Both our kids live in town, they could pick you up and bring you out for a talk-around fire.

GC: That would be fantastic.

PC: So leave your name and your number and, uh, I also have a student who—we are the host parents for.

GC: Uh-huh.

PC: Who graduated from the College of Wooster and she's now working with the World Wildlife Fund.

AH: Oh, wow.

PC: In Asia, and—

GC: Oh, is this um...uh...

FC: She spoke here, like you—

PC: Dekila Chungyalpa. Do you know her?

AH: Yes!

GC: Yeah, yeah!

AH: Yeah! Oh my God!

PC: She's our, she's our—

GC: It is a small world. That is so funny.

AH: She was wonderful; I remember that!
PC: Yeah, yes.

AH: I remember that speech.

GC: She was really enjoyable.

PC: She's amazing, isn't she?

GC: I actually think I have some of her speech in this notebook...

AH: [Laughter]

PC: And I think she has a—she calls her a sister, but she's really a cousin—who might be a senior this year.

AH: Oh, really? What's her name?

FC: She brought her out for Thanksgiving one year.

PC: I can't remember her first name now and, and she already had a host parent—

AH: Mmm.

PC: So I didn't—

AH: Yeah.

PC: Become her host parent, but, uh. Definitely, uh, we'd love to have you come out for a talk-around and meet our kids and our grandkids.

AH: Oh, we would love that.

GC: Yeah, we would totally appreciate that.

AH: Well, thank you so much.

PC: Thank you.

FC: You're welcome. Thank you, like I said.

PC: This is, this is fun.