

- Speaker 1: Joan Nonson is going to start with our interview, and the first question is, how did your family come to live on a farm in Iowa?
- Speaker 2: Well, my folks lived on a farm when I was born until I was four, but then we moved to town and then after I was married I went back and lived on the farm for 30 years. Okay,
- Speaker 1: Well close enough. You've been there long enough, right?
- Speaker 2: Right.
- Speaker 1: So what is your favorite story about growing up on a farm?
- Speaker 2: Well, I don't remember a lot til I was four, but other than that, when I moved back to the farm, it was just normal stuff. Feeding men for the different haying and silo-filling and things like that. I mean, I was always home. I didn't work outside of the home.
- Speaker 1: Makes it easy to be there, right?
- Speaker 2: Yep.
- Speaker 1: So what kind of crops did your family grow?
- Speaker 2: Basically at that time, corn, hay, soybeans later on, but the normal things.
- Speaker 1: Okay. So what kind of animals did you raise?
- Speaker 2: We always had cattle and hogs and my husband had a horse for a while, but other than that it was just-
- Speaker 1: Lots of hogs and lots of cattle, huh? Did you raise your own food?
- Speaker 2: Well, I guess I don't know what they mean about that. It was just basically garden things. No, nothing otherwise. My husband also milked cows for a number of years, so we did have them too. And we sold bulk milk and we had them until 1966, I guess. We were married in 1950 and we did have cows that long.
- Speaker 1: Was that a big transition when you had to go to city milk, I guess versus...
- Speaker 2: Yeah, not really. At that time I think we had a milkman that came around. We actually had our milk delivered to the door that, so, yeah.
- Speaker 1: Wow. Okay. So who did what kind of work on the farm?
- Speaker 2: What kind of work?
- Speaker 1: That your husband's job to do this and then somebody else's job to do something else? Or did you guys just do it all?

Speaker 2: I basically raised all of the hogs.

Speaker 1: Really?

Speaker 2: Yes. We had a confinement farrowing barn after a few years and yes, I took care of them, all of them. So yeah, it's for a long time.

Speaker 1: Sure.

Speaker 2: And actually we were a century farm already in 1944, 1994.

Speaker 1: Wow.

Speaker 2: So it's been...

Speaker 1: It's been there for a long time.

Speaker 2: Yeah.

Speaker 1: Wonderful.

Speaker 2: It's been in the same family that long, still is.

Speaker 1: That's great. So what kind of farm machinery or technology did you use?

Speaker 2: Well, farm machinery. My husband did a lot of custom work. He had custom bailing and also after a while he chopped silage for different people. We had a group that worked together, they filled silos in the neighborhood. There was about five of them went around and he owned that. And otherwise it was just tractors and the old style tractors that...

Speaker 1: Not like what we know today.

Speaker 2: No. Nope.

Speaker 1: So how many members of your family farms today or still farm?

Speaker 2: My son, just my son and his sons help him out.

Speaker 1: Still in the family, right?

Speaker 2: Yep.

Speaker 1: That's good. That's awesome.

Speaker 2: I know my grandson would like to farm. It's pretty hard for young people to start farming these days though. Very expensive.

Speaker 1: Yeah, it's kind of a family thing, isn't it?

Speaker 2: Right.

Speaker 1: You can't make it on your own.

Speaker 2: So I don't know if my son will decide to retire what'll happen. So we'll wait and see I guess.

Speaker 1: Is there anything else you want to add?

Speaker 2: I don't really know of anything special. So like I said, I spent a lot of time outside then and a lot of time cooking, which they don't do because there was always men to feed. And then when they were filling silo, then they had lunch in the morning and then we had dinner at noon and then we had lunch in the afternoon.

Speaker 1: It was a process always, right. You were always cooking.

Speaker 2: Yep. So I don't miss those days.

Speaker 1: Not even a little bit?

Speaker 2: But no, otherwise it was a good time.

Speaker 1: That's great. Takes you back to the old days, right?

Speaker 2: Yep.

Speaker 1: I thank you greatly for doing this.

Speaker 2: Yeah.