

Daryl Lawson:

... operation, and that's what I wanted to do back then.

Interviewer:

Have the pigs?

Daryl Lawson:

Yeah.

Interviewer:

Okay. And what kind of farm machinery or technology was used on the farm then? You've mentioned the dryer. Were there specialized equipment for the sows?

Daryl Lawson:

Well, for the sows, I had what they called farrowing stalls. Then I'd turn them out twice a day to eat and drink and shit and pee and whatever, and exercise for an hour. Did that twice a day and then put them back in the pen.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Daryl Lawson:

And I'd feed all the other pigs while they were out.

Interviewer:

Okay. Very good. And none of your siblings went into farming?

Daryl Lawson:

No.

Interviewer:

No? Were your parents farmers at all?

Daryl Lawson:

No.

Interviewer:

No. Okay. So where did you get this farming passion?

Daryl Lawson:

I just started. Like I said, I kind of started when I raised chickens.

Interviewer:

Okay. So you just got a job helping a farmer and you worked for chickens. And that fueled this whole career for you?

Daryl Lawson:

Yeah.

Interviewer:

Wonderful. Wonderful.

Daryl Lawson:

Like I said, I wanted to have a hog operation like they got them today. Back then, it was unheard of.

Interviewer:

Well, yeah, a lot has changed and gotten better.

Daryl Lawson:

I had 125 sows, and it was probably one of the biggest operations in the state.

Interviewer:

Wow. Really?

Daryl Lawson:

Yeah.

Interviewer:

Were you in Successful Farming or anybody talk to you about what you did or?

Daryl Lawson:

Well, people would come and they'd want to go talk to my veterinarian about my pigs before they bought pigs from me. And the veterinarian would tell them, when you walk into my farrowing house, it was like walking into a hospital.

Interviewer:

Really?

Daryl Lawson:

There was never any shit on the floor, no pee on the floor, nothing. Because I turned everything outside twice a day and they never peed or shit in the building.

Interviewer:

Well, that's important to keep it clean.

Daryl Lawson:

Yeah. And then I used wood shavings for bedding for the baby pigs. And then I had a furnace. In the winter, I had a furnace. I kept it warm, and of course that kept the wood shavings dry too.

Interviewer:

Yeah? Do you have a favorite memory?

Daryl Lawson:

I just liked doing it.

Interviewer:

Just liked doing it.

Daryl Lawson:

I like taking care of the livestock better than the doing the crops.

Interviewer:

Yeah. Did you ever feel like you were attached to any of the pigs or they were just...?

Daryl Lawson:

No.

Interviewer:

No. Yeah. Okay. Well, and are you still in touch with anybody from that time of farming, or?

Daryl Lawson:

No. After my operation, I moved to Denver.

Interviewer:

Oh, okay.

Daryl Lawson:

I had about 30 acres of land out there. It was mainly pasture, and I raised chickens out there too.

Interviewer:

Okay. You came back to the chickens.

Daryl Lawson:

I bought incubators and hatched my own baby chicks.

Interviewer:

Wow.

Daryl Lawson:

And then I sold chickens. I lived by a farmer that had over a thousand acres and he grew vegetables for Safeway.

Interviewer:

Really?

Daryl Lawson:

And stuff. And he had Mexicans up there that worked for him. They'd come up every summer and work for him. And they would come and buy chickens from me, and eggs, instead of the grocery store.

Interviewer:

Okay, wonderful.

Daryl Lawson:

And I set up a place where they could butcher them right on my property.

Interviewer:

Wow. Nice. Well, I'll bet that was a really a good thing for them.

Daryl Lawson:

Yeah. They enjoyed it. And I was busy all the time with that.

Interviewer:

You seem like you like to be busy.

Daryl Lawson:

Yeah.

Interviewer:

Yeah.

Daryl Lawson:

Being busy. You probably don't know it. When I came to the Veteran's Home, I started playing the guitar when I got to the veteran's home.

Interviewer:

Wow.

Daryl Lawson:

Because I couldn't stand sitting around doing nothing. I'd play the guitar the way the song is written.

Interviewer:

There you go.

Daryl Lawson:

I don't do it just any old way. I taught myself how to read music.

Interviewer:

Wow. Well, I bet you can. You're very capable.

Daryl Lawson:

And now I can play. I've been playing, it's five and a half years now, I've been playing the guitar. And in five and a half years I'm playing Latin.

Interviewer:

Wow.

Daryl Lawson:

And I can play anything. I can play any song. I have played close to 20,000 different songs.

Interviewer:

Wow.

Daryl Lawson:

I've got at least six books that's got 12- and 1300 songs in each book.

Interviewer:

Holy cow. Well, you have had a very industrious life, so I would imagine you've got to put all that energy into something. So. Well, thank you so much for interviewing with me. I am really excited to meet somebody who is such a young farmer and had no family in farming. That's unusual for somebody to get into it like that.

Daryl Lawson:

That's what everybody said. It was unusual.

Interviewer:

But it seemed to be a good fit for you. And you knew early so well. Thank you very much.

Daryl Lawson:

But that's how I learned to stay busy.

Interviewer:

Yes.

Daryl Lawson:

Because I was busy all the time. I didn't worry about how many. I worked far more than eight hours a day.

Interviewer:

I'll bet.

Daryl Lawson:

Seven days a week.

Interviewer:

Wow. Well, thank you so much for the interview. I'm going to go ahead and end this. But it was so nice of you to take the time and help us with our project.

Daryl Lawson:

You're welcome.

Interviewer:

Okay.