

Speaker 1:

I have Carol Neddermeyer with me, and she was born in?

Speaker 2:

September 8th of 1936.

Speaker 1:

Thank you. Okay, so our first question is how did your family come to live on a farm in Iowa?

Speaker 2:

My dad was born on that farm. He had five sisters.

Speaker 1:

Wonderful.

Speaker 2:

And there was two of them older than he was, and he was 14 when his dad died, so they did the farming.

Speaker 1:

Awesome. Okay, what is your favorite story about growing up on a farm?

Speaker 2:

The freedom you have being in the country, growing your own crops, and listening to the birds sing.

Speaker 1:

Of course. So what kind of crops did your family grow?

Speaker 2:

At the very earliest part it was corn and oats and hay, and later it was beans and corn and hay.

Speaker 1:

So what kind of animals did your family raise?

Speaker 2:

Cattle, cows, milked cows. Had horses because that's how we farmed at first. Had hogs, farrowed sows, raised pigs.

Speaker 1:

Okay. Did you raise any of your own food?

Speaker 2:

All of our own food.

Speaker 2:

We had a big garden. We raised all of the things like potatoes and onions and peas and carrots and beans, tomatoes, pickles. We did all our own canning and we raised all our own beef and pork and raised chickens and ducks and geese.

Speaker 1:

Excellent. Who did what kind of work on your farm?

Speaker 2:

My dad did a lot of it. My mother drove tractor. When the tractors came in the early '40s, we had CCC guys come out, the conservation people that didn't want to go to the service in the '40s. They would come out and pick corn by hand with horses.

Speaker 1:

Oh, wow. Okay, so that probably goes to the what kind of machinery or technology used.

Speaker 2:

Horses at first, and then, later in the middle '40s got tractors and then a two-row pull-type corn picker and a combine. And then you found somebody who had the baler that could bale hay or you could hire them to do that.

Speaker 1:

You guys didn't do that? You didn't do it. You hired that out.

Speaker 2:

You hired the baling done, yes.

Speaker 1:

Okay.

Speaker 2:

My dad did do some combining and some corn picking during the World War II time. And there was a big article in the Des Moines Register. They came out and took pictures and an article on my family.

Speaker 1:

Oh, wow. You're famous.

Speaker 2:

Yes. We lived on that farm until I was graduated from high school and my brother was 11 years younger than I was, so he had started kindergarten and they moved into town. And I've lived on that farm probably all my life except for a year and a half.

Speaker 1:

You live in town now, right?

Speaker 2:

No, I live out there on the farm.

Speaker 1:

Oh, wow. Amazing.

Speaker 2:

I'm still there.

Speaker 1:

Awesome. So how many members of your family still farm today?

Speaker 2:

I'm the only one.

Speaker 1:

That's so sad, but it is what it is.

Speaker 2:

It's not the original size of the farm, but I have 10 acres and I farm four of them, corn one year, this year, beans last year, and I guess I'll probably do it one more year until they get a farm program.

Speaker 1:

Wow. Anything else you want to tell me?

Speaker 2:

What else do you need to know?

Speaker 1:

Whatever you want to tell me. Anything else about farming?

Speaker 2:

We farm. My husband and I farmed for a number of years, and then he went to work for the county and I went to work down at WESCO at the sheltered workshop in the classroom. I spent 10 years down there until they closed.

Speaker 1:

Really?

Speaker 2:

Mm-hmm.

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Speaker 1:

Wow. That's amazing. Well, I thank you very much. Thank you for your time.

Speaker 2:

You're welcome.