

Name of person interviewed: Jean Edwards Muir

Interviewed by: Juliane Schudek and Heather Bouchey

Date of interview: September 3, 2010

Location of interview: Farm on 30350 NW Scotch Church Road Hillsboro, OR 97124

Special Conditions: background noise from planes overhead, 9:50 – 10:00 sneeze causes pause in the interview.

General Description of contents: ins and outs of blueberry farming, great backdrop footage of blueberry fields and old dairy barn.

Interview #2

Tape 1 of 4

1:10-1:45 Jean talks about pruning, harvesting, bird-pest control, and letting birds come clean up lost fruit.

2:00 – 3:10 Talks about varieties of blueberries and using variety as a marketing tool, niche markets.

3:25 – 7:10 Talks about use of immigrant labor for berry picking, and the difficulty for small farmers complying with all the Federal regulations regarding hand pickers. She then discusses technology in berry farming, handpicking versus mechanical picking positives and negatives, the process of mechanical picking and the human labor involved. She also talks about the difference in consumer markets for handpicked versus machine picked berries.

7:30 – 8:40 Talks about consumer preference, what sells on the berry market in terms of the look and size of berries, process of sizing berries for market.

8:40 Talks about pesticides, the lack of pests and pesticide use on local blueberries. Used mostly only when there is a major pest scare, which is rare in the area.

10:00 – 11:10 Talks about concern over whether farm labor, handpicking crews are can legally work in the U.S., paperwork that must be filled out and filed with federal government. Role in farm contractors in supplying day-labor.

11:25 -14:12 Talks about access to expensive harvest equipment for small farmers, community sharing, how to know when is the right time to harvest blueberries, collaborating with picking machine operator.

Tape cuts at 14:12

Tape 2 of 4

:50 Talks about decision not to expand or plant more due to age and concern for salmon and water issues.

Time signature stops working at 1:09

Tape 3 of 4

Special Conditions: background noise from planes overhead

General Description of contents: 1:00 – 2:40 great long shot of homestead's original barn. 5:00 panning shots of barns interior architecture. 9:00 – 11:00 purposeful, visual shots of bees and beehives, and background of trees and blackberry bushes

:00 –:52 talks about pruning process to encourage fruit production.

1:34 – 2:45 talks about original homestead that is now her farm. Dairy farming that took place in the history of her farm.

2:45 – 3:21 pause in interview for technical issues.

3:22 – 4:45 talks about materials used to build her barn, uses for the barn, use of mules.

5:40 – 6:43 talks about Mason bees as native Oregon pollinators, and use in pollinating blueberries. Begins talking about bee keeping

6:44 – 7:40 interview paused due to technical issues

7:50 – 8:44 Continues discussing bee keeping and role of bees in pollinating blueberries. Talks about threats to hives from freezing and disease.

9:00 – 11:00 no talking, visual shots of beehives and backdrop of trees and blackberry bushes.

11:02 – 11:55 Jean talking about how an artificial bee hive is structured and divided for use by the bees.

12:00 – 13:00 behavior of bees, water issues and bee collapse problem

13:20 – 14:00 bat habitat boxes, National Resources Conservation Service, pest control (mosquitos)

Tape 4 of 4

Time stamp stops working at :53 seconds

Tags

Agricultural laborers, Agriculture, Agriculture—History, Bees, Bee Keeping, Blueberries, Blueberry farms, Communities—Oregon—History, Contract farming, Dairy barns, Dairying, Day-labor, Delivery of goods, Farming machines, Farms, Floods—Oregon, Western, Government regulation, Harvesting, Harvest equipment, Hillsboro, Oregon, Local history, Marketing, Migrant workers, Oregon—History, Pesticides, Pollination, Rural, Washington County, Women, Women agricultural laborers, Women—Employment, Work

